

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

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors, we are planning to re-introduce on-site activities early in the new year. 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 10th to the 16th of December;

This report issued on the 17th of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm Flux	76	76	80	81	89	103	118
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	3	2	6	4	8	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	2	4	4	10	7 estimated
T index	8	9	5	20	9	21	21

Solar activity was very low on the 10th, 11th and 13th, and low on otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 10th, quiet to unsettled on the 11th, quiet again on the 12th, then quiet to unsettled, with some quiet periods on the 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values, with some depressed periods earlier in the week. Depressions of 15% were observed on the 10th, 20% during local night on the 11th, 20% all day on the 12th, and 15% during local day on the 13th.

Now, the forecast for the 17th to the 23rd of December;

Solar activity is expected to reach moderate levels early in the week.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be mostly near predicted monthly values.

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

So far for December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 92 and a Maximum of 118
With peak dates from the 16th to the 24th.

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

Minimum of 78, Average of 81 and a Maximum of 84
With peak dates from the 13th to the 24th.

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: 15-FCAL196.wav]

Duration 2m47s

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

LESOTHO; Chris, ZS1CDG will be active as 7P8GOZ from December 20 to 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using FT8.

OMAN; Special event station A43QAT is active until December 22 as part of celebrating Qatar's National Day.

HUNGARY; Special call HA21XMAS is active on all bands and modes until December 26.

THAILAND; Brad, VK2BY is active as HS0ZNR from the Nam Yuen district until January 21. In addition, stations E24OYI, E25KAE, E25OKO, E29TGW, HS2UPR, HS2QJJ, E20NKB and E21EIC will be active as E20AX/p from Chang Island, IOTA AS-125, from until December 20. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 160 metres, using CW, SSB, and FT8, with two or three stations active.

NETHERLANDS; Special call PG44FF is active until early 2022 as part of various Flora and Fauna park activations.

SINT MAARTEN; Georg, NZ1C is active as PJ7/NZ1C from Upper Princes Quarters until December 20. Activity is on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 metres using mostly FT4, but also with CW and some SSB.

TURKEY; Simon is temporarily active as TA4/G6JFY from Fethieye[*FEH-tee-eh*] while waiting for his regular Turkish call sign.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Victor, WB0AA will be active as V4/WB0AA from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from December 22 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

MEXICO; Zalo, XE3N is active as 4C10M from Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo until December 20. Activity is on 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

INDONESIA; Special event stations 7B2C, 7B2E, 7B2T, 7B2H and 7B2O are active until the end of October 2022 to celebrate the Javanese-Hindu Ceto[*che-TO*] Temple that was built in 1475. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, ARRL EME Contest, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, AGB-Party Contest, Russian 160-Metre Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, Feld Hell Sprint, OK DX RTTY Contest, RAC Winter Contest, Padang DX Contest, Croatian CW Contest, and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, NAQCC CW Sprint and the Phone Fray are all scheduled for December 20 to 23.

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 Club's final Friday Night get-together for 2021 was held last Friday night; as usual, there were some interesting show and tell items presented during the evening.

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, this meeting has been moved to the second Saturday. The meeting will be at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The club's eagerly-awaited 2022 calendar will be available for purchase at the meeting. All activities are held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run early in the New Year once 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 repeater coverage area. 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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club rooms will re-open on Saturday January 8, 2022.

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

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, 70cm EchoLink and IRLP and the BrandMeister DMR repeater are still having problems. All other services are fully operational.

The Club's webSDR is now operating from Somersby; websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

Thanks to the ongoing effort and commitment of Bob VK2AOR, Dave VK2KFU, and Brad VK2NMZ, the Morning Tea net continues daily on the VK2RAG 2m repeater, and on EchoLink. Dave will be taking a break from the hosting team after New Year's Eve and we thank him for his solid contribution.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and most recent Advanced licensee, hosts an 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 January, on Friday the 21st at 7:30pm.

There was no Thursday night net last week. This week will be the last one for the year, resuming on January 13th next year. The net is on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink via the CCARC and HAM conferences. SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

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.

Have a safe and happy break,
73 Alan VK2MG
Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Sydney ATV Group

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.

Regular nets are 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.*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

With Public Health restrictions easing, in-person club meetings have resumed, every Wednesday at 8pm. But with case numbers on a steep rise again this week, things could change at short notice. The weekly two metre net that kept the club going during lockdown has been suspended but keep an ear out on the repeater and here on VK2WI, for news in case the situation changes.

Last month's lecture, on running an Amateur Radio remote station, was presented via Zoom by Steve Kennedy of Future Systems in Western Australia. The video is now available on YouTube: just search for the club callsign, VK2MB, and you'll find the video on the "Lectures" playlist.

The presentation inspired club president, Greg VK2XE to make it happen with one of the club HF transceivers. With a bit of luck, the station will be online very soon.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details. The web site again is mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

Richard VK2SKY

Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club's three weekly nets continue over the holiday period, and visitors are most welcome. These are;

Monday evenings at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2m repeater, 147.25MHz. No tone is needed for access, 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.

Also at VK2RNS is the 439.975 MHz FM and P25 repeater, with a -5 MHz offset. FM requires a 91.5 Hz tone, and P25 uses NAC 293.

VK2RHT is a DMR repeater on 438.35MHz with -5.4 MHz offset, which is part of ARNSW RadNet. This repeater is co-sited with WICEN's VK2RWC on 147.150 MHz, needing 91.5Hz; and on 1273.2MHz with a +20 MHz offset, sending a 91.5Hz tone.

The next in-person even planned, is a BBQ in Hornsby, on the evening of January 11.

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. Next SSTV January 21, 147.125MHz.

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.

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

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm Monday on 445.5MHz from Lawson.

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.