

## **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](mailto: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 welcome any updates from clubs and groups; simply email [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto: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](http://arnsw.org.au/audio), and recordings of previous bulletins are also available.

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## **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 14<sup>th</sup> until Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 6 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](mailto:jota@sgars.org).

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26<sup>th</sup> of August to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September;

This report issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	119	128	252(!)	131	126	113	116
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	11	7	13	13	12	9 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	8	5	8	7	7	5 estimated
T index	46	58	44	48	54	51	50

Solar flare activity reached R2 warning level on the 26<sup>th</sup>, with three M-class flares, the largest M7.2 at 1214UTC. The 27<sup>th</sup> was at R1 level with five M-class flares spread throughout the day, some with relatively long duration. The 28<sup>th</sup> was at R2 with two M-class flares, the largest M6.7 at 1619UTC. The 29<sup>th</sup> was R2 with five M-class flares, the largest M8.7 at 1107UTC; the 30<sup>th</sup> was R1 with an M1.7 and an M2.1; the 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>, returned to R0 activity levels.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet with some unsettled periods. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, SWS magnetometer data showed a weak impulse of 18 nanoTesla, at 0341UTC. F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some depressed periods; depression of 15% during local night on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> of September; 20% during local nights from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>; and depression of 15% during local day, on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The forecast for the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of September;

R1 conditions are expected from the 4<sup>th</sup> as new active regions rotate onto the solar disk. Geomagnetic activity should be at quiet levels, with a chance of G1 periods from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> due to coronal hole solar wind effects. Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed 15% during local nights, particularly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>; Chance of minor Shortwave fadeouts throughout the week.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 118 and a Maximum of 252  
With peak dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

As we start September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 115 and a Maximum of 130  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 113 and a Maximum of 130  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

*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 2m18s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## WICEN News

This year's WICEN NSW AGM was held yesterday – we will have more details in next week's news.

WICEN NSW will be conducting a training exercise on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:malcolm.alexander@vrarescue.org).

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is on over the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Participants paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. WICEN NSW is providing safety communications; if you would like to help out, please email [mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org](mailto:mark.cheeseman@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](http://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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

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## **ARRL DX news**

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV is active as A35JP from Tongatapu, IOTA OC-049, until September 30. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

TAIWAN; Special event station BV0SC will be active this weekend during the Sun Moon Lake International Swimming Carnival. Activity will be on 20 and 17 metres using SSB and FT8, respectively.

MAYOTTE; Lance, W7GJ will be active as TO7GJ from September 6 to 8. Activity is on 6 metres EME.

ITALY; Operators Claudio, I1NVU, Gab, IK1NEG, Tony, IK1QBT and Mauri, IU1JCZ will be active as IP1X from Gallinara Island, IOTA EU-083, on September 10 and 11. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes with two stations.

OGASAWARA; Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be active as JD1BOW until September 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and FT8, and may include some SOTA activations as well.

BELGIUM; Special event station OQ100MBS is active until September 30 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Carillon School in Mechelen.

FAROE ISLANDS; Col, MM0NDX and Jonathan, MM0OKG are active on the HF bands as OY/home calls from Eysturoy until September 5.

BRAZIL; Members of LABRE HQ are active as PV200BR until September 30 in celebration of Brazil's 200 years of independence. Activity is on all bands and modes.

DODECANESE; Gerben, PG5M will be active as SV5/PG5M from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 11. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW.

ICELAND; George, K5KG, Steve, K4EU and Tom, K4NMR will be active as TF/home calls from September 6 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands with three stations.

INDIA; Rajesh, VU2CW is active with special call sign AT75CW until October 2 to celebrates India's 75th anniversary of independence.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW until September 19. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100.

VIETNAM; Greg, F4BPO will be active as XV9BPO in the All-Asian DX SSB contest.

KOSOVO; Rene, DL2JRM will be active as Z68XX from Gjilan from September 9 to 12. Activity will be on the HF bands, including an entry in the upcoming Worked All Europe DX SSB contest.

ALBANIA; Nikolas, DG7PX is active as ZA/DG7PX. Activity of late has been on the HF bands using SSB.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; Jeff, K5WE will be active as ZL7/K5WE from Kaingaroa, IOTA OC-038, from September 9 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The All-Asian DX Phone Contest, RSGB SSB Field Day, SARL Field Day Contest, IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, Russian RTTY Worldwide Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, CWOps CW Open, Wake-Up. QRP Sprint, Colorado QSO Party, AGCW Straight Key Party, IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest, PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Metre Sprint, WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone and the Tennessee QSO Party will certainly keep contesters over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn SSB Series, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest are all on from September 5 to 7.



## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their next informal coffee morning is at 10am this coming Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, at Brooklyns Burger Bar in the shopping centre at Thrumster.

The September Friday Night Get together is 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting 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 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](http://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. The September 2022 issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will be published soon. 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 and Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August, the group took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur TV QSO party. With more than 40 stations exchanging high quality digital video from various locations in Sydney, Melbourne, Port Pirie and Whyalla, showcasing their shacks, homebrew digital transmitters and various audio video production equipment.

On Saturday, many stations from the USA joined in displaying their shacks and ATV equipment. The event was not only transmitted live but streamed via the British Amateur TV Club website. The event was extremely successful, and all agreed to repeat it next year.

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; select VK2RTS Sydney. 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; details and photos from last Saturday's "show and tell" have been added to the "Latest News" section of the Club's web site.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. There have been some changes to the D-star configuration; check the Club's social media for details. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list.

The Somersby WebSDR is online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](https://websdr.ccarc.org.au), and its 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; last week's net discussion was on "things that we have been putting off".

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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 Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. 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.

The next meeting will be a presentation on microcontrollers presented by IARS Members, Keith VK2KQB and Simon VK2KU. They will be explaining the different types of micros, how to select the correct one for your project, showing the different types of programming including binary and hexadecimal, plus showing past projects that have been greatly improved by the use of a microcontroller being included. No prior knowledge will be necessary and, by the end of the presentation, attendees will hopefully feel confident in using them.

Following will be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while having a yarn or two amongst your old and new mates. 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](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; [iars.org.au](http://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 13<sup>th</sup> of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

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

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://sgars.org).

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

At the last monthly meeting, Matt VK2BAI outlined four priority areas for the Club – these are: Community Focus, Member Engagement, Radio Disciplines and Practical Impact. Together these are called ‘HADARC 100’ with the aim that, in time, the club will have 100 members.

Also, Carmel VK2CAR presented on technology, Tony, VK2BTL presented on his success with his Moonraker Antenna system, and Steve VK2AAV presented “The Magic of MOSFETS”. A great evening, all round.

The Club’s next mid-monthly meeting will be a social at Magpies in Waitara, on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, starting at 6pm for dinner. We look forward to telling many radio and project stories over dinner.

Here’s something to ponder. The mass of an electron is 9.1 times 10 to the power of -31 kilograms. That’s pretty light, but not as light as... light. Radio waves travel at the speed of light, and one great way to make practical use of this is to join one of the Club’s weekly nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

73 for now, and don’t forget to keep Radio Active.

*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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.