

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 9444 0123.

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.

A reminder that next Sunday sees the end of Daylight-Saving Time. Since VK2WI News maintains the same local times of 10am and 7:30pm, HF propagation conditions may differ. If you have reception difficulties on radio, you can also listen to the bulletins streamed live from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio.

A note from our News Editor.

VK2WI News reports on a wide variety of activities relating to Amateur Radio.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest, for a contributor to provide a regular feature report on contesting activity, with particular focus on activities in the Australian and Pacific region.

The report could be weekly, fortnightly, or monthly; ideally as an audio contribution, alternatively, as a script suitable for a live read.

For more information or any enquiries, contact the VK2WI News team via email, news@arnsw.org.au.

*Mathew VK2YAP
News Editor, VK2WI News.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of March.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm Flux	134	140	143	156	152	159	151
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	7	6	8	10	8	14	28
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	7	6	9	4	10	30 estimated
T index	137	133	146	144	136	143	141

Solar activity reached R1 warning levels, on the 17th with a single M1.0 flare, and on the 20th, with an M1.2. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels until the 22nd; however, the 23rd saw unexpected activity reaching G2 warning levels. This was possibly due to a glancing blow from a recent filament eruption and possible coronal hole wind stream entry effects.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia showed periods of enhancement; up to 35% on the 17th, 30% on the 18th; 40% on the 19th; 35% on the 20th and 21st, and 30% on the 22nd. The sudden geomagnetic disturbance on the 23rd resulted depressions at local dawn, of around 15%. Ionospheric conditions recovered throughout the day, and frequencies were again enhanced by up to 45% during local night.

The forecast, issued on the 24th of March, through until the 30th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 level.

Geomagnetic conditions are likely to reach G2 levels on the 24th, with a chance of G1 from the 25th to the 27th, and quiet conditions afterwards.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Southern Australian region are expected to be depressed on the 24th, and recovering throughout the 25th. Frequencies are then expected to be near predicted monthly values.

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 February, we had a;

Minimum of 134, Average of 173, and a Maximum of 343
With peak dates from the 8th to the 18th.

So far for March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 134, Average of 158, and a Maximum of 188
With peak dates from the 1st to the 11th

And looking ahead to April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 138, and a Maximum of 146
With peak dates from the 14th to the 27th.

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-FOAR039.wav]

Duration: 3m07s

In: "Today I'm going to talk..."

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

WICEN was providing communications earlier today, for two "Memory Walk and Jog" events, in Cronulla and the Hunter Valley. Memory Walks last just a few hours, so they are ideal "starter events" for new WICEN members.

In April, WICEN will provide communications for the NSW Pickleball Open in Wahroonga, northern Sydney.

If you would like to participate in any WICEN event, or to find out more, email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN's Weekly voice nets are at 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday, 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 controller VK2WIC; 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 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 activations. For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au – and click on the map.

[Memory Walks: <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/find-an-event>]

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

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

Club News

We start this week from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their Monthly General meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of April, at the SES building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. At the meeting, David VK2AYD will present part 2 of the Bletchley Park story.

The Club's new VK2RCN repeater Telegraph Point site is nearly complete. The 2m and 70cm repeaters are now on air, and the APRS digipeater, and the 6-metre repeater will be installed once some technical issues with the equipment, are rectified.

The Club's annual Field Day is coming up on Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of June 2023; during the Kings Birthday long weekend. The field day is at Wauchope Showground Hall, with Field Day dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. The Field Day will have all the usual activities including fox hunts, trade displays on both days, trash and treasure, and home brew display. Be sure to book accommodation, well ahead.

The next Foundation training and assessment weekend is on next weekend. Courses are run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest; so, 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 March 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is in preparation, and past issues are on the website as well.

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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

A reminder that the Club's April meeting has been brought forward to avoid clashing with the Good Friday public holiday. The meeting is on this coming Friday the 31st of March, at 7:30pm. Its at the usual venue of the Club Rooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

The Club has several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin. There is also a DMR Net on Monday nights – see the Club website for details.

Foundation licence and Upgrade courses continue at the Club; the next course is scheduled for the weekend of the 15th and 16th of April. Exams for other licence grades will also be available on the 16th. Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN, by email to; 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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 29th of March, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club's repeater, VK2RFG, on 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access - its also available via EchoLink.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au; and the Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Kariong Clubrooms are open every Saturday from 10am. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

The club sends their best wishes for a speedy recovery to our repeater coordinator, Don VK2ZCZ.

Don't be an April Fool! The next monthly business meeting will be at 1pm on Saturday April 1.

Congratulations to the winner of a "Christmas Ham"... that is, a Rigexpert AA-1500 Antenna Analyser, and a DX Commander Classic 80-10m Vertical Antenna kit. The winner was very surprised and over the moon! The club thanks all those who took part in this event.

At VK2RAG Somersby, D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. 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.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday, the 29th of March, is the Fifth Wednesday of the month.

So what, you ask?

Well at Manly-Warringah, the 5th Wednesday of the month is Theme Night! This time the theme is Old Kits and Gear. Unearth your ancient purchase from Dick Smith, Tandy, Heathkit, hamfests etc., and show them off to win a prize for Best Gear, or Best Story *about* your gear! Dick VK2DIK and Dave Jones from EEV Blog will be the guest judges on the night!

Special Event Station VI 100 MB was portable near Nowra last weekend in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day contest, The team, Dom VK2JNA, Leo VK2LEO, and Nick VK2FS, clocked up a total of 171 contacts and 342 points. Thanks to everyone who gave the club's centenary Special Event Station its first major outing of the year. The station will continue to be active throughout 2023.

You can find the Society on your favourite social media channel: just go to the club web site and click on the Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube icons in the page header. Follow, like, subscribe, or whatever, to keep up with the latest happenings at the club!

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, 7 Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the club web site for details.

The web site address is mwrs.org.au, that's M-W-R-S dot O-R-G dot A-U.

73 Richard VK2SKY

Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse Contest is on again this year, over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of May.

To help with preparation for the contest; at the society's next gathering on Wednesday 5th April, Col VK2BCC will be giving a presentation on Morse Code.

This presentation includes the history of Samuel Morse's original code of the 1830's;

the world-wide pre-telephone telegraph network, with a focus on Australia's Overland Telegraph Line and the East West line across the Nullabor;

Marine Radio, from before the Titanic until it's closure in 1999;

Morse in wartime, and in many other services, including of course Amateur Radio;

And finally, the learning process based on the original manual of the Marconi School of Wireless here in Sydney.

After Col's presentation, there will be an opportunity for those attending to peruse the disposals tables for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while catching up with friends.

The gathering will be at the Society's meeting rooms; Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point - near South Hurstville. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Details about all the Society's activities are available on the website, www.sgars.org.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The last mid-monthly experimenter's meeting was packed out, with a larger than usual membership turnout plus three visitors. The main topic of discussion was helpful apps shared by attendees at the meeting; you can find a detailed list on the Club's website.

Club members took part in last weekend's John Moyle contest. Band conditions were excellent; activity on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters were truly the best seen for quite some time. It's also been a long time since 10 meters was so active, so we hope many clubs enjoyed contest and contacts on the radio.

Did you know that Commercial RTTY systems were in service between San Francisco and Honolulu as early as April 1932, and between San Francisco and New York City by 1934?

Well, digital radio has come a long way since then, and the HADARC Monthly meeting coming up this Tuesday March 28th, Rob VK2DIO will discuss some more recent developments. Also, Tony VK2BTL will focus on the practicalities of DMR, including the good, the bad, and the ugly of getting setup.

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.

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

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net; 1pm on VK2RCW.

Mondays;

Westlakes ARC net 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.

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. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.

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

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;

Westlakes Stone the Crows net; 6am on 3588kHz.

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.

Sundays;

Westlakes DMR Net from 8:30am, usually on Talkgroup 3802; listen to Talkgroup 505 at 8:28am.

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

WICEN NSW nets from 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater; and from 6:30pm on DMR or HF. Check website for details.