



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. XLVIII NO. 03

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454

March 2006

The Prez Sez.....

By Willie N8WP



Wow, did we have a good turnout at this month's board meeting. It is good to see more members joining us for a Saturday morning breakfast. I think that the Jagerhaus's breakfast has more to do with it than my enthralling meeting agenda! Rich and Bev did a great job getting samples for the OCARC's Field Day shirts. They will really look good, so place your order soon [see Page 5 for shirt details].

I hope everyone enjoyed Chip-N7JA's Field Day in a bag, or two, presentation. I really envy the operators that take the time and make the

effort to operate as DX from a distant country or IOTA (Islands on the Air) island. It just so happens that we have a good IOTA location just off our coast. I would really like to lead the club to Catalina and get on the air!

This month's meeting will be featuring Gordon West. Gordo will be doing a talk on the GPS system. Gordo always puts on an excellent presentation. You will not want to miss this meeting. We will also be discussing the survey handed out last month.

The next few months will have my calendar busy with Amateur Radio activities. I am looking forward to the Baker to Las Vegas Rally, the DX Convention at Visalia (remember what happens in Visalia, stays in Visalia), Dayton Hamvention, the Orange County Fair and of course Field Day! The Southwestern Division ARRL Convention will also be held in San Diego this September. I hope to see everyone at one or more of these events.

73, (NOT 73's)

Willie N8WP

March Meeting

The March meeting will be held in the Red Cross Building meeting location. Our speaker is Gordon West, WB6NOA who will present a program on:

“...the exciting technology of GPS!”

The GPS presentation will center on new mapping portable GPS equipment, live and in full touch, hooked into a Kenwood D7 for APRS and much much more!! Lots of fun demos of how GPS actually works with live recordings of early navigation systems.

Don't miss it. All members and visitors are welcome.

The next general meeting will be:

**Friday, Mar 17th
@ 7:00 PM**

We will be meeting in Room 208
In the east Red Cross Building

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**THE ORANGE
COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO**



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2006 Club Appointments:

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(714) 544-9846
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Monthly Events:

General Meeting:

Third Friday of the month
at 7:00 PM
American Red Cross
601 N. Golden Circle Dr.
(Near Tustin Ave. & 4th St.)
Santa Ana, CA

Club Breakfast:

~~First Saturday of the month~~
In APRIL on APR 08 (B2V!)
at 8:00 AM
Jagerhaus Restaurant
2525 E. Ball Road
(Ball exit off 57-Freeway)
Anaheim, CA

Club Nets (Listen for

W6ZE):

7.086 ± MHz CW **OCWN**
Sun- 9:00 AM – 10 AM
Rick KF6UEB, Net Control

28.375 ± MHz SSB
Wed- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Bob AF6C, Net Control

146.55 MHz Simplex FM
Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Bob, WB6IXN, Net Control

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.w6ze.org>

for up-to-the-minute club information, the latest membership rosters, special activities, back issues of RF, links to ham-related sites, vendors and manufacturers, pictures of club events and much much more.

Club Dues:

Regular Members ...\$20
Family Members* ...\$10
Teenage Members ..\$10
Club Badge**\$3

Dues run from January thru Dec and are prorated for new members.

*Additional members in the family of a regular member pay the family rate up to \$30 per family.

**There is a \$1 charge if you'd like to have your badge mailed to you.

TechTalk #49 - The Sunspot Cycle "Solar Minimum has Arrived"

Excerpted from <http://science.nasa.gov>

Submitted by Willie – N8WP

[Editor's introduction: For those readers who are relatively new to ham radio, the number of sunspots on the sun exhibit an eleven-year "sunspot cycle". Every 11 years (or so) the sun will exhibit a peak number of sunspots. Unfortunately for hams, five-and-a-half years later, the sun will exhibit a minimum number of sunspots. In general, a large number of sunspots creates good propagation conditions (that is: skip) for the HF bands below 30 MHz. In a related manner, if the sun contains few sunspots, then the HF propagation is much poorer than at the peaks.]

March 6, 2006: Every year in February, the students of Mrs. Phillips's 5th grade class in Bishop, California, celebrate Galileo's birthday (Feb. 15th) by repeating one of his discoveries. They prove that the sun spins.

It's simple. Step 1: Look at the sun. Galileo did this using a primitive telescope; Mrs. Phillips's students use the internet. Step 2: Sketch the sunspots. Step 3: Repeat daily. After only a few days, it's obvious that the sunspots are moving and sun is spinning, performing one complete turn every 27 days.

This procedure worked fine in 1610. But in 2006, "we had a problem," says young Jonathan Garcia. "No sunspots," explains his science fair partner Dakota Winkler.

Figure 1 is a picture of the sun taken Feb. 10, 2006, by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO).

For almost the entire month of February 2006 the sun was utterly blank. If Galileo had looked at the sun on his 442nd birthday, he would have been disappointed—no sunspots, no spin, no discovery.



**Fig 1 – Picture of Sun taken on Feb 10 2006
– NO SUNSPOTS**

What's going on? NASA solar physicist David Hathaway explains: "Solar minimum has arrived."

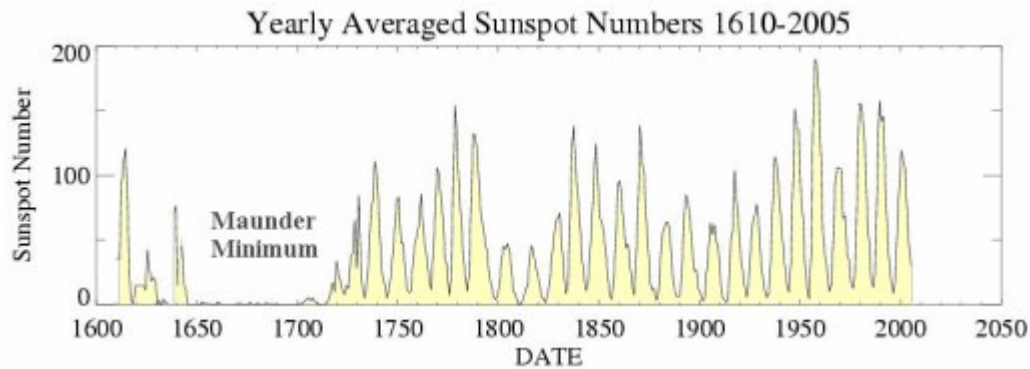
Sunspots come and go with an 11-year rhythm called the sunspot cycle. At the cycle's peak, solar maximum, the sun is continually peppered with spots, some as big as the planet Jupiter. But for every peak there is a valley, and during solar minimum months can go by without a single sun-spot. "That's where we are now—at minimum," says Hathaway.

Actually, we're at the beginning of the minimum. February 2006 was the first month in almost ten years with mostly no sunspots. For 21 of February's 28 days, the sun was blank. Hathaway expects this situation to continue for the rest of 2006.

Figure 2 displays the Sunspot counts recorded from the time of Galileo through the end of 2005. In recent centuries, counts have gone up and down with an 11-year period.

No sunspots means very low solar activity.

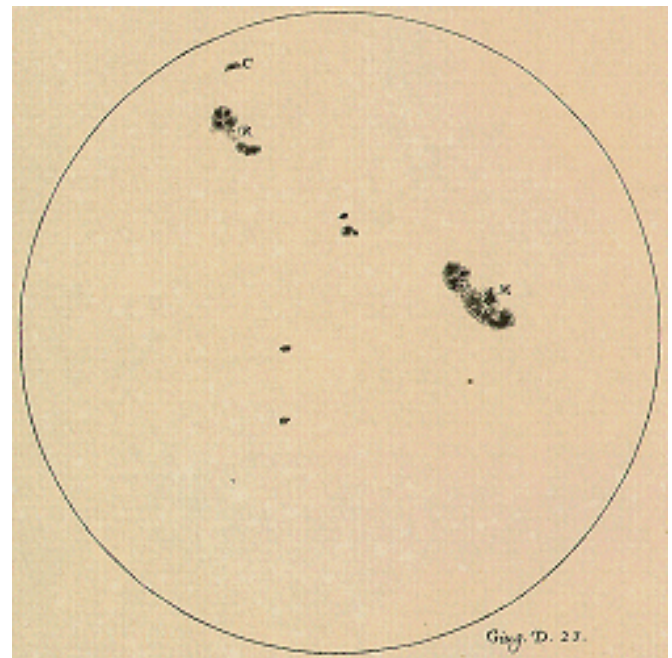
Sunspots – continued on Pg 4

TechTalk - Sunspots – continued from Pg 3**Fig 2 – Chart of Sunspot Cycles since the Year 1610**

Sunspots are sources of solar flares and coronal mass ejections that can disrupt radio communications and even cause power outages on Earth during severe magnetic storms. These problems should subside during the year ahead. Auroras, a beautiful side-effect of magnetic storms, should subside, too. "Too bad," says Hathaway, who enjoys Northern Lights.

Galileo was lucky. The year 1610 was close to a maximum of the sunspot cycle, so when he projected an image of the sun through his spy-glass, he immediately saw enormous spots. The spots themselves did not surprise him. Chinese astronomers looking at the sun naked-eye through clouds and mist had reported seeing sunspots as early as 28 BC. The reality of sunspots was uncontroversial, but the nature of sunspots was a mystery. Were they satellites of the sun? Dark clouds in the sun's atmosphere? Or something else? Galileo's daily sketches showed plainly that the sun was spinning and that sunspots were close to the surface of the spinning orb. Personally, Galileo thought sunspots might be clouds.

Now we know what they really are: great islands of magnetism. Sunspots appear when magnetic force-fields generated by the sun's inner dynamo poke through the surface. These fields block the flow of heat from below, cooling the sun in their vicinity. If you stuck a thermometer in a sunspot, it would register "only" a few thousand degrees Celsius. This makes it look dark compared to the surrounding inferno.

**Fig 3 - Sketch of the sun made by Galileo in June 1613**

Sunspots are in a state of non-stop upheaval. Tangled lines of magnetism twist and stretch until the tension becomes too great and an explosion occurs—a flare. This link between flares and spots is why solar minimum is so quiet.

"But not absolutely quiet," adds Hathaway. "During solar minimum we can have occasional sunspots and solar flares." Indeed there was at least one monster spot and one X-class solar flare (the most powerful kind)

Sunspots – continued on Pg 9

Time To Order Your "Field Day" Polo Shirt

Name _____ Phone # _____

Order _____ Men's (#K455) Polo Shirt, Seafoam Green with OCARC Logo with "Field Day" above logo (Cost \$26.00) (See photo below)

Order _____ Ladies (#L455) Sport Shirt, Seafoam Green with OCARC Logo with "Field Day" above logo (Cost \$26.00) (See photo below)

Add my call sign _____ and First name _____
To the right side of shirt front. (Add \$3.00 cost)

Order size _____ Men's Sizes: XS-6XL, LT-4XLT (Beginning with XXL, add \$2.00 for each added X)
Ladies Sizes: LS-XXL, plus X1 and X2

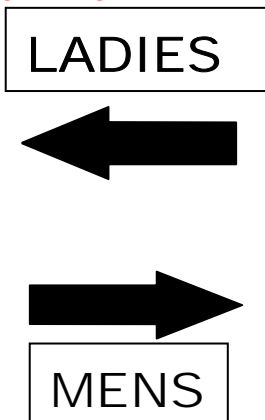
TOTAL COST:	Shirt (\$26.00)	_____ \$28.00 includes tax _____
	Added Call Sign and first name	_____ \$3.23 includes tax _____
	Cost for larger sizes (\$2.16 per X)	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ ****

**** Make checks payable to OCARC and mail to: Beverly Helmick
1315 N. Tustin St., I-380
Orange, CA 92867

Questions? Call Beverly Helmick (KI6APH) at (714) 343-4277 or bring to March, April or May Meetings

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Friday, May 19, 2006 . (at OCARC May Meeting)



OCARC - W6ZE
Financial Report for 2005

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements with Cash Balances
For Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2005

Receipts:

ARRL BPL	198.02	Cash Ending Balance		\$3,568.25
ARRL Membership Income	459.00			
Auction In	996.00	Outstanding Checks		
Badge Income	41.00		648	80.10
Badge Mailing	1.00		608	19.50
Christmas Dinner Tickets	1,091.00		609	396.04
Donations - Kei Yamachika Trust	300.00			
Donations - U.S. Sensor	500.00			\$495.64
Donations - Misc	5.00	Total:		\$4,063.89
Dues Family	62.50			
Dues Future	150.00	Bank Statement		
Dues, Membership	857.50	Savings		772.75
Interest	6.90	Checking		3291.14
Raffle Reg Income	1,972.00			\$4,063.89
Total Receipts	\$6,639.92			

Disbursements:

ARRL BPL	396.04	<u><i>K. Konechy</i></u>
ARRL Membership Expense	410.00	Ken Konechy, W6HHC
Auction Out	731.70	Audit Committee
Awards & Plaques	104.05	
Badges Expense	7.06	<u><i>K. Dankert</i></u>
Bank Service Charges	25.00	Kristin Dankert, K6PEQ
Brochure Printing Expense	27.26	Audit Committee
Christmas Dinner Expense	1,092.00	
Donations O.C. Fair	50.00	<u><i>C. Peloquin</i></u>
Donations Newslines	50.00	Cheryl Peloquin, KG6KTT
Dues	20.00	Treasurer
Equipment Expense	152.68	
Field Day Food	163.62	
Field Day Other	58.67	
Insurance	327.00	
OCARC Brochures	9.15	
PO Box Rental	38.00	
Program Speaker Expense	33.10	
Raffle Expense	1,194.02	
Refreshments	12.03	
RF Printing Expense	25.53	
Supplies	18.00	
Trailer Expense	16.00	
Web Page Exp	119.88	
World Radio AD	65.00	

Total Disbursements **\$5,145.79**
Net **\$1,494.13**

Cash - Beginning Balance - January 1, 2005

Checking Account	1,008.27
Savings Account	1,065.85
Cash - Beginning Balance	\$2,074.12

Cash - Ending Balance - December 31, 2005

Checking Account	2,795.50
Savings Account	772.75
Cash Ending Balance	\$3,568.25

WHO is the OCARC President??

By Ken W6HHC

(This is the first in a series of articles to inform you about the background of the 2006 officers and leaders of the OCARC.)

The 2006 President for the OCARC is Willie Peloquin – N8WP. Willie received his Novice class ticket as KA1HQH while still in High School in 1979/1980. He and a buddy, Rick, were into computers and taking electronics class and got their tickets together.



Well, Willie moved around a little, so he collected a lot of different call signs. Soon he became N8MDY, and then upgraded to Extra Class as AB8IO. Finally he landed the nifty N8WP call letters that he uses today.

Willie will tell you that he really enjoys radio clubs. He has been a member of the following clubs:

- Pinehill Amateur Radio Group (Rhode Island)
- Arrow Communications Assoc (Ann Arbor, MI)
- Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (Cedar Rapids)
- Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club
- Escondido Amateur Radio Society
- Joining OCARC in 2004

When you move around, Willie explains, radio clubs become a great way to meet people quickly and to make friends.

At his QTH in the city of Orange, Willie and his wife, Cheryl KG6KTT, use an ICOM 756 Pro3 low-band rig with a G5RV antenna. For the higher bands, his shack uses an Kenwood TM-D700A with a Comet GP-3 vertical antenna for 144/440 MHz. For mobile operations, his Jeep has an ICOM 706 with a HiQ vertical antenna, while his minivan also has an ICOM 706 with another (but even larger) HiQ mobile vertical antenna mounted.

Willie's favorite ham activities include special services, emergency services, community parades, Field Day, and supporting events. Willie is currently active with the state of California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and also involved with helping the City of Orange RACES organization called COAR (see picture below).

When not working with ham radio, Willie enjoys flying around in a small private airplane. Offroading in his Jeep is another favorite activity. He and Cheryl also like to RV around the country.



Picture of Willie-N8WP working with COAR - planning to provide comm support for OPD in the 2006 B-2-V race



INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

APRIL 21, 22, 23, 2006
HOLIDAY INN
VISALIA, CA

YOUR REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

All HF, low-band, and DX oriented forums and technical sessions; the traditional Convention Patch; Hosted Cocktail Parties; Saturday Night Banquet, and DX oriented program with a well-known speaker; Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffet, with more great programs. Pre-registration Drawing for a Super Prize; only for those who pre-register by the 15th of March 2006.

Registration includes Saturday lunch served by the Hotel. Don't forget to bring the YL's. We are Planning a great "Saturday Tour."

Get your reservations in early so you can participate in the pre-registration drawing.

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR

Pre-register a Young Ham, under 21, with your pre-registration. When you and the young ham, with FCC Ticket and proof of age in hand, come to the Convention Registration Desk to pick up your Registration Packets you will be eligible for a Reward of \$30.00 in convention raffle tickets. Bring as many young Hams as you like, but the reward is only for the 1st one. The young Ham's admission to the exhibits and technical sessions is free, convention meals (Saturday Lunch & Banquet and Sunday Bruch) are \$50.00.

Students and Hams under 21 are free. Just show your ID and receive a FREE Saturday Day Pass good for exhibits and technical sessions.

Pre-Registration ENDS March 15, 2006

BANQUET THEME: "Las Vegas Nights"
Banquet wear, as always, is your choosing, but we are encouraging Las Vegas Style. Anything goes ... well, nearly anything. Elvis look-a-likes welcome.

CONVENTION SHIRTS

High quality Polo Shirt with collar, embroidered logo above shirt pocket, Name, and call sign will be opposite pocket side of shirt. Color of shirt will be tan/beige. Be sure to order your shirt when you Pre-Register.

This year there will be someone available to sew convention patches on jackets, hats, etc. Look for signs in the Hotel Lobby area.

GOLF TOURNAMENT ON FRIDAY

(Contact Don Bostrom, n6ic@scdxc.org)

"THE SATURDAY TOUR"

Tour will be Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information keep checking our web site: www.dxconvention.org

POPULAR EVENTS RETURN

The very popular "Vendor New Product Showcase" will be held again this year between 9:00 and 10:00 AM, Saturday in the Convention Hall. The "Newcomer" program will be returning. Watch for their special badges. Be sure to introduce yourself.

CARD CHECKING

DXCC Card Checking for 3 Hrs on Saturday.

RV PARKING (DRY)

RV Parking (DRY) is available in the parking lot behind the Holiday Inn.

RV PARKING WITH HOOK UPS

If you want parking with hook ups please check the website: www.cvvisalia.com and click on Recreation

Sponsored this year by the SCDXC

www.scdxc.org

www.dxconvention.org

INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION 2006 REGISTRATION FORM

Are You A Newcomer: Yes No Golf Tournament: Yes No

Name _____ Call _____ Convention Polo Shirt S M LG XL XXL 3XL 4XL
Name _____ Call _____ Convention Polo Shirt S M LG XL XXL 3XL 4XL
Ham Guest under 21 _____ Call _____ Convention Polo Shirt S M LG XL XXL 3XL 4XL
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip (Mail) Code _____ Country _____ E-Mail _____

All Pre-Registrations Must Be Postmarked On, Or Before, March 15, 2006
Individual Pre-Registration: \$75.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Pre-Registration for Young Ham <21 (with meals) \$50.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Pre-Registration for young Ham <21 (Without meals) \$ 0.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Individual Pre-Registration (without meals) \$25.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Late Registration (Postmarked After 03/15/'06): \$85.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Saturday Tour (Saturday, April 22, 2006): \$25.00 per Person(s) Total \$
Call/Name Embroidered Convention Polo Shirts S - 2XL \$32.00 per Shirt(s) Total \$
Call/Name Embroidered Convention Polo Shirts 3XL/4XL \$37.00 per Shirt(s) Total \$
Banquet Meal choices: Chicken _____ Prime Rib _____ salmon _____ Veggie _____ GRAND TOTAL \$

Make Checks Payable to: Southern California DX Club (No Cash PLEASE)

Send Form & Check to: Don Bostrom, N6IC-4447 Atoll Avenue-Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

OCARC Board Minutes

March 04, 2006

This was our first Board Meeting/Breakfast to be held at the Jagerhaus with 18 people present. Only one director, N6CCE, was absent from the Board Meeting.

Our speaker in March will be Gordon West who will talk about GPS.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Audit Committee completed its audit and the books were turned over to the Treasurer who reported that the club has \$3,635.59 in the bank. [see Page 6 for Audit report]
- It was reported that AR Newline was sent \$50.00 to help defray operational costs.
- AF6C is still working on a design for the brochure and the Board approved a \$50.00 expenditure on the brochure.
- Thanks to the efforts of Beverly, KI6APH, the club members will be given the opportunity to buy OCARC Field Day shirts at the General Meeting. Samples of the shirts were shown at the breakfast.
- The editor for the April edition of the OCARC newsletter will be Cheryl – KG6KTT and the editor for May will be Bob – AF6C.

Respectfully submitted
Steve Brody N1AB - Secretary

PSK – 31 Radio Is FUN!!!!

Since getting on PSK31 digital communications mode 6 weeks ago, W6HHC has worked the following 9 DX countries using 50W on 20M with a vertical antenna.

1	UAØZAY	Russia	2006-01-29
2	JA1WC	Japan	2006-01-30
3	VA3JNO	Canada	2006-02-01
4	XE1L	Mexico City	2006-02-02
5	F4EFL	France	2006-02-03
6	LU7HEP	Argentina	2006-02-05
7	DL5BBF	Germany	2006-02-05
8	LZ1BP	Bulgaria	2006-03-04
9	EA5FL	Spain	2006-03-11

Try it....you will like it!!!!

TechTalk-Sunspots - - from Pg 4

during each of the last three minima in 1976, 1986 and 1996.

2006 will probably be the same—long stretches of quiet with occasional episodes of spots and flares. How long will this last? Stay tuned for the answer in our next story: "Solar Storm Warning."

[Editor's wrap up: About 1-year ago, the RF Newsletter re-printed a NOAA/SEC curve of the current sunspot cycle [with 2004-Sept data] that had been printed in a QST article. That figure is printed below...

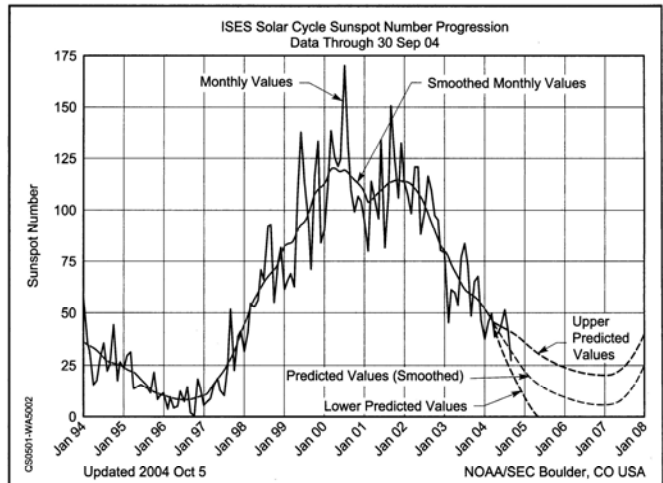
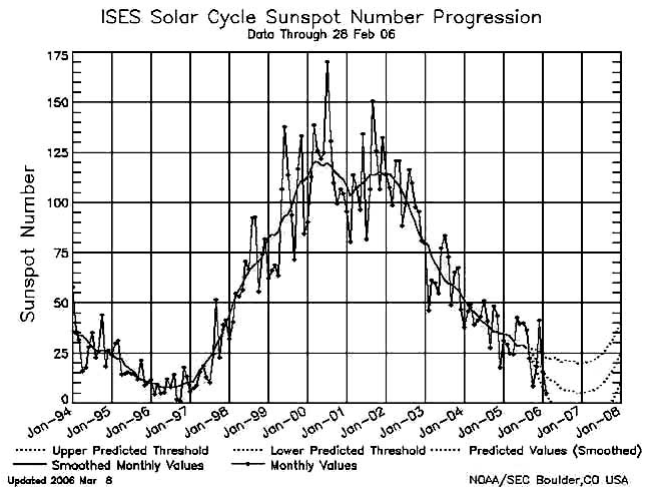


Figure 2—Cycle 23 Sunspot Number Progression through September 2004. From NOAA/SEC Boulder, Colorado.

Below are the latest curves from NOAA/SEC with Sunspot Cycle 23 data that is dated February 2006. The propagation just gets worse!!!! But, in the words of a past ARRL official..."Just wait five years...it **WILL** get better!! "



OCARC General Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2006

The February General meeting was held at the Red Cross building in Santa Ana and began at 7:00 PM. All but two Board members, Tom-K6CCD and Kenan-N6CCE, were present. A total of 28 members and visitors attended.

Chip Margelli, K7JA gave a presentation of the 2003 Field Day held in Cuba and 2004/2005 Field Days held in US Virgin Islands. Twenty-eight people enjoyed the presentation.



A show and tell was held and Ken, W6HHC showed off his 30 meter home-brew vertical antenna. KQ6JD showed a QSL card that had just arrived with only a 7 year delay.

Yearly club dues are now due. Please make sure you are up-to-date with your membership.

The March breakfast meeting will be held at the Jagerhaus Restaurant. It is on Ball at the intersection of the 57 freeway. See the RF for directions and information. The breakfast will start at 8am

prepared by Steve, N1AB



OCARC DUES ARE DUE!!!!
2006 Must be Paid by the End of March!!!

**THE NEXT
 OCARC
 BREAKFAST
 MEETING WILL BE
 HELD ON**

**APRIL 08, 2006
 @ 8:00 AM**

**Because of a conflict with
 Baker-to-Vegas Race**

Yet Another BPL Threat

-- A New Form of BPL --

By Ken W6HHC

There may be some potentially bad interference news for the future. In late February, NETGEAR who make home networking LAN equipment is planning to offer BPL as an alternative to Wi-Fi (802.11 stuff) for wiring up PCs, notebooks, printers, etc in your home. And in your neighbor's home!!!! So that S7 or even S9 noise you hear on the band in the future could be your neighbor or your neighbor's neighbor just running his home LAN. The ARRL has explained that "To operate at 200 Mb/s, they are going to have to use about 20 MHz of spectrum. It can be spread out in pieces across 2 to 50 MHz or so."

What is really bad about this...is that you don't need a big power company like SCE involved with some big "BPL project". The home LAN equipment attaches inside your house to your DSL or CABLE that has delivered the internet information to your home. That is: the BPL starts in your house...and does not come into your house via the power company outside power lines.

The good news is that the BPL-technology-supplier (DS2) for NETGEAR is talking to Ed Hare W1RFI, who is leading the BPL technical fight at the ARRL....and that is definitely a good step to avoid interference.

The company NETGEAR, who is in the top three companies making home LAN equipment, announced that the new BPL products should be reaching stores by this June. Below is an excerpt from a NETGEAR press release.

NETGEAR(R) Teams With DS2 to Bring 200 Mbps Powerline HD Solution to Market; Innovative Powerline Technology from NETGEAR and DS2 Enables High-Quality, High-Definition Video Streaming for the Digital Home

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Feb. 22 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- NETGEAR(R), Inc. , a worldwide provider of technologically advanced, branded networking products, and Design of Systems on Silicon (DS2), a leading supplier for Powerline communications chipsets, today announced that they are teaming to deliver 200 Mbps Powerline HD technology that will

make it possible for consumers to have an affordable, high-performance, high-quality broadband connection available anywhere in the home without the need to run any cabling between rooms.

By turning any electrical outlet into a high-speed broadband connection, the fast 200 Mbps speeds provided by this collaboration will enable consumers to easily maximize the use of their network-enabled devices, such as digital video recorders, game consoles, personal computers, print servers or the NETGEAR Storage Central for storage, file, and print sharing, backups, Internet gaming, and video streaming. This proprietary technology using standardized DS2 chipsets will offer video Quality of Service (QoS) that makes it possible for users to seamlessly stream high-definition video throughout the entire home.

"As applications like online gaming, whole-house audio distribution and high-definition video streaming are becoming more mainstream, consumers require fast, reliable broadband access in every room in the home without the inconvenience of running new wires," stated Patrick Lo, CEO of NETGEAR. "We are excited to be working with DS2 to develop a solution that tackles that problem head on. Our collaborative technology will extend high-performance Internet connections to any room in the home, making it possible for consumers to enjoy high-quality, high-definition video and other bandwidth-hungry applications without interruption."

"NETGEAR is a major force in the consumer electronics market and a leader in offering high-performance products," said Jorge Blasco, CEO of DS2. "Our partnership with NETGEAR is proof positive that there is a growing consumer demand for Powerline products. Moreover, DS2's 200 Mbps Powerline chipsets are providing simple, reliable broadband connectivity that offers the necessary bandwidth to connect the digital home. DS2 technology is proven and mature. Our technology is currently in use by several service providers and we are delighted to be working with NETGEAR to bring this technology directly to the consumer."

The first NETGEAR products based on DS2's Powerline technology are expected to ship in the second quarter of 2006 and will be available through NETGEAR's consumer, reseller, and service provider channels.

UK Amateur Radio Licensing Changes

- A lighter, electronic licensing process

Excerpts from UK announcement that were provided

by Rob McLachlan – G7GHA a visitor to OCARC Field Day in 2005

Ofcom (Office of Communications) is the regulator for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications and wireless communications services. In the UK, Ofcom announced in February the reform of amateur radio licensing which is intended to reduce the administrative burden on the UK's 63,000 amateur radio users.

Ofcom has decided to implement the following Ham Radio reforms:

- To issue lifetime amateur radio licences which will remain valid for as long as the licence details remain correct or until such time as the licence is either revoked by Ofcom or surrendered by the licensee. There shall be no end date on the amateur radio licence. Such licences will be personal to the licensee and will not be transferable.
- To provide an online, web-based, self-service licensing service as an alternative to the postal service.
- To issue electronic licences (probably PDF documents) to users of the online, web-based, self-service licensing service. Users of this service would print a hard copy of the licence which must be kept at the main station address.
- To continue to make paper licences available (but subject to a small administrative charge).
- To modify the original proposal by requiring licensees to validate their licence details at least once every five years in order to maintain their lifetime licence.

SPECIAL THANKS!

Thank you for your donations, discounts, and support of OCARC club!

James Shryne, N6DHz

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