

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

At VK2WI Dural, the last Sunday of January usually starts off the year's member activities; and next week, it's the first "Members Morning Meetup", for 2023.

The VK2WI site is open from about 9:30am, with the grounds providing plenty of green space in fine weather for conversation, boot sales and disposals tables.

In the last couple of months, we have undertaken some refurbishment of the Centenary Building. While work has been affected by the now familiar "supply chain issues", parts of the indoor area will be available for use; and, we should be able to get the urn running for tea and coffee!

VK2WI News 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.

General 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.

At the end of this month, we will be making some changes to VK2WI transmissions. Our 80 metre transmissions will change frequency, moving up the band to 3695kHz; and 6 metre transmissions will move to the VK2RWI repeater, on 53.85MHz.

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.

Repeater Update

This week, with some good repeater news from Bathurst; VK2RKG at Kelso, is back on the air.

After a recent Antenna failure on the VK2RKG 2m FM repeater, a few dedicated local radio Amateurs, Dave VK2JDS, Gary VK2GLJ and Josh VK2MES, gave the repeater and site a bit of TLC; the repeater has a new lease on life and is back online.

VK2RKG is a low-output (10W) repeater, designed to cover the township of Bathurst and the immediate surrounding areas. Its is on 146.9MHz with the usual -600kHz offset, and no tone is required.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of January.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm Flux	209	228	234	228	222	220	219
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	10	9	17	10	5	11	6
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	6	19	11	6	12	3 estimated
T index	105	132	120	92	125	143	147

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 13th with two M-class flares, and on the 14th, with three M-class flares. The 15th saw R2 activity, with two M-class flares, the largest M6.0 at 0342UTC. The 17th and 18th remained at R1, each with a single M1.8 flare; and the 19th saw activity again reach R1 level, with three M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels, below the G1 warning threshold. Magnetometer data recorded a weak impulse of 12 nanoTesla, at 1429UTC on the 15th, and a 14nanoTesla impulse at 2159UTC on the 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted during local day, although some depressions were observed; of 15% on the 13th and 25% on the 16th. Later in the week, enhancements of 15% on the 18th 25% on the 19th. During local night hours, there were enhancements of 20% on the 13th and 14th; 15% on the 15th; 25% on the 17th; 20% on the 18th; and 25% on the 19th.

The forecast, issued on the 20th of January, through until the 26th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 levels, with a chance of R2 activity.

Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet to unsettled, with a chance of G1 disturbances later in the week.

MUFs in Southern Australia are likely to be near predicted to 15% enhanced. Mild degradation is possible due to increased geomagnetic activity later in the week, and there is an increased chance of shortwave fadeouts.

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.

Having finished December, we had a;

Minimum of 111, Average of 146 and a Maximum of 167
With peak dates from the 12th to the 20th, and the 27th to the 31st.

So far for January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 146, Average of 197 and a Maximum of 234
With peak dates from the 13th to the 28th;

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 185, Average of 206 and a Maximum of 235
With peak dates from the 8th to the 21st.

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: 15-FOAR032.wav]

Duration: 4m40s

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: 16-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

It's been quiet this week, with no emergency activations, so now is a good time to check that all your equipment is in good working order, and make any needed improvements or repairs.

Weekly voice nets are at 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday evening, using FM voice, DMR or HF voice, depending on the week.

Next week, the 6pm net will be on the Chatswood 2m FM repeater, 147.150MHz, with net control VK2WIC; All WICEN members and other Amateurs are welcome to join in.

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW, providing skilled radio communicators, mainly from the Amateur community, in times of emergency. WICEN also supports local community events; these provide practical training in tactical field communications, and other radio skills.

For full details of WICEN net schedules, and other information, check out the WICEN NSW web site, at <http://nsw.wicen.org.au>, that's

N - S - W DOT W - I - C - E - N DOT O - R - G DOT A - U

WICEN is also on Facebook and on Twitter @wicennsw [at WICEN N S W]; there, you can find photos and information about current and previous WICEN activations.

For information about other WICEN groups; WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. You can find out more on the web 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.

[WICEN NSW facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WICENNSW>]

[WICEN NSW twitter at <https://twitter.com/wicennsw>]

ARRL DX news

TANZANIA; Ferdy, HB9DSP will be active as 5H3FM from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032, until January 31. Activity will be on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

EASTER ISLAND; Mario is active as CE3WB/CE0 from Isla de Pascua until the end of January. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB.

ITALY; Operators S50O, S50X, S51V, S52OT, S54W, S56N, S57DX and S59A will be active as IG9/home calls from Lampedusa Island, IOTA AF-019, from January 23 to 31. Activity will be on all bands and modes. They plan to be active as IG9/S59A in the upcoming CQ World-Wide 160m CW contest.

THE GAMBIA; Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK from Bijilo until February 24. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres using all modes.

JAPAN; Take, JI3DST will be active as JI3DST/6, JS6RRR, JJ5RBH/6, and JR8YLY/6 from Miyako Island, IOTA AS-079, from January 24 to March 7. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, and FT8. When using FT8, the numeric suffix will be replaced with the letter /P. He will also be active as JS6RRR in the upcoming CQ World-Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

GUAM; Henry, N7JVJ is active as N7JVJ from Hagatna until April 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8 with QRP power.

ARGENTINA; Members of AMSAT Argentina will be active as LU7AA until January 29 to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the launch of Satellite LO-19. Activity will be on the HF, and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV, and FT8, and FM/SSB on various Satellites.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS; Jean-Gabriel, F4CIX, is active as FW1JG and expects to be there until January 2024. He is active on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA; David, VK4FABN is active as P29DT from Tabubil in the Star Mounts in the North Fly District of the Western Province. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using CW and SSB.

POLAND; Special event station HF7SIEMA is active until February 5 recognizing a nationwide Polish charity event.

PALAU; Operators JH3LSS, JA3HJI, JA3IVU, JA3ARJ and JA3AVO are active as T88DK, T88DN, T88ED, T88EF, and T88MB from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until January 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

TURKEY; Special event stations TC100TC, TC100TA, TC100TR, and TC100YEAR are active throughout 2023 to celebrate the centenary of the Turkish Republic.

GABON; Roland, F8EN is active as TR8CR from Libreville until March 15. Activity is on 30 to 10 metres using CW.

EL SALVADOR; Roberto, I2JIN is active as YS3CW from Corinto, Morazan until January 29. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, North American Collegiate SSB Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint and CW Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Hungarian DX Contest, PRO Digi Contest, RSGB AFS SSB Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, SKCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest and Australia Day Contest are on from January 23 to 26.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; At January's Friday Night get-together last week, those present enjoyed an interesting evening of show and tell, and an update on the progress at the new VK2RCN repeater site, followed by socializing over tea, coffee, and biscuits.

The next general meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of February, in the SES Building, Central Road Port Macquarie. After the 15-minute Business Meeting, there will be a not to be missed presentation by David VK2AYD, on the contribution of Radio Amateurs, to the success of the work at Bletchley Park during World War 2. Copies of the Club's 2023 calendar will be available at the meeting.

Work continues at the new Telegraph Point site for VK2RCN, with permanent installation of the repeaters underway. The VK2RCN 2-metre repeater on 147.0MHz is temporarily running, and the 70cm FM voice repeater, temporarily on 438.525MHz, is about to be replaced by the RadNet DMR repeater. The site will be formally commissioned later in the month.

Foundation training and assessments, along with examinations for Standard or Advanced licences, are planned for February. To register, contact the club via the contact form on the website, or write to PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net from 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net at 9am Sunday mornings. Both 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.

To find out more 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, with past issues on the website as well; and the January 2023 issue 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

We start this week with the sad news of a Silent Key. Bob, VK2ZAR passed away peacefully last Sunday in Cherrybrook. Bob had been an integral member of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, as well as a life member of WICEN.

Vale Bob, VK2ZAR.

The Club's Kariong Clubrooms are open even Saturday from 10am.

Mayham will not run this year – the committee are refocusing and re-aligning the direction of the event, and hope to return in 2024.

The third "Christmas Ham" event will now run place in the first quarter of this year.

At VK2RAG Somersby, D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; 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 is on each weekday from 10am, and the weekly Net is at 8pm on Thursday night. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater - 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone, and on the CCARCNSW and HAM EchoLink conferences.

The Thursday evening net is also live video-streamed on the club's Facebook page.

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 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's next gathering is on Wednesday the 1st of February at Kyle Bay.

The first gathering of the year, continues the tradition of "Portable by the Bay" – where members and visitors bring along their radios and antennas, and set up for some portable operation. Show off your equipment and see how other people use theirs. When it starts to get dark, attendees can move into the scout hall for some information about the club's activities for the next few months, peruse the disposals tables for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

The gathering will be at the 1st Kyle Bay Scout Hall in Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville. Gatherings normally start about 7:30pm, but people are invited to arrive earlier.

The Society's next training and assessment weekend is scheduled for the 11th and 12 of February, at Sutherland. Courses and assessments are run in compliance with current public health restrictions and COVIDsafe guidelines.

Foundation licence courses are held over the whole weekend; with review of the Foundation Licence Manual, practical training, followed by assessment of theory, regulations and practical. Candidates will need to have read and be familiar with, the contents of Foundation Licence Manual prior to attending the weekend course. Standard and Advanced licence assessments are held on Sunday; candidates will need to have undertaken self-study in theory and regulations, prior to attending the assessment session.

Advance booking is necessary to meet the lead times of the government-selected outsourced examination provider, AMC. Bookings are required by COB on Friday the 27th of January. Late bookings cannot be accepted, as examination materials are provided specifically for each candidate.

For further information or bookings, you can contact the education team via email to education@sgars.org.au. Details about all of the Society's activities can be found on the website, www.sgars.org.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The “start the year” is this coming Tuesday the 24th of January, at the Hornsby Manly Target Rifle Club, Rosamond St, Hornsby. Grant VK2ZOO has kindly worked with the club to allow use of the facilities. The BBQ starts at 6pm – come along and join in a great evening of fine sausage dining and radio stories.

Earlier in the month, Rob VK2DIO and Steve VK2AAV replaced the VK2RNS 2-metre repeater with a Tait transceiver. Feedback has been excellent, and we would welcome Amateurs across Sydney trying the repeater to provide us feedback via the HADARC web site. VK2RNS is on 147.25MHz; please let us know signal strengths at your QTH.

Last month, Club President Matthew VK2BAI, was pleased to receive a letter from the NSW Government approving funding for a solar and battery upgrade to the VK2RNS Storey Park repeater site. Rob VK2DIO will lead a team to project manage the upgrade and how to best use the funds for the long-term benefit of all Amateurs.

HADARC looks forward to catching up with Club members and guests on the weekly Club nets; Monday Nights on VK2RNS, Wednesday Nights on 80 metres, and Friday Mornings on 40 metres.

73 and let's keep radio-active,

*Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

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Activities on the air

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.

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

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.

The **CCARC weekly net** from 8pm on VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and EchoLink.

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; and from 6:30pm on DMR or HF. Check website for details.