

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

This year, VK2WI News will continue with regular morning and evening bulletins over the holiday season, including on Christmas day and New Years Day. After all, at this time of year we often see an increase in Amateur Radio activity.

The VK2WI News team would like to hear from you, if you are planning any activities; just email the details and contact information, to news@arnsw.org.au. We also welcome reports on recent activities.

From January 2023, we will be making some changes to VK2WI News frequencies, starting with 6 metre and 80 metre transmissions. The 6 metre news bulletins will move to the VK2RWI repeater, on 53.85MHz, and 80 metre transmissions will move up to 3695kHz.

The 2023 edition of the ARNSW magnetic calendar, along with member cards, have been posted out to members, and the new frequencies are already listed there. We will have more details on these changes, and the changeover dates, in a future news bulletin.

General ARNSW enquires can be directed to the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

Tonight, we also 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.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

Coming soon to VK2WI News...

Is a new segment, in which you can take part. With more, here's Mathew VK2YAP;

[Play File: 15-B-CTR-P2.wav]

Duration: 0m30s

In: Got a question...

Out:....soon to VK2WI News.

Transcript;

Got a question about Amateur Radio?

Connector can help!

It's a new segment, coming soon to VK2WI news, where we connect your questions, with answers from fellow amateurs, that have been there and done that.

Now, Its on the radio, so we want to hear from you.

Call and leave your question on the Connector phone Line; that's 02 9444 0181;

Or attach a recording of your question and email to; connector@arnsw.org.au.

That's connector... coming soon, to VK2WI news..

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 2nd to the 8th of December;

This report issued on the 9th of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
10cm Flux	124	134	144	150	144	148	143
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	11	7	10	7	2	9	9
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	7	9	5	2	10	7 estimated
T index	47	76	86	90	77	101	73

Solar activity was moderate on the 3d of Decembers, with a M1.3 flare, and low on other days.

Geomagnetic activity was low, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values. The 6th saw enhancements of 15% during local night; and the 7th saw depressions of 20 to 25% after local dawn, recovering to near predicted for the rest of the day.

The forecast for the 9th to the 15th of December;

Solar activity should mostly remain at R0, with a chance of R1 conditions due to large and complex sunspot region currently on the solar disk, along with additional active regions are expected to appear from the 12th.

Geomagnetic conditions may reach G1 levels on the 9th and 10th due to ongoing high-speed solar wind stream effects. Elevated activity is possible later in the week due to possible CME activity.

MUFs should be near predicted, with a chance of mild depression son the 9th and 10th. Sporadic E is likely during local night hours, and isolated shortwave fadeouts on daylight HF circuits are possible, impacting lower HF frequencies.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

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

As we start November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 107, Average of 124, and a Maximum of 142
With peak dates from the 1st to the 17th

So far for December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 110, Average of 125, and a Maximum of 150
With peak dates from the 4th to the 13th, and the 28th to the 31st

And the forecast for January 2023;

Minimum of 110, Average of 125, and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th.

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>]

Foundations of Amateur Radio

This series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB, continues a weekly examination, of the building blocks of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 16-FOAR027.wav]

Duration 3m20s

In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."

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; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

Weekly voice nets continue at 6pm Sunday, 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, the web address is nsw.wicen.org.au, 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.

ARRL DX news

NIGER; Giorgio, IU5HWS is active as 5UA99WS, mostly on 15 metre SSB, until December 20.

THE GAMBIA; Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK during his spare time until February 24 2023, mostly on 10 and 12 metres, but also on 20, 17 and 15 metres using CW and digital modes.

WILLIS ISLAND; Sands, VU2WXW/VK4WXW, is working at the Weather Station until April. He has been on 40, 20 and 15 metres and hopes to add 17, 12 and 10 metres as well.

BANGLADESH; Team S21DX will be active from Dhal Char Island (AS-140) until 16 December. Plans are for eight operators (S21AM, S21BK, S21D, S21IT, S21MK, S21OM, S21RC and S21TG) to be active with two SSB stations, one FT8 station, and one station for QO-100 satellite (SSB).

LAOS; Vincent, XW4KV plans to activate 12 locator grids via QO-100, until December 23. HF operation is expected as well from December 13 to 18.

SENEGAL; Earl, WA3DX will sign WA3DX/6W, from December 22 to January 20, mostly on 20 metre SSB and FT8, but also on 40 to 10, 2 metres and 70 cm FM, and APRS. He will also be active as 6W1/WA3DX, 6W6/WA3DX, and 6W9/WA3DX.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW until December 17. He is operating CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 on HF and plans to be active on QO-100 as well.

ALBANIA; Burkhard, DL3KZA is active as ZA/DL3KZA until December 13 on 40 to 17 metres, using mostly FT8.

MALDIVES; Vadim, R6CA will be active as 8Q7CA from December 13 to 22. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 metres.

CEUTA AND MELILLA; Yuris, YL2GM is active as EA9/YL7A or EA9/YL2GM from Ceuta until December 12 on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

ANTARCTICA; Seba, SQ1SGB will be operating as VP8/SQ1SGB/p during his spare time, until February 1, 2023. He is active on 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

SPAIN; Special event station EE44C celebrates the 44th anniversary of Spain's present constitution until December 18.

ENGLAND; The RSGB holds their Transatlantic Centenary Tests throughout December, commemorating the tests towards the first transatlantic contact on HF. Look for special call signs G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ, G3DR, and GM3DR. Additional calls may also be used from other parts of the country: GM5WS (Scotland), GW5WS (Wales), GU5WS (Guernsey), GD5WS (Isle of Man), GJ5WS (Jersey) and GI5WS (Northern Ireland).

FINLAND; The Market Reef DX Association station, OH9A operates with the call sign OH1XMAS until December 26 on all bands and modes.

ARGENTINA; Hernan, LU1COP will be active as LP1A/E from Isla Martin Garcia until December 11, operating SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 metres.

NETHERLANDS; Celebrating Christmas and the New Year, special call sign PH22XMAS will be active until December 28, while PH23HNY will be active from December 28 to January 31.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10-Metre Contest, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, TRC Digi Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, ARI 40/80 Contest, International Naval Contest, QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint, CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run and the 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all on over this weekend.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Last Saturday saw the Club's Christmas party, at the picnic area of Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. 25 members and their families enjoyed the festivities and delicious food in fine weather, and Bruce VK2EM demonstrated his portable HF QRP equipment. Then, on Thursday the 9th of December, about a dozen members enjoyed the social Coffee Morning at Thrumster.

Coming up at 7pm this Friday the 16th, is the December Friday Night Get together in the SES Building, Central Road Port Macquarie. There will be Christmas cake with the tea and coffee, and the club's 2023 calendar will also be available. With no formal Club meeting in December, the next general meeting will be 2pm Saturday the 7th of January 2023.

VK2RCN Telegraph Point repeaters will soon return to air; now that the delayed building materials have arrived, we hope that – weather permitting – the new site will be commissioned in time for Christmas.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, as well as those interested in assessments for Standard and Advanced licences, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444, or via the contact form on the website.

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, and on EchoLink as VK2RPM-R. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The November 2022 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. November's issue reports on the recent ADS-B aircraft tracking and P25 GRN presentations by Paul VK2ICQ. 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 Kariong Clubrooms are now closed for the Christmas and New Year break. They will re-open on the 14th of January, 2023.

Mayham will not run in 2023; the event group are refocusing and re-aligning the direction of the event, and hope to return in 2024.

The second of the club's "Christmas Ham" events ended on Friday, and while 13 may be an unlucky number for some.... Congratulations to the holder of ticket number 13, who will soon be receiving a very nice-looking 3D printer. The third "Christmas Ham" event will take place early in 2023.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; 23cm is temporarily down; and BrandMeister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list.

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

The Club's Morning Tea net is on weekdays from 10am, and the weekly net is on Thursday nights, from 8pm. They're both on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Thursday night net is also video streamed live on the club's Facebook page and recordings can be found 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 coming Tuesday the 13th of December. 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 main BlueScope entrance, turn immediately right before the security gates and follow the large signs, towards the Visitors Centre.

December is the Society's Christmas meeting. It's a "Show & Tell" night with pizza and drinks supplied free of charge to celebrate a great year and the upcoming festive season. So, bring along your current project, or even an old one that you're proud of, along with an empty stomach to help with the dispatching of the pizzas.

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 Christmas meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, 7.30pm this Tuesday the 13th of December, 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; 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Last Wednesday was the Society's AGM. After starting the evening with a BBQ in Donnelly Park, which was well attended, the meeting elected the following members to the committee;

President - Tony VK2ALE; Vice President - Roland VK2YAD;
Secretary - Paul VK2GX; Treasurer - Peter VK2EMU;
Committee Members - Brian VK2GCE and Wal VK2ACE.

A few weeks ago, the VK2RDX 2m FM repeater at Mt. Bindo suffered an antenna failure due to strong winds in the area. The repeater was returned to service in late November, on a temporary antenna. Several Society members have scheduled a visit to Mt. Bindo today, to replace the broken antenna with a more robust antenna. Users of the repeater can expect a marked improvement in the repeater's performance.

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

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday saw the Club's Christmas function at Magpies in Waitara; a fun afternoon of great radio stories over a relaxed lunch and a few 807's.

In January, it is customary that Club holds a BBQ get together to start the new year. Once the details are finalised, we will have updates on the Club's website and here on VK2WI News.

In the meantime, the Club Nets continue on Monday Nights on VK2RNS, Wednesday Nights on 80 metres, and Friday Mornings on 40 metres. Its also a good time to finish a project and call a colleague to give you a hand sorting out any shack problems. Don't forget, new antennas and radio gear are all approved by Santa to put under your tree....

The HADARC Committee wishes all its members and the wider Radio Community a relaxing and well-deserved holiday season.

*73 Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

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Activities on the air

Daily;

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** on *weekdays* from 10am; VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

Manly-Warringah “early bird” net, 6:30am on or near 3690kHz LSB; if that’s too early, the “morning” net is from 8am on or near 7189kHz.

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

Mondays;

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 temporarily on VK2ROT, 147.025MHz with 91.5Hz tone. Activities online and on air; see website.

Tuesdays;

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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

Wednesdays;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz.

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.

Thursdays;

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.

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

Saturdays;

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.

Westlakes Stone the Crows net; 6am on 3588kHz.

Sundays;

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

Westlakes DMR Net from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.

WICEN NSW nets from 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater; see website for details.