

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9444 0123.

Tonight, we again welcome listeners via 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.

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## **Jamboree on the Air**

Since 1957, amateur radio has been used by Scouts, and more recently Girl Guides, to get together virtually, from anywhere in the world, through Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA. Its on again this year, and its happening next weekend.

Starting on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> and through until Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, amateur air waves are thrown open to youthful voices with enthusiasm to make new friends and exchange experiences. Contacts are made with other JOTA stations in the next suburb, interstate or overseas.

As in previous years, subject to delivery VK2WI will relay the official opening address at 1pm on the afternoon of Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>, on all VK2WI frequencies and through automated relays.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	155	157	157	166	164	158	157
Fredericksburg A-Index	7	0	0	0	0	3	3
Australian A-Index	8	3	6	6	2	2	3 estimated
T index	152	140	142	139	129	141	138

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 7<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.7 solar flare; on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.6 at 0209UTC, and an M2.3 at 1217UTC; and on the 12<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.1 at 0458UTC.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was mostly quiet, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were enhanced 25% on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 20% during local day on the 7<sup>th</sup>; 20% during local day and 30% during local night on the 8<sup>th</sup>; 25% during local night on the 9<sup>th</sup>; 30% during local night on the 10<sup>th</sup>; and 20% during local day and 25% during the night on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

The forecast, issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, through until the 19<sup>th</sup>;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1, with a chance of R2 flares with returning active solar regions.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels.

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

*Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.*

## Solar Flux Index update

Now the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Looking back to September, we had a;

Minimum of 131, Average of 154, and a Maximum of 176  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

So far for October, we have a;

Minimum of 148, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 166  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 148, Average of 155, and a Maximum of 160  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.

*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.

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*Duration: 1m56s*

*In: "Today in Amateur Radio ..."*

*Out: "...I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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For more information about this series, including audio, transcripts and other useful amateur radio resources, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com); and you can contact Onno by email, to [cq@vk6flab.com](mailto:cq@vk6flab.com).

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## [WICEN News]

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

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### [Play File: 17-E-WNS1015.wav]

*Duration: 2m27s*

*In: "If your station..."*

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

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[Transcript]

*If your station can run Winlink, you might like to participate in Shakeout 2023, "the world's largest earthquake drill". The event happens on 19 October at 10.19am \*your local time\*. Participation involves sending a "Did You Feel It" report to the US Geological Survey, using Winlink. This takes only a couple of minutes, so it's quick and easy to do. The latest edition of WaveTalkers Live on YouTube discusses how to participate in the event. Links are in the text edition of WICEN News.*

*Next weekend WICEN will be active at the Bungonia Cave Rescue exercise near Goulburn, and the Murrumbateman Field Days, just south of Yass.*

*On 28th-29th, WICEN will provide safety communications for The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research. Operators are required to run checkpoint stations along the 111km course.*

*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](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org). If you're new to this, you can be paired with a more experienced WICEN member.*

*WICEN nets take place every Sunday evening, using FM voice, DMR, P25, 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, followed at 6.45pm by a net on WICEN's VRA P25 channel.*

*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](http://nsw.wicen.org.au)*

*WICEN is also on Facebook, and on X @wicennsw; 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](http://wicen.org.au).*

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

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

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

[The Great Shakeout 2023 on Winlink site: <https://winlink.org/content/shakeout> ]

[WaveTalkers net about it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpcLhMGp9eI> ]

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and coming up is the October Friday night get-together; at 7pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>, in the SES building, Port Macquarie.

Last Thursday, 12 club members attended the regular Member's Coffee at Thrumster.

Club station VK2BOR will be active in JOTA, operating from McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie, next Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

The following Sunday, Members will provide safety communications for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, on the morning of Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

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](http://orarc.org). The September 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The September issue features articles by Paul VK2ICQ, on recent technical presentations at ORARC meetings. 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.*

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The Club's Big Bash Field Day is coming up next Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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*



## Hunter Radio Group

We have an update about the Group's VK2AWX News bulletins. They are still on at 7:30pm each Monday, but now only on the 2-metre repeater, 146.975MHz.

The Wednesday evening "Let's stay safe" net also moves to the 149.975MHz repeater. This repeater has EchoLink, so that the bulletins and the net, can be heard further afield.

*Our thanks to Paul VK2BPL from 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.

Some people reported problems with the relay of VK2WI Morning News through the VK2RAG repeaters; but thanks to some analytical troubleshooting from Brad, VK2NMZ and a quick site visit by Don VK2ZCZ, the issue was resolved, and we are once again relaying VK2WI News on the Central Coast.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 23cm repeater is back on air and now linked with the 6m repeater. D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m Echolink services, are fully functional. The Somersby WebSDR is online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](http://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](http://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.*

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## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's regular monthly meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm. Meetings are at 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 is family friendly and will be introducing new activities in the new year, suitable for everyone.

There are several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and the Club is continuing to ‘trial’ DMR and 6 metre nets – see the Club's website for details.

The Club's next Foundation Weekend is on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December, with assessments for Standard and Advanced licences available on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> as well. The next Upgrade class series will start in February 2024.

Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN via email to; [secretary@bmarc.org](mailto:secretary@bmarc.org) to register, or for more information.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*Advised by Steven VK2TSG  
President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

As we mentioned earlier in the bulletin, JOTA 2023 is on from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October this year. Members of The St George Amateur Radio Society will once again be setting up and operating the Society's station VK2LE over the weekend, as an activity of the Endeavour Boree Regatta at Kurnell, in Sydney.

Next month, the Society has a Foundation course, along with Licence assessments for all grades, at a venue in Sutherland.

The Foundation licence course will run over the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November. Candidates will need to get a copy of the Foundation Licence Manual, and be familiar with the contents, prior to attending the weekend. The course will cover a review of the Foundation Licence Manual and practical training, followed by assessment in theory, regulations and practical.

Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> will also have booking available for Standard and Advanced licence assessments; candidates will need to have undertaken self-study in theory and regulations for these licences, prior to attending the assessment session.

Advance booking is necessary to meet the current lead time requirements of the government selected outsourced examination provider, AMC. Bookings required by COB Friday 10th November 2023. Late bookings cannot be accepted, as examination materials are provided specifically for each candidate.

For any further information please contact our education team via email to [education@sgars.org](mailto:education@sgars.org). More information about the Society can be found on the web, at [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. This meeting will include an Antenna Show and Tell – your chance to bring along antennas you have found useful, such as balcony, mobile, portable, foxhunt, or potplant types.

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 4<sup>th</sup> of November – the topic is "an introduction to Satellite Tracking" with Bob VK2NRC. The October project day was postponed as the majority of members who attend were involved in a contest that weekend.

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](http://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*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday is lecture night at the Society, and the topic is Free Space Optics, with speaker John Cummins.

Free Space Optics (FSO) uses light propagating in free space to wirelessly transmit data for telecommunications. "Free space" means air, outer space, vacuum, or something similar. This talk will highlight some of the engineering challenges, and how they were solved in a commercial laser communications product, the Centauri Laser Terminal from Transcelestial Technologies. The talk will also cover a next generation terminal currently in research; it will use FSO between ground stations on earth and a constellation of satellites in orbit, to enable high bandwidth, low latency communication to any location.

Next weekend is of course Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA! The Society will host visiting Scouts and Guides, introducing them to the joys of Amateur Radio. JOTA station VK2SNR will be active from the clubhouse Saturday. Hope to catch you on the air!

If you or your club are looking for last minute JOTA ideas, check out the featured blog post on the MWRS web site; the link is in the text edition of this news, or you can just search for "JOTA" and "VK2MB".

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 2 metre repeater, 146.875, or check the website for details; [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au). The club is also on Facebook, X, and YouTube: just search for the club callsign, Victor Kilo 2 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 X: <https://twitter.com/VK2MB> ]

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

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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** *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, now on 146.975MHz.

**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:** now starting at 8pm, still 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 146.975MHz and EchoLink node 1474.

**HADARC** 8pm on 3608.5kHz

*[...continues]*

**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.