

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

This Morning at VK2WI Dural, was the first “Members Morning Meetup”, for 2023. We have been undertaking some upgrades in the Centenary Building, which are nearing completion; we will have more details on upcoming activities, in future bulletins.

VK2WI News would like to hear from clubs and groups planning Amateur Radio activities; 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.

In last week’s news, we mentioned frequency changes to VK2WI transmissions that were planned to happen this month. These changes have now been postponed until next month; we will have an update in next week’s bulletin.

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of January.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm Flux	218	209	199	189	180	172	151
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	4	11	7	5	3	5	9
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	10	6	8	4	6	8 estimated
T index	111	125	130	124	143	142	132

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 22nd with two M-class flares; on the 25th with three M-class flares; and on the 26th, with an M2.8 flare at 1306UTC. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels, below the G1 warning threshold. Magnetometer data on the 23rd of January, recorded a weak impulse of 13 nanoTesla, at 0340UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw periods of enhanced conditions; local night frequencies were enhanced 20% from the 20th to the 22nd, 30% on the 23rd; 35% on the 24th; 30% on the 25th and 25% on the 26th. During local daylight hours, frequencies were enhanced 15% on the 21st; 25% on the 24th; 20% on the 25th; and 15% on the 26th.

The forecast, issued on the 27th of January, through until the 2nd of February;

Solar activity is expected to be mostly low, though there is a chance of R1 conditions increasing after the 30th of January, as a previously active sunspot region returns to the solar disk. Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet to unsettled, with a chance of G1 disturbances from the 30th due to high-speed wind stream effects.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region are expected to be near predicted monthly values, up to 15% enhanced. Shortwave fadeouts are possible. Sporadic E is possible during local night, affecting lower 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.

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.

Nearing the end of January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 145, Average of 186 and a Maximum of 234
With peak dates from the 10th to the 24th;

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 140, Average of 185 and a Maximum of 205
With peak dates from the 6th to the 22nd.

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-FOAR047.wav]

Duration: 4m32s

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.

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WICEN News

In March, WICEN will provide communications support for the Memory Walk & Jog event at Penrith, in western Sydney. If you would like to participate, or just find out more, email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

Weekly voice nets are at 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday evening, using FM voice, DMR or HF voice, depending on the week. All WICEN members and other Amateurs are welcome to join in.

Next Sunday;

The 6pm net will be on the Chatswood 2m FM repeater 147.150MHz, with net control VK2WIC; and the 6.30pm net will be on the WICEN VHF DMR repeater network.

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

For more 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 around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au – and click on the map.

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

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

ARRL DX news

BOUVET; A large group of operators will be active as 3Y0J. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

SRI LANKA; Peter DC0KK and Wolfgang DK9DR will be active as 4S7KKG and 4S7DRG, respectively, from the Sri Lanka Broadcast SLBC transmitting site until February 7. Activity will be in their spare time on 80 to 10 metres using mostly SSB with FT8 and FT4.

TIMOR-LESTE; Satoshi, JH2EUV is active as 4W/JH2EUV. Activity of late has been on 17, 15, and 10 metres using FT8.

TOGO; Filippo, IK4ZHH is active as 5V22FF. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW with some SSB.

KENYA; Rick, M0LEP is active as 5Z4/M0LEP from Nairobi until January 30. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

LESOTHO; Yuris, YL2GM is active as 7P8WW until February 4. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

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

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.

JERSEY; Bob, GU4YOX will be active as MJ5E in this weekend's CQ World-Wide 160-Metre CW contest.

FRENCH GUIANA; Contest station FY5KE will be active as TO1A in the CQ World-Wide 160-Metre CW and French CW contests.

LIECHTENSTEIN; Operators DL1MGB, DL2JRM, DL3DXX and DL7CX plan to be active as HB0DX in the CQ World-Wide 160-Metre CW contest; Outside the contest they are active as HB0/home calls.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA; Alberto, P29LL has been active on 20 metres using CW around 0800UTC and 1400UTC.

PANAMA; Members of the Panama Canal Amateur Radio Association will be active as 3E30PCARA from February 1 to 28 to celebrate the club's 30th anniversary.

ALASKA; Brandon, KL7BSC will be active from Denali State Park, POTA K-1641, during Winter Field Day.

ANTARCTICA; Juan, LU8DBS is active as LU1ZV until February from the Argentine Esperanza Antarctica Base located at Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 20, and 10 metres using SSB, and soon with CW and FT8.

SEYCHELLES; Kazik, DL2SBY is active as S79/DL2SBY until February 4. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using some CW, FT8, and possibly SSB. In addition, Peter, G4HSO will be active as S79/G4HSO from February 1 to 21 as a holiday operation from three different locations.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; John, W5JON will be active as V47JA from St, Kitts, Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, from January 31 to February 15. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

CANADA; Special event station VB3CAM50 will be active from February 1 to 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Cambridge in Ontario.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ World Wide 160-Metre CW Contest, Winter Field Day, BARTG RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, REF CW Contest and the UBA DX SSB Contest will certainly keep contesters this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops CW Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are on from January 30 to February 1.

Club News

...which we start this week from the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, with the sad news of a Silent Key.

Long-time member of the Society, Vaughan Williamson VK2KBI, passed away unexpectedly on the 28th of December, at just 62 years young. The Society would like to pay tribute to Vaughan as someone who was a friend to all and an excellent mentor; he always had a smile on his face and regularly had an interesting technical theory that he would bring along to meetings to share.

Vaughan loved giving technical presentations; if sometimes, the material was above most of the attendees' knowledge level, he would then go the extra metre to explain further - until he got the nods of understanding when the light bulbs lit up!

Apart from attending meetings, he would always involve himself in Society activities, in particular, spending the weekend with other members on the John Moyle Field Day.

At his funeral service, his daughter acknowledged his love for amateur radio by finishing her eulogy with "This is VK2KBI, signing off".

A dear friend & true gentleman – Vale Vaughan VK2KBI.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

On behalf of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

In other news from the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society,

The next meeting of the Society is coming up on Tuesday the 14th of February; yes, we know that's Valentine's Day; but, the Society is hoping that the members will all get a "hall pass" to attend!

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.

This coming meeting is the first for the year, and will include a presentation on the development, construction, and planned installation of a new repeater Control Board. Keith VK2KQB has spent considerable time working through the many requirements of a controller. It has multiple features like full remote control, isolated audio inputs and outputs, low and high mute and push-to-talk signalling and many on-board audio message capabilities. It will be most interesting to see the culmination of many months work.

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 next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Valentine's Day, Tuesday the 14th of February, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

Advised by Rob VK2MT

President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

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Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

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 back on-air temporarily, and the 70cm FM voice repeater, temporarily on 438.425MHz, is about to be replaced by the RadNet DMR repeater. The site will be formally once all repeaters have been installed and tested, which is planned for early next 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 newly published January 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, with past issues on the website as well. The January 2023 issue contains a progress report on the new VK2RCN Telegraph Point site, although a great deal of additional work has been completed since the report was written. 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

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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club would like to wish all listeners, the best for this new year. Their first meeting for 2023 will be at 7:30pm on Friday the 3rd of February, at the Club Rooms; 4 Moore Street GLENBROOK, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm.

Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome.

On the night, our speaker will be Club Historian, Daniel VK2DC. Daniel will continue his talk on the history of the club, with many interesting stories to boot.

We would like to thank the 17 members that attended the working bee on the 21st of January; they completed a number of maintenance activities at the site including painting. The group did a fantastic job, also partaking in an old-fashioned sausage sizzle, complete with Damper and Golden Syrup.

The Club will continue to offer both Foundation and Upgrade courses this year, with the first of our Bi-Monthly Foundation classes, being held on the weekend of the 11th and 12th of February. Exams for other licence grades will also be available on the 12th. Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact secretary@bmarc.org to register, or for more information.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*Advised by Steven VK2TSG
President, Blue Mountains 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, for “Portable by the Bay”.

Details about the Society’s activities can be found on the website, www.sgars.org.

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

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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.