

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

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 that the planned frequency changes to VK2WI transmissions, have been postponed. We will let you know about the new date, in a future news 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.

ARNSW Elections

As previously announced, the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 22nd of April 2023.

At the AGM, five of the nine directors will be retiring. Nominations will soon be open for eligible members who wish to be a director for the years 2023 and 2024. The term of a director elected in 2023 is two years – until the AGM in 2025.

Nomination forms will be available for download from the website, arnsw.org.au, or from the office.
Nominations close at 11am on Saturday the 11th of March 2023.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 3rd to the 9th of February.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
10cm Flux	135	139	144	158	185	192	215
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	6	5	3	13	12	12	16
Australian Index (Aaus)	9	3	3	13	15	13	9 estimated
T index	127	132	120	118	85	91	76

Solar activity remained at R0 from the 3rd to the 6th. Activity reached R2 level on the 7th, with 4 M-class flares; the strongest, M6.4 at 2307UTC. R1 activity was observed on the 8th, with 5 M-class flares; also on the 9th, with six M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly at quiet levels, below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were enhanced 20% on the 3rd, 15% during day and 25% at night on the 4th. The 7th saw depression of 20% during local day; the 8th was enhanced 15% during local night; and the 9th was again depressed, 15% during local daylight hours.

The forecast, issued on the 10th February, through until the 16th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 levels. Two active solar regions with a history of M-class flares, continue to be active until the 13th and 17th.

Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet, with a chance of G1 due to some high-speed wind stream effects. G1 conditions are also possible if the current active regions produce earth-directed CMEs.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region are expected to be near predicted monthly values, up to 15% enhanced. Depressions are possible if CME-induced geomagnetic activity occurs.

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 January, we had a;

Minimum of 136, Average of 185 and a Maximum of 234
With peak dates from the 12th to the 20th, and the 27th to the 31st.

So far for February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 156 and a Maximum of 195
With peak dates from the 7th to the 17th;

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 143 and a Maximum of 160
With peak dates from the 6th to the 19th.

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-FOAR009.wav]

Duration: 2m20s

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.

WICEN News

March is shaping up to be a busy month; WICEN will be providing comms support for True Grit at Lower Portland on the 4th and 5th. Then there are five Memory Walk events: Western Sydney on the 5th, Illawarra on the 12th, Canberra on the 19th, and events in Cronulla and the Hunter on the 26th. WICEN is seeking operators for all these events.

The Memory Walks last just a few hours, so they are good “starter events” for newer WICEN members to get some experience. 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 Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz with a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and the 6.30pm net will be on HF, on or near 7110kHz LSB. Net controller VK2WIZ will announce the call-in sequence and other information.

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>]

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ARRL DX news

BOUVET; A large group of operators are active as 3Y0J. Activity is on 30 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8 in F/H mode.

TIMOR-LESTE; Satoshi, JH2EUV is active as 4W/JH2EUV until March 3. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using FT8. QSL to home call.

BURUNDI; Elvira, IV3FSG and Vladimir, OK2WX are active as 9U5R and 9U4WX, respectively, until February 27. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

THE GAMBIA; Gerard, F5NVF and Luc, F5RAV will both be active as C5C from February 14 to March 14. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

FRANCE; Francois, F8DVD is active as TM20AAW from Macon until February 24 in celebration of the 20th Antarctic Week. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MS from Honiara, IOTA OC-047, until May 8. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and some FT8.

HONDURAS; Alex, K6VHF is active as K6VHF/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until February 15. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, including entry in the CQ Worldwide WPX RTTY contest.

DENMARK; Special event station OZ625E will be active from February 14 to 28 to commemorate the opening of the new Enigma Museum of Communications in Copenhagen. Look for other OZ625E/xx stations to be active as well.

BONAIRE; Scott, NE9U will be active as PJ4/NE9U until February 26.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; Greg, N9GB is active as V26DX from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, until February 16. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and possibly FT8.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Bill, AC0W and Pat, K0PC will be active on HF bands as VP5/AC0W and VP5/K0PC, respectively, from February 14 to 20. They will be active as VP5K in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

NEW HEBRIDES; Bob, W7YAQ and Al, K7AR are active as YJ0A from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until February 23. This includes entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contests.

ST. HELENA; Andy, DK7MG is active as ZD7MG until February 25. Activity will be holiday style on 17 and 15 metres using CW. This includes activating SOTA references Diana's Peak, SOTA ZD/SH-001, White Point, SOTA ZD/SH-002, Flagstaff Hill, SOTA ZD/SH-003, and The Haystack, SOTA ZD/SH-004. He may be accompanied by Derek, ZD7CTO.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, OMISS QSO Party, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest, Balkan HF Contest and the CQC Winter CW QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, QRP 40 Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, AGCW Semi-Automatic Key 80-Metre Evening and the RSGB 80 Metre Club Data Championship are on from February 13 to 15.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 13 to 17.

Club News

We start this week from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; Last Thursday was the club's February coffee morning, with over a dozen members enjoyed the morning at Thrumster. Coming up this Friday night the 17th of February is the Club's Friday Night Get-together, from 7pm at the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Following recent changes on the VKDMR network, Paul VK2ICQ will run a clinic to update the code plugs for most of the common DMR radios. This will be a very popular evening.

At the Club's VK2RCN site, working bees continue. The 2 Metre voice repeater on 147.0MHz, and the 70cm RadNet DMR repeater are both working well. The APRS digipeater is set to be installed in the coming week, with the 6 metre repeater on 53.8MHz for the following week.

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 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this Tuesday the 14th of February; yes, we know its 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 will be first meeting 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, this 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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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

As previously mentioned, 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 is on in March, from the 1st to the 24th. If you think you might be interested in either a Rigexpert AA-1500 Antenna Analyser, or a DX Commander Classic 80-10m Vertical Antenna kit; check the club's website and social media for more details.

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 Net 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

If you are interested in finding out more about ATV, Group member Gary VK2CRJ, assisted by John VK2ATU, will be guest presenters at the March meeting of the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Gary will be talking about amateur TV from his early days in the UK being involved in setting up ATV repeaters and working DX to Europe.

Being professionally trained in electronic engineering, Gary will be taking you through the early analog days, the transition to digital then to full HD digital, the latest trends in ATV and narrow band digital transatlantic transmissions and much more.

The talk will be backed up with informative slides and ATV hardware on display.

Be sure not to miss this most interesting talk on Wednesday the 1st of March, starting at 7:15pm at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point. The talk will also be video recorded.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday is lecture night at the Society. Former club president and author, Rod VK2ZZM, will talk about his book, "The Lost Women of Rabaul", the true story of a group of Australian nurses who were captured by Japanese forces during the Second World War.

An early draft of Rod's book became the basis for the award-winning ABC TV production, "Sisters of War", which can be seen on ABC iView.

[<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/sisters-of-war>].

Two weeks from today, the 26th of February, marks 100 years since the establishment of the original Manly and District Radio Club, on Sydney's Northern Beaches. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Society will be activating the Special Event Callsign, VI100MB, starting on the anniversary and continuing throughout 2023. More details will follow in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, you can check out VI100MB on QRZ dot com, and see the club web site for updates.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the society's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details; the address is mwrs.org.au – that's M.W.R.S. dot ORG dot AU.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest returns in May 2023. This contest commemorates Don VK2NV, who became a silent key in early 2021. Don's operating was almost exclusively on CW, and he often encouraged club members to either learn Morse or increase their speed.

The contest is on the third weekend of May, and aims to encourage all amateurs to give Morse a go. Contest rules are that contacts should be no more than 10 words per minute, and many of the contacts in last year's contest were 5 words per minute or less. If you learnt Morse code years ago to get you HF licences and then hid your Morse key at the back of the cupboard, this contest is a good opportunity to dig it out again and have a go.

If you have never learnt Morse code, there are many online training websites. For those who need a refresher, there is the ARNSW's Morse practice beacon on 3699kHz, which is on air 24 hours a day except during VK2WI News bulletins. Also, the American Radio Relay League produce Morse practice MP3 files which can be downloaded from www.arrl.org.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest will be held in two parts. Saturday 20th May 6pm to 9pm on 80 metres, then Sunday 21st 1pm to 4pm on 40 metres. The Society looks forward to working you on air.

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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting is at 7:30pm this Wednesday the 15th of February, in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

At the meeting, John VK2LWB will present "VOIP for Dummies - , a primer in voice over IP for hams" including such things as Hamshack Hotline.

Many members partake of dinner in the club's bistro prior to the meeting from about 6 pm and all are welcome; especially any visitors from other clubs or out of town.

Regular Monday evening nets are at 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125 MHz with a -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, are back on in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC for some practical activities.

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one, on March 4th, will be the second of the clubs themed project days – with Sam VK2HAU presenting an introduction to computer aided PCB design using programs such as Eagle and Kicad.

Other activities are continuing either in person and on Zoom. See the society's website for details.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at vk2bv.org. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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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 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.

Hunter Radio Group net 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.

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.