

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.

Yesterday was the 2024 AGM of ARNSW, which was a hybrid meeting both at VK2WI Dural and online. We will have a full report in next week's news.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of April.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm Flux	213	210	217	227	214	199	167
Fredericksburg A-Index	21	10	14	0	9	3	3
Australian A-Index	19	7	15	5	5	1	1 estimated
T index	132	130	138	138	142	147	144

Solar activity reached R1 levels, on the 19th with two M-class flares; on the 21st with three; the 22nd, 23rd and 24th each with five M-class flares; and the 25th with one M-class flare.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold, but a weak geomagnetic impulse of 10 nanoTesla was observed on the 19th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 25% were observed after local dawn on the 19th and 30% during local day on the 20th. Later in the week, enhancements of 15% were observed during local night on the 23rd, and throughout both the 24th and 25th.

The forecast, issued on the 26th of April, through until the 2nd of May;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 levels early in the week, reducing to R1 or R0 as the week progresses.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain mostly quiet, with a chance of G1 on the 26th until the 28th.

Maximum usable frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, with mild depressions possible from the 26th to the 29th.

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 March, we had a;

Minimum of 127, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 209
With peak dates from the 19th to the 30th

So far for April, we are expecting a;

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

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 179, and a Maximum of 215
With peak dates from the 10th to the 23rd.

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-FOAR129.wav]

Duration: 5m13s

In: The frequency you listen...

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: 16-E-ID2.wav]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and the next informal get-together will be on Friday the 3rd of May at 7pm, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The May General Meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday the 4th. Later in May is the next Coffee Morning – 10am on Thursday the 9th at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

It is now time to plan to attend 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 to book accommodation early, as the area is a very popular holiday destination during the Long Weekend. 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 can 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, and past issues are 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.*

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 the 27th of April will be the Club's monthly general meeting, starting at 1pm. Details will be forwarded to members by email this week.

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 Web SDR has been discontinued.

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's is on Friday the 3rd of May at the clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm.

The guest speaker for May will be Russell Bryant; who was originally planned to present in April but had to postpone. Russel will provide a presentation on radio scanning.

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.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

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 continue on Wednesday nights, both on Zoom and in-person at the Glenbrook clubrooms. With a 98% pass rate, the Club's courses and exam days do 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

The next gathering of the Society will be this Wednesday the 1st of May, where Richard VK2VD will present his thoughts, considerations and experiences on the construction of a 23cm Narrow Band Frequency Modulated transceiver.

This project was originally designed by Bas PE1JPD of the Netherlands in 2015. It provides full coverage of the 23cm band with many of the features found on commercially available radios, but at a fraction of the cost and with the satisfaction of building it yourself.. He will also discuss amplifiers, antennas, cable and filters suitable to set up a successful station for 23cm operation.

The Society's gatherings are 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.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest returns this year, on the weekend after Mother's Day – Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of May. 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.

The contest aims to encourage all amateurs – but especially those who don't usually operate Morse – to take part. Contest rules are simple – sent by hand and received by ear, no more than 10 words per minute. Past contests have seen many successful contacts at 5 words per minute or less.

The contest times – on 80 metres on Saturday the 18th, and on 40 metres, Sunday the 19th.

For more details on the contest, and other activities of the St George Amateur Radio Society's, visit the website, www.sgars.org... And all invited to the next gathering of the Society, at Mortdale RSL club, Wednesday the 1st of May at 7:30pm.

73 de Peter VK2EMU.

[ID4 and Activities on the air]

[Play File: 17-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.*
