

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

The VK2WI news team would like to wish all listeners a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

VK2WI News continues with regular morning and evening bulletins throughout January, including on 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 for the holiday season. Just email the details and contact information, to news@arnsw.org.au. We also welcome reports on recent activities.

In January 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 the band, to 3695kHz. The 2023 edition of the ARNSW magnetic calendar, along with member cards, already listed these new frequencies; and we will have more details, including 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.

Many listeners will be aware that VK2WI bulletins are relayed through a network of regional repeaters. These include the Hunter Radio Group with VK2RNC on 146.975; The Central Coast ARC with VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725; in the Blue Mountains, to the west of Sydney, the St. George ARS with VK2RDX on 146.650 and to the south, the Illawarra ARS VK2RMP on 53.650 and 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. We thank these clubs for their continued support of our news service. We also wish to thank the ANZEL group, with John VK3HJQ, Norm ZL4NORM and Dave GW8SZL for relays of our Evening news via the EchoLink network and conference servers.

We encourage callbacks and feedback on our news bulletins; if callbacks are not taken on your relay outlet, you can contact us directly by email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au. We would like to hear from you.

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 16th to the 22nd of December;

This report issued on the 23rd of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
10cm Flux	163	155	156	152	146	139	131
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	0	2	2	9	5	7	7
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	1	3	9	7	7	9 estimated
T index	86	92	89	79	76	92	75

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 16th, with ten M-class flares; the largest M4.0 at 1019UTC. The 17th and 20th were also R1. Activity remained at quiet levels on other days.

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

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values.

The forecast for the 23rd to the 29th of December;

Solar activity may reach R1 levels, with the chance of some isolated R2 conditions at the beginning of the week.

Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet to unsettled, with a chance of G1 disturbance on the 27th and 28th.

MUFs are likely to briefly depressed after local dawn on the 27th and 28th in the Southern Australian region, otherwise near predicted.

A note regarding solar region AR3165 – this active region was the origin of increased solar flare and fadeout activity observed from the 14th to the 16th of December. It has currently rotated off the solar disk, however, it is due to return to the southeast solar limb on the 31st of December.

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.

In November, we had a;

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

Nearing the end of December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 111, Average of 142, and a Maximum of 166
With peak dates from the 5th to the 21st

And looking ahead to January 2023, a;

Minimum of 118, Average of 142, and a Maximum of 160
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 17th, and the 30th to the 31st.

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-FOAR045.wav]

Duration 4m29s

In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including audio, transcripts and other useful amateur radio resources, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com; you can 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

SENEGAL; Earl, WA3DX is active as 6W1/WA3DX from Dakar, 6W6/WA3DX from Mbao, and 6W9/WA3DX from Kaolack and Mar Lodj Island. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Pete, VK4CCV is active as VK4CCV/DU7 from Cebu. Activity is on all bands and modes.

CANARY ISLANDS; Frank, DL2GRF is active as EA8/DL2GRF until January 14, 2023. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres using QRP power.

FRENCH GUIANA; Pierre-Jean, F4GPK will be active as FY/F4GPK from Kourou from December 26 to January 8, 2023.

GRENADA; Mike, M0MDS is active as J38TB from True Blue Bay until December 30. Activity is on 40, 20, and 17 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

OGASAWARA ISLANDS; Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until January 2. Activity will be 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and RTTY.

AUSTRIA; Members of the ARCDXC Club are active with special call 4U1XMAS until December 31.

CURACAO; Heli, DD0VR and Bigi, DE3BWR are active as PJ2/DD0VR until January 5. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB, FT8, and FT4.

SLOVENIA; Special event station S523PMC is active until January 8, promoting the PMC Contest.

COSTA RICA; Joe, VE3BW is active as TI7/VE3BW from Las Villas del Guayabo until January 3. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

BELIZE; Oliver, DJ5QW is active as V31TX until March 2023. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Marcelo, ZL1MTO will be active as VK9MTO from December 29 to January 5, 2023. Activity will be holiday style on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB, FT8, and FT4, generally between 0600 to 1100UTC.

INDIA; Members of the Erode Amateur Radio Club are active with special call AT2EOD until December 25 for a Field Day operation. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres, as well as Satellite QO-100, using SSB and FT8. In addition, members of Team POTA India are active with special call AU2SOA until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, SSTV, and FT8.

ROMANIA; Special event call sign YR1400VT is active until June 30, 2023 to draw attention to the 1400km long, Transilvanica trail.

UK SOVEREIGN BASES ON CYPRUS; Garry, 2M1DHG is active as ZC4GR and has been active for the past week or so with reported activity on 40, 30 and 10 metres FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 160-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and RAEM CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The DARC Christmas Contest, QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the CW QRS Xmas Activity runs from December 26 to 31.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and a bit of a Christmas present; after various delays, the new VK2RCN site at Telegraph Point is starting to come back on air.

First up is the 2-metre repeater, on 147.0MHz with the usual minus 600kHz offset, and no tone required for access. On 70cm, 438.525MHz temporarily is running in the FM mode, to enable UHF coverage to be assessed. It is operating with minus 5 Mhz offset and 123 Hz CTCSS required for access. This will be replaced by the RadNet DMR repeater early in the New Year. The site will be formally commissioned in January, once fit out of the equipment shelter has been completed and all the VK2RCN repeaters have been permanently installed and tested.

The next meeting of the Club will be at 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.

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.

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club wishes you all the very best for a safe and joyful festive season.

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.

Club nets are currently on a break, and will return in January.

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

The Society would like to wish all listeners a Healthy and Safe Christmas and New Year, and a better 2023.

The Society has a number of activities already 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!

A note about the Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse Contest, scheduled for May. The contest calendar in the latest issue of *Amateur Radio* magazine has an error regarding the date; the contest actually begins the weekend after Mother's Day. The 80m section is on evening of Saturday 20th May from 6pm to 9pm Sydney time, and the 40m section is on the afternoon of Sunday 21st of May, from 1pm to 4pm Sydney time.

For more information on upcoming activities in the new year, along with the dates and rules for all the Society's contests, visit the website at www.sgars.org.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

As today is Christmas day, Happy Christmas to all ARNSW listeners from the HADARC Committee; Rob VK2DIO, Rod VK2DAY, Steve VK2KHA, Andrew VK2TAN, Matt VK2BAI.

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.

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

During the holiday season, many nets and activities are continuing...

Daily;

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 now back on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz 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.