

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 Event Update

As we mentioned in last week's news, the Hunter Radio Group is hosting a special presentation this Thursday evening, which you can also join online. Here's Graham VK2FA with the details.

[Play File: 15-B-HRG0910.wav]

Duration: 1m07s

In: If you've ever...

Out:....I'm Grahame, VK2FA.

[Transcript]

The Hunter Radio Group's meeting at Newcastle TAFE at the school of electronic trades at Tighes Hill, will be an extra special event.

It's on this Thursday the 14th, between 6 and 9pm Eastern Australian Standard time, and you don't have to be there to take part as ARNSW is providing a ZOOM Link details in the text edition of this news.

What's so special, you might ask?

Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, the developer of EchoLink, will be the featured speaker all the way from Connecticut USA.

With around half a million registered Amateur Radio users worldwide, EchoLink has proven it's flexibility and popularity with compatible software versions now available for just about any operating system, even including mobile phones.

This event promises to be something out of the box and unlike anything else you would expect from a Radio Club meeting.

Join us at the Club, or join the ZOOM link between 6 and 9pm THURSDAY.

on behalf of the Hunter Radio Group, I'm Grahame, VK2FA.

[Zoom Meeting link]

[\[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884640439?pwd=OTFVTjFjM2tteUhNQmRuclp2RVpLZz09\]](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884640439?pwd=OTFVTjFjM2tteUhNQmRuclp2RVpLZz09)

[Meeting ID: 898 8464 0439 Passcode: 898540]

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the Group is coming up in 2 weeks' time, at noon on Sunday the 24th of September.

At the meeting, Colin VK2JCC will be demonstrating how he has repurposed empty plastic milk bottles into blocks of plastic. These blocks can be used to machined to make parts that can be used to making antennas and other pieces of radio equipment.

As well as Colin's presentation, everyone is invited to bring along an item for "show and tell".

For those who are looking for something new in Amateur Radio, the Radio Experimenters Group can be what you are looking for.

So come along to the members meet up and Trash and Treasure on the morning of Sunday 24th September, then stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting.

Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of September.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm Flux	136	131	131	136	143	147	161
Fredericksburg A-Index	15	25	28	14	14	10	11
Australian A-Index	10	24	13	4	9	5	3 estimated
T index	117	109	76	92	92	102	114

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 1st and 2nd, each with on M-class flare; R2 on the 3rd, with an M1.1 at 0023UTC and an M6.0 at 0836UTC; R1 on the 5th, with three M-class flares; and R1 on the 7th, with one M-class flare. Activity remained below warning threshold on other days.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region reached G1 level on the 2nd, and on other days remained below warning threshold. Magnetometer data recorded a weak impulse of 8 nanoTesla at 0320UTC on the 3rd, and a 10 nanoTesla impulse at 2339UTC on the 5th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 15 to 20% on the 1st; the 2nd, saw depression up to 20% after local dawn, improving through the day up to 15% enhanced on predicted monthly values. The 3rd was depressed 25% during the day and 20% during local night; the 4th to the 7th saw a return to predicted values, with brief enhancement of up to 20% just after local dawn on the 6th.

The forecast, issued on the 8th of September, through until the 14th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 levels with a slight chance of R2. Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 on the 10th due to a glancing blow from a solar filament eruption; otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels. Maximum usable frequencies may be mildly depressed during local night hours on the 10th; otherwise, near predicted monthly values. Isolated minor fadeouts are possible.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Space Weather Summary for August 2023

Compiled with data from the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre

A total of 27 solar flares of magnitude R1 to R3, were observed throughout August. Solar activity reached R3 on the 5th with an X1 flare, and on the 7th with an X1.5 flare; Neither of these flares caused a significant shortwave fadeout in the Australian region, but they did result in S1 level proton flux events; A maximum of 18 pfu was observed on the 5th, before the event ended on 6th. The flares on the 7th caused an S1 solar radiation storm from the 8th to the 10th, proton flux reaching a maximum of 47 pfu.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for August was observed on the 5th, with a local A-index of 18. This activity was induced by a CME that left the Sun on the 2nd after an R1 level flare. The peak total interplanetary field strength reached 24 nanoTesla, and resulted in favourable conditions for geomagnetic activity. Several other CMEs were observed during the month, but these did not result in any significant geomagnetic storms.

No significant ionospheric depressions were observed during the month. Geomagnetic activity on the 5th resulted in positive ionospheric response, with enhanced conditions of 15-30% observed during the local day. Regional MUFs were near predicted values to 15% enhanced for most of the month, along with daily T index values consistently higher than predicted.

Brief shortwave fadeouts impacting only lower HF frequencies were observed on the 1st and 7th, during local Australian morning hours. Transpolar HF circuits may have experienced increased absorption during 5th to 6th, and 8th to the 10th, due to S1-Minor solar proton events following long-duration solar flares on the 5th and 7th.

Mild depressions for high latitudes during local night hours were frequently observed. Degraded low latitude HF conditions, indicated by spread-F in low latitude ionograms, were common during the predawn period for most of the month.

Scintillation was observed in low latitudes on the 12th, 14th, 18th, 25th and 31st.

Australian T-index average for the month was 115.

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-FOAR076.wav]

Duration: 3m34s

In: "There are moments ..."

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; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

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

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 18-E-WNS0910.wav]

Duration: 2m09s

In: "Apart from all the..."

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

[Transcript]

Apart from all the hazard reduction burns, September is looking pretty quiet, so rest up, because October will be very busy!

First up, there will be a Cave Rescue exercise at Bungonia Caves, east of Goulburn. Four or five operators are required for this event on the 20th to 22nd October.

On the same weekend, the 21st-22nd, WICEN will be at the Murrumbateman Field Days, just south of Yass.

And, of course, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research, is on the following weekend, 28th-29th October. WICEN will provide safety communications for the event, which takes place on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.

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 Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz and 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. Note that the HF net has returned to its usual start time of 6.30pm.

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.

This week there is another Monthly Coffee Morning – at 10am on Thursday the 14th at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

That's followed by September's Friday Night Get Together, from 7pm in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother was further delayed due to unavoidable circumstances, but is now scheduled for later in the month.

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; the September issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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 this coming 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 Tuesday night's meeting, the Society's Projects organiser, Simon VK2KU, will present 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 this 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]

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Big Bash Field Day is coming up on Sunday the 22nd of October, at the club grounds, 6a York St, Teralba.

All the usual Field Day attractions will be there, including cooked bacon & egg rolls for breakfast, and a BBQ lunch; a hot coffee van on site, giant auction, raffles including a major radio raffle drawn at noon, plus a live band.

All are welcome.

Westlakes has several on air nets each week, details are a little later on in this bulletin.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

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 the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 23cm repeater is back on site, and now linked with the 6m repeater. Today's VK2WI News bulletins will also be relayed through the 23cm repeater, along with 6m and 2m. D-Star, Rad-Net 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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Clubs annual Springfest is on again this year, on Sunday the 17th of September.

Its at the Club Rooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – gates open from 8:30am.

Those interested in selling any type of radio gear can participate by booking a place for a table or car boot – the fee is payable in cash on the day.

There will also be a sausage sizzle lunch.

For details, contact the Club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN, via email secretary@bmarc.org or by phone on 0438 606 740.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*Advised by Irene VK2VAN
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday the 20th of September, in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. At this meeting, Fred VK2WS, will give a talk on QRP Challenges.

Many members enjoy dinner in the club's bistro prior to the meeting from about 6pm 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, continue in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC room for some practical activities.

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one is coming up on the 7th of October.

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*

[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.