

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

As always, 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.

A reminder about the ARNSW Annual General Meeting, next weekend - at 11am on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. It will be a hybrid meeting, with both Zoom and in-person attendance options. Details have been emailed or posted to members in the past week.

We also wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are still available, if you have health concerns. The National COVID helpline 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 both Sydney, and across New South Wales. 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 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.

Earlier this morning, New South Wales returned to Australian Eastern Standard Time. Since VK2WI News maintains the same *local* times of 10am and 7:30pm, the one-hour change may affect HF propagation. If you have reception difficulties on radio, you can also listen to the bulletins streamed live from our website, [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio).

---

**[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]**

---

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March;

This report issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	112	119	130	156	149	151	149
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	7	15	10	6	7	18 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	4	15	4	5	2	24 estimated
T index	67	56	69	74	78	83	89

Solar flare activity was moderate on the 25<sup>th</sup> with one M1.4 flare, and low on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Moderate activity was again observed on the 28<sup>th</sup> with an M4.0 flare at 1129UTC and an M1.0 at 2101UTC, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> with 4 M class flares. The 30<sup>th</sup> reached high levels with an X1.4 flare at 1737UTC. The 31<sup>st</sup> was moderate with an M9.6 at 1835UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, then reached minor storm, or level G1, on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, saw some enhancement compared to predicted monthly levels; 20% during day and 25% during night of the 25<sup>th</sup>; 20% during local night on the 26<sup>th</sup>; 30% during local night on the 27<sup>th</sup>; 15% at day and 25% at night on the 28<sup>th</sup>; 20% during local night on the 29<sup>th</sup>; 20% during the day and 25% during the night of the 30<sup>th</sup>; and 30% during local day and 45% during local night on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

The forecast for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of April;

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels with a chance of isolated strong activity. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with a chance of minor storm level from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values with mild depressions 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 March, we had a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 115 and a Maximum of 156  
With peak dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>th</sup>.

As we start April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 105, Average of 117 and a Maximum of 150  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 105, Average of 109 and a Maximum of 115  
With peak dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<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-FCAL039.wav]**

*Duration 1m58s*

*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.

## **ARRL DX news**

MONACO; Members of the Monaco Radio Club are active as 3A5M until May 31 to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Prince Albert I. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

MALTA; John, 9H1CJ is a Franciscan friar operating from the Capuchin friary in Floriana. He is active with special call 9H6CAP until June 30 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the destruction of the historic friary and adjacent church during World War II.

NEPAL; Matjaz, S57MK is active as 9N7MK until April 23 during his trekking tour to Mount Everest. Activity will be in his spare time on 40, 20, 17, and 15 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

BOLIVIA; Toni, EA5RM is active as CP1XRM until April 22 while working as a volunteer in the rainforest. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8.

FRANCE; Special event call sign TM40AMRA will be active from Metz until April 16 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Association Mosellane des Radio Amateurs.

NEW CALEDONIA; Jean-Louis, F5NHJ will be active as FK/F5NHJ from April 5 to June 7. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 metres with a focus on RTTY, FT8 and FT4.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; Maria, HC1MM and Rick, NE8Z will be active as HD8MM and HD8MD, respectively, from Santa Cruz Island from April 7 to 14. Activity will be in their spare time on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4 in DXpedition mode.

ITALY; Members of the ARI Vigenano club are active with special call IR2SM until April 10 to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Samuel F. B. Morse.

MONGOLIA; Chak, JT1CO, has been active on 15 metres using CW around 1300UTC.

JAN MAYEN; Rune, LA7QY and Helge, LB4MI are active in their spare time as JX7QY and JX/LB4MI, respectively, until early October while stationed on Jan Mayen.

ALAND ISLANDS; Wies, SP1EG, Hans, DK8RE, Frank, DM5WF and Hans, DL8UUF, are active as OH0EG until April 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; Jeff, KD7ADI is active as V7/KD7ADI from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, until April 23 while stationed here. Activity is in his spare time.

BURKINA FASO; Max, DK1MAX will be active as XT2MAX from Ouagadougou from April 7 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, some SSB, FT8, and FT4 in DXpedition mode.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO; Ben, DL7UCX is active as Z6/DL7UCX near Gjilan until May 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres, with an emphasis on 12 and 10 metres, using CW.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba for the next six months.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, RSGB FT4 International Activity Day, PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest, EA RTTY Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, Mississippi QSO Party, Missouri QSO Party and Florida State Parks on the Air are all on tap over this weekend.

The OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test CW 40, Mini-Test CW 80 and UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest are scheduled for April 4 to 6.

---

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

---

## WICEN News

Hunter WICEN will be holding its Annual General Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.

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 NSW is providing communications for several events over the next couple of months, including the safety communications for two Memory Walk and Jogs; at Cronulla on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May and Sydney on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

WICEN NSW is also providing communications for a Camp Quality fund-raising Trek; It will be 50km, from Bobbin Head to Balgowlah Heights on the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please email [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@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; there's a Friday night get-together planned for 7pm on the 22<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 club's Telegraph Point repeater site suffered a major lightning strike on the evening of Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. All VK2RCN repeaters are currently off-air until a new underground power line can be run to the site and damaged equipment is repaired or replaced.

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. Assessments and training for 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. VK2RPM is also 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 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.*



## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The next car boot sale is on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Its in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available.

All are welcome. For more information, contact the club on 0478228983.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG  
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

It's less than a month to go until Mayham, on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Examinations will be held for both Australian and US qualifications; there will also be fox hunts and a Meet & Greet on the Saturday.

This year's raffle has some great prizes, and with online tickets already sold out, they will be available on the day. First place prize is a Yaesu FTDX10. Second place prize is two AnyTone radios; the AT-D878UV-two Plus VHF/UHF HT, and AT-778UV UHF/VHF mobile radio. Third place prize is a NanoVNO and RF Demo Kit.

First prize in the foxhunts, is an MMDVM hotspot. You can pre-register for the foxhunt on the website, along with finding out more about the raffle and the other activities planned for the day; the address is [mayham.org.au](http://mayham.org.au).

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. It's usually 2-3 rounds on the Club's 2 Metre WICEN repeater; 147.125 MHz with 91.5Hz tone. Adrian has had a large amount of support from other members and would love to see you drop in on the next net, Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at 7:30pm.

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); by 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.*

---

**[Play ID File: 17-E-ID3.wav]**

---

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. 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 Society's April meeting features a presentation by IARS Members Mal VK2DXM and Shane VK2HCO on SDR – Software Defined Radio. This presentation was planned for the March meeting, but because of flooding around Wollongong, many Members were unable to attend; so the presentation has been moved to the April meeting.

Mal and Shane 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au). To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 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's next Foundation course on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April, at the Clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook. Foundation Courses are run the second weekend of every second month.

Wednesday night Standard and Advanced upgrade courses continue to run over Zoom, led by Jan VK2FEB.

For more information, or to book for either the Foundation weekend or licence upgrade classes; contact the club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is [secretary@bmarc.org](mailto:secretary@bmarc.org).

On the first and third Saturday of the month, the clubhouse is open for any members wishing to work on a technical project, seek advice from an expert or drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

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

## Pride Radio Group

The group's weekly net is now on air in Sydney; with more, here's Jared VK2WAY...

---

### [Play File: 18-E-PRG.wav]

*Duration: 0m45s*

*In: The Pride Radio Group...*

*Out:....Radio Group.*

---

### [TEXT VERSION - Connection Modes]

IRLP	9550
FreeDMR	TG#969
Brandmeister	TG#3168094
AllStar	2105
M17	M17-OMO A
P25	50535
D-Star	XLX432 D
EchoLink	KJ7OMO-L (569391)

### Contact Information:

Pride Radio Group  
Jared Quinn

VI2022PRIDE VK3PRG K3PRG  
VK2WAY [cq@vk2way.id.au](mailto:cq@vk2way.id.au)

---

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's monthly gatherings continue online, with the next on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, at 7:30pm.

The Society looks forward to a time when they can resume in-person meetings, which will also be streamed for those who still wish to avoid in-person interaction, as well as for country-based members.

At the next meeting, Cameron VK2CKP will be giving a presentation about Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. Bob developed APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) in the late 1980s when he was a senior research engineer at the United States Naval Academy. APRS is an amateur radio-based system for real time digital communications. Data can include GPS coordinates, weather station telemetry, text messages, announcements, queries, etc.

APRS data can be displayed on a map, allowing for location and can show stations, objects, tracks of moving objects, weather stations, search and rescue data, and direction-finding data. To find out more about Bob Bruninga and APRS, tune in to the presentation.

Then on the weekend of the 14th & 15th May, the society will be holding the Don Edwards Memorial Slow Morse Contest on 80m and 40m. For the two weeks prior to this contest, the Society will be holding practice Morse sessions every evening on 80m. More details to follow.

For more information about these events, along with general information, visit the society's website at [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

*73 Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next mid-monthly meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, at the Mt Colah Community Centre.

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. HADARC is a participant because the first signals from the UK to Australia, which were sent from North-West Wales, were received in Wahroonga, in late 1918.

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> ]

---

**[Play ID File: 19-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 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 15.

**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.