

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

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.

Jamboree on the Air 2022

Since 1957, amateur radio has been used by Scouts, and more recently Girl Guides, to get together virtually from anywhere in the world.

Running this year from Friday the 14th until Sunday the 16th of October, Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA, sees the amateur air waves are thrown open to youthful voices with enthusiasm to make new friends and exchange experiences. Contacts are made with other JOTA stations in the next suburb, interstate or overseas.

If you have operated a JOTA station before or not, please consider getting involved this year. Now is the time to start getting organised – especially check if your Working With Children Check is still current, or apply if don't already have one.

Paul VK2GX, the JOTA coordinator for the St George Amateur Radio Society, has advised us that Members and friends of Society will this year be operating JOTA station VK2LE, as part of the Boree Regatta at Kurnell.

It's a great opportunity for first time JOTA operators, as the Society's experienced operators will be there to provide guidance and support. So, if you are interested in getting involved, contact the SGARS JOTA coordination team, by email to jota@sgars.org.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of August;

This report issued on the 19th of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm Flux	105	102	97	97	101	108	118
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	15	16	13	7	3	4	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	12	8	10	5	1	1	1 estimated
T index	61	59	44	44	41	42	45

Solar flare activity reached R1 warning level on the 19th, with an M1.6 flare at 0444UTC. Activity then remained low from the 20th to the 24th, but reached R1 level again on the 25th with two M-class flares; M1.8 at 1951UTC and M1.0 at 2327UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet with some unsettled periods. On the 19th, SWS magnetometer data showed a weak impulse of 10 nanoTesla, at 1731UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some depressed periods; 20% during local night on the 19th, 20th and 22nd; and 15% all day on the 21st and the 23rd.

The forecast for the 26th of August to the 1st of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate, possibly reaching R1 levels early in the week. Geomagnetic activity should be at quiet levels, with a chance of G1 periods on the 29th and 30th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be mildly degraded until the 31st, but frequencies near predicted monthly values afterwards. Shortwave fadeouts are 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 July, we had a;

Minimum of 91, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 176
With peak dates from the 9th to the 21st

Nearing the end of August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 112 and a Maximum of 131
With peak dates from the 6th to the 15th, and the 26th to the 31st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 108 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 1st 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.

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Duration 3m12s

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

This year's WICEN NSW AGM, is on next Saturday 3rd September at 2pm, in the Centenary Building here at VK2WI Dural.

WICEN NSW will be conducting a training exercise on Saturday the 24th of September, over a number of locations with as many WICEN members as possible. This will be similar to the exercise last February. Operations will be on HF as well as 2 metres, and country members are encouraged to join in. If you would like to participate, please contact Mal Alexander at malcolm.alexander@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW is providing safety communications for the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, on the weekend of the 29th and 30th of October. Competitors paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. 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

WEST MALAYSIA; Members of the Taiping Amateur Radio Club and Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitter Society will be active with special callsign 9M65MA from Jalan Istana, Taiping between August 30 and September 1, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Independence of Malaysia. Operations will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB, FM and various digital modes.

EAST MALAYSIA; Special event stations 9M65MQ and 9M65MS will be active from Sarawak and Sabah, respectively, between August 30 and September 1, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Independence of Malaysia.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO; Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society are active with special callsign 9Y60TT until September 2 to celebrate the 60th anniversary since Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence from the United Kingdom. Activity is on all bands and modes with multiple operators active.

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV will be active as A35JP from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until September 30. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

MOROCCO; Moroccan amateur radio operators may use the prefix 5E9 until August 29 to celebrate both the 59th birthday of King Mohammed VI, and Youth Day.

ESTONIA; Ed, ES2TT is active from Aegna Island, IOTA EU-149, until August 31. Activity is on 40 and 30 metres using CW and SSB.

JERSEY; Keith, GU6EFB will be active on Satellite QO-100 as GJ6EFB, from August 29 to 31.

THAILAND; Brad, VK2BY is active as HS0ZNR from Nam Yuen in the Province of Ubon Ratchathani until September 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

SARDINIA; Giuseppe, IK5WWA will be active as IM0M from La Maddalena Island, IOTA EU-041, from September 1 to 13. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres.

BELGIUM; Special event station OR1050HERZ will be active from September 1 to October 31 to mark the 1050th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Herzele, in the Belgian province of East Flanders. Activity will be on all bands and modes.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PA22VUELTA is active until September 11 to draw attention to the 77th Vuelta a Espana bicycle race.

MACQUARIE ISLAND; Matt, VK0MQ has been active on 30 metres using FT8 around 0900UTC. He is active until October 1.

MYANMAR; Simon, HS0ZIB plans to be active as XZ2A from Naypyitaw while working as a teacher in an orphanage. Activity will be in his spare time on all HF bands, excluding 60 metres.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8A400KJN is active until August 28 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Pekalongan Regency. Activity is on 80 and 40 metres using SSB, and FT8 on 40 to 15 metres.

ALBANIA; Nikolas, DG7PX is active as ZA/DG7PX. Activity of late has been on 20 and 15 metres using SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, RTTYOps WW DX RTTY Contest, Hawaii QSO Party, ALARA Contest, YO DX HF Contest, W/VE Islands QSO Party, World Wide Digi DX Contest, Kansas QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party, CVA DX SSB Contest and the SARL HF CW Contest are all running over this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club CW AWT, CWops CW Test, Mini-Test 40 and Mini-Test 80 are scheduled from August 29 to 31.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and their next general meeting is at 2pm next Saturday the 3rd of September. The meeting is at the SES Building in Port Macquarie and will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The business part of the meeting will be limited to approximately 15 minutes. The main part of the meeting will be a talk and demonstration of the Nano VNA by Bob VK2ZRE.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March destroyed the underground mains to site, which has not yet been repaired. Work is progressing at the new VK2RCN site, which is expected to be commissioned in November.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, or those interested in assessments for the Standard or Advanced licence, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or via the web site contact form.

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

On Friday the 26th of August, the group took part in an Australia-wide hookup of Amateur TV stations. We hope to bring you a full report in a future bulletin.

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. “Show and tell” days have now resumed on the last Saturday of each month; yesterday’s was very successful, with several members showing off some interesting gear.

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

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 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 with Brad VK2FRQ, on the IC-905.

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, this coming Friday the 2nd of September 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.

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 this 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, and its also available via EchoLink.

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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 7th of September. At the gathering, there will be a presentation by Chris VK2CJH on "A beginner guide Into Digital Modes".

Are your fellow amateurs using digital modes? Missing out on all the digital fun? Don't know where to start? This non-technical presentation will provide a footing into three popular digital modes by using readily available equipment. Foundation to Advanced, this guide is for any amateur no matter the skill set.

As well as hearing Chris' presentation you can also catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out the disposal items, and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

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.

For those who want a more accurate address, the What Three Words address is "torch , bath, frosted".

For more information about the Society and its activities, visit the website at, sgars.org .

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer, St. George Amateur Radio Society.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

At last's weeks monthly meeting. Matt VK2BAI gave a presentation outlining the 4 priority areas for the Club – these are: Community Focus, Member Engagement, Radio Disciplines and Practical Impact. Together these are called 'HADARC 100' and the aim is, in time, for the club to have 100 members.

Carmel VK2CAR presented on new sea wave technology that generates sustainable power as well as the new eBit-X SDR transceiver. Tony, VK2BTL presented on his success with his Moonraker vertical HF Antenna system.

Finally, Steve VK2AAV presented "The Magic of MOSFETS". Steve went into the theory, showed the spec sheets and then displayed some practical circuits. These devices are everywhere, so we wanted to know how to best use them. Did you know a MOSFET can be turned on with about 50 nano amps? Now that is small. Based on Steve's presentation, we are looking at how we can make some practical MOSFET circuits in the coming months.

Based on the very successful Balun Business evening, we now have 14 Baluns that will be constructed in the coming months. We appreciate the support from ARNSW and AI VK2OK, to create such enthusiasm.

Have you tried our recent EchoLink upgrade to VK2RNS repeater on 147.250? You can connect to VK2RNS-R, or on Allstarlink node 57272. The club would appreciate any feedback.

The Club's Next monthly meeting will be a social at Magpies in Waitara, starting at 6pm for dinner. We look forward to telling many radio and project stories, so please come along, meet the members, and join a relaxed social evening.

Don't forget to keep Radio Active and 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 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, also available via EchoLink.

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 2nd of September; 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.