

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.

The baluns are back

After a long absence, the buildathon is back; Here at VK2WI Dural, on Sunday the 11th of June.

From 10am, it's a day for members to build baluns and dipoles.

You'll have your choice of constructing a 1:1 or a 4:1 balun from a kit, and you can also order high quality Kevlar antenna wire at a discount price. All items must be pre-ordered and paid for on the day.

It's recommended that members bring their own tools and soldering stations, but if you don't have all the tools you need, we have a small number to use on the day.

The event will be catered, and there will be a raffle as well.

For enquiries or bookings, you can email balun@arnsw.org.au or leave a phone message with the office, on 02 9444 0123.

We will have more details in a future VK2WI News bulletin.

73 AI VK2OK

Function and Events Co-ordinator for AR New South Wales.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28th of April to the 4th of May;
First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm Flux	150	156	154	148	157	156	162
Fredericksburg A-Index	16	18	8	8	9	4	7
Australian A-Index	16	13	5	5	6	1	2 estimated
T index	107	100	100	91	97	96	98

Solar activity reached R1 level on the 30th was at R1 with an M2.4 flare; R2 on the 1st of May with two M-class flares; R2 again on the 3rd, with five M-class flares, the largest M7.2 at 1045UTC; and R1 on the 4th, with an M3.9 flare. Geomagnetic activity remained at low to moderate levels, below the warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted, with enhancement of 15% during the day on the 28th; depression of 15% during local night on the 30th; and enhancement of 15% during local day on the 4th of May.

The forecast, issued on the 5th of May, through until the 11th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 levels from the 5th to the 8th, and R1 with a chance of R2 flaring through until the 11th.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be G0 to G1, with a change of G2 from the 6th due to the anticipated arrival of wind streams from coronal holes combined with possible CME impacts. G0 conditions with a chance of G1 are forecast from the 9th to the 11th.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Southern Australian are expected to be near predicted monthly values to 15% enhanced. Mild depressions are possible on the 7th, due to elevated geomagnetic activity.

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 April, we had a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 145, and a Maximum of 178
With peak dates from the 12th to the 22nd, and the 29th to the 30th.

As we start May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 150, and a Maximum of 170
With peak dates from the 1st to the 17th.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 150, and a Maximum of 170
With peak dates from the 5th to the 15th.

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-FOAR088.wav]

Duration: 5m21s

In: "Amateur Radio as ..."

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]

And now with this week's WICEN News, here's Richard VK2SKY;

[Play File: 17-E-WNS0507.wav]

Duration: 2m16s

In: The next WICEN event...

Out:....click on the map.

[Transcript]

The next WICEN event will be Dementia Australia's Memory Walk at Leichhardt Oval, in Sydney, on the 21 May. The Memory Walks last just a few hours, so they are ideal "starter events" for new (or rusty) WICEN members to get some field experience. Why not give it a go?

Then, on 16-18 June, WICEN will provide safety comms support for the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon in the Blue Mountains.

Finally, NSW State Emergency Services have their Bush Search and Rescue "NavShield" event on the weekend of 15-16 July, with setup on the Friday afternoon. Five WICEN operators are needed for this event: two at Base, and one at each of three course checkpoints.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about WICEN, you can email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN has meetups here at Dural on the first Sunday of every month; the next one will be on 4 June.

WICEN nets take place every Sunday evening at 6pm and 6.30pm, 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 and a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and the 6.30pm net will be on DMR Talk Group 3810, with net controller VK2WID.

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

To find out more, 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 recent and upcoming WICEN activities.

For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au – and click on the map.

[WICEN NSW web site: <https://nsw.wicen.org.au/>]

[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; at their monthly general meeting in Port Macquarie yesterday, Paul VK2ICQ spoke on the application of technology to Amateur Radio.

Next on the club calendar is the May Coffee Morning, 10am on Thursday the 11th, at Brooklyn's Burger, Thrumster.

The Club's annual Antenna Shootout is at 10am next Sunday the 14th of May at Huntingdon, near Wauchope. Look for the ORARC sign at the entrance to the property on Huntingdon Road. As well as testing antennas on 6m, 2m and 70cm, there will be a sausage sizzle lunch.

The VK2RCN-5 APRS digipeater was installed last week at Telegraph Point; All repeaters are working well.

Its now only five weeks until the Club's annual Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of June 2023; during the Kings Birthday long weekend. The field day is at the spacious 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 competition and display. Breakfast and lunch from the barbeque will be available on both days. Camp sites at the showground or accommodation should be booked soon, as the area is a popular tourist destination for the June long weekend.

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 March 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this coming Tuesday the 9th of May. 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.

At Tuesday's meeting, Mal VK2DXM will share his journey through the world of Software Defined Radio, or SDR. Mal has been using SDR equipment for many years now, with many ups and downs, but he now wouldn't use anything else. He will be setting-up equipment to prove his point and for all to see and use. Even if SDR isn't your "cup of tea", come along to the meeting anyway because there is always the fantastic supper at the end of the night, plus there's the opportunity to have a great chin wag with your old and new mates. And not forgetting the disposals table where an excellent bargain can be had for that item you didn't know you even needed.

The Society now has three weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. This Net often has check-ins from all over Australia and the world and is usually an open topic forum. You can join via the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or from out of town via EchoLink, VK2BGL-R.

The Thursday afternoon net starts at noon, run by Chris VK2CY. This Net is made up of many retired Marine Radio Operators and Radio Inspectors, but everyone is welcome. As you can imagine their topics of discussion can be far reaching, informative and enlightening. The Net is also the Society's 2 metre repeaters 6850 and 6675, while out-of-towners can check-in on Echolink via VK2MT-R.

The third weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights, at 8:30pm; this Net is a get together of Society members having a casual chin-wag. 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 this Tuesday the 9th of April, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre, just south of Wollongong city.

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 every Saturday from 10am; and, as always, members and visitors are most welcome.

Last week was the Club's bi-monthly Show & Tell, with objects on display ranging from insulation and earth quality testing, through to 60-year-old slides of Asia, vintage cameras and lenses, bonsai and vintage radio equipment. More details and photos are on the club's web page; thanks to all who participated.

At yesterday's general meeting, along with the usual business, the Club welcomed two new members; Welcome to Luke and Michael.

Next Saturday we will be doing further work on the tri-band beam to get it finally tweaked just right, and open up the possibility of mid-week HF operating nights for members.

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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

Coming up later this month, is the Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse Contest.

On the weekend of the 20th and 21st, 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.

No matter what speed, this contest is an opportunity to give Morse a go. Contest rules are that contacts should be no more than 10 words per minute; many contacts in last year's contest were 5 words per minute or less. If you learnt Morse code years ago to get you HF licence, and then hid your Morse key at the back of the cupboard - it's 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 a quick refresher, the ARNSW's Morse practice beacon operates on 3699kHz, 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 their website, www.arrl.org.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest will be held in two parts. Saturday the 20th of May from 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 the contest, along with the Society's other activities, are on the website, www.sgars.org.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

At last week's monthly meeting, Bob VK2BMU outlined the merits of antenna plots, directionality, and the trade-offs between size, gain and bandwidth. It's not possible to optimise all three; you need to choose two to get best antenna results.

So, this week, mark your calendar for the HADARC mid-monthly meeting, this coming Tuesday the 9th. It's at the Hornsby Rifle Club in Rosamond St. There is ample parking, and the topic for the meeting is handheld radios. There's a catch though; you need to bring the oldest handheld you have, as well as the newest handheld you have. We will test access to repeaters and demo any special features from old to new.

So, join us at HADARC on the 9th May.

Finally, did you know that Litz wire is a particular type of multistrand wire used in electronics to carry alternating current at radio frequencies? The wire is designed to reduce the skin effect losses in conductors used at frequencies up to about 1 MHz.

73 for now and let's keep radio-active,

*Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

[Play ID File: 19-E-ID4.wav]

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** *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

Waverley ARS net 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz with 91.5Hz tone.
Activities online and on air; see website.

Tuesdays;

National VKDMR Net: from 7:30pm on Talkgroup 505.

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm, 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, 123Hz tone.

Amateur Radio Central West Group from 8pm on 3653kHz.

Thursdays;

Illawarra ARS net 12pm; VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

St George ARS 8pm, VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

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

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm, VK2RCW.

Saturdays;

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

Illawarra ARS net 9:30am on VK2RMP and VK2RUW.

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.

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