

## **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 contact us via email, to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message with the office on 02 9651 1490. We are currently trialling some in-person activities in line with current guidelines; starting off this weekend with a long-postponed Foundation Licence group. To register your interest in ARNSW education activities, please contact the Education team via email; [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au). There will be more information on coming activities in future VK2WI News bulletins.

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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March;

This report issued on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	113	120	116	118	115	115	127
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	19	13	7	5	4	7 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	13	12	6	2	2	7 estimated
T index	71	64	61	70	75	70	71

Solar flare activity was low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 4<sup>th</sup>, then quiet to active on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled again on the 7<sup>th</sup>, then quiet afterwards except for some unsettled periods on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values with some periods of enhancements; 15% during local day and 20% at night on the 4<sup>th</sup>; 15% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 7<sup>th</sup>; 15% during local day on the 8<sup>th</sup>; and overall enhancements of 15% to 20% on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March;

Solar activity is expected to be low, with a chance of some M-class flares reaching warning level R1 to R2.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled with the chance of a storm late on the 13<sup>th</sup> or into the 14<sup>th</sup>, due to a CME that was observed on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed 15-30% as a result of the expected geomagnetic disturbance; otherwise, near predicted to 15% enhancement is expected, compared to monthly values.

*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 1<sup>st</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>

So far for March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 99, Average of 109 and a Maximum of 120  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 107 and a Maximum of 120  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.

*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-FCAL171.wav]**

*Duration 2m34s*

*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](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

---

### **[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]**

---

## ARRL DX news

NIGER; Giorgio, IU5HWS is active as 5UA99WS from Niamey until March 20. Activity of late has been on 20 metres using SSB around 1100UTC.

TOGO; Andy KB9IJI is now active as 5V7JA from Mango. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly SSB with some CW and digital modes.

MALDIVES; Laurent, F8CZI is active as 8Q7ZI until March 21. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA; Don, G3XTT is active as C56DF until March 18, using mostly CW on 30, 17, and 12 metres. This includes being active in the RSGB Commonwealth contest.

COMOROS; Don, K6ZO will be active as D60AB from March 16 to 18.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS; Warwick, E51WL has been active using FT8 on 12 metres just before 2200utc.

KYRGYZSTAN; Pavel, R2DX and other operators are active as EX0QR from the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul until March 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; Jacek, SP5EAQ is active as FO/SP5EAQ and TX5AQ from Rimatara Island, IOTA OC-050, until March 30. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB. This includes being active as TX5AQ as a Single Op/High Power entry in the upcoming CQ Worldwide WPX SSB contest.

FRENCH GUIANA; Pete, F4GPK is active as FY/F4GPK from Kourou until March 17. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

WALES; Special event station GB20SOTA is active until March 26 from the Welsh SOTA summit of Mynydd y Cwm [*mun-UTH uh koom*] to celebrate 20 years of the Summits On The Air program. Activity is on the HF, VHF and UHF bands.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take, JG8NQJ is active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, until mid-June. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW.

SEYCHELLES; Ravi, S79VU has been active on 20 metres using SSB beginning around 1600UTC.

BELIZE; Iain, G4SGX is active as V31GX from Ambergris Cay, IOTA NA-073, until March 18. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using CW and possibly FT8. This includes being active in the RSGB Commonwealth contest.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8C9MGP will be active from Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150, until March 13 to support the Mandalika Grand Prix.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ, will be active holiday style as Z81D from Juba, until September 11.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Colin, G4CWH is active as ZF2CA from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB and includes being active in the RSGB Commonwealth contest.

NEW ZEALAND; Jacky, ZL3CW will be active in the RSGB Commonwealth contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The RSGB Commonwealth Contest, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, North American RTTY Sprint, Novice Rig Roundup, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YB DX RTTY Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, EA PSK63 Contest, South America 10 Metre Contest, DIG SSB QSO Party, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, Idaho QSO Party, UBA 2-Metre Spring Contest, FIRAC HF Contest and Wisconsin QSO Party are all on over this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, The OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, CLARA Chatter Party, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test CW 40, Mini-Test CW 80 and the RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship run from March 14 to 20.

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW will be providing the safety communications for both Memory Walk and Jogs, at Cronulla and Abbotsbury, next Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. If you are interested in helping out, please email [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org) indicating in which event you are interested.

True Grit is a military inspired obstacle course race being held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March. WICEN NSW will be providing the safety communications support to the event which will be held at Dargle Farm, Lower Portland. WICEN is looking for a small number of volunteers; contact Nic VK2KXN at [nicholas.mclean@vrarescue.org](mailto:nicholas.mclean@vrarescue.org).

Hunter WICEN will be providing communications for the Watagan Horse Enduro on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May. If you would like to participate, please contact Dan VK2GG at [daniel.joyce@vrarescue.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their next meeting is the Friday night get-together, at 7pm this Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be 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 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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Written assessments for the Advanced licence will be run very shortly; other assessments and training 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](http://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 in the coming week. 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

With licence training and examinations at the clubrooms this weekend, we wish all the best to those sitting their examinations today.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Its less than two months until Mayham, on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Examinations will be held for both Australian and US qualifications. This year's raffle includes first prize of a Yaesu FTDX10. EFTPOS will be available at the gate.

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](http://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 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 this Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.*

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Last weekend saw the return of the Society's annual Ferry Contest; while numbers appeared to be down a little, it appears that those participating had a lot of fun under the modified rules.

The next meeting is at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday, March 16th and will be a hybrid meeting; with in-person attendance at the Anzac Room of the Rose Bay RSL club. Online attendance for the Zoom meeting uses the same link as previous meetings; it will be sent out to the member email list prior to the meeting in case you have lost it. Prior to the meeting, in-person attendees will have dinner at the RSL club Bistro from about 6 pm onwards.

Apart from the weekly nets on a Monday evening, the "project day" get-together continues on the first Saturday of the month. This month, it was an in-person get together at the RSL. Other activities are continuing either in person or on Zoom; see the website for details.

The Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday, are back on either in the RSL bistro or at the Centennial Park rotunda. Keep an ear out to find out where it is on each week on the VK2RBV repeater.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at [vk2bv.org](http://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 monthly meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday the 22<sup>th</sup> of March, in the Mt Colah Community Centre; due to extreme weather earlier this week, the planned mid-monthly meeting was cancelled.

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.

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](http://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 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 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Sydney ATV Group** net 7:30pm Monday; call in on repeater 147.325MHz.

**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.