

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.

Earlier this morning saw the end of Daylight-Saving time in New South Wales. Since VK2WI News maintains the same local times of 10am and 7:30pm, HF propagation conditions may differ. If you have reception difficulties on radio, you can also listen to the bulletins streamed live from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio. Some activities maintain the same UTC time, such as the National DMR net – which will now be at 7pm local time on Tuesday nights.

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 note for members of Amateur Radio NSW – a reminder that the date of the 2024 AGM has been moved back 2 weeks, to Saturday the 27th of April. Reports and ballots will be sent out to members, during the coming week.

HF Antenna Day – part two...

Continuing with our presentation program for 2024, members of Amateur Radio NSW are invited to the second part of our HF antenna presentation. Its starts at 10am on Sunday the 28th of April 2024, here at VK2WI Dural.

This event will feature presentations of interest for all levels of expertise, and a further range of specialist presenters. It's an opportunity to;

Gain insights into portable operation;
Learn techniques and strategies to enhance your home station;
And connect with specialists, eager to assist and guide others.

The event is catered, and RSVP are essential for seating and catering purposes – we are not able to admit 'walk-ins' on the day.

Places are limited, so reserve your spot now by emailing events@arnsw.org.au, including your name, callsign and contact information.

*Advised by AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator for ARNSW.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of March to the 4th of April.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm Flux	167	140	134	125	113	112	114
Fredericksburg A-Index	4	4	8	9	7	10	33
Australian A-Index	4	3	5	7	5	3	9 estimated
T index	147	124	124	118	119	108	104

Solar activity reached R1 on the 29th with two M-class flares; R2 on the 30th with an M9.4 at 2116UTC; and R1 on the 1st of April with one M-class flare. Activity remained below warning levels on other days.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values, with enhancement of 15% during local day on the 29th; and 15% during local night on the 31st.

The forecast, issued on the 5th of April, through until the 11th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 levels, with a slight chance of R1 if a complex solar region appears on the solar disk.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain low for most of the week, with a slight chance of G1 conditions on the 5th due to high-speed wind stream effects.

Maximum usable frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, with possibility of mild depressions on the 5th and 6th due to possible geomagnetic activity.

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 143, and a Maximum of 170
With peak dates from the 15th to the 30th

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 146, and a Maximum of 170
With peak dates from the 12th to the 19th.

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-FOAR137.wav]

Duration: 4m59s

In: There is a...

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-WNS0407.wav]

Duration: 1m48s

In: WICEN had its ...

Out: ... at wicen.org.au

[Transcript]

WICEN had its monthly meetup here at Dural this morning; the next one will be on 5 May.

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events throughout 2024. The next Memory Walk in New South Wales is at Speers Point on the Central Coast on 12 May.

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.

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 Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz and a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and the 6.30pm net will be on DMR user-activated Talk Group 3810, with net controller VK2WID.

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

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and their April Coffee Morning is coming up at 10am this coming Thursday the 11th of April, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

The April Friday Night Get together is at 7pm on Friday the 19th of April in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

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 newly published 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.*

[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.

It is with regret that the Club announces the cancellation of the Central Coast field day, for this year. The venue had cancelled, and the Club has been unable to find a suitable replacement site on short notice.

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 MMDVM has been having problems; it has temporarily been replaced by a Quantar, so is currently only operating in P25 and Analogue FM modes.

The Somersby WebSDR 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.

The next Foundation Class will be on Saturday the 13th of April. 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 Society's 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.

The 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.

If you learnt Morse code years ago to get you HF licences and then hid your Morse key at the back of the cupboard, this is a good opportunity to dig it out again and get practicing.

For some receiving practice, the ARNSW Morse practice beacon transmits at a variety of speeds on 3699kHz, and is on air 24 hours a day except during VK2WI News bulletins.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse 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.

73 de Peter VK2EMU.

[ID4 and Activities on the air]

[Play File: 19-E-ID4-AOTA3.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 7pm 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.*
