

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

Welcome to July – as it is now the 184th day of 2022, we are just over halfway through the year.

ARNSW is reintroducing in-person activities at VK2WI Dural, in line with current public health guidance. The next event planned is a Foundation course and licence examination next weekend; for more information on upcoming courses, contact our education team via email to; education@arnsw.org.au.

As always, you can direct any general enquires to 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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24th to the 30th of June;

This report issued on the 1st of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
10cm Flux	115	108	102	98	96	95	96
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	14	15	15	11	7	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	10	16	6	4	4	2 estimated
T index	59	75	62	52	50	50	45

Solar flare activity was low to moderate all week, with just a few small C-class flares early in the week.

Geomagnetic activity was at unsettled levels on the 26th reaching G1 warning level, otherwise quiet throughout the report period.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were near predicted monthly values, except for a period of enhancements up to 15% during local night on the 25th, and depression of 15% during local night on the 28th.

The forecast for the 1st to the 7th of July;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate, possibly reaching R1 warning levels. Geomagnetic conditions are expected to be unsettled to active on the 3rd and 4th, possibly reaching G1 or G2 warning level, with quiet conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 3rd and 4th, 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 June, we had a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 116 and a Maximum of 149
With peak dates from the 13th to the 24th

As we start July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 90, Average of 115 and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 9th to the 21st

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 110, Average of 131 and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 7th to the 15th.

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-FCAL043.wav]

Duration 2m20s

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: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

FIJI; Dom, 3D2USU is active with special call sign 3D2AJT from Nadi until July 27.

ALGERIA; Members of the Djelfe Radio Club are active with special call sign 7T60A during July to mark Algeria's 60th anniversary of independence.

GHANA; Haim, DG5HL is active as 9G5AF from Accra.

ANGOLA; Mikalai, UT6UY is active as D2UY. Activity will soon be on 20 to 6 metres.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON; Eric, KV1J is active as FP/KV1J from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, until July 12. Activity is on HF bands, along with a focus on 60 and 6 metres. This includes an entry in next weekend's IARU HF Championship contest.

SWITZERLAND; Special call sign HB75SG is active until July 31 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the USKA St. Gallen club.

SARDINIA; Richard, OM2TW will be active as IS0/OM2TW from July 5 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

DENMARK; Carsten, OZ4CG is active as OZ4SOP from Bornholm Island, IOTA EU-030, until July 31 for the Sea Of Peace award. Activity is on the HF bands using CW.

POLAND; Special call signs 3Z1922PS, HF1922PS, SN1922PS, SO1922PS, SP1922PS and SQ1922PS will be active until July 17 to mark the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of part of Upper Silesia into Poland.

COSTA RICA; Special call sign TI1GOAL is active until December to show support of Costa Rica's participation in the 22nd FIFA World Cup that will take place in Qatar. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

NAMIBIA; Hanspeter, HB9BFM is active as V5/HB9BFM from Luderitz and Simplon/Sandverhaar until July 12. Activity is on 80 to 15 metres.

MACQUARIE ISLAND; Matt, VK1HZ is active as VK0MQ from Macquarie Island, IOTA AN-005, until October while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

HONG KONG; In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, licensed amateurs here are granted the use of the special prefix VR25 until June 30, 2023.

MYANMAR; Station XZ2B is active from Yangon.

INDONESIA; Special call signs 8B0FTDM through 8B9FTDM will be active on July 4 to 17 for the 5th anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club. Activity will be on the HF bands using primarily FT8, but with some CW, SSB, and other modes as well.

NICARAGUA; Rafael, NN3RP will be active as YN2RP from July 4 to August 2. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. He will also try to be active on FM satellites.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RAC Canada Day Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, NZART 80-Metre Memorial Contest, Marconi Memorial HF CW Contest, Original QRP Contest and the PODXS 070 Club 40-Metre Firecracker PSK31 Sprint are all on over this weekend.

The ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC 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 and the Mini-Test CW 80 are scheduled for July 4 to 6.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is providing communications support for several events, including this year's Navshield, 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

The next monthly meeting will be at 7pm on the 2nd of July, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. It will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March. The underground mains power cable to site was extensively damaged, and work to restore mains supply to site is still ongoing.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 244, to register their interest. A Foundation training and assessment weekend is planned for the near future, and Assessments for all licences grades run as soon as sufficient candidates have registered.

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. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. 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 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. The July 2022 issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will include a comprehensive report on the Club's Annual Field Day which was held on the June Long Weekend. 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

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday. Members are reminded that Annual Membership is now due.

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 1pm on Saturday the 13th of August. Details will be emailed to members.

Congratulations to Jayson M, who was the winner of the recent Club raffle. For more information see the link on the club web page, ccarc.org.au or on social media.

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 on the sick list.

The Somersby 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 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 8th of July 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 is on Tuesday the 12th of July. 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 next meeting features a presentation by Society member Simon VK2KU. Simon was part of the team responsible for the install of the DMR system currently operating from the Maddens Plains VK2RMP repeater site. Simon will be giving an overview of what DMR is all about plus give some helpful tricks to get you up and running on this platform and using the new repeater system. 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. Note that at the time of writing, the VK2RUW repeater is off the air for urgent maintenance. 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 12th of July, 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

How can physics, photography, cross country skiing and amateur radio, help one man survive?

Owen VK2AEJ tells what kept him going during a 16-month deployment in Antarctica.

Come along to the next gathering of the St George Amateur Radio Society on Wednesday the 6th of July; where you can hear Owen's story, catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out our disposal items for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, and a biscuit.

The gathering will be in-person at the Society's meeting rooms, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start. All members and visitors will need to sign-in.

Don't forget about the Society's 80 Metre Contest, coming up on Saturday the 30th of July. It's open to all operators using analogue and digital voice modes, CW morse code and other digital modes such as RTTY and SSTV. The contest commences at 6pm local time in one hour time slots, until midnight.

For more information about the contest, along with general information about the St George Amateur Radio Society, visit their website, at sgars.org.

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID4.wav]

Activities on the air

Daily;

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** is on at 10am, and after VK2WI News on Sundays. VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily on VK2RCW.

Monday;

Westlakes ARC nets 9:30am, now on 40 metres, 7115kHz, VK2ATZ Portable.

Great Lakes Radio Club net 7pm on VK2RGL; 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX News 7:30pm, 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm; call in on 2m repeater 147.325MHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group net at 8pm on VK2RCW.

Lightning Net 8pm on 1860kHz, net control Steve VK2STG.

HADARC net 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz

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

Tuesday;

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

Illawarra ARS 80m net at 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

Wednesday;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz. 2 Metre nets, see website for details.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

Blue Mountains ARC 8pm on VK2RBM, 147.05MHz with 123Hz tone.

Amateur Radio Central West Group from 8pm on 3653kHz.

Thursday;

Fishers Ghost ARC net from 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC from 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

St George ARS 8pm on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

Central Coast ARC net 8pm on VK2RAG.

Friday;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

The next **CCARC SSTV Net** is at 7:30pm on the 8th of July; 147.125MHz with 91.5Hz tone.

Saturday;

Illawarra ARS net 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm on Southeast network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Sunday;

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.