

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

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors, 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 events and activities 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; and, as always, we welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities.

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

From the Secretary's desk...

Last weekend, several members helped to envelope the 2022 magnetic calendars and they were posted on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to those who assisted. Many members have already received them, as evidenced by the number of renewals already received this week. Your expiry date is written near the top right of your calendar.

Also, a reminder that the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales will be held on Saturday, April 9th at 11am. Depending on the prevailing situation it will either be a hybrid meeting or on Zoom only. Four board positions are up for re-election this year; if you are interested in nominating for the board, nomination forms will be available from the office and on the website.

*73 Eric VK2VE
Secretary, ARNSW.*

ARNSW Elections

As previously announced, the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 9th of April 2022.

At the AGM, four of the nine directors will be retiring. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be a director for the years 2022 and 2023. The term of a director elected in 2022 is two years – until the AGM 2024.

Nomination forms will shortly be available from the office, and on the website at arnsw.org.au.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 26th February 2022.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7th to the 13th of January;

This report issued on the 14th of January.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm Flux	107	102	102	102	100	103	106
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	9	7	4	3	3	3 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	9	8	5	3	4	2 estimated
T index	21	27	43	46	47	52	52

Solar activity was very low on the 9th, 10th, and 12th; and low, on other days.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 7th before becoming active later on the 8th, with SWS magnetometers recording a weak impulse of 13 nanoTesla at 1802UTC. The 9th was unsettled to active earlier, becoming quiet later in the day. Conditions then remained quiet from the 10th to the 13th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values, with enhancements of 15% observed during local night on the 10th.

Now, the forecast for the 14th to the 20th of January;

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 15th and 16th, with quiet to unsettled conditions otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, with some depressions possible on the 16th.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished December, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 103 and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 17th to the 30th.

So far for January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 103 and a Maximum of 120
With peak dates from the 15th to the 26th.

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 85, Average of 106 and a Maximum of 120
With peak dates from the 10th to the 22nd.

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-FCAL106.wav]

Duration 2m06s

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: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MAURITIUS; Ray, F5UKV will be active as 3B8HH beginning around January 20th. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres, and possibly 160 metres, using CW and some SSB. Once his station is completely installed, he will also use PSK and RTTY.

KENYA; Barring any COVID-19 restrictions, Ferdy, HB9DSP is active as 5Z4/HB9DSP from Malindi until January 27. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and some FT8.

GUADELOUPE; Operators Pascal, F1MNO, Pierre, F1TCV, Michel, F5LRL, Didier, F6BCW and Keith, VE7KW will be active as TO6S from Les Saintes, IOTA NA-114, from January 20 to February 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4 with two stations active.

SCOTLAND; Special event station GB2KW is active near Inverness until January 28 using vintage equipment.

ALASKA; Fred, KB4DMQ is active as KL7FBI from Shemya Island, IOTA NA-037, until January 24. Activity is on 40 metres using FT8.

ARGENTINA; Members of AMSAT Argentina will be active as LU7AA until January 23 to commemorate the launch of Satellite LUSAT, LO-19, 32 years ago. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8.

SEYCHELLES; Beverly, S79BMK is a new operator and active from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. She is active on the HF bands.

SWEDEN; Members of the Skoevde Amateur Radio Club are active with special call SK50EI during 2022 to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary.

TURKEY; Members of the Turkish Amateur Radio Association are active with special call sign TC60TRAC throughout 2022 to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

MEXICO; Zalo, XE3N is active as 6F6F throughout 2022 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Playa del Carmen City, Quintana Roo.

VIETNAM; Eddy, XV1X has been active on 40 metres using FT8 beginning around 1100UTC.

INDONESIA; Agus, YB1TDL/4 and Budi, YC1RQZ/4 will be active from Rakata Island, IOTA OC-262, until January 20. They will be active on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American CW QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, Malaysia DX Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, PRO Digi Contest, UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, Feld Hell Sprint and the RSGB AFS Data Contest are all on over this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40 Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, Mini-Test 80 CW and CWops Mini-CWT Test are all scheduled for January 17 to 19.

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 welcome, 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 5th of February. Due to COVID-19 related issues, the January general meeting was cancelled, and the Committee Meeting was held online. Minutes of the Committee Meeting have been emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs.

The club's Friday Night Get together on Friday the 21st of January has been cancelled, along with the Club's annual Antenna Shoutout previously planned for Sunday the 6th of February. The inconvenience caused by the cancellations is regretted, but the Committee will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions and circumstances 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 run 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 January 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed on the website as well. 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.*

[Play ID File: 17-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club's committee has taken the decision to keep the clubroom closed until the 5th of February. This decision has been taken reluctantly, but the increased risk of transmission of the Omicron variant makes it a prudent step in the public interest. Month-end exams have likewise been cancelled.

Planning is 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 has returned, at 10am daily and after the VK2WI News bulletin on Sunday mornings. Welcome back Bob VK2AOR. Its on the VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Club's Weekly net resumes this Thursday night at 8pm, also on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater.

The SSTV net will resume on January 21.

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 the recordings under the "Videos" section.

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.

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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The first Monthly General Meeting of the Club for 2022, will be held on Tuesday the 25th of January, at McDonald's Woodbine, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend. This meeting has been moved from Wednesday to Tuesday because Wednesday is Australia Day.

The Club's weekly net is at 7:30pm on Thursday evenings on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. The repeater is on 438.65MHz with a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone for access. The repeater is also accessible via EchoLink.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

Submitted by Peter VK2PR

On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The 2021 Christmas party and was well attended. A pleasant evening was had by all, especially meeting a few new members finally.

The next club meeting is this coming Wednesday, January 19th, on Zoom as the current situation is considered unsuitable for an in-person meeting. The same link will work for the Zoom meeting as used previously, but just in case you've lost it, it will be sent out to the member email list prior to the meeting.

The Ferry contest is coming soon on March 6th; there are a few changes to the rules this year to help keep the contest Covid safe. All the details can be found on the Society's website.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers are temporarily suspended; but Weekly nets continue, along with the get-togethers on "project day" on the first Saturday of the month, and other regular activities. See the website for details.

You can keep up to date with full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the website at vk2bv.org. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is an informal dinner on Tuesday the 8th of February, at Magpies in Waitara. The 22nd of February meeting will be at Mt Colah community centre from 8pm, with the option to join via the Jitsi conferencing system.

The club's three weekly nets continue during January, 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.

International Marconi Day is the UTC day of Saturday, 23 April. HADARC will once again be operating VK2IMD across various HF bands.

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>]

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID4.wav]

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; Thursday nights 8pm; VK2RAG 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone and EchoLink.

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.