

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

ARNSW is reintroducing in-person activities at VK2WI Dural, in line with current public health guidance. Following on from our trial of the “Member Moring Meetup” in March, our next event is planned for Sunday the 29th of May.

Once again the site is open for 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.

As always, you can contact the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

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 – 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.

VK2WI news bulletins are streamed live from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio, and recordings of previous bulletins are also available.

RadNet Update

Now, with an update on ARNSW RadNet, here's Matt VK2FLY;

[Play File: 15-B-RNT-1.wav]

Duration: 1m49s

In: with many thanks ...

Out:....Matt VK2FLY for ARNSW RadNet.

Thanks, Matt.

[transcript; do not read]

With many thanks to the team at the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society It gives me great pleasure to advise that Maddens Plains VK2RMP is now online. The repeater site at Maddens Plains is a fantastic location with the new DMR repeater serving handheld coverage from the southern suburbs of Sydney through to Wollongong and down to the coastal areas of Kiama with mobile coverage as far west as Mittagong.

The new repeater can be heard on 438.725 MHz with a minus five offset and carries the talk groups of the VKDMR network. So it's time drag out the programming cable and add another channel to your radios, get on any enjoy the network.

In news from the Blue Mountains, The VK2RDX repeater site suffered a solar controller failure and as a result the DMR repeater is offline to conserve power until parts can be sourced. The St George club tell us they are working hard for a solution and should have the DMR repeater back online by the end of the month.

Moving to further up North the Oxley Region Amateur radio club have been working hard to restore power to their telegraph point repeater site since the mains feed cable to the site was destroyed by lightning. They also hope to have the site back online by months end.

Don't forget updated live repeater status and information is available at the microsite at arnsw.net Weather you would like to know more about RadNet in general, the new Illawarra repeater or if your club have a great repeater site and are thinking of joining the microsite is the place to start.

Thanks for listening and I will be back with more information in the coming weeks this has been Matt VK2FLY for ARNSW RadNet.

US Licence exams

At the CCARC Mayham field day earlier in the month, Examination sessions were held for US licences. Congratulations to John AJ6WQ, and to Yaakov KI5VFS, soon to be K2BSD, on gaining their Extra and General licences respectively.

Ever wanted to be the first person in the world to do something? The new technician class licence exam comes into effect on the 1st of July, and there is the possibility of running an exam session on the day. If you are interested, email Julian at; vk2yjs@gmail.com.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6th to the 12th of May;
This report issued on the 13th of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
10cm Flux	119	118	119	117	116	133	133
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	0	4	7	8	2	5	8 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	0	5	3	1	3	4 estimated
T index	69	71	63	70	62	73	80

Solar flare activity was low from the 6th to the 9th, then was high on the 10th with an X1.5 flare at 1355UTC and an M1.0 at 1433UTC. Moderate activity was observed on the 11th, with an M1.6 at 1649UTC and an M2.6 at 1858UTC; and on the 12th, with an M1.3 flare at 2020UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements. On the 8th, frequencies were enhanced 15% during local night; on the 9th, 15% throughout; 15% during local day on the 10th; 25% after local dawn on the 11th; and 20% during local day on the 12th.

The forecast for the 13th to the 19th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate, with a chance of activity reaching R3 warning level.

Geomagnetic conditions should generally be quiet with a chance of unsettled conditions from the 13th to the 15th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted, to slightly enhanced.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished April, we had a;

Minimum of 96, Average of 132 and a Maximum of 164
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th, and the 18th to the 29th.

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 109, Average of 122 and a Maximum of 135
With peak dates from the 12th to the 20th.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 116, Average of 119 and a Maximum of 124
With peak dates from the 9th to the 21st.

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: 16-FCAL073.wav]

Duration 1m32s

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.

[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

RODRIGUES ISLAND; Robert, 3B9FR has been active using CW on 17 metres around 1500UTC.

MONTENEGRO; Special event call 4O2IPA is active from Podgorica throughout May, to commemorate the Second IPA Games 2022.

UGANDA; Anders, SM0HPL is active as 5X7W from Kampala. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 metres using CW, JT65, FT8, and FT4.

OMAN; Mohammad, A41NN is active using SSB and FT8 from Grid Square LL93fl.

BAHRAIN; Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are active as A91WTIS until May 17 as part of World Telecom Day.

MOZAMBIQUE; Kiyō, JA7NQQ is active as C83YT from Macuti. Activity of late has been on 17 to 10 metres using FT8.

CUBA; Several members of the Federacion de Radioaficionados de Cuba's La Habana branch will be active as T42ITU until May 17. Their activity is to commemorate the 157th anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. Activity is on all bands and modes.

CAPE VERDE; Freddy, F5IRO is active as D44RO from Praia, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, until May 19. Activity is in his spare time and his evenings on 40, 30, and 20 metres using CW, FT8, and FT4 with QRP power.

PHILIPPINES; Irek, SP3SUX will be active as DV8/KH7EA from Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130, until May 27. Activity will be during his daytime hours on 80 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

IRAN; Members of the Alborz DX Club will be active as EP2C on May 17 to celebrate World Telecommunication Day. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THAILAND; Werner, DH7OT is active as HS0ZMO from Phuket Island. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

HAITI; Members of the Radio Club D'Haiti will be active with special call sign HH18MAI from Port-au-Prince from May 18 to 23. Their activity is to commemorate Haiti's Flag Day, and Catherine Flon, who was a Haitian seamstress, patriot, and national heroine who sewed Haiti's first flag of the independence as a republic.

SAUDI ARABIA; Special event station HZ1WTIS is active until May 17 to commemorate World Telecommunications and Information Society Day.

ITALY; Members of the 4U1GSC group from the UN Global Service Centre in Brindisi are active with special call 4U9MAY and 4U1GSC until May 31 to commemorate International Day of UN Peacekeepers. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

JAPAN; Members of the Voice of Toyoake Amateur Radio Club are active with special callsign 8N2TY from Toyoake City, Aichi, Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, until November 30 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Toyoake City. Activity is on 160 metres to 1.2 GHz using various modes.

MONGOLIA; Andrey, R9YU and Gennady, R5QA are active as JV0YU from the Bayan-Olgii Province until June 10. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres, and on 70 centimetres, using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DX-pedition mode.

PALAU; Yoshi, JR3QFB is active as T88JH from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until May 17.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Dick, K2KA is active as V4/K2KA from Calypso Bay on St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until May 18. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4. Yuris, YL2GM is active as VU4W from Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, until May 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 in DX-pedition mode.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, CQ-M International DX Contest, Canadian Prairies QSO Party, 50 MHz Spring Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all scheduled for this weekend.

The ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, 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 the RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship are all on from May 16 to 18.

WICEN News

The recent storms and wet weather on the east coast, has led to some changes in upcoming events. The Watagan Horse Enduro has been cancelled for this year, and the Camp Quality Trek has been postponed until later in the year.

There are to Memory Walk and Jog events in the Sydney region, this month. The Cronulla walk was on this morning, and Leichhardt is on Next Sunday the 22nd of May. WICEN NSW is providing safety communications for both of these events; If you are interested in participating, please email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW is providing communications support for several events in June. First is the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon, from the 17th to the 19th of June, in the Wolgan Valley around Newnes. We are seeking volunteers to help out; please email Neil, VK2XNF, at neil.fallshaw@vrarescue.org.

Later in the month is True Grit, a military-inspired obstacle course race, on Saturday the 25th at Dargle Farm, Lower Portland. A few volunteers are still required; contact Nic VK2KXN at nicholas.mclean@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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; The next meeting is a Friday night get-together at 7pm on Friday the 20th of May, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

VK2RCN repeaters are currently off air, due to a lightning strike on the evening of Friday the 25th of March. Repairs are expected to take several weeks, as a new underground power line is required to be run to site, along with repair of damaged equipment.

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. A Foundation training and assessment weekend is planned for the near future, and Assessments for other licences will run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

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, 146.7MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink.

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 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. The May 2022 issue is in preparation. 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

Thank you to everyone who attended Mayham; you can give the Club your feedback using the online survey; please visit “tiny.cc/ccarc” on the web and let us know how we did.

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.

Also at Somersby is a 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 continues 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 WIGEN 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 27th of May 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; 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.

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.

You can call in 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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

At 7pm on the 4th of April, the club held its first DMR net, with net control by Ben VK2AFK. Participants who were in this net were Hilary VK2AZ, Alf VK2GAP, Karl VK4DHL, John VK2WJ and Tracy W9TLW all the way from the United States. The club is hoping that the DMR net will become a more regular activity open to all interested users.

Last Month's auction and sausage sizzle was well attended, with many members taking part.

The next Foundation Licence weekend will be June 11th and 12th, over the June long weekend. For more information or to register, you can contact the club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is 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. The next open days are next Saturday the 21st, then the 4th of June.

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

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting is this coming Wednesday, May 18th and may be a hybrid with personal attendance in the Anzac Room at the Rose Bay RSL club. The Zoom meeting will be using the same link as previously sent out to the member email list. Prior to the meeting, some members will be having dinner in the RSL Club Bistro from about 6pm. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

Today, several members of the Society's assessment team are involved with the foundation course and assessments being run here at Dural. They wish all the candidates, good luck.

Along with Apart from the weekly net Monday evenings, the society has a "project day" get together on the first Saturday of the month. Other activities are continuing either in person or on Zoom; see the society's website for details.

The Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday are back on in the RSL bistro. There have been good rollups to them and consensus is that the food is good.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, and its history, on the website, vk2bv.org. You can purchase kits, pay membership or get in touch using the contact form on the website.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Don Edwards Memorial Slow Morse Contest was held this weekend; with the 80m section last night and the 40m section this afternoon.

If you took part, then please enter a log, details can be found on the St. George Amateur Radio Society's website, at sgars.org. No need for any fancy logging software or formats, and don't forget to read the rules, as there are bonus points to be had. Get those logs in.

73 de Peter VK2EMU

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Clubs is hosting "Airwaves by the Sea" on Saturday the 4th of June, at Long Reef, from 4:30 pm. This is an opportunity to test your ability to go portable. Even if you have never gone portable before, it's an opportunity to learn from seasoned operators.

With solar cycle 25 in an upswing, strong signals are being heard from Europe, and Colin VK2JCC has worked some very rare DX here. Bring along your portable equipment, antennas, batteries, should you have them. There are also coastal paths to repeaters not accessible in Hornsby. That's 4.30pm on Saturday the 4th of June.

HADARC's next meeting will be the Mt Colah Community Centre, at the northern end of Pierre Close.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities; 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>]

[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 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 May 27.

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, next net May 17th..

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.