

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.

During the week, we've heard from the Armidale District Amateur Radio Club – their weekly net has now moved to 7:30pm on Wednesday, and its followed by a morse practice session conducted by Ken VK2UQ. Our thanks to their Club Secretary, Brian VK2BLP, for updating us.

We've also heard of a new net in Sydney; its on from 4pm Saturdays on the VK2RWI repeater, with net control is Emmanuel VK2EMM.

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.

RadNet Update

With the support of local clubs, the team has been undertaking significant maintenance work to keep our VKDMR RadNet up and running; including repeater resets, firmware upgrades and fan replacements. With winter now upon us and sunshine becoming scarce, repeater officers have been diligently heading up the mountain to run the generators and top up batteries.

Mt Bindo VK2RDX is currently waiting on repeater fan replacements. Thanks to the hard work of local clubs, it should be back and on air soon.

In new developments, VK2RWO on the state's southern border has been operating on test for the last week. Serving Albury and Wodonga and the surrounding areas, it will soon be installed in its permanent mountain home.

New sites are also in the works, with projects underway in the Bathurst and Mudie townships, building on the largest digital network in the country.

If your local club or radio group would like to join the network with assistance from ARNSW, just drop us an email at dmr@arnsw.org.au.

*73 Matt VK2FLY
For ARNSW RadNet.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of May.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm Flux	204	194	201	200	191	196	176
Fredericksburg A-Index	16	14	10	10	8	5	10
Australian A-Index	16	8	5	5	5	1	4 estimated
T index	137	156	149	146	132	126	131

Solar activity reached R2 on the 17th, with an M7.2 flare at 2108UTC. R1 flare activity was observed on the 19th, with 3 M-class flares; the 21st with one M-class flare; the 22nd with 3, and the 23rd with five, M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold. A weak geomagnetic impulse of 10 nanoTesla was observed at 1329UTC on the 17th.

Ionospheric F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancements of up to 15% were observed during local night on the 18th, and during local daylight hours on the 19th and 20th.

The forecast, issued on the 24th of May, through until the 30th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1, with a chance of R2 on until the 26th. Activity may increase up to R2 or R3 if previously active flare regions, return to the visible solar disk.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be low to moderate.

Maximum usable frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values up to 15% enhanced. Shortwave fadeouts are possible, becoming more probable later in the week.

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

Nearing the end of May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 189, and a Maximum of 233
With peak dates from the 8th to the 24th;

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 160, Average of 201, and a Maximum of 225
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th, 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>]

[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-FOAR201.wav]

Duration: 5m29s

In: In 2017 a new...

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.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Last Sunday the 19th of May saw the Club's Annual Antenna Shootout at Huntingdon, west of Wauchope. The day was a great success, starting with perfect weather! Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea before setting up the antenna range and testing a variety of antennas. Larry VK2CLL, who hosted the event on his property, was the winner with his home-made dual band VHF/UHF J-pole outperforming the commercial antennas. His portable 2-metre Yagi received special mention. After a delicious barbeque lunch, Arthur VK2ATM celebrated his 90th birthday in style with a grand birthday cake.

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

It is now just two 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. Field Day Dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. There will be all the usual Field Day attractions, including traders, disposals, fox hunts, a DMR Code Plug clinic and a home brew competition. The area is a very popular holiday destination during the long weekend, so make your accommodation bookings as soon as possible. You can camp at the Wauchope Showground in your tent, caravan, or motor home; details are on the Wauchope Showground 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 May 2024 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" will be published soon, and past issues are available on the website as well. 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: 17-E-ID3.wav]

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 examinations for all licence classes, 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.

The Club's May Meeting is on this Wednesday the 29th, in Block M at Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Road Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net is on Thursdays from 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access - its also available via EchoLink.

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

Peter VK2PR

For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

Yesterday was the club's monthly Show and Tell.

Next Saturday, June 1 will be the monthly business meeting; there will be a BBQ starting at midday, followed by the meeting at 1pm. Information will be distributed to members by email, during the week.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the 6-metre, D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink, 70cm and 23cm service, are all fully operational. The WICEN UHF repeater is back on MMDVM; P25 and Analogue FM are working fine, and DMR issues are still being investigated.

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.

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.*

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

And now with news from the Manly-Warringah Radio Society, here's Richard VK2SKY;

[Play File: 18-B-MRS0526.wav]

Duration: 1m41s

In: This Wednesday is ...

Out:.... the Manly-Warringah Radio Society.

[Transcript]

This Wednesday is Show and Tell night at the Society, with the theme of Cases and Enclosures. Having the best radio and test equipment enclosure requires a combination of ingenuity and art. Appearance and practicality are as important as the actual function performed by the equipment. We are looking for big & small, artwork, robustness, embedded functions, old, modern, classic, generic, jiffy, portability and more. There are prizes for the Best Display by popular vote, and best story, as determined by the nominated judge.

This month's lecture on Quantum Key Distribution is now up on the club's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV. You'll find a link in the text edition of this news, or check the blog on the club web site.

The club's new KiwiSDR web-connected HF receiver continues to receive visitors from all over the world. We've "optimised it for Australian conditions", so you'll see things on our webSDR that you likely won't find anywhere else! You can access it via the club web site (just click on the webSDR link on the main menu), or use the link in the text edition of this news.

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 mwr.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,
Publicity Officer for the Manly-Warringah Radio Society.*

[May lecture on Quantum Key Distribution: <https://youtu.be/lhJ5IUTGqVE>]

[VK2MB KiwiSDR: <http://websdr.mwr.org.au:8073/>]

[About the VK2MB KiwiSDR: <https://www.mwr.org.au/2024/03/05/the-kiwi-has-landed/>]

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

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

[MWRS on X: <https://x.com/VK2MB>]

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 5th of June, at Mortdale RSL club. The Club is in Macquarie Place, a 5-minute walk from Mortdale railway station. The club has excellent dining facilities and members are encouraged to arrive early for a bite to eat before the gathering.

At this gathering, Paul VK2GX will give a presentation on digital data over HF using WinLink and VARA. As well as being able to send text messages from one HF radio to another HF radio, these systems also allow emails to be forwarded to internet email addresses. It sounds like a fascinating aspect of amateur radio.

All are invited to the next gathering of the Society, at Mortdale RSL club, on Wednesday the 5th of June at 7:30pm.

And finally; a reminder that logs for the Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest close this coming Friday evening at midnight.

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
For the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

[ID4 and Activities on the air]

[Play File: 19-E-ID4-AOTA5.wav]

Duration: 5m31s

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.

Armidale ARC net 7:30pm on 3633kHz.

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 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.*
