

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.

Coming up next Sunday the 24th of September, is another “Members Morning Meetup” here 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.

Later in the day – from just after noon – we once again welcome members interested in the Radio Experimenter’s Group.

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.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the Group is coming up next weekend; at noon on Sunday the 24th of September.

At the meeting, Colin VK2JCC will be demonstrating how he has repurposed empty plastic milk bottles into blocks of plastic. These blocks can be machined to make parts for use in constructing antennas and other pieces of radio equipment.

As well as Colin's presentation, everyone is invited to bring along an item for "show and tell".

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 the morning of Sunday 24th September, then stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting.

Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of September.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm Flux	161	161	164	176	154	143	145
Fredericksburg A-Index	8	12	6	8	17	17	13
Australian A-Index	3	5	2	5	18	9	9 estimated
T index	104	118	110	105	116	86	95

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 11th, 12th and 14th; each with three M-class flares. Activity remained below warning threshold on other days.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region reached G1 level on the 12th. Magnetometer data recorded a weak impulse of 12 nanoTesla at 1120UTC, and 18 nanoTesla at 1217UTC. The 13th saw G1 planetary geomagnetic activity although Australian regional activity, remained below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 15% during local night on the 9th; 20% enhancement during local night on the 11th; depression of 15% after local dawn on the 12th; depression of 20 to 25% on the 13th; and depression of 15% during local day on the 14th, recovering at night to near predicted values.

The forecast, issued on the 15th of September, through until the 21st;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 levels with a slight chance of R2. Geomagnetic activity may reach G2 on the 17th and G1 on the 18th; otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels. Maximum usable frequencies may be mildly depressed from the 16 to the 18th, recovering after that to near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

Now the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 139, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 177
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 16th to the 17th

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 131, Average of 147, and a Maximum of 176
With peak dates from the 8th to the 13th

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 142, and a Maximum of 155
With peak dates from the 11th 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-FOAR130.wav]

Duration: 4m13s

In: "Today I'm here to tell you..."

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]

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 17-E-WNS0917.wav]

Duration: 2m39s

In: "Apart from all the..."

Out: "... at wicen.org.au."

[Transcript]

From Hunter WICEN, Dan VK2GG reports that repeater VK2RWH is now up and running for testing at Bimbadeen near Cessnock, with coverage into the Newcastle and Westlakes areas. Frequency is 147.150MHz with a +600kHz offset and 123Hz tone. Thanks to John VK2FJFS, Peter VK2YGM and Glenn VK2GEM.

Last week I said that September was looking pretty quiet, but one new event has popped up. The Pickleball Association of NSW has again asked WICEN to assist at the Australian championships at Stanhope Gardens on the 29 September and 2 October. This is a simple one, just taking equipment from Dural to the event, giving basic training to the officials at the start, and picking up the gear at the end.

There will be a Cave Rescue exercise at Bungonia Caves, east of Goulburn. Four or five operators are required for this event on the 20th to 22nd October. On the same weekend, the 21st-22nd, WICEN will be at the Murrumbateman Field Days, just south of Yass.

And, of course, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research, is on the following weekend, 28th-29th October. WICEN will provide safety communications for the event, which takes place on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.

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.

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.

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 the WICEN VHF DMR network.

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 Twitter/X @wicennsw; 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 X: <https://twitter.com/wicennsw>]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Last week, ten members enjoyed the Club's September Coffee Morning at Thrumster in perfect spring weather. Then, at the Friday Night Get Together, various show and tell items created a lot of interest but the highlight of the evening was the spectral purity tests, that were conducted on some of commonly available, hand-held transceivers.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother was further delayed due to unavoidable circumstances, but is now scheduled 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; the September issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

As we mentioned in last week's news, the Hunter Radio Group hosted a special event last Thursday evening; a presentation via Zoom by Jonathan K1RFD. Johnathan is the developer of the popular EchoLink system, used by Radio Amateurs worldwide. This live presentation was especially appreciated given that in Johnathan's home of Connecticut in the USA, local time was 4am.

The meeting had nearly 50 people from all over the Globe check in and listen to the talk including the United Kingdom and the USA.

A link to presentation recording will be posted on the ARNSW website in the near future.

The Group would like to thank staff of the Electronics section at TAFE Newcastle for their support, ARNSW for support with the Zoom meeting, and John VK2JJW and the WIA National News team for their support in publicising the event.

Most of all, thanks to Jonathan for his unbelievably informative presentation, a 10 out of 10 for a fantastic job.

*Submitted by Grahame VK2FA
for the Hunter Radio Group*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Big Bash Field Day is coming up on Sunday the 22nd of October, at the club grounds, 6a York St, Teralba.

All the usual Field Day attractions will be there, including cooked bacon & egg rolls for breakfast, and a BBQ lunch; a hot coffee van on site, giant auction, raffles including a major radio raffle drawn at noon, plus a live band.

All are welcome.

Westlakes has several on air nets each week, details are a little later on in this bulletin.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

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

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.

The next licence examination will be on the morning of Saturday the 7th of October, for all levels of licenses. Numbers are strictly limited. If you are interested in gaining a licence, or upgrading - please email the club at education@ccarc.org.au no later than midday, this coming Wednesday the 20th of September. Alternatively, telephone the Club on 02 4340 2500.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 23cm repeater is back on air and now linked with the 6m repeater. D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m Echolink services, are fully functional.

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.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday the 20th of September, in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. At this meeting, Fred VK2WS, will give a talk on QRP Challenges.

Many members enjoy dinner in the club's bistro prior to the meeting from about 6pm and all are welcome; especially any visitors from other clubs or out of town.

Regular Monday evening nets are at 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125 MHz with a -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, continue in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC room for some practical activities.

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one is coming up on the 7th of October.

Other activities are continuing either in person and on Zoom. See the society's website for details.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at vk2bv.org. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Last week's meeting at the Hornsby Rifle Club rooms, was a great night of history and tech. On the history front; Errol VK2BET brought his 1959 logbooks, which showed some great listening, and he also displayed a diode in a glass bulb like never seen before.

The next meeting of the Club is at Mt Colah Community Centre on Tuesday the 26th of September, starting at 8pm. Since this will be after the ARNSW Trash and Treasure on Sunday the 24th, those that find "actual treasure" are invited to bring it along and show it off. For those that didn't, or simply missed out, please bring along your latest project and show that off.

It's set to be a great night with fellow amateurs; be they members or not, as all amateurs are always welcome.

Finally; you may have seen the reports that Summer is due to be very hot. It's a good idea to prepare your portable gear, batteries, and hand-held radios now in case we get blackouts or fires. Even without such troubles; the warmer weather makes it nice to head to the beach with a portable setup. Why not make some plans to get some friends together for some portable operations.

*73's for now, and Let's keep radio-active.
Matt VK2BAI*

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

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

[Play File: 19-E-MRS0917-ID4.wav]

Duration: 1m48s

In: " This Wednesday is..."

[Out:....IDENT 4]

[Transcript]

This Wednesday is lecture night at the Society, and the theme is Tim's Excellent European Adventure. In June, Tim Jensen VK2BT was in Friedrichshafen, Germany for the renowned hamfest. He also toured around Europe taking in much of its history. Come along for the ride this Wednesday evening from 7.30pm.

Last month's lecture on Amateur Television by Gary VK2CRJ is now up on our YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV. While you're there, check out the many other videos relating to this great hobby of ours.

Gary has inspired the club to plan some Amateur Television transmissions from the clubhouse at Terrey Hills. More details as they come to hand.

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). We're also on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter: just search for the club callsign, VK2 Mike Bravo.

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 X: <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.