

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. Last week saw another “Member Morning Meetup”, with over sixty members joining us for a catchup, along with some equipment sales and exchanges. Further events are being planned for later in the year.

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.

Education Update

David VK2DU from the Amateur Radio Repeater Group has contacted us about examination places available at Maitland, on Sunday the 26th of June. The deadline for bookings is noon tomorrow, Monday the 6th of June; to book, email info@arrg.club.

Then next month, the ARRG has a training weekend on the 30th and 31st of July, in the Macarthur region, in southwest Sydney; Foundation training is on Saturday, with exams available for all licence classes on Sunday. The email again, info@arrg.club.

Also in July, ARNSW has a Foundation Course and assessment weekend scheduled for the 9th and 10th; to enquire about ARNSW education activities, contact the education team by email, education@arnsw.org.au.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of May to the 2nd of June;

This report issued on the 3rd of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd
10cm Flux	114	102	98	101	98	104	101
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	14	19	14	8	8	8	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	12	12	8	8	4	3 estimated
T index	71	87	70	56	64	50	50

Solar flare activity was low all week, and geomagnetic activity remained at quiet levels.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements; on the 28th, enhancement of 20% was observed during local day and 15% at night; and on the 29th, 15% enhancement was observed during local daylight hours.

The forecast for the 3rd to the 9th of June;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate. There is a chance of unsettled geomagnetic conditions late on the 5th and early into the 6th due to the arrival of a CME.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed after local dawn on the 6th, otherwise 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 May, we had a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 135 and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 14th to the 26th.

As we start June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 90, Average of 115 and a Maximum of 150
With peak dates from the 11th to the 22nd

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 150
With peak dates from the 8th to the 17th.

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 May 2022

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity reached R3 warning level on the 3rd and 10th of May, with X1 class flares. The 10th was the largest flare for the month, reaching X1.5. There also were a total of 20 M-class flares, at R1 to R2 level. No significantly Earth-directed coronal mass ejections were observed in association with this month's flares, nor were there any solar proton events. There was a slight enhancement in Proton flux on the 12th, reaching only 5pfu, below the solar warning level of 10pfu.

Coronal holes caused some high-speed wind streams, elevating solar wind speeds on the 2nd, 15th, 18th and 20th to the 22nd. On the 27th and 28th, the wind stream also caused slightly elevated geomagnetic activity; while the planetary Kp index reached G1 warning level, only minor effects were observed in the Australian Region.

No significant ionospheric depressions were observed across the Australian region in May, with MUFs typically enhanced in association with elevated solar flux emission from active solar regions. The deepest ionospheric depression - of only 15% - for the month was observed on the 30th for the southern Australian region, possibly following mild coronal hole wind stream induced activity on prior days. No significant fadeouts were observed in the Australian region, throughout the month.

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 1m04s

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

SOMALIA; Ali EP3CQ will be active as 6O1OO using FT8 and CW on 80 to 15 metres, from June 16 until mid-July.

GHANA; Alan, G3XAQ is currently operating as 9G5XA with a QRP rig, mostly on 17 and 15 metre CW.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO is signing 9X2AW until June 22, on 160 to 10 metres using mainly digital modes with some CW and SSB, and QO-100. Following his stay in Rwanda, he plans to move on to Burkina Faso and continue as XT2AW.

BAHRAIN; Special call sign A91BFA is for the Bahrain Football Association. Operation is planned for June 3 to 15 during the FIFA World Cup and Asian Cup 2023 qualifiers.

ENGLAND; The following special event stations celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee throughout June: GB70E from Windsor Home Park, GB70I from Northern Ireland, GB70M from Scotland, GB70W from Wales, GB70U from Guernsey, GB70J from Jersey, and GB70D from the Isle of Man.

ST. LUCIA; Stations J68HZ and J68AG manned by operators K9HZ and WA2LLN, will be active until June 24 using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4.

CANADA; Club station VE3CWM at the Cold War Museum celebrates its 20th anniversary with the call sign VE3CWM20 during the month of June, on 80 to 10 metres.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; John, W5JON will be active as V47JA from July 12 to 28.

NICARAGUA; Rafael, NN3RP will be active as YN2RP in his spare time until August 4. Activity will be on FT8, FT4, VarAC digital, CW, RTTY and SSB using dipoles, and on the FM satellites.

JAPAN; Special call sign 8J1H90T is active until the 31st of March 2023, in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the city of Hiratsuka.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS; ZC4RH and B4/G4WXJ will be active until June 15, using SSB, CW, and probably some FT8 as well as the QO-100 satellite.

GUADELOUPE; Reiner, DL2AAZ is operating TO2AZ holiday style until June 10. He is using CW and SSB on 40 to 10 metres.

ITALY; Station IY4ELE from the Fidenza club will remember the Elettra ship, a double-masted steam yacht that Marconi used as a floating lab for his radio experiments. The club will be active during Museum Ships Weekend.

POLAND; Adam, SQ9S will be at the key of SN35FISTS to mark 35 years of the FISTS CW Club, the International Morse Preservation Society, until June 30.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, Wake-Up. QRP Sprint CW, KANHAM Contest, Tisza Cup CW Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, UKSMG Summer Contest, IARU Region 1 Field Day, RSGB National Field Day, ARRL International Digital Contest and the Cookie Crumble QRP Contest are all on for this weekend.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is providing communications support for several events this month, starting with 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 small number of volunteers are still required; contact Nic VK2KXN at nicholas.mclean@vrarescue.org.

This year's Navshield is on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of July. Organised by the Bush Search and Rescue Unit of the SES, its a remote bushland navigational exercise involving many of the emergency services. WICEN NSW will be assisting with communications and if you would like to volunteer, email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW 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; Next weekend is the Club's annual Field Day weekend on the 11th and 12th of June. At the spacious Wauchope Showground Hall, there's all the usual Field Day activities on both days, including; foxhunts, disposals, traders and a Home Brew competition, with breakfast and lunch from the barbeque. Saturday night is the Field Day Dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. The Field Day programme can be viewed and downloaded from the ORARC website.

The next Friday night get-together will be at 7pm on the 17th of June, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. It will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

The VK2RCN repeaters are currently off air, due to a lightning strike in March. Required repairs include installation of a replacement underground power line to site, which has been delayed by recent rain. However, the Club's VK2RPM repeaters at Middle Brother Mountain are still on the air, so there is repeater coverage in the area during the Field Day.

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 newly published May 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online; it's a 40-page issue with all the Field Day information, as well as a comprehensive introduction to the Nano VNA by Bob VK2ZRE. 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

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday.

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, and an issue with the 6 metre repeater is currently being investigated.

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.

One of our members was approached by a local Air League Squadron, as some of the cadets had shown an interest in obtaining their morse code badge, along with seeking a better understanding of where it originated. Brad, VK2NMZ has posted to the club's Facebook page about his experiences, both with the Air League and the restoration of a Circa 1940 Morse Training Key, along with some great photos.

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 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 10th of June 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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday the 14th of June. 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 June meeting features a presentation by Society member Ned VK2AGV. Ned has many fascinating interests and backgrounds like satellite up-linking and broadcasting, aircraft piloting and training, and the merchant marine, but on the 14th of June he will present on one of his other interests – astronomy and home-built telescopes. Ned is a most interesting speaker with an in-depth understanding of the subject, so his presentation will be most entertaining and enlightening.

Following will be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while having a yarn or two about the latest rigs, the size of each other's antennas and the elusive contact that got away! As a bonus, resident Barista Vinnie VK2VIN will prepare your preferred cuppa from the coffee machine.

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.

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 on Tuesday the 14th of June, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

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

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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next informal mid-monthly meeting, is at 8pm on Tuesday the 14th of June. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, opposite Mt Colah Railway station.

A reminder about the special guest speaker at the Monthly General meeting coming up on the 28th of June. Brett Savill, who has broad experience in telecommunications in Australia, will be talking about the changes in the communications industry and the latest developments in 5G networks.

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.

Both HF nets are plus or minus QRM; Listen for VK2MA.

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.*

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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 10th of June.

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.