

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from both Sydney, and across New South Wales. We would welcome any updates from club and groups; simply email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. Don't forget, we always welcome reports on the outcome of recent activities, as well.

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 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.

A reminder that next Sunday the 26th of May, is another "Members Morning Meetup" 2phere at VK2WI Dural.

The site will be open from about 9:30am, with Trash and Treasure, boot sales and disposals tables available. The Centenary Building will be open as well, with tea, coffee, and cold drinks; and, while the BBQ is currently not available, there are several food retailers nearby, and the VK2WI site provides pleasant surrounds and a covered picnic area.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the Group is coming up next weekend; at noon on Sunday the 26th of May.

The meeting starts with the usual "show and tell" where anyone can stand up and share what they have been working on. This may be a radio that they have been experimenting with, or built or repaired, or just something that they find interesting.

After the show and tell, Peter VK2KFP will be sharing his experience building modern 2m, 6m and 70cm power amplifiers. Topics include system design, test equipment, tune-up and sourcing of hard-to-find components. We will also cover pitfalls and traps, and what happens when things go wrong!

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 Sunday the 26th of May, and stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting from noon.

*Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 10th to the 16th of May.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm Flux	223	214	222	215	220	216	207
Fredericksburg A-Index	80	0	31	24	8	10	19
Australian A-Index	50	127	26	12	4	5	15 estimated
T index	121	113	143	125	124	123	136

Solar activity reached R3 levels on the 10th with 9 M-class and one X3.9 flare; on the 11th with 5 M-class flares and 2 X-class; and on the 12th with 8 M-class and 1 X-class flares. The 13th saw R2 but the 14th returned to R3 with three X-class flares, the largest X8.7 at 1651UTC – the largest flare observed this solar cycle. The 15th was again R3 with 2 M-class and two X-class flares; and the 16th was R1, with an M-class flare.

Geomagnetic activity was at G3 on the 10th, with a moderate geomagnetic impulse of 51 nanoTesla at 1706UTC; G4 on the 11th; G2 on the 12th; and G1 on the 16th.

Ionospheric F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 50% were observed after local dawn on the 10th, 55% during local day and 25% during local night on the 11th. Enhancement of 15% was observed during local day on the 12th.

The forecast, issued on the 17th of May, through until the 23rd;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 with a chance of R3; a new solar region has rotated onto the solar disk and is already exhibiting flare activity. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be low to moderate.

Maximum usable frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, with isolated shortwave fadeouts probable.

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 112, Average of 163, and a Maximum of 227
With peak dates from the 15th to the 26th

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 186, and a Maximum of 233
With peak dates from the 8th to the 19th, and the 29th to the 31st;

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 160, Average of 196, and a Maximum of 225
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th, and the 28th 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>]

[Play File: 15-E-ID2.wav]

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-FOAR161.wav]

Duration: 4m41s

In: If you read it ...

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.

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 17-E-WNS0519.wav]

Duration: 2m16s

In: WICEN is supporting...

Out: ... at wicen.org.au

[Transcript]

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events throughout 2024. This morning a WICEN team was at Leichhardt Oval, in Sydney's inner west. Last Sunday's Memory Walk on the Central Coast was postponed, and WICEN will support several interstate Memory Walks in coming weeks.

The Memory Walks are great "starter" events for new (or rusty) WICEN members, as they take only a couple of hours. WICEN also provides the radios for these events, so you don't even need to bring your own gear. Why not give one a go? You'll find a link to the events list in the text edition of this news.

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

Wayne Dreghorn's presentation from the May monthly meetup, about VRA's State Rescue Group communications, is now on the WICEN Google Drive. A PDF version was also circulated this week. Members are asked check their VRA email accounts and have a read.

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 call 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 WICEN's Kurrajong VHF DMR repeater, followed at 6.45pm by a net on WICEN's VRA P25 repeater.

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.

WICEN is also on Facebook, and on X; there, you can find photos and information about recent and upcoming WICEN activities. Links are in the text edition of this news.

For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au.

[Memory Walk and Jog Events: <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/find-an-event>]

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

["National" WICEN on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124735400158>]

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

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

Club News

The Club's Annual Antenna Shootout was this morning at Huntingdon, west of Wauchope. Full details in the soon to be published May issue of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales.

The June General meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of June in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

It is now only three weeks until the Club's 48th Annual Field Day. It is at the Wauchope Showground Hall on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June, during the Kings Birthday Long Weekend. The Field Day Dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. Don't forget – the areas is a very popular holiday destination during the Long Weekend, so be sure to make accommodation bookings soon. You can camp at the Wauchope Showground in your tent, caravan, or motor home; details are on the Wauchope Showground website.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend will be held as soon as sufficient candidates have registered. Candidates for the Foundation Licence and for assessments for all grades of licence should register their interest via the contact form on the ORARC website.

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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The March 2024 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, along with past issues; The May 2024 issue will be published later in the coming week. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Kariong club rooms are open on Saturdays from 10:30am. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

Next Saturday, May 25th will be the club's monthly Show and Tell. If you have something you'd like to show off or talk about, bring it along. If you can't bring it, bring photos. We'd love to see.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 6-metre repeater, D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink, 70cm and 23cm, are all fully functional. The WICEN UHF repeater is currently only operating in P25 or Analogue FM modes.

The Club's Weekly net is on Thursday Nights at 8pm. It's on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater – 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone, and on the CCARCNSW and HAM EchoLink conferences. It 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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club is planning a Foundation licence course and assessment weekend for the 22nd and 23rd of June, in the Macarthur area. The Foundation course will be held on Saturday, and all licence class examinations will be on Sunday.

To register, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW by the 1st of June. Head over to the contact page of the Club website, fgarc.org.au.

You can also find out more about the Club's activities on the website, and the Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is on Friday the 7th of June at the clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

The clubrooms are also open twice a month from about 10am, on the morning of the first and third Saturdays – unless otherwise noted on the Club's Facebook page.

The Clubs has several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and a new net time, Sunday nights at 8pm. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, the net is on the Club's 6 metre repeater, and on the 70cm repeater on the second and fourth Sunday.

Licence Upgrade classes run on Wednesday nights, both on Zoom and in-person at the Glenbrook clubrooms. Foundation classes are offered bi-monthly.

With a 98% pass rate, the Club's courses and exam days fill-up quickly; please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN via email to; secretary@bmarc.org for class dates, to register, or for more information.

More information about the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

This weekend was the Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest.

This contest commemorates Don VK2NV, whose operating was almost exclusively on CW. Don was always willing to assist other amateur to learn, or to improve, their Morse Code.

Those who took part are reminded that logs must be submitted by the 31st of May; either on paper, or digitally. Digital logs don't need to be in any special format or use any particular logging software. A reminder when submitting a log; check for bonus points that you may be entitled to, and don't forget to include your postal address.

For more details on the contest, and other activities of the St George Amateur Radio Society's, visit the website, www.sgars.org.

73 de Peter VK2EMU.

[ID4 and Activities on the air]

[Play File: 19-E-ID4-AOTA4.wav]

Duration: 5m32s

In: [IDENT 4]

Out: ...the office phone, 02 9444 0123.

[Transcript]

I'm Mathew VK2YAP.... And I'm Stuart VK2BMX.

It's time for your quick trip around the bands for this week, with; 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.

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, on 146.975MHz.

The **Blue Mountains ARC** D MR Net at 7:30pm on Brandmeister 50520, hosted by Ben VK2AFK.

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: starts at 7:30pm on Talkgroup 505.

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm, 3543kHz.

St George ARS digital net, 8pm on 146.8MHz

Illawarra ARS 80m net at 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

[...continues]

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 146.975MHz and EchoLink node 1474.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

Blue Mountains ARC 8pm on VK2RBM, 147.05MHz, 123Hz tone.

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

Armidale District ARC net 8:30pm on 3633kHz.

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 8:00am, usually on Talkgroup 3802.

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM.

WICEN NSW nets; 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater, 6:30pm on DMR or HF, and 6:45pm on P25. Check website for details.

*Don't forget to get your activities on the air here... send us through the details of your activity!
Email the details, to news@arnsw.org.au... or leave a message on the office phone, 02 9444 0123.*
