

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.

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 are 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

Sydney Ferry Contest

There are only a few weeks to go to the Sydney Harbour Ferry contest; it's on Sunday the 6th of March.

But, to avoid the crowds and keep things Covid-Safe, the contest will be a little different this year; the main thing is, contesters won't actually have to be on a ferry....

Instead, hand-held operation will be allowed from anywhere on, or near, the Harbour – that means any part of the waters or foreshores, including the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers.

The contest is for UHF and VHF only, so all you need to do to join the fun is find a comfortable spot on the harbourside within range of a repeater and make as many contacts as you can.

Home operation is permitted for those not wanting to get out and about, but Amateurs are encouraged to enjoy the day outdoors where you can - something we all may have been missing lately.

Full details on this year's contest, including a downloadable log sheet, are on the Waverley Amateur Radio Society website; its at vk2bv.org.

There's also a Facebook page where you can read and make comments; just search for Sydney AR Ferry Contest.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21st to the 27th of January;

This report issued on the 28th of January.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
10cm Flux	97	95	94	95	101	102	107
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	7	7	3	10	8	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	4	5	3	12	7	6 estimated
T index	53	65	51	60	66	72	68

Solar activity was very low from the 21st to the 23rd, low on the 24th and 25th, then moderate on the 26th with a C9.0 flare at 2349UTC. The 27th returned to low activity levels.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 21st to the 24th, the quiet to unsettled from the 25th to the 27th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values, with some periods of enhancements; 15% enhancement was observed during local night on the both the 25th and 26th, and 20% during local day on the 26th.

Now, the forecast for the 28th of January to the 3rd of February;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values with some enhancements possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Nearing the end of January, we had a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 101 and a Maximum of 116
With peak dates from the 8th to the 20th, and the 27th to the 31st.

Just as we start February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 87, Average of 100 and a Maximum of 110
With peak dates from the 1st to the 15th.

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 96, Average of 105 and a Maximum of 115
With peak dates from the 6th to the 12th.

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>]

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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 1m59s

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.

ARRL DX news

Some special stations are active to take part in the CQ WorldWide 160 Metre CW contest this weekend;

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Stan, K5GO will be active as ZF5T in the contest, as a Single Op entry.

GEORGIA; Ilya, R3XA plans to be active as 4L9M. In addition, Mamuka, 4L2M will also be active.

GUERNSEY; Bob, GU4YOX is active as MU5E.

... and in other DX activity for this week;

CYPRUS; Philipp, DK6SP is active as 5B4AQC until July 27. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands.

KUWAIT; Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society will be active as special event station 9K9NLD from February 1 to 28 in celebration of Kuwait National Day.

GUADELOUPE; Herve, F5HRY is active as FG/F5HRY from Marie Galante Island, IOTA NA-102. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and some SSB, with a focus on 30 and 17 metres using CW.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS; Jean, F4CIX is active as FW1JG from Wallis Island. Activity is mainly on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes. His length of stay is unknown.

PANAMA; Members of the Union Panamena de Radio Aficionados will be active as H94IE from Isla Escudo de Veraguas, IOTA NA-088, from February 4 to 6. Activity will be on various bands and modes.

ITALY; Special station I18CAP is active from the island of Procida, IOTA EU-031, until June 30, as the island, of the coast of Naples, has been designated the Italian Capital of Culture for 2022.

ST. LUCIA; William, K9HZ is active on the HF bands, as J68HZ until February 8.

ANTARCTICA; Station KC4USV is active from McMurdo Base and has been active using FT8 on 20 metres around 0600UTC.

ARUBA; Mathias, DL4MM is active as P4/DL4MM until February 2. Activity is on HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. He is active as P40AA in the CQ WorldWide 160 Metre CW contest as a Single Op/Assisted/High Power entry.

NETHERLANDS; Wino, PA0ABM will be active as PA75DXCC from February 3 to August 2 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first post-World War II list of DXCC members, published in the July 1947 issue of QST.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; Everton, PU2MEA is active as PU2MEA/PY0F until November 26. Activity is on 10 metres using SSB and QRP power, in his spare time.

SURINAME; Axel, DL6KVA will be active as PZ5KV from February 1 to 10. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW. This includes being active in the upcoming FOC Marathon.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Nick, VK9DX has been active on 40 metres using CW around 1240UTC.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ WW 160-Metre CW Contest, Winter Field Day, NCCC RTTY Sprint and Sprint Ladder, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, REF CW Contest, UBA SSB DX Contest, QCX CW Challenge and OK1WC CW Memorial will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops CW Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test CW 40, Mini-Test CW 80 and the UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest are scheduled for February 1 and 2.

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 Monthly General Meeting planned for Saturday the 5th of February has been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID situation. The Committee Meeting will be held online on Saturday and minutes will be emailed to members, to keep them abreast of club affairs.

The club's Antenna Shoutout, planned for Sunday the 6th of February, along with February's Friday night get-together, have also been cancelled.

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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubroom is 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.

The next general meeting will be on the 5th of February; Details will be emailed to members this week.

Planning is well under way for the Club's field day, Mayham, scheduled for the 1st t first of May. Expressions of interest are now open for those wishing to give a lecture; please contact Col VK2ZCO by email, to ccarc@ccarc.org.au for further information.

At VK2RAG Somersby, 70cm EchoLink and IRLP and the BrandMeister DMR repeater are still having problems. All other services are fully operational, including the new webSDR; websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

The Club's Morning Tea is on at 10am daily and after the VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. Welcome back Bob VK2AOR. The Weekly Thursday night net at 8pm will be back this week. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Fortnightly SSTV net is hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member. The next net is on Friday the 4th of February, on the club's WICEN repeater – 147.125 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone. All are welcome to watch or participate.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and recordings of past nets can be found, in 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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's first meeting for 2022 is coming up on Friday the 4th of February, at the Clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook. Doors open at 7pm.

The meeting will have a Show and Tell for any 'Lockdown Projects'. Either bring the project itself, or if it is too big to bring, the new projector and screen will be installed, so you will be able to bring photos on a USB stick and show them on the big screen.

Meeting will be subject to COVID safe requirements, including the requirement to wear masks indoors. For further information, please contact the club secretary, Irene VK2VAN.

The Club's Wednesday night upgrade classes are recommencing on the 9th of February, over Zoom. Your trainer is Jan VK2FEB. The textbook used is *RADIO THEORY HANDBOOK Beginner to Advanced*, 2nd Edition (2019) by Ron Bertrand VK2DQ.

For more information, or to book for the classes; contact the club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is secretary@bmarc.org.

The Club has two on air nets each week; the 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz. On Wednesday night from 8pm, there is a net on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater on 53.875MHz.

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.*

[AMC information <https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio>]

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's first meeting for 2022 will be online, on Wednesday the 2nd of February. At the meeting there will have a presentation by Paul VK2GX o End Fed Half Wave, or EFHW, HF antennas.

Recently this antenna has become popular with portable / field stations, low power operators and those with space limitations.

What advantage does the antenna have over the conventional centre or off-centre fed, half wavelength dipole antenna? How do you match it to your transceiver with an un-balanced 50 ohm connection? How to construct an antenna?

For the answer to these questions and more; you can join the SGARS gathering online. The meeting will start at 7:30pm, this Wednesday the 2nd of February. For more information, including login details, visit the society's website at sgars.org.

*73 Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Starting the year for the Club, informal dinner on Tuesday the 8th of February, at Magpies in Waitara. This is across Alexandria Parade from Waitara Station. If you wish to attend then RSVP to the Social Co-ordinator, Chris VK2YMW. A Magpies by-law requires those attending to provide evidence of full vaccination.

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 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 is also at 8:00 pm, on 3608.5kHz; and "Morning Tea with HADARC", is on 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, including setup information for Jitsi Meet; 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; Thursday nights 8pm; VK2RAG 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone and EchoLink. Next SSTV net February 4.

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 Ferry Contest 6th March.

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.