

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 11th to the 17th of August.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm Flux	153	148	150	154	158	160	152
Fredericksburg A-Index	6	10	7	6	7	10	10
Australian A-Index	2	4	2	2	2	5	4 estimated
T index	112	107	120	109	120	119	136

Solar activity remained below warning threshold, with only a few C-class flares observed during the week.

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

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 15% to 20% during local daylight hours, except on the 14th. Local night conditions also saw enhancements; around 15% on the 11th and the 13th, reaching 20% on the 16th, and 25% on the 12th and 17th.

The forecast, issued on the 18th of August, through until the 24th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 levels, with a possibility of R2 flares early in the week.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly be 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 148, Average of 161, and a Maximum of 177
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th, and the 24th to the 31st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 154, and a Maximum of 168
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th, and the 18th 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: 15-FOAR055.wav]

Duration: 4m35s

In: "Today I'm going to look ..."

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.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 17-E-WNS0820.wav]

Duration: 2m05s

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.

The theme for the September/October edition of Amateur Radio magazine will be "When All Else Fails". If you have a story to tell about using your radio skills in a time of emergency, why not get it in print?

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.

Tonight, the HF net will be at the earlier time of 5.30pm, on or near 7110kHz LSB. Net controller VK2WIZ will announce the call-in sequence and other information. The 6pm net will be on the Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz and a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB.

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 Armidale District Amateur Radio Club.

The ADARC has two nets each week.

Their 40-metre net is on from 3:30pm on Wednesday afternoons on 7133kHz; and their 80-metre net is on Sunday evenings from 7.30pm, on 3633kHz.

The exact net frequencies may vary, to suit conditions or interference.

*Advised by Brian VK2BLP,
Secretary of the Armidale District Amateur Radio Club.*

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.

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 planned 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. 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: 18-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.

At the next open day, Saturday August 26, there will be an open themed Show and Tell from 11am; bring along some photos on a USB stick to show on the data projector. These show-and-tell days have been very popular, with many interesting items on display – including some that have nothing to do with radio. Members and visitors are encouraged to come along and show your stuff, or just enjoy the goodies on display.

At the September Business Meeting, the club will be appointing sub-committees. Please consider volunteering and help with the running of your club.

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

If you have listened to the Society's VK2RLE 2 metre repeater at Engadine on 146.8MHz, you may have wondered about some strange sounds being heard on Tuesday evenings.

For some time, several amateurs have been experimenting with digital modes such as DRM - Digital Radio Mondiale and various flavors of SSTV - Slow Scan Television.

Anyone interested in these modes are invited to join the group, either as just a listener or taking a turn and sending a picture. You can join in via the VK2RLE repeater or via EchoLink - details are on the Society's website, www.sgars.org.

Listeners with 6 metre capability are also invited to join a new 6 metre net to be run in association with the Society's 2 metre net on Thursday evenings. The 6 metre net will be simplex on 52.525 MHz.

Since the antenna replacement on the Mt. Bindo 2 metre FM repeater on 146.65MHz, coverage has improved greatly, with callbacks after VK2WI News broadcasts, from stations as far west as Orange. Amateurs west of the Blue Mountains are invited try out the repeater and don't forget to call back.

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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's August monthly meeting is this coming Tuesday the 22nd of August, at Mt Colah Community Centre.

The meeting will feature a presentation from the Club's resident Fox Hunting expert, Chris VK2YMW. Chris has been doing radio Fox Hunting for years, especially up at Port Macquarie but elsewhere as well over that time. He has quite often been in the top two spots in this field of endeavour; so, come and find out what it's all about, this coming Tuesday night.

Did you know that there are some 14 lighthouses in and around Sydney and wider NSW? Let's hope this weekend you have managed to fire up your radio and speak to a few of those keen operators out there activating these sites for the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend.

73 for now and let's keep radio-active,

Matt VK2BAI

For the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club.

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

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

[Play File: 19-E-MRS0820-ID4.wav]

Duration: 1m56s

In: "IF you happen..."

[Out:....IDENT 4]

[Transcript]

If you happen to be visiting Sydney University's Open Day on Saturday the 26th of August, drop in and say hello to Society members who will have a stand there. We're hoping to attract the interest of some of the prospective engineering students and others. In keeping with current events in Hawaii and elsewhere, the theme of the stand will be Amateur Radio in Emergencies. Thanks to Professor Philip Leong of Sydney University, who also sports the callsign VK2APL and is a club member.

Last Wednesday's lecture on Amateur Television was well received, and the Society hopes to have a recording up on its YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV, before too long. While you're there, check out the many other videos related to this great hobby of ours.

The 30th of the month is the Fifth Wednesday, which means the club will host another Show and Tell night! This time, the theme will be 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 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.

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>]

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.