

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 Year's 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.

Coming to VK2WI News in 2023...

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 9th to the 15th of December;
This report issued on the 16th of December.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm Flux	149	142	148	151	153	165	166
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	9	6	7	5	3	3	4
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	7	6	4	2	3	6 estimated
T index	86	97	86	113	122	122	98

Solar activity was low from the 9th to the 13th. Activity reached R2 warning level on the 14th with twelve M-class flares, the largest M6.4 at 1442UTC. The 15th was also at R2, on the 3d of Decembers, with eight M-class flares, the largest M5.7 at 2240UTC.

Geomagnetic conditions remained at quiet to unsettled levels with no warnings issued.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements; on the 9th, enhancements of 20% during local night; the 10th was enhanced 15% during local night; the 12th, 30% at night and 20% after local dawn; the 13th was enhanced 15% all day; and the 14th was enhanced 15% during day and 25% at night.

The forecast for the 16th to the 22nd of December;

Solar activity may reach R1 and R2 levels, with R2 conditions more likely at the beginning of the week.

Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet to unsettled.

MUFs are likely to be mildly enhanced early in the week, then return to near predicted, with a chance of mild depressions on the 22nd. Shortwave fadeouts are possible early in the week.

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.

For November, we had 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 111, Average of 141, and a Maximum of 165
With peak dates from the 5th to the 23rd

And looking ahead to January 2023, a;

Minimum of 115, Average of 130, and a Maximum of 145
With peak dates from the 1st to the 11th, and the 27th to the 30th.

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-FOAR046.wav]

Duration 3m41s

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

ROTUMA; Antoine, 3D2AG/p has been active on 17 metres using CW around 2240UTC, and on 15 metres after 2300UTC.

TANZANIA; JP, VU2BGC is active as 5H5PJ from Iringa. Activity is in his spare time, on 20 metres using CW.

NIGER; Giorgio, IU5HWS is active as 5UA99WS until December 20. Activity has been mostly on 15 metres using SSB.

SENEGAL; Earl, WA3DX will be active as 6W1/WA3DX from Dakar and Mbao, and as 6W6/WA3DX from Kaolack and Mar Loj, from December 22 to January 20, 2023. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using FT8 and some SSB.

MALDIVES; Elena, 8Q7CA is active from Nalaguraidhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, until December 22. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

KUWAIT; Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society and fellow Gulf state Qatari Amateur Radio operators are active with special call 9K9QATAR until December 20, for the Qatari National Day celebrations.

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

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Simon, G7WKX will be active as EA6/G7WKX from December 20 to January 2, 2023. Activity will be on the HF bands from as many POTA sites as possible

KYRGYZSTAN ; Bob, DU7ET is active as EX0ET from Bishkek. Activity is in his spare time during his daylight hours on 30 to 10 metres using CW.

SAUDI ARABIA; Ahmed Hashash Al-Talib, HZ1CY is active as HZ1YOTA during December, while taking part in the annual Youth On The Air activities.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take[tuh-KAY] JG8NQJ/JD1 has been active using FT8 on 160 metres between 1000 and 1100UTC, and then on 17 metres using CW around 0900UTC, and afterwards on 15 metres using CW.

FINLAND ; Members of the Radio Club of Pusula and Northern Radio Arcala are active with special event station OF9X until December 31. Activity is on all bands and modes.

ARUBA; Heli, DD0VR and Bigi, DE3BWR are active as P4/DD0VR until December 23. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB with QRP power.

WILLIS ISLAND; Sands, VK4WXW is active as VK9WX until April 2023 while working as part of a meteorological team. Activity is in his spare time on 20 metres using SSB.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS; Ron, VP2VAO has been active on 40 metres using SSB between 0315 and 0415UTC.

ANTARCTICA; Seba, SQ1SGB is active as VP8/SQ1SGB/p from Halley VI base until February 1, 2023. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8, respectively. Also, Sunny VU2CUW, is active as AT42I from Maitri Station, for about a year.

LAOS; Vincent, XW4KV is active until December 23. His plans are to activate 12 locator grids via Satellite QO-100. He has also been active on 15 metres using SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode, around 0800 and 1030UTC, respectively.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, AGB-Party Contest, Russian 160-Metre Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint, OK DX RTTY Contest, RAC Winter Contest, Croatian CW Contest and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, NAQCC CW Sprint, QRP 160-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 and Mini-Test 80 are on tap from December 19 to 21.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Last Friday night saw the club's December Friday night get together, where those present were treated to Christmas cake with their tea and coffee, and were able to pick up their 2023 club calendars.

With no formal Club meeting in December, the next general meeting will be 2pm Saturday the 7th of January 2023, at the SES building in Port Macquarie. Copies of the Club's 2023 calendar will be available at the meeting.

VK2RCN Telegraph Point repeaters will soon return to air; while hopes were high to have the site ready by Christmas, various site delays have meant that work is still in progress. It is now looking like the site will be ready in early January.

Candidates wishing to undertake Foundation training and assessment early in the new year, or an assessment for Standard or 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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. 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.*

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Kariong Clubrooms are 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 third “Christmas Ham” event has been postponed until the first quarter of next year.

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 will continue until Christmas Eve, at which time it will take a break.

The Thursday evening net is on break until mid-January.

Club nets are (usually) held 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.*

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

As we mentioned in last weeks bulletin, the VK2RDX 2m repeater at Mt Bindo had been operating on a backup antenna after strong winds had caused a failure of the main antenna. Last Sunday afternoon, the Society's repeater team replaced the main antenna, restoring normal operation of the repeater.

The VK2RDX 2m FM repeater operates on 146.65MHz with a minus 600 kHz offset. CTCSS is NOT required. The UHF 70cm DMR repeater was unaffected and also remains operational.

The Society's repeater team would welcome signal reports following both the Sunday morning and evening VK2WI News; alternatively reports can be sent by email to repeater@sgars.org.

The Society has a number of events, activates and presentations happening, right from the start of 2023.

Underway right now is the Society's Summer 2m VHF contest. You could win this contest by making just one contact – so, why not get on the air this summer and have some fun!

On the 1st of February is "Portable on the Bay" – where you can bring along your portable equipment to setup and operate in Donnelly Park, outside the Society's meeting room, prior to the meeting, followed by refreshments.

Then at the March Meeting, there will be a presentation on Amateur Television (ATV) by Gary VK2CRJ and John VK2ATU.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Christmas Lunch at Waitara saw 28 attendees join in on the afternoon's festivities; along with the presentation of awards, it was a great celebration of a big year and a chance to catch up with friends.

At the Christmas Party, the Club's Committee was pleased to make a special announcement; the Club's grant application for solar panels and battery storage at the Storey Park repeater site has been approved by both the NSW Premier's office and the local Council. This represents a big investment in the Club's repeater services, and the largest government support in HADARC's history.

In January, it is customary for the Club to start the new year with a BBQ get-together; so, we have locked in January 24th for the HADARC BBQ at the Hornsby RSL Rifle Club, who have kindly allowed us to use their club facility. Please see the HADARC Web site and QUA Magazine for further details.

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 or to 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.*

[Play ID File: 19-E-ID4.wav]

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.

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.