

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 4th to the 10th of February;

This report issued on the 11th of February.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
10cm Flux	130	126	124	127	123	126	118
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	18	10	12	4	3	2	12 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	23	9	8	4	2	1	13 estimated
T index	49	2	50	62	71	69	74

Solar flare activity was low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at unsettled to minor storm levels on the 4th with SWS magnetometers showing a weak impulse of 12 nanoTesla at 1310UTC. The 5th saw quiet to active conditions, which became quiet to unsettled on the 6th then quiet from the 7th to the 9th. Activity increased again on the 10th, reaching active levels.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, started off depressed 20% during the day and 25% after local dawn on the 4th, recovering at night to near predicted values. The 5th remained depressed 25%, however conditions then improved; to near predicted on the 6th and during local day on the 7th. Enhancements of 15% were observed during local night on the 7th; 20% during local night on the 8th; and 14% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 9th. The 10th saw a slight depression of 25% after local dawn, but was otherwise enhanced about 20%.

Now, the forecast for the 11th to the 17th of February;

Solar activity is expected to low, with moderate activity possible early in the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels on the 11th, with a chance of minor storm conditions on the 12th and 13th due to recurrent coronal hole effects. Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, though Shortwave fadeouts are possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished January, we had a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 102 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 13th to the 20th, and the 28th to the 31st.

So far for February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 110, Average of 121 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th, and the 25th to the 26th.

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 110, Average of 118 and a Maximum of 125
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th, and the 21st to the 28th.

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 1m52s

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

MALDIVES; Karel, OK2WM and Vlad, OK2WX will be active as 8Q7WM and 8Q7WX, respectively, until March 8; they will be active on 160, 80 and 40 metres using mainly CW.

CHINA; Members of Chinese Radio Amateurs Club station BY1CRA are active with special event station BY1CRA/WO22 during the 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

CAPE VERDE; Rob, DM4AO will be active as D44AO until February 25. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 and possibly 160 metres, using mostly CW.

ANTARCTICA; Sergiy, UT9UX is active as EM1U from Base Vernadsky on Galindez Island in the Biscoe Islands, IOTA AN-006, until mid-April. Activity is on various HF bands.

ECUADOR; John, N9EAJ is active as HC1FIT from a mountaintop location near the city of Otavalo in the Imbabura Province of Ecuador until February 24. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB with some slow CW.

HONDURAS; John, AD8J will be active as HR9/AD8J from Guanaja Island, IOTA NA-057, until February 26. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, including WARC bands, using CW, some SSB, and FT8.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are active as 7Z3FD, 8Z3FD, and HZ3FD to celebrate Saudi Founding Day.

ITALY; Operators of the UN Global Service Centre ARC are active with special call sign 4U13FEB until the end of February, to support World Radio Day.

OGASAWARA; Sam, JE1XUZ will be active as JE1XUZ/JD1 from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until February 15. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8.

KOSOVO; Rene, DL2JRM is active as Z66BCC from Gjilan and will be active in the CQ Worldwide WPX RTTY contest.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P44W from February 14 to 21. Activity will be as time permits on the HF bands, with an emphasis on WARC bands.

SEYCHELLES; Amir, 4X6TT is active as S79/4X6TT from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. Activity is on the HF bands, with particular interest given to 30, 17, and 12 metres.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Bill, W3UL is active on the HF bands as V47UM from Nevis, IOTA NA-014. He will be active in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest, and part-time in the CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; JT, KD7ADI is active as V7/KD7ADI. Recent Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D while on work assignment with the UN World Food Programme. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using SSB and FT8. If time allows, he may try to be active on 160 metres.

ALBANIA; Fred, OE8NDR is active as ZA/OE8NDR and has been active on 20 metres using SSB around 0930 to 1000UTC. His length of stay is unknown.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, KCJ Topband Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, OMISS SSB QSO Party, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest and Balkan HF Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The YLRL YL-OM Contest, PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, CQC Winter CW QSO Party, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 80/40, AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening and RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship are all scheduled from February 14 to 16.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 14 to 18.

WICEN News

The first WICEN NSW training exercise for the year is FEB EX22, on next weekend, the 19th and 20th February. This exercise is to setup a wide area HF communications network on both amateur and commercial frequencies and simulate the loss of phone and internet communications.

The exercise will introduce field operations to new members under the guidance of experienced members. So, you don't have to have any equipment, just come along, and participate.

All amateur radio operators are welcome to take part. For more information or to indicate your interest in taking part in the exercise, contact Mark VK2MOH via email to; mark.halliwell@vrarescue.org.

Hunter WICEN will be providing communications for the Watagan Horse Enduro on the weekend of 30th April and 1st May. If you would like to participate, please contact Dan VK2GG at daniel.joyce@vrarescue.org.

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 website for details.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. For more information on upcoming events, or how to join, visit the website at nsw.wicen.org.au.

For information about other WICEN groups; WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information and can be found at www.crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the web at vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The February General Meeting, and Friday night get-together, have been cancelled; The Committee continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions and circumstances which may change at short notice.

Now is the time to plan to attend the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's annual field day on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June, during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend. The Field Day will be at the spacious Wauchope Showground Hall, with the Field Day Dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night.

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 and public health restrictions permit.

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 with 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubroom have reopened, subject to public health orders.

The Club's field day, Mayham, is scheduled for Sunday the 1st 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 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.

There was no Thursday night net last week, but the next will be at 8pm this coming Thursday, hosted by Alan VK2MG. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Fortnightly SSTV net is hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member. The net consists of 2 to 3 rounds, predominately in Scottie-2 mode. The net has seen a large amount of participation from members, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. The next net is on Friday the 18th 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The society is planning to operate the club's callsign VK2LE, for the John Moyle Memorial Field Day over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of March.

The proposed site is a campsite just off the Hume Highway, less than 90 minutes' drive south of Sydney. The site has toilet facilities and overnight camping is permitted; there are no rough roads, with access suitable for all motor vehicles.

Members can bring their own equipment, use club equipment or other member's equipment. There is also the option of entering either the 6-hour or the 24-hour section of the contest. Its a good opportunity for both members new to the hobby, or those that wish to rekindle the good old days, to take part in some portable operation.

Members who are interested in taking part in the contest are asked to contact event facilitators Paul VK2GX and Peter VK2EMU by email to jmfd@sgars.org. Please indicate whether you would be interested in either the 6-hour or 24-hour section, and if you are interested in camping overnight or heading home on the Saturday evening.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday evening is lecture night, and David VK2CZ will talk about professional antenna modelling and optimisation using the “HOBBIES” software.

“HOBBIES”, or “Higher Order Basis Based Integral Equation Solver”, can be used for antenna design and placement, EMI/EMC analysis, and many other applications.

David’s lecture will include several practical antenna design examples, including:

- 80m Bobtail
- 160m inverted L
- 20m 4 element Yagi
- 10GHz horn antenna

David is a Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, as well as being a veteran Amateur contester. In addition to his usual callsign, VK2CZ, David makes full use of his new VJ2J contesting call. Check out his QRZ.com page to see his upcoming schedule!

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 club web site for details. The web site is at mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

Richard VK2SKY

Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.

[software website <https://hobbies-em.com>].

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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 Southeast 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, 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 18.

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 VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air; see website. Sydney Harbour & 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.