

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26th of November to the 2nd of December;

This report issued on Friday the 3rd of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd
10cm Flux	92	92	92	90	90	86	87
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	3	7	6	8	14	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	3	10	4	6	12	6 estimated
T index	1	13	20	11	19	23	-3

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels on the 26th before becoming unsettled on the 27th – with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 10 nanoTesla, at 2251UTC. Active geomagnetic conditions were then observed on the 28th, unsettled on the 29th, before becoming active again on the 30th of November and the 1st of December. Quiet conditions returned on the 2nd.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values, with some depressed periods. Depressions of 15% were observed during local day on the 26th and 27th. The 1st of December saw depressions of 20% after local dawn, recovering throughout the day; however, the 2nd saw depressions of 20% during the day and 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 3rd to the 9th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach Active levels with a chance of a minor storm on the 3rd and 5th; later returning to Quiet to unsettled conditions.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values to moderately depressed, with no shortwave fadeouts expected.

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;

Having finished November, we had a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 87 and a Maximum of 103
With peak dates from the 1st to the 11th and the 25th to the 30th

As we start December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 94
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th and the 27th to the 31st.

And looking ahead to January 2022, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 88
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd and the 12th to the 17th.

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.

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Duration 1m40s

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.

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ARRL DX news

KENYA; Ferdy, HB9DSP is active as 5Z4/HB9DSP from Malindi until December 16. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

BHUTAN; Peter, HB9DVG is active as A52CC from Phodrang until December 21 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

BAHRAIN; Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are active as A950ND until December 16 to celebrate Bahrain's 50th National Day.

BAHAMAS; Brian, ND3F is active as C6AQQ from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, until December 7. Activity is on the HF bands.

ANGOLA; Jose, PP2BR is now active as D2PR from Luanda. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB.

SPAIN; Members of the Union de Radioaficionados de Leon are active with special call signs AM1111D, AM1111E, AM1111I, AM1111L, AM1111N, AM1111O and AM1111R until December 19 in celebration of the 1111th anniversary since the establishment of the ancient Kingdom of Leon, now part of the autonomous community of Castile and Leon.

SCOTLAND; Special call signs GB1002ZE and GB2ZE are active until December 26 to mark the centennial of Paul Godley's DXpedition to Ardrossan in 1921, when he managed the first reception of a transatlantic shortwave transmission from Greenwich, Connecticut.

SWITZERLAND; Special event station HB1BCG is active until December 31 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic Transatlantic Tests of December 1921.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Kasimir, DL2SBY is active as HI7/DL2SBY from Punta Cana, IOTA NA-096, until December 14. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, FT8, and possibly some SSB. He may be active for one day as HI2/DL2SBY from Saona Island, IOTA NA-122.

NETHERLANDS; Special event stations PA21XMAS, PD21SANT and PD22HNY are active during December.

CANADA; Special event station VX3INSULIN is active during December to commemorate the discovery of insulin 100 years ago. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on FT8 and FT4.

INDIA; Special event station AU2JCB is active until December 14 to commemorate the birthday of Indian scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose; Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 metres using SSB, and FM on 10 and 6 metres.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO is active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until December 20. Activity is on the HF bands, and Satellite QO-100.

INDONESIA; Special event stations 8H13... H, U, and T; and 8G13... T,A,N,G,S,E and L; are active until December 12 to commemorate the 13th anniversary of South Tangerang City. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

[8H13H, 8H13U, 8H13T, 8G13T, 8G13A, 8G13N, 8G13G, 8G13S, 8G13E, 8G13L]

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Metre Contest, Walk for the Bacon 40-Metre QRP CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, NRAU 10-Metre Activity Contest, SKCC CW Sprint Europe, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, UFT CW Meeting, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, PRO CW Contest, Two-Metre Classic Sprint, INORC CW Contest and the FT Roundup will keep contesters busy 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.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Taking the place of a December monthly meeting, today instead saw the Club Christmas Party which was 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 next Monthly General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 8th of January 2022. Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month, but since the first Saturday is New Year's Day, January's meeting has been moved to the second Saturday.

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 early in the New Year, 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 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the current public health orders.

Planning is already underway for next year's field day, Mayham, scheduled for the 1st of May, 2022.

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 still having problems.

Thanks to the ongoing effort and commitment of Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU, the Morning Tea net continues daily. Why not call in; 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 17th of December at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "Assuming money was not an issue, what new toys might you be looking at?"; the most extravagant being the purchase of a private island and complete shack setup. 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's webSDR has now been relocated to the Somersby repeater site with added functionality; websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm, with more functionality on the way.

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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The Group's Christmas Luncheon is on the 19th of December 2021, at the Windale Bowling Club, starting at Noon.

Bookings are required; contact Grahame VK2FA, on 0418 686 397.

Come along and have a good time.

Note that compliance with NSW Government Health regulations will be required for all attendees.

Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group

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 back 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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The next Foundation Licence weekend next weekend, the 11th and 12th of December. Candidates who have been attending the Wednesday night upgrade course will also be able to sit for their Standard or Advanced licence examinations.

Wednesday night licence upgrade courses continue, presented by Jan VK2FEB.

If you would like to participate in the Foundation Licence weekend, sit for the upgrade examination, or join the classes; please contact Irene, VK2VAN.

On air nets continue weekly; on the club's 2 metre repeater VK2RBM, on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone. Wednesday night nets start at 8pm and Weekend nets are on every second Sunday of the month, from 5pm.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*73 from James VK2GOH
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

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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 17.

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.