

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.

Six Metre News

Our communications Regulator, the ACMA has announced that, from the 13th of July, the “Radiocommunications Licence Conditions amateur licence omnibus amendment instrument 2023” came into effect.

It sounds like the usual bit of Government work - But there are some important changes, both negative and positive, for Australian Radio Amateurs.

You may have already heard of the change to the 9 centimetre, with the loss of the 3.4 to 3.6 gigahertz frequency range. The segment from 3.3 to 3.4 gigahertz is still available... for now.

But in the same announcement there was also more exciting, positive news. Standard Stations now have access to the full 6 metre band of 50 to 54 Megahertz, operating in all modes with a bandwidth no greater than 100kHz.

It's a very warm welcome to Standard licencees now being able to access the full SSB and CW band segments. So, Lets do our very best to welcome them to the band over the next few months as the weather starts to warm up.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of 21st to the 27th of July.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
10cm Flux	173	174	173	165	169	167	165
Fredericksburg A-Index	11	9	5	8	12	23	10*
Australian A-Index	6	4	4	3	7	12	5 estimated
T index	116	124	114	115	108	126	111

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 22nd of July with one M-class flare; on the 25th with two M-class flares; on the 26th with three M-class flares, the largest M4.6 at 1037UTC; and on the 27th with two M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate all week, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with periods of enhancement; 20% during local day and 25% during the night on the 21st; 15% at day and 20% at night on the 22nd; 20% during local night on the 23rd; 15% at day and 20% at night on the 24th; 20% at day and 40% at night on the 26th; and 15% enhancement during local day on the 27th.

The forecast, issued on the 28th of July, through until the 3rd of August;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 levels.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be below warning levels.

Maximum usable frequencies should be mostly near predicted monthly values, up to 15% enhanced.

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 June, we had a;

Minimum of 144, Average of 162, and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 10th, and the 19th to the 24th.

Near the end of July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 154, Average of 177, and a Maximum of 219
With peak dates from the 10th to the 21st

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 155, Average of 168, and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 6th to the 20th.

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-FOAR086.wav]

Duration: 5m05s

In: "If you have a..."

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-WNS0730.wav]

Duration: 1m42s

In: "All is quiet ..."

Out: "... at wicen.org.au."

[Transcript]

All is quiet on the activities front, so time to rest up and make sure you're ready for the next activation.

The WICEN AGM is on this Saturday. Members should have received an email with the details by now.

Next Sunday, the WICEN monthly meetup here at Dural will be a working bee. The previously advertised communications exercise has been deferred.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about how to use your Amateur Radio skills in times of need, you can email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN nets take place every 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 controller VK2WIC; and the 6.30pm net will be on the WICEN VHF DMR network.

WICEN NSW is a support squad of VRA Rescue NSW, specialising in tactical radio communications. In between activations, WICEN supports local community events: these provide practical training for members, and help raise the public profile of Amateur Radio.

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.

[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; and a reminder that the Club's Annual General Meeting is at 2pm this coming Saturday the 5th of August 2023, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. A short August Monthly General Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the AGM.

Members are reminded that membership subscriptions became due on the 1st of July 2023. Thank you to the members who have already renewed, and Prompt payment of outstanding renewals will be greatly appreciated.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother has been delayed, but has now been rescheduled for early August.

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.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The newly published July 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. This features a detailed report on the Annual Field Day. You can also find the club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*From Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 8th of July. 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.

July's meeting is also the Society's Annual General Meeting, with all Executive and Committee positions vacated and then put the floor for election. Many on the current Board are willing to stand for re-election, but "new blood" is both welcomed and needed. All Members of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society are able to nominate for any positions.

Following the AGM, there will be the opportunity for a chinwag with fellow attendees. As an added bonus, Supper will be homemade plum pudding and custard for a belated Christmas in July Celebration held in August. This rather unusual idea was an off-the-cuff suggestion made many months ago, that then grew into an eagerly supported proposal with the Society's Treasurer John VK2EJL offering to be the cook.

Recently, the Society celebrated their 75th Anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, it was decided to hold a Field Day weekend at the Society's site near Bundanoon on the Southern Highlands. To make it more radio fun, it was held over the weekend of the Trans-Tasman Contest, with the club callsign of VK2AMW being used with a points tally of almost 4,000 being achieved.

On Saturday the 16th of September, both the Mid-South Coast ARC and the IARS are having a picnic day at Fitzroy Falls. These days always prove to be very popular. All listeners are most welcome to come along. Further details next month.

The Society 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 on the 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, 7.30pm on Tuesday the 8th of August, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre, just south of Wollongong city.

Rob VK2MT
President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

[Play File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club rooms at Kariong are open on Saturdays from 10:30am; and, as always, members and visitors are most welcome. At yesterday's open day, Graham VK2GRA presented a practical workshop introducing the Arduino microcontroller, which was well presented and received.

Congratulations to all those who passed exams at the recent education weekend.

Notifications have been emailed out for the club's Annual General Meeting, which will be at the clubrooms at 1pm, Saturday the 5th of August. Members are reminded to submit nominations, and that only current financial members are eligible to vote and be nominated. Membership renewals are now also due, unfinancial members will be removed from contact lists after today.

There are rumours of something brewing in the Central Coast area. It's not clear exactly what, but it might be a good idea to write down Sunday the 5th of May, 2024 in your diary... and keep an ear out for updates.

The Club's repeater committee are considering linking the 23cm and 6m repeaters together with a 70cm frequency, and welcome any input or comments via email to; ccarc@ccarc.org.au. 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

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 2nd of August, at the usual venue of the First Kyle Bay Scout Hall. At the gathering, Wal VK2AC will continue with part three of his lecture series, on the Evolution of Telecommunications.

The communications revolution began with the invention of the Morse Telegraph, closely followed by Bell's Telephone. Part 3 of the series begins with the invention of the Triode vacuum tube, ushering in the electronic age. Amplifiers, mixers and oscillators soon followed, allowing great advances to be made in communications.

Come with us as Wal VK2ACE tours the technology timeline from then to now, stopping along the way to examine the major milestones.

The gathering is at the first Kyle Bay Scout Hall at Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point, near South Hurstville. Doors open about 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. After Wal's presentation, members and visitors can have a chat and partake in the Tea, Coffee, biscuits, and cake.

For those who wish to come by public transport, take the 953 bus from Hurstville station.

Details about all of the Society's repeaters, 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.*

[Play 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, now from 8:00am, usually on Talkgroup 3802.

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.