

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 reintroduce some in person activities in the coming months. You can still contact us 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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25th of February to the 3rd of March;
This report issued on the 4th of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm Flux	96	97	97	99	99	110	111
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	1	11	5	6	3	3 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	1	9	7	6	1	3 estimated
T index	71	54	64	54	66	51	59

Solar flare activity was low from the 25th to the 28th, very low on the 1st of March, then moderate on the 2nd with an M2.0 solar flare at 1739UTC. Activity returned to low levels, on the 3rd.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels all week, except for some unsettled periods on the 27th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancement of 20% during the day and 25% during local night was observed on the 25th; 35% during local night on the 27th and 15% during local night on the 28th. Depression of 15% was observed during local day on the 2nd of March, and enhancement of 20% during local night on the 3rd.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be low, with a chance of moderate activity. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled with possible isolated active periods from the 5th to the 6th, and again from the 9th to the 10th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, with mild degradation on the 5th and 6th, and a chance of shortwave fadeouts.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished February, we had a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 110 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th

So far for March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 95, Average of 101 and a Maximum of 110
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 10th, and the 26th to the 31st.

And looking ahead to April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 95, Average of 99 and a Maximum of 105
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th, and the 18th to the 19th.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for February 2022

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was mostly very low, with some low levels of activity at the beginning and the end of the month. Moderate activity was observed on the 12th, 14th and 15th. The largest solar flare for the month was an M1.4 at 0844UTC on the 12th; there was also an M1.3 on the 15th and an M1.0 on the 14th. There were a few C-class flares, but no alerts were issued.

There were many coronal mass ejections (CMEs) during February, though most were directed away from Earth. A filament eruption from the centre of the visible disc on the 6th resulted in a CME that likely arrived at Earth on the 9th, around 1900 UTC. Coronal hole wind streams and their associated co-rotating interaction regions arrived at Earth on the 5th, 11th, 20th and 27th, resulting in elevated solar wind conditions.

There were weak proton enhancements on the 16th and 18th, due to activity off the visible disc, though neither reached the S1 alert threshold.

While geomagnetic activity was generally quiet to unsettled, a weak geomagnetic impulse of 11 nanoTesla was observed on the 1st of February as the 29th of January CME impacted the magnetosphere, causing active conditions late that day. CME effects continued, with minor storm conditions observed on the 3rd, and active to minor storm levels on the 4th resulting in geomagnetic alerts.

Coronal hole wind streams resulted in active periods on the 5th, 11th, 20th and 21st.

The ionosphere was generally enhanced throughout February due to higher-than-expected solar flux levels. A mild depression on the 4th was due to disturbed geomagnetic conditions with Maximum Usable Frequencies (MUFs) 25% below predicted; the depression continued through the 5th and recovered over the 6th. A less intense depression of about 15%, on the 11th, was again due to geomagnetic activity.

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 1m53s

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

TOGO; Andy, KB9IJI is active as 5V7JA using FT8 on 30 and 20 metres, typically around 2100 to 0230UTC.

UGANDA; Alan, G3XAQ will be active as 5X1XA from Kampala from March 7 to 14. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres with a focus on the RSGB Commonwealth Contest.

MALAWI; Dan, K6ZO is active as 7Q6M until March 13, including entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

BARBADOS; Charles, 8P6ET will be active as 8P1W in the ARRL International DX SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. He plans to also be active in the upcoming CQ WorldWide WPX SSB contest. QSL via KU9C.

CHILE; Luis, CE2ML plans to be in the ARRL International DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 10 metres.

CUBA; Members of the radio club of Sancti Spiritus and the radio club of Trinidad and Cabaiguan will be active as T46SB from March 8 and 9 to activate a SOTA reference in the La Sabina-Banao Reserve. Their activity is to celebrate the first radio broadcast from Tuinicu 99 years ago and also International Women's Day.

CAPE VERDE; Look for D4K to be active in the ARRL International DX SSB contest. There may be some 6 metre activity before and after the contest as well.

GERMANY; Special event station DA22WARD is active until April 30 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day, which is on April 18.

CANARY ISLANDS; Philippe, EA4NF is active as EA8/EA4NF from Hierro Island, IOTA AF 004, until March 6. Activity is on various FM and Linear LEO satellites from very rare Grid Squares IL07 and IL17.

ST. BARTHELEMY; Andreas, DK6AS is active as FJ/DK6AS and has been active on 40, 17, 15, 12, and 10 metres using CW generally from 1100 to 2330UTC.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; Jacek, SP5EAQ is active as FO/SP5EAQ from Rimatara Island, IOTA OC-050, for four weeks. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB. This includes being active as TX5AQ in the upcoming CQ WorldWide WPX SSB contest.

CURACAO; Andy, DK5ON is active as PJ2/DK5ON until March 17, on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. He will also be active in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; Frank, K3TRM will be active as PJ5/K3TRM from Sint Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, until March 12. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and on various satellites.

ANTIGUA; Bud, AA3B is active as V26K until March 10, on the HF bands using CW. This includes being active as a Single Op/High Power/All Band/Unlimited entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

BELIZE; Bill, K4XS will be active as V3X in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Dave, K0KQ will be active on the HF bands as VP5/K0KQ from Grand Turk Island, IOTA NA-003, from March 7 to 21.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Novice Rig CW Roundup, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, UBA Spring 80-Metre CW Contest, NSARA Contest, SARL Hamnet 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest and the WAB 3.5 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and Mini-Test 80 CW are scheduled from March 7 to 9.

WICEN News

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.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Urunga Radio Convention.

Unfortunately, we've had a bit of a false start. After high hopes for this year; due to circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, the convention has again been cancelled for 2022. The committee apologises to those who had already started planning to attend.

Submitted by Kevin VK2CKD

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday, Saturday the 5th of March, the club's Monthly General Meeting was held in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting was held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. Members were very pleased to see the return of in-person meetings.

The inconvenience caused by recent cancellations is regretted, however 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. The March 2022 issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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

Next weekend, the club will be hosting licence training and examinations at the clubrooms; there will also be an outing of some description for members. On the 19th of March there will be a special general meeting to consider changes to standing orders. Details have been emailed to members, please make yourselves familiar with them.

The Club's field day, Mayham, is scheduled for Sunday the 1st of May. Expressions of interest are still open for lectures; please contact Col VK2ZCO by email, to ccarc@ccarc.org.au for information. Examinations will be held for both Australian and US qualifications. The raffle prizes are shaping up nicely. EFTPOS will be available at the gate, and pre-purchase may be made available.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still having problems. The Somersby WebSDR, websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23 centimetres.

The Club's daily Morning Tea is on at 10am and after the VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Thursday night net starts at 8pm. 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, and consists of 2 to 3 rounds, predominately in Scottie-2 mode. The net has seen great support and participation from members, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. The next net is on Friday the 18th of March, 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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on this coming Tuesday the 8th of March. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are most welcome to arrive from 6.30 onwards to enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

Meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the BlueScope main entrance road, attendees then turn immediately right before the security gates, following the large signs towards the Visitors Centre.

The last meeting had to be held over the air on the Society's repeater systems, as the normal meeting place had to do a full Covid clean around the meeting date. The March meeting returns to the Visitor's Centre with a presentation by IARS Members Mal VK2DXM and Shane VK2HCO on SDR – Software Defined Radio. They have been experimenting with various SDRs, from \$10 USB dongles through to expensive full-blown rigs. If you are interested in this subject or are looking at purchasing a SDR dongle or radio, come along to the BlueScope Visitor's Centre for an informative and enjoyable Tuesday evening. Following the presentation there will be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

The Society has two weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or from out of town via EchoLink, VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights, at 8:30pm; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage; the next 80m net will be on the 15th of March.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, including details on Amateur Radio training and examination activities, on the web at iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm this Tuesday the 8th of March, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

*Advised by Rob VK2MT
President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club continues into 2022 with additional activities at the Clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook. With the easing of public health restrictions more in-person activities are being planned; Jan VK2FEB ran a soldering workshop yesterday.

A foundation course is planned for the weekend of the 9th and 10th of April at the Clubrooms. Wednesday night licence upgrade classes continue via Zoom, conducted by Jan VK2FEB.

Any education enquires can be made to 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. There is also a 2 metre net every second Sunday, starting at 5pm.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*James VK2GOH
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The informal mid monthly meeting is coming up this Tuesday the 8th of March. The meeting starts at 8pm at Mt Colah Community Centre.

International Marconi Day is the UTC Day of Saturday, 23 April. HADARC will once again be operating VK2IMD across various HF bands, from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday. So far, nearly 40 stations world-wide have registered to take part.

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 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 March 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. 6

Blue Mountains ARC Nets on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Tuesdays from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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.