

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.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

Special Report

Last weekend was the Japanese Amateur Radio League's Ham Fair 2023, at Tokyo Big Sight Convention Centre.

Peter VK2KFP Visited the Fair – and he sent us, this report;

[Play File: 15-B-2KRP-1.wav]

Duration: 2m39s

In: This is Peter ...

Out:saying sayonara.

[Transcript]

This is Peter VK2 kilo Fox Papa, calling in from the Japan Amateur Radio League, ham Fest, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. This event is huge, and the queue to get in is even longer. It's about 500 people at least. So let me get inside and I'll tell you what I see...

Okay. I'm inside now. Uh, first thing I notice is the, uh, national body, the Japan amateur radio league have got a giant stand set up, their publications and all the things that they do with posters up on the wall... And, uh, they're looking to sign up new members.

Further one over to the right, there's a bunch of stands set up by, there's probably six or 10 local ham clubs are all set up here looking to sign up new members and further on from them. There's probably 20 or 30 special interest groups that are digital modes, there's a 10 meter FM repeater group, ham sat group, a few teams with a story all around microwaves.

Three DxExpedition groups looking to, uh, sign up new members to go off to far and wonderful places. And right down the end there's actually a six meter AM network group.

I can see the usual disposal stands, there's probably 20 or 30 there with everything from, simple components through to some rather exotic 10 gigahertz gear. There's even a guy selling magnetic loop antennas for \$1,500. Yeah, that's, that's Aussie dollars. Um, good luck to him. They must be special.

On stage at the moment, we've got about six kids, aged 10 to 15 being interviewed about some achievement they've done. There's about 200 people sitting around, all listening intently. Uh, the session's all in Japanese....

The usual suspects are here. Icom, they're off flogging their latest 24 gigahertz gear. And, uh, Yaesu looked like they've emptied out the warehouse... they've got 50 or 60 radios powered up on long benches and, uh, everything from Handy talkies through to boat anchors.

Finally, the visitors. There's definitely no shortage of male baby boomers; But there's also a lot of people in their thirties and forties, mostly men, but also a fair sprinkling of women and quite a few kids of school age and teenagers.

For me, the real takeaway about this event is it's more than just a local club that's organized a car boot sale. There's actually this event's led by the national body. It's supported by all the clubs in Tokyo and special interest groups, and the big vendors are here, but they're not where the action is. There's not a lot of people squirreling around the big vendors. Most of the action is people networking and talking to acquaintances and seeing what other clubs and special interest groups are doing.

It's been a big event. They're on track for 30,000 visitors, which puts it right up there on a par, maybe even bigger than, uh, Dayton Hamvention.

That's all from me. So this is Peter VK2 kilo Fox Papa, saying sayonara.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 18th to the 24th of August.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
10cm Flux	150	151	146	149	151	147	144
Fredericksburg A-Index	14	8	12	10	12	5	9
Australian A-Index	8	5	4	7	4	1	5 estimated
T index	128	112	120	118	122	115	110

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 22nd, with an M1.1 flare at 2304UTC. Activity remained below warning threshold on other days.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 15% to 20% on the 18th; 15% during local daylight hours on the 19th; 15% to 30% on the 20th; 15% during local night on the 21st; 15% on the 22nd; 20% during local night on the 23rd; and 15% during the day and 20% at night on the 24th.

The forecast, issued on the 25th of August, through until the 31st;

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain below warning levels.

Maximum usable frequencies should continue to be enhanced around 15% on 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.

Having finished July, we had a;

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

So far for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 144, Average of 157, and a Maximum of 177
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 16th to the 17th

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 152, Average of 159, and a Maximum of 168
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th, and the 25th to the 30th.

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: 16-FOAR056.wav]

Duration: 3m30s

In: "Today I'm concluding..."

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.

[ID 2 and WICEN News]

[Play File: 17-E-CWO0827-ID2.wav]

Duration: 1m41s

In: "Hello This is Chris..."

Out: [IDENT 2]

[Transcript]

Hello this is Chris VK3QB with news of the upcoming CW Open Contest, which is on next weekend. This is a great contest, and it's on the 2nd of September, 2023. If you have ever operated in the CW Open before, then you know it's comprised of three individual sessions, each four hours long. These sessions are all on September the 2nd and spread across the 24-hour period.

Regardless of the ITU Region you are in, The timing of at least one of these sessions should work for you. Operating in all three is even more fun. If you have participated in the CW Open, here is your chance to have some global fun. You don't need to be a CWops member to participate. Here is the schedule for the three sessions;

*Session one, the 2nd of September. 0000 to 0359UTC
Session two, 2nd of September, 1200 to 1559 UTC and
Session three. 2nd of September, 2000 to 2359 UTC.*

*To learn more and read the rules, please visit cw.ops.org and follow the links. Good luck in the contest.
73 from Chris VK3QB.*

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 18-E-WNS0827.wav]

Duration: 2m03s

In: "The next big event ..."

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

[Transcript]

The next big event on the WICEN calendar is the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, finally back after the COVID pandemic! The canoe marathon, which helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research, takes place on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney at the end of October.

WICEN will provide safety communications for the event, so many operators are required to staff about 25 checkpoints along the 111km course from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. This is a great event to get out and operate portable for the weekend. If you're new to this kind of thing, you can be paired up with a more experienced WICEN operator. Why not give it a go?

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; 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 with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The Club's next meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of September, in the SES building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. After the short business meeting, Paul VK2ICQ will give presentations on the latest version of Chirp Next radio programming software, and on enhanced firmware for the very popular Quansheng hand-held transceivers.

Members who have not yet paid their 2023-2024 membership are requested to please renew as soon as possible. Renewal details can be found in the July 2023 edition of the Club's newsletter, Oxtales.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother has been further delayed due to unavoidable circumstances but is now scheduled for early September.

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 July 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The July issue 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 12th of September. 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 the September meeting, The Society's Projects organiser, Simon VK2KU, will be doing a presentation on his many projects that he has built or is planning; including LCD SWR meters, temperature-controlled solder stations, APRS units, noise cancellers and crowbar circuits; to name just a few. Come along and see what else he's got planned, that you could use in your own shack. Following Simon's presentation there is the usual excellent supper while enjoying a chinwag with your fellow Hams.

On Saturday the 16th of September, both the Mid-South Coast ARC and the IARS are having a picnic day at Fitzroy Falls on the Southern Highlands. These days always prove to be very popular – and all listeners are most welcome to come along. It's at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Area, starting at 9:30am. There's a free sausage sizzle and drinks for all Club Members with the cost for visitors being just \$5. There will be lots of fun activities, in particular a 2-meter Fox Hunt. Please RSVP to IARS Secretary Keith VK2KQB via email on iars.keithb@gmail.com

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 12th of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre, just south of Wollongong city.

Rob VK2MT

Vice-President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

[Play File: 19-E-ID3.wav]

Hunter Radio Group

The Group's next meeting is on Thursday the 14th of September, at the Electronics Section at Newcastle TAFE.

At this meeting, will be what we think is an Australian first; with an online presentation by guest speaker, Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD.

Jonathon is the creator of EchoLink, a widely used system for amateur radio communication and linking, via the Internet. EchoLink currently has 400,551 licenced Radio Amateurs validated on the system, and links all over the world; with diverse uses including accessing radio resources while travelling, and for amateur that have moved into nursing homes or other places where they can't access radio equipment.

Jonathan is an outstanding speaker, and we think this lecture will be something that no one would want to miss. EchoLink is developed and operated and by Jonathan, as well as being financed by him with donations from users and volunteers.

The Hunter Radio group would love to have you attend this fantastic opportunity. The meeting starts at 6.30 pm and you will be made welcome at our friendly club. It will be 4:30am for Jonathan to do this lecture, and we would love to welcome him – virtually – with a full auditorium for this unique opportunity.

After the lecture, there will be a quick explanation on how to be validated on the EchoLink system in Australia.

For further information please contact Richard VK2AUS , Leigh VK2KAL or Grahame VK2FA.

*Advised by Grahame VK2FA
For the Hunter Radio Group.*

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.

On Friday evening, VK2RAG was linked up to an ARISS contact through Claudio IK1SLD. Those listening to repeater could hear the contact between a group of young people from the Australian Air League in Salisbury South Australia, and Warren KB3HTZ aboard the International Space Station.

The Air League girls, boys, family, leaders, and hams present had a ball! Timing was excellent; despite the possibility of time running out, Woody was great; he heard every question clearly and gave clear and succinct answers, so all youngsters had a go.

The September Business Meeting is on at the Clubrooms at 1pm next Saturday. Members are asked to consider volunteering to help running the club, in various non-executive positions and on sub-committees.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m Echolink services are fully functional. The 23cm repeater is currently off-air, being replaced.

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 6th of eptember, at the First Kyle Bay Scout Hall, Connells Point.

This gathering will be the Society's annual show and tell night. Members and visitors are encouraged to bring along items of radio and electronic equipment, or anything else that they find interesting and think that others would find interesting as well. It could be something that you have been working on last week, or something that you have had for decades. Variety is the spice of life.

The gathering is at the first Kyle Bay Scout Hall at Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point, near South Hurstville. By public transport, take the 953 bus from Hurstville station.

Doors open about 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. After the show and tell, members and visitors can have a chat and partake in the Tea, Coffee, biscuits, and cake.

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.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The Society had a stand at Sydney University's Open Day yesterday; we met many young hopefuls and introduced them to Amateur Radio. In keeping with current events in Hawaii and elsewhere, the theme of the stand was Amateur Radio in Emergencies. Thanks to Professor Philip Leong of Sydney University for inviting us to set up the display there. Philip also sports the callsign VK2APL and is member of the Society.

This month's lecture on Amateur Television by Gary VK2CRJ is now up on our YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV. While you're there, check out the many other videos related to this great hobby of ours.

This coming Wednesday is Show and Tell night, on the theme of Radio Scanners. If you have any noteworthy specimens to show off, bring them along and perhaps win a prize for the Best Gear and/or Best Story.

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, 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](https://www.mwrs.org.au), that's M-W-R-S dot O-R-G dot A-U. We're also on Facebook and Twitter: just search for the club callsign, VK2 Mike Bravo.

73 Richard VK2SKY, MWRS Publicity Officer

[MWRS on the web: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/>]

[MWRS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManlyWarringahRadioSociety>]

[MWRS on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VK2MB>]

[MWRS on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@VK2MB>]

[Play File: 20-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.

Armidale District ARC net 3:30pm on 7133kHz.

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;

If you don't want to listen to VK2WI Evening News, the **Armidale District Amateur Radio Club** net is on from 7:30pm on 3633kHz.

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.