

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors; with public health orders changing, we are planning to re-introduce some on-site activities. In the meantime, you can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message with the office, on 02 9651 1490.

We wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are currently available if you have health concerns – the National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; if you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both services are available 24 hours a day; and are a free call from most telephone services.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding changes to activities or planned events. You can email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. As always, we also welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities, which we can report to our listeners.

Tonight, we again welcome listeners on the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken tonight on the network after the bulletin. Our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

Interference Watch

We've recently been contact by Barry VK2Fp, who is seeking some assistance from listeners in the greater Sydney region, in locating the cause of some interference to the 2-metre band.

Since around October 25, 2021, a strong carrier has been heard on 145.8MHz. The signal comes and goes, however, when it is on air, it has remained for periods up to 10 days. The frequency of 145.8MHz is of particular significance as it is the downlink frequency from the International Space Station (ISS).

Reports of this interfering signal have indicated strong signals across Sydney; including locations at Chatswood, Mortdale Heights, Heathcote and Roselands.

If you can hear this signal, reports of location and bearings, if possible, would be welcome. You can contact Barry via e-mail to: vk2fp@yahoo.com, or let us know here at VK2WI News and we will pass it on.

Contest Update

Now with some details on upcoming contesting, here's Trent VK4TS...

[Play File: 15-RHP-1.wav]

Duration: 0m41s

In: Greetings contest fans ...

Out:....this has been Trent VK4TS.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 12th to the 18th of November;
This report issued on Friday the 19th of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
10cm Flux	83	81	78	79	80	79	82
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	0	2	6	11	9	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	1	2	7	9	10	3 estimated
T index	-7	+4	3	-13	-19	-5	-8

Solar activity was low on the 13th, and very low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 12th to the 14th; quiet to unsettled on the 15th and 16th, then active on the 17th, before returning to quiet levels again, on the 18th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were depressed compared to predicted monthly values; 15% during the day and 20% at night on the 12th; 15% during the night on the 13th; 20% during the day on the 14th; 20% on the 15th; 25% during the day and 15% at night on the 16th; 20% during the day and 15% at night on the 17th; and 15% during the day and 25% during local night, on the 18th.

Now, the forecast for the 19th to the 25th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be moderately depressed from predicted, due to the very low level of solar ionising flux.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 30th of September;

At the end of October, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 89 and a Maximum of 112
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd and the 25th to the 31st

So far for November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 86 and a Maximum of 103
With peak dates from the 1st to the 11th and the 25th to the 27th

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 82 and a Maximum of 85
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd and the 20th to the 30th.

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from:
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with this series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 16-FCAL205.wav]

Duration 2m08s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MAURITIUS; Operators G0CKV, KX7M, M0CFW, M0SDV and W6NV will be active on the HF bands as 3B8/home calls, and 3B8HA, from November 22 to December 1. They will be active as 3B8M in next weekend's CQ WorldWide DX CW contest.

UGANDA; John Paul, KN6NNF is active as 5X3Z from Kubamitwe. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using FT8.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO from Mogadishu until the first week in December while on work assignment. Activity is mostly on 40, 30 and 20 metres using FT8 and FT4, but also CW and SSB.

BAHAMAS; Brian, ND3F will be active as C6AQQ from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, from November 24 to December 7. Activity is on the HF bands. He plans to be active in the CQ WorldWide DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

COMOROS; Don, K6ZO will be active as D60AB from November 22 to 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB, including in next weekend's CQ WorldWide DX CW contest.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS; Lee, DS4NMJ is active as DT8A as part of a scientific team on the King Se-Jong Korean Antarctic Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; Special event call sign E7BOSNIA is active from the ancient royal cities of Bobovac, Visoko[*VEE-shoh-koh*], and Jajce[*YIGHT-suh*] until November 28 to celebrate Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SPAIN; Special event station AM500ESP will be active until November 27 to commemorate Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe. Activity will be on the HF, and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV and various digital modes.

MAYOTTE; Don, K6ZO is active as FH/K6ZO until November 22. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

ST. BARTHELEMY; Dario, KP4DO is active as FJ/KP4DO until November 24. Activity is mainly on 20 metres, but also on 40, 17, and 10 metres as propagation permits.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P44W from November 22 to 30 on 30, 17 and 12 metres as time permits. He will be active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest next weekend.

BONAIRE; Operators K4BAI and KU8E will be active on the HF bands, as PJ4/home calls from November 24 to December 1. They will be active as PJ4A in next weekend's contest.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; Bud, AA3B, will be active as V26K from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, until November 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW. This includes being active in the contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

MALI; Ulmar, DK1CE is active as TZ1CE from Bamako until December 8. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, possibly SSB, and FT8.

BELIZE; Damian, G4LHT is active as V31HT from San Pedro Ambergris Caye until November 29. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

ANTARCTICA. Sebastian, SQ1SGB is active as VP8/SQ1SGB while working on the Halley Bay Base until the end of January 2022. Activity is in his spare time on 40 metres using SSB.

INDIA ; Special event station AU2JCB will be active until December 14 to commemorate Jagadish Chandra Bose's birthday. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB, with FM on 10 metres and 6 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, ARRL EME Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YO International PSK31 Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, LZ DX Contest, All Austrian 160-Metre CW Contest, REF 160-Metre Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest, Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party, FISTS Sunday CW Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy over this weekend.

WICEN News

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the WICEN website for details.

The VK2RWS 70cm repeater is now back on the air. Formerly at Berowra, it is now operating from Hornsby, but it is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcomed and can be emailed to tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. The website is at nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information; its at www.crarc.org.au.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next event for Club members is the traditional Club Christmas Party. It will be held at 10:30am on Sunday the 5th of December, in the covered picnic area at Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. This is the same excellent outdoor location where the Christmas Party has been held in recent years.

The Committee will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. Access to VK2RPM is available via EchoLink for those outside the coverage area of the repeater. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The newly published November 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed on the website as well. The current issue includes a very comprehensive article on network radio by Paul VK2ICQ. You can also find the Club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the current public health orders. Yesterday saw licence examinations at the club; we wish the candidates all the best.

Next Saturday, there's a "Show and Tell Day" at the clubrooms; bring along your projects, finished or not, to talk about them.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, the RadNet DMR repeater is fully functional, and EchoLink and IRLP are available on 2 metres. The Brand Meister DMR repeater and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are currently still having problems.

The to the ongoing effort and commitment of Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU, the Morning Tea net continues daily. Why not call in and you will be sure to learn a little piece of history every day.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and avid SSTV fan, hosts a fortnightly SSTV net on the Club's 2 metre WICEN repeater, 147.125 MHz with 91.5 Hz tone. The net consists of 2-3 rounds predominately in Scottie-2 mode. Adrian has had a large amount of support from members and would love to see you drop in; the next net is scheduled for Friday the 3rd of December at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "*Car Boot Sales and Flea Markets: What is your best catch?*", with best response being an HF transceiver, power supply, external VFO, 40 and 80 metre dipoles and baluns all for the princely sum of \$200. The net is on every Thursday night at 8:00pm on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink via the CCARC conference. SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

The club is currently experimenting with a webSDR, destined for the Somersby repeater site. websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to allow four users to listen on 2 metres with several presets.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; via phone on 02 43402500 or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to "like" to follow for updates.

*Alan VK2MG
Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Sydney ATV Group

If you are interested in Amateur TV; the Group's ATV repeater at Lawson in the Blue Mountains, transmits high-definition TV on 445.50MHz, with analogue and digital inputs on 23cm.

Reception is possible over the Sydney Metro area, or via the British Amateur TV Club streaming web site; on the site, select the VK2 callsign and if requested, the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching – just enter /nick, a space then your name, your following text will appear in the column above.

Nets are now on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm. We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. Why not join in and find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of digital amateur radio.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday the 1st of December.

With the continued uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions, the committee have decided to hold a virtual meeting. The Google Meet will start at 7:30pm with the AGM commencing at 7:45pm.

All members should have received an email with the agenda and annual reports. Any members who did not receive the notification are asked to contact the secretary via the link on the society's website sgars.org.

The Society's annual 2 metre DX contest is on again this year; it starts on the 1st of December and runs all summer, until the 28th of February 2022.

The login details for the AGM and the rules for the 2 metre contest are now available on the society's website sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be this Tuesday the 23rd of November starting at 8pm, again using the Jitsi open-source conferencing system.

The meeting will feature part 2 of Taffy Bowen's talk, "Development of Air Borne Radar in the United Kingdom during World War Two".

The club runs three weekly nets which are:

Monday evenings at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2m repeater, 147.25MHz. No tone is needed, but 91.5 Hz is sent.

Wednesday's 80 metres net, also at 8:00 pm, on 3608.5kHz.
"Morning Tea with HADARC", Fridays from 9am, on 7106kHz.

Both HF nets are plus or minus QRM; Listen for VK2MA.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus weekly nets, a web-based contact form and the Covid Safety plan; it's at www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Jitsi Meet details:
Phone: 08 7150 1136 and enter 3145759306#
Web: <https://meet.jit.si/HADARC>]

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Activities on the air

Lightning Net 8pm Mondays on 1860kHz, Net control Steve VK2STG.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on South east network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday, back on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Westlakes 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30am on 3565kHz. 2m nets on 146.775MHz, see website for details.

Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz. Meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9.

Central Coast ARC nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz and EchoLink; Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays – and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net December 3.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday at 8pm, VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday 3653kHz.

Illawarra ARS Nets Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675; Tuesday 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

Blue Mountains ARC Nets on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Second Sunday of the month from 5pm.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society net 8pm Wednesdays VK2RMB 146.875.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air, see website for details.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursdays on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with - 7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required, also on Echolink.

St George ARS net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, Wednesday from 8pm on 3608.5kHz, Friday 9am on 7106kHz. Next meeting November 23rd.