

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

Next weekend is the 2022 Remembrance Day Contest. It is held each year over the weekend closest to the 15th of August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area. The contest commemorates the Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants.

The contest starts at 1pm local time on Saturday and runs until 1pm on Sunday. Subject to delivery, VK2WI and automated relays will broadcast the opening address prior to the contest commencement – check usual frequencies from about 12:45pm.

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 29th of July to the 4th of August;

This report issued on the 5th of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm Flux	93	91	94	95	98	100	109
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	8	12	8	10	7	7 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	7	5	6	5	4 estimated
T index	42	48	39	49	42	43	46

Solar flare activity was low to moderate all week, with some low-level C-class flares; no warnings were issued.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet to unsettled, with no warnings issued.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some depressions during local night hours; up to 20% on the 29th of July, and up to 15% during local night on the 31st of July, and the 1st and 2nd of August.

The forecast for the 5th to the 11th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be low, with a chance of R1 levels. Geomagnetic conditions may reach G1 warning levels between the 8th and 9th, with quiet conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly degraded in the Southern Australian region on the 8th and 9th, most likely during local nights. Near predicted monthly values at other times.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished July, we had a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 176
With peak dates from the 9th to the 21st

So far for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 100 and a Maximum of 114
With peak dates from the 4th to the 13th

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 97 and a Maximum of 100
With peak dates from the 5th 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-FCAL037.wav]

Duration 2m21s

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.

WICEN News

Firstly, an update to last week's news about the WICEN NSW AGM. It will still be on Saturday 3rd September at 2pm, but with a change of venue – it will be in the Centenary Building here at VK2WI Dural.

After a three-year break, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is on this year, on the weekend of the 29th and 30th of October. Competitors paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. The event involves a large number of check points run by WICEN NSW personnel. Please email mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org if you would like to help out.

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. They are on twitter @wicennsw, and on Facebook.

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.

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ARRL DX news

SPRATLY ISLANDS; Operators 4F2KWT, 4F1OZ, DU1VGX, DU1XX and DU3JA will be active as DX0NE from Kalayaan, IOTA AS-051. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

RODRIGUES ISLAND; Operators 3B8BAN, 3B8CF, 3B8FA, 3B8FV, 3B8GF and 3B8GL are active as 3B9BAN, 3B9CF, 3B9FA, 3B9FV, 3B9GF and 3B9GL, respectively, until August 9. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using mainly FT8, and on Satellite QO-100.

AZERBAIJAN; Operator DK1DKE is active as 4K7DK from Baku until August 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

MADAGASCAR; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as 5R8LH from Andavadoaka until September 8. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

BARBADOS; Philippe, EA4NF will be active as 8P9NF from August 8 to 12. Activity is primarily on the FM and Linear LEO Satellites from Grid Square GK03, and IOTA NA-021.

CROATIA; Special event stations 9A22YOTA, 9A1YOTA, 9A2YOTA, 9A3YOTA, 9A4YOTA, 9A5YOTA and 9A100QO will be active from Karlovac until August 13 during the 10th Youth On The Air summer camp. Activity is on all HF, V/UHF bands, and various Satellites using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

PAKISTAN; Pakistan Amateur Radio operators can use the AP75 prefix during August, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Independence of Pakistan.

PHILIPPINES; Mike, W6QT is active as DU3/W6QT from Olongapo City on Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until September 15.

ECUADOR; Special event station HD1HERO will be active from August 8 to 12 in remembrance of the heroes from 1809 involved in the Quito Revolution. Activity will be on all bands and modes.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Special event station HL77V is active during August to commemorate the 77th anniversary of liberation.

DJIBOUTI; Jeje, F8FKJ is active as J20EE during August and September from Djibouti City. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

GRENADA; Greg, N9GB plans to be active as J3/N9GB from August 12 to 19. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 6 metres using CW, SSB, and possibly FT8. Operation may include 160 and 80 metres if conditions allow.

LITHUANIA; Special event station LY786A is active until September 30 to commemorate 786 years of Siauliai City.

SEYCHELLES; Nuria, EA3WL and Josep, EA3BT will be active as S79/home calls from Praslin, La Digue, and Mahe Islands, IOTA AF-024, from August 9 to 23. Activity will be on various Satellites using CW, SSB, and FT8.

COSTA RICA; Special event station TI1GOAL is active until December to draw attention to the Costa Rican football team participating in the FIFA World Championship. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

CORSICA; Frans, DJ0TP is active as TK/DJ0TP from Linguizzetta, IOTA EU-014, until September 6. Activity is holiday style on 20, 15, and 12 metres, and possibly 30 metres, using CW, PSK, FT8, and FT4.

CANADA; Pierre, VE3KTB is active as VY0ERC from the Eureka weather station on Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, until August 16. Activity is in his spare time on 20 and 17 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. Jonathan, 2E0KZN is active as VP8TAA from the Royal Air Force Mount Pleasant Complex until early November. Activity is in his spare time. This includes being active as VP8TAA/p from various SOTA sites.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, North American CW QSO Party, 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Batavia FT8 Contest, NRRL MGM Weekend Contest and the SARL HF Phone Contest are all on this weekend.

The ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, NAQCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 and Mini-Test 80 are all on from August 8 to 10.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

At the Club's AGM yesterday, the following office bearers were elected; President – Henry VK2ZHE; Vice President – Paul VK2ICQ; Secretary – Henry VK2ZHE; and Treasurer – Dennis VK2DAM. The other committee members elected are Larry VK2CLL, Rob VK2CRF and Lyle VK2SMI.

The next informal Coffee Morning will be at 10am this Thursday the 11th of August, at Brooklyns Burger Bar in the shopping centre at Thrumster.

The next Friday Night get-together is at 7pm on the 19th of August, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. It will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

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.

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 July 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. July Oxtales includes 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.*

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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

The club's August general meeting was held Yesterday, at the cafe at Mount Penang Gardens. The day started with a multi-transmitter fox hunt followed by lunch, the meeting, then some portable HF in the park. The Club's Annual General Meeting is at 1pm next Saturday the 13th of August, at the Kariong clubrooms. Details will be emailed to members.

At VK2RAG, 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, online at websdr.ccarc.org.au, is configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

The Club's Morning Tea net continues at 10am daily, and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Club's weekly net is on Thursday night from 8pm; this week's net included a discussion on "the most embarrassingly simple repair that you've had to make"; with responses ranging from "a twisted belt in a DVD player" to "having a fuse partially fail" and "completely uninstalling an awkward radio to find that the spare fuse was actually blown". Both club nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the 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 19th of August at 7:30pm. Both the SSTV and the Thursday Night Nets are video streamed live to the club's Facebook page. Recordings of past nets can be found there, in the "Videos" section.

You can find out more about the CCARC, including information on upcoming social events and all the details we can't tell you about here; on the web page – at ccarc.org.au – by phone, 02 43402500 – or social media, search 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 this Tuesday the 9th of August. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting 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.

Tuesday night's meeting is the Society's AGM, with all Executive and Committee positions being up for nomination and election. Attendees need not be concerned about being coerced or hijacked into a position, as many current Executive and Committee have offered to stand again – if elected of course.

After the AGM, all attendees are invited to "Show and Tell" and perhaps to "show-off" what they have been up to in their shack, with their antennas, or even on the bands. Then, there will also 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; join in via 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 this Tuesday the 9th of August, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

Advised by Rob VK2MT

President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be conducting a Foundation licence course and assessment weekend on the 24th and 25th of September, at Cataract Activity Centre, Baden Powell Drive, Appin. The course will be dependent on a minimum of 5 candidates.

Foundation training will be held on Saturday, and examinations for both Foundation and all other licence grades will be on Sunday.

Bookings are essential, and close on the 5th of September; to register, contact the Club's learning organiser, Frank Walker by email to walker_frank@hotmail.com.

The next General Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 31st of August, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au, and the Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's July meeting last week was huge, with presentations on the 46-year History of the Club, Radio Poetry, New technologies and a look at the comms in the B-24 Liberator from World War II. It was a record attendance for the night, as well.

The Next meeting, is on this Tuesday at 8pm. There will be a Show and Tell night on "Balun Business", looking at different Balun constructions, discussing issues in making baluns and also putting them under the microscope. We will test them using VNA's all going well. This is the mid-monthly meeting, a chance to experiment and play with gear in a casual manner – so come along and join in the conversations.

At the August general meeting, 8pm on the 23rd, Steve VK2AAV will presenting "the Magic of MOSFETS" and how to tame these great devices. Also, the Club's committee have been planning the future direction of the Club, and will present this at the meeting. Radio has a strong future and interest levels in the community remain high.

HADARC welcomes you, as a member or visitor, to join us for another top evening for Radio Amateurs... and don't forget to keep Radio Active; join the Club's weekly nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

*73, Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President*

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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.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society from 8pm on VK2RMB, 146.875MHz.

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 19th of August; 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.