

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

Seasons Greetings to all our listeners.

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 over the holiday period. 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 17th to the 23rd of December;

This report issued on the 24th of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm Flux	121	121	115	123	137	140	130
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	2	8	13	7	8	2 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	3	15	12	7	7	2 estimated
T index	48	58	51	33	61	77	53

Solar activity was moderate on the 17th, with an M1.2 solar flare at 0015UTC, on the 20th with an M1.8 at 1139UTC, on the 21st with an M1.1 at 0750 and an M1.4 at 1144UTC, and on the 22nd with an M1.0 at 0706UTC. Activity was at low levels on other days.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 17th and 18th, quiet to minor storm levels on the 19th, quiet to active on the 20th, before returning to quiet to unsettled on the 21st and 22nd, and quiet levels on the 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values. The 19th saw depression of 20% after local dawn, which improved during local day to near predicted, becoming 15% enhanced during local night. The 20th saw depression of 25% during local day, but then enhancements of 15% were observed during local night on the 22nd and 23rd.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be generally low, with a chance of some isolated M-class flares.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be 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 102 and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 16th to the 31st.

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

Minimum of 80, Average of 93 and a Maximum of 115
With peak dates from the 12th 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.

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Duration 2m09s

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

SENEGAL; Jacques, F6HMJ will be active as 6W7/F6HMJ from December 29th to February 22nd, 2022. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

MALDIVES; Tom, OE1TRI will be active as 8Q7TR from South Ari Atoll, IOTA AS-013, from December 28 to January 3, 2022. Activity will be holiday style on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

GERMANY; Stations DL0DIX, DK0GER, and DM5G are active until the end of 2021 to commemorate the 130th birthday of painter and printmaker Otto Dix.

ENGLAND; Members of the Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society will be active with special calls GB0HNY, GB1HNY, GB2HNY, GB4HNY, GB5HNY, GB6HNY, GB8HNY, and GB9HNY from December 28 to January 24, 2022, to celebrate the New Year 2022.

JAPAN; Take, JI3DST will be active as JI3DST/6, JJ5RBH/6 and JS6RRR/6 from Tanega Island, IOTA AS-032, until January 10, 2022. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, FT8 and FT4.

OGASAWARA ISLANDS; Harry, JG7PSJ is active as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until January 1, 2022. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BELGIUM; Look for 64 special event stations to use the ON75 prefix from January 1 to February 28, 2022, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Belgium's National IARU Society.

NETHERLANDS; Friso, PF1B is active with special event callsign PF33MAX until January 17, 2022, to celebrate Max Verstappen's World Champion title. Activity is on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using mostly FT8 and FT4.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event stations R2022NY, R22HNY, RA22NY, RG22NY, RJ22NY, RK22NY, RL22NY, RM22NY, RO22NY, RQ22NY, RT22NY, RW22NY, RX22NY, and RY22NY will be active until January 14, 2022, for the Russian New Year 2022 radio marathon.

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

INDONESIA; Agus, YB1TDL is active as YB1TDL/8 from Karakelong Island, Talaud Islands, IOTA OC-209, until December 29. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB and FT8.

MACEDONIA; Michael, DF8AN will be active as Z38/DF8AN from Skopje from December 29 to January 5, 2022.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Gedebage CW Contest, RAEM CW Contest and DARC Christmas Contest are all scheduled for this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, OK1WC Memorial CW, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are all on from December 27 to 29.

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, operating from Hornsby. 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 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.

The Committee continues 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 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, subject to any changes in public health orders.

Planning is well 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.

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

The SSTV net will resume on January 21.

The weekly Thursday night net was hosted by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "*What plans have you for the Christmas and New Year Break*", with the common theme being quiet time avoiding people. The weekly net will resume on January 13.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and past nets can be replayed as well.

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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The committee of the St. George Amateur Radio Society wish all listeners a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

During 2021, members of the Society have been working at upgrading the VK2RDX repeater at Mt. Bindo in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. A major part of the upgrade was the installation of a DMR repeater on 70cm.

With many major undertakings there can be some complications, and the VK2RDX upgrades have been no exception. The remote location entails an almost 300km round-trip from Sydney for many involved in the site works. Along with difficult access in winter months and public health restrictions, opportunities to visit to the site recently, have been rare. The possibility of future restrictions and just plain common sense may impact visits over the next few months.

So for all the listeners out there who normally use VK2RDX, the St. George Amateur Radio Society are working hard to make the Mt. Bindo repeaters the best in VK2.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicly Officer, St. George Amateur 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 Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays. Weekly net resumes January 13.

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.