

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

After a long period without in-person activities at our VK2WI Dural site, we are trialling some new activities; First of these is a “Member Morning Meetup”, next Sunday morning here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

From about 10am until noon, the site will be open for a bit of a physically-distanced catchup – the VK2WI grounds provide plenty of green space in fine weather, with a large indoor area on the ground floor of the Centenary Building as well. Tea, Coffee, and cold drinks will be available, and the trash and treasure room will be open, with some procedures in place to manage access to the relatively small room.

As well-being of our members is paramount, the event will run in accordance with the ARNSW Covid Safety plan, which requires vaccination of all attendees and mask wearing in indoor areas.

You can contact the ARNSW office via email, to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490. 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; simply email [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. Don't forget, we always welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities, as well.

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 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March;

This report issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	127	125	123	115	110	107	103
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	15	7	30	13	5	3	6 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	6	24	7	5	4	3 estimated
T index	49	60	97	44	49	51	63

Solar flare activity was at low levels on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise moderate, with several M-class solar flares; M2.3 on both the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, M2.0 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, M1.4 and an M1.5 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and another M1.5 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, then minor storm level on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the SES magnetometer recording a weak impulse of 16 nanoTesla at 1048UTC. Quiet to unsettled conditions were observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> before returning to quiet levels on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values. Some depressions of up to 20% were observed on the 11<sup>th</sup>, though the 12<sup>th</sup> had some enhancements of up to 20% after local dawn. The 13<sup>th</sup> was enhanced %20 during local day and 15% at night; the 14<sup>th</sup> was depressed 25% during local day but recovered to near predicted at night. Finally, the 17<sup>th</sup> showed some enhanced periods of up to 15%.

Now, the forecast for the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of March;

Solar activity is expected to be low, with a chance of moderate activity early in the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, and Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted 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 95, Average of 108 and a Maximum of 127  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the 30<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 95, Average of 112 and a Maximum of 125  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<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.

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*Duration 3m09s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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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.

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## **ARRL DX news**

KENYA; Andy, 5Z4VJ has been active using FT8 on 10 metres around 2030UTC.

COMOROS; Don, K6ZO will be active as D60AB from March 22 to 29. This includes entry in the upcoming CQ Worldwide WPX SSB contest.

SPAIN; Members of URE San Fernando will be active with special call sign AM500TOR until March 27. This activity is to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first voyage around the Earth by the Magellan-Elcano Expedition. Activity will be on the HF, V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. They expect to be active on Satellite QO-100 and other LEO satellites.

IRAN; Zahra, EP5CZD has been active on 15 metres using SSB.

GUADELOUPE; Jean-Luc, F1ULQ will be active as TO1Q from March 24 to April 6. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB and FT8, possibly EME, and on satellite.

MAYOTTE; Don, K6ZO is active as FH/K6ZO until March 22.

NEW CALEDONIA; Erwann, LB1QI is active as FK/LB1QI from Noumea. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands.

WALES; Special event station GB2OTA is active until March 29 to celebrate twenty years of the Summits On The Air program.

HUNGARY; Special event stations HG200AN, HG200DO, HG200EF, HG200IR, HG200OT and HG200PS are active until March 15, 2023, to commemorate the 200th birthday of the Hungarian poet Sandor Petofi. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8.

BONAIRE; John, KK9A will be active as PJ4/KK9A from March 23 to 30. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as PJ4R in the upcoming CQ WorldWide WPX SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

POLAND; Dariusz, SP3POP and Jacek, SP9CJM will be active as SP21DKS and HF21DKS, respectively, until March 27 to mark World Down Syndrome Day. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

CHAD; Nicolas, TT8SN is active from time to time on 10 and 6 metres using CW and SSB. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Dave, K0KQ is active as VP5/K0KQ from Grand Turk Island, IOTA NA-003, until March 21. Activity is on various HF bands using FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, Y11DZ is active as Z81D from Juba until September 11. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The BARTG HF RTTY Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, Russian DX Contest, F9AA SSB Cup, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, UBA Spring SSB Contest and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Bucharest Digital Contest, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 CW and Mini-Test 80 CW are scheduled for March 21 to 23.

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW provided safety communications for today's Memory Walk and Jogs, at Cronulla and Abbotsbury.

True Grit is a military inspired obstacle course race being held on Saturday 26th March and Sunday 27th 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 30th April and 1st 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 April monthly meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 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 Newly published March 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

It's 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 has some great prizes, and a limited number of tickets are currently available online at [mayham.org.au](http://mayham.org.au).

First place prize is a Yaesu FTDX10.

Second place prize is an An AnyTone AT-D878UV-two Plus VHF/UHF HT and an AnyTone AT-778UV UHF/VHF mobile radio.

Third place prize is a NanoVNO and RF Demo Kit.

An MMDVM hotspot will also be on offer as first prize in the fox hunt.

For all the details, raffle terms and conditions along with much more information on Mayham, visit the website at; [mayham.org.au](http://mayham.org.au). The club looks forward to seeing you there.

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.

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.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next monthly meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at the Mt Colah Community Centre.

At this meeting, Rob VK2DIO will be giving a report on the test and setup of the Allstar and EchoLink connection for VK2RNS and will explain how members can access these systems. Several members will demonstrate projects they have undertaken over the summer period.

The venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre. This is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway station.

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; 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> ]

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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 VK2RGL; 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 April 1.

**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; Tuesdays from 8pm on 3543kHz.

**Waverley ARS** net 8pm Monday VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air; see website.

**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.