

Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

October 2008

President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

My, how time flies. Summer has come and gone. But I am going to enjoy this Fall season. There will be plenty of Fall Festivals and other enjoyable things starting up. JOTA is just around the corner, and so is Mule Camp. In the next day or so, be watching for more information on our reflector about what we can do to be involved. Another LARC Family Dinner (politically correct?) is coming up on Oct. 25th. It will be located at Oakwood City Park in the "A Building". Everyone make plans to attend. It will be another bring a dish to share and enjoy the camaraderie and that great southern cooking!

Special thanks to Doyle W4DJG and John KE4PCF on getting yet another Tech Class off the ground. Mr. Ed KF4HPY has a General Class coming up the end of October. So if any of you would like to up-grade, this is your chance to do so. We appreciate these guys who work so hard to help promote amateur radio. And we can't forget those VE's, who work extra to make it all come full circle.

Being a ham makes you part of a worldwide community. Your ham license is your membership card to a unique worldwide fraternity. No matter where in the world you are, if there's a ham nearby, you've got a friend. Most hams are genuinely nice people. Sure, we'll have our petty squabbles from time to time, and we'll likely debate the merits of code exams forever, but it's very rare to find hams who are nasty, vindictive people. They're just not welcome in our worldwide community.

Ham radio brings a world map to life, providing us the opportunity to actually talk to people in far-away places -- and then try to see just where it is they're located in relation to ourselves. Ham radio can be the geography teacher's best friend.

It can also be a parent's best friend. Recently I received a call from North Georgia College to advise me my son had been in an accident onsite, and he was enroute to the emergency room. Not knowing his condition, trying to call him on his (dead battery) cell phone, I reached over and grabbed the 2M mike and called out his call sign. The sigh of relief on my face when I heard him call back and he replied was very refreshing. Later at the hospital he replied, "Dad, I'm glad I had my Ham Radio!" I just had to look at Mom and advise her it was worth that "little" push (no

ham license – no DRIVER'S LICENSE) that she opposed to. But that is a story for another day.

Get out and enjoy this great hobby. Be RADIO – ACTIVE!

As always, email (k4pdl@bellsouth.net) me with your thoughts, ideas, and /or criticisms. This is YOU'RE CLUB, be an active part of it. Help us preserve the good and build for tomorrow. Start today.

Until next time,
73

Over the years I have noticed that many Amateur operators want to participate in DXing and compete but for many reasons do not like "contesting". Also many times DX stations are only on during a particular contest weekend or the person may have other competing family events that precludes them from operating over a short duration of time. In addition, I wanted to generate more enthusiasm and activity in DXing and Ham Radio overall that I believe has somewhat declined over the recent years due to where we are at in the sunspot cycle. So I decided to take action and with assistance bring to life a DX event that is intended to be more inclusive, competitive, and provide a duration period that would offer many more Hams the opportunity to get into the DXing and compete at their leisure. So the 2008 Fall Classic DX Event took shape.

Over the past several days I have contacted many DXers and Contesters, along with several of the DX Clubs and have received very positive feedback. (This includes Hams in over 36 countries).

One additional note, DX worked during the Event period in any of the scheduled upcoming contests will be counted for this DX Event.

I hope you and your membership decide to join in on the DXing fun!. Take care and I would like to thank you in advance for your support. (Please feel free to send this to individual Amateurs and Clubs).
Thank you, Ron K4SX

2008 Fall Classic DX Event
(Sponsored by the CountryuncleDX Group)

- **Objective**
 - To work as many DX countries of the world on Amateur Bands; 160, 80, 40, and 20 meters
- **Contest Period**
 - 0000 UTC October 1st thru 2400 UTC December 31st 2008
- **Eligibility**
 - All licensed Amateurs Radio Operators
- **Modes of Operation**
 - SSB, CW, and Digital Modes (RTTY, PSK31)
- **Entry and Power Categories**
 - Single operator
 - FCC maximum allowed power output

- **Contest Exchange**
 - **Send** Call-sign and Signal Report
 - **Receive** Call-sign and Signal Report
- **Scoring**
 - Contacts between US Amateurs are not a valid contacts and do not count as a point
 - For US Stations, all DX contacts outside of the USA count 1 point
 - DX station can be worked on each mode for a single band for award purposes
 - Multiplier list is the ARRL DXCC Country listing (once per mode and once per band)
 - Same DX stations may be worked once per mode and once per band
 - DX Stations competing will assume the same rules as US stations
 - contacts within your country are not valid contacts
- **Miscellaneous**
 - All participants must be aware of and comply with current Band Plans and power limitations
- **Log Entry and Submission**
 - Logs are required if you are competing for one of the 4 Award Plaques and/or certificates.
 - All logs must be submitted electronically in Cabrillo format.
 - We suggest using N1MM logger (free download), although any logging program using adi is acceptable.
 - Under log type select DX Log. This will properly score your contacts for this event.
 - All logs must be submitted no later than January 30, 2009.
 - Email all logs to. SIDFLYNT@hotmail.com
- **Awards**
 - Plaques will be awarded to; **Top Overall Score and individual modes SSB, CW, Digital (RTTY & PSK31)**
 - Certificates will be awarded to **Top Overall Scores** for individual bands; 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters
 - A certificate will be issue to anyone submitting a log with a score with at least 20% of the highest overall winning score
 - Sponsorship for plaques
 - N4DA, W4JSM, K4NV, and K4SX are plaque sponsors
 - Plaque sponsor's call-sign will be imprinted on the plaque
- **Website**
 - All results will be posted at <http://www.countryuncledx.com>
 - Contest info can be found at the website above

Still More Hamstick Stuff

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

During the summer of 2006, I was chatting with Tom Van Valkenburg, N2SBD, about antennas and the vertical featured in the June 2006 CQ magazine. The article was entitled "Build a Hustler/Hamstick Combo Antenna" by Hugh Paul, W6POK and was very well written and quite detailed. Tom expressed an interest in such an

antenna as he had only a small plot of land to erect an antenna. He liked the design, which consisted of a Hustler 4-BTV and 4 Hamsticks to cover the bands 40-10 meters, mounted on a short mast. We discussed the article and his situation and he decided on a Hustler 6-BTV vertical as the starting point. This antenna covers 80-10 meters and would need 6 Hamsticks to act as radials. This 6-piece setup would have to be handled differently from W6POK's well-illustrated CQ article. While Tom was ordering the material for his soon to be antenna farm, I cast about for an idea of what to use for a radials mount. Going to Lowe's or Home Depot usually is the answer to a radio problem. As usual, the part was waiting in the plumbing section. It was disguised as a shower valve wrench, but it didn't fool me. It was long, fat, and hex sided and made for the task. The only thing was to mount six Hamsticks and allow access for nuts and wrenches and mount it to the mast. By this time all the different antennas were arriving and assembly started.

Arriving at Tom's home in September of 2006 to put it all together were Doyle W4DJG, Roger WB4T, Phil K4PDL, Oria KG4KFM, and myself. Together we assembled a VHF/UHF vertical and a 6m Yagi with rotator on a tall mast attached to the house before turning to the HF vertical. Working in teams, a hole was dug, a 4x6 inserted, the 6-BTV assembled and tuned, mounted on a stout steel pipe. Now, we all got together and using muscle stood the assembly upright. Not an easy task, after clamping the mast to the 4x6, we brought all the coax and control cables into the house. After trying out all the antennas we found the 6-BTV Hustler to be resonant on the 75/80m band at around 3.4 MHz and that Tom's 746 Pro II internal tuner wouldn't tune. It worked well on all the other bands; but we were too tired to bring the antenna back down to retune, and the day was closing. Days later some of the original crew returned with a manual tuner and a G5RV to cover the same bands horizontally. The Hustler worked well, as I witnessed Tom working a French station on 20m using PSK31, and enjoying it to the fullest. A few weeks ago most of the old crew returned to remove all traces of the antenna farm, as Tom has since died. Tom Van Valkenburg N2SBD was a guy who asked little from anyone. He passed the CW test to upgrade to General instead of waiting for code to be phased out. He was a tube radio guy trying to learn the entire chip radio world's new stuff, like PSK31. I hope I go out just as happily when I get old.

Attention All Amateurs...



ARRL Sets up E-mail Addresses for Use During Hurricanes, Tropical Storms (Sep 2, 2008 [REVISED Sep 6, 2008 11:28 ET]) -- In an effort to streamline hurricane support operations at ARRL Headquarters, the League has set up two e-mail addresses for hams to pose questions or relay non-emergent information to HQ Staff relating to hurricane or named tropical storm events. If you need to communicate with ARRL HQ regarding these storms, please use hurricane@arrl.org or hurricane@arrl.net. While these e-mail addresses are not monitored on a 24/7 basis, they are monitored during each storm's descent on the US, as well as throughout the hurricane season.

PR Works

It is rewarding for a Public Information Officer to discover that items that have submitted and printed are indeed being read. This was demonstrated during this year's Delaware County Field Day preparations. The stage for this event began with a chance meeting at a local Home Depot.

The real beginning had its roots in a modification of a practice started by Pete Heberer, WA3QZX. Pete always carries dollar coins which he leaves as tips following good restaurant service. With the introduction of the new gold-colored, presidential series of dollar coins, Jim Biddle, W3DCL began carry this new series of coins, but for a different reason. As a lover of American history, he began the practice of giving one of these new dollar coins to the parents of young children.

His quest is to have these coins become a bridge to the children learning more about their nation. It was during the shopping trip to Home Depot that elementary school student Katelyn Keenen became a recipient of a newly minted James Madison dollar. Sometime later, an accidental inclusion of Katelyn's mother's e-mail address in the mailing list of the Field Day 2008 resulted in a phone call.

The caller was Katelyn's mother, Sara Starr. She shared the information that her father had been a Ham Radio operator many years ago. Sara also asked if she and her daughters could attend this year's event. An invitation was extended and accepted. Sara Starr and Katelyn, her older sister, and two of her sister's friends came to spend a few minutes and to "see what was happening."

To paraphrase an old saying, they came, they saw, and they stayed in a visit that was much longer than a few minutes. During the visit they accepted the offer to become guest operators. The sound of a youthful female voice is a refreshing sound during the droning sounds of tired male operators. The new, attention getting voices belonged to mother Sara Starr and her daughter's friends.

The visitors are all school students within the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District. The attendees included Katelyn Keenen, a student at the Rose Tree Medial Elementary School; and her older sister Tiffanie Keenen along with her friends LaKeisha "KeKe" Williams and Ayana Dunn. Tiffanie and her two friends are beginning their junior years at Delaware County's Strath Haven High School.

While there is no promise that any of the experiences shared by Sara Starr and her group will spawn a future Amateur Radio operator, but their experiences are a good start in some form of interest. This type of visit is one of the goals of this annual opportunity to demonstrate what Amateur Radio can do and how well it functions. The Field Day Committee has extended their special thanks to the visitors and has asked them to please come again next year.

Goes to show, you never know whose life you may touch in whatever you do.

This happened to start with a gold – colored coin. "What's in your future?"

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Oria Stephens, KG4KFM

When: Oct 18 & Oct 19, 2008

JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year. JOTA takes place starting Saturday at 0000 hours local time (12:00 AM) to Sunday, 23.59 hours

local time (12:00 PM), though some activity continues over from Friday to Monday to take advantage of long distance (DX) time differences.

World Scout Frequencies

Band	SSB (phone)	CW (morse)
80 m	3.690 & 3.940 MHz	3.570 MHz
40 m	7.090 & 7.190 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 m	14.290 MHz	14.060 MHz
17 m	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15 m	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12 m	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10 m	28.390 MHz	28.180 MHz
6 m	50.160 MHz	50.160 MHz

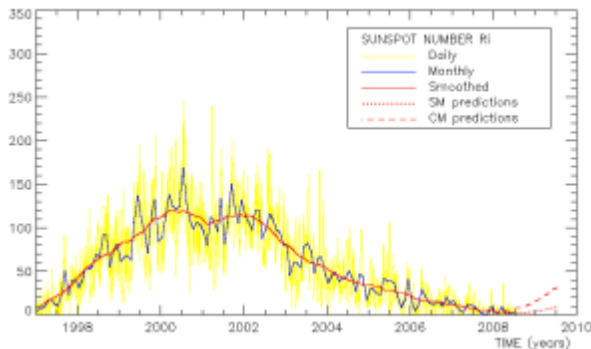
For more information on JOTA in our area and to participate in this years event, contact Chuck Leming, W4EDT at w4edt@watchingwolf.net

Please note that the World Scout Frequencies have partly changed **per 1 July 2007**. This is caused by several reasons. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has changed its band plans, among others to create space for more digital transmissions. Some Scout frequencies are affected by this. Traditionally, Scout Frequencies were chosen in a segment where low-power, simple stations are transmitting (QRP). This allows Scouts to operate such stations from camp sites and still be able to communicate with others. Some of these frequencies have changed over time. The amateur radio bands are increasingly busy with competitions. With the Scout frequencies chosen outside of the contest segments as far as possible, Scout stations can operate undisturbed.

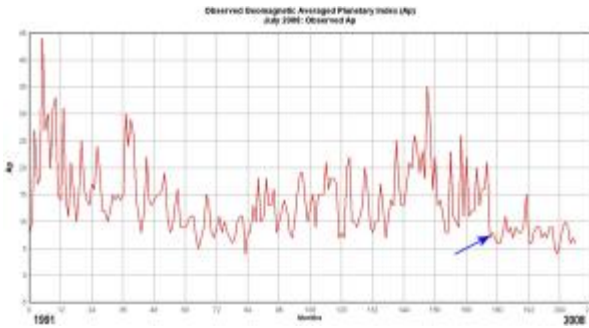
Science Sun makes history: First spotless month in a century.

Submitted By: John Vaughn KA4ZQP & Oria Stephens, KG4KFM

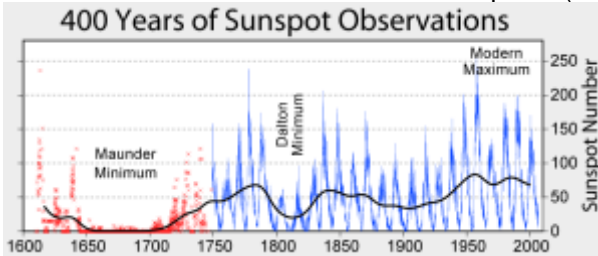
The record-setting surface of the [sun](#). A full month has gone by without a single spot (Source: Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO))



Sunspot activity of the past decade. Over the past year, SIDC has continually revised its predictions downward (Source: Solar Influences Data Center)



Geomagnetic solar activity for the past two decades. The recent drop corresponds to the decline in sunspots. (Source: Anthony Watts)



A chart of sunspot activity showing two prior solar minima, along with heightened activity during the 20th century (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

Drop in solar activity has potential effect for climate on earth.

The sun has reached a milestone not seen for nearly 100 years: an entire month has passed without a single visible sunspot being noted.

The event is significant as many climatologists now [believe](#) solar magnetic activity – which determines the number of sunspots -- is an influencing factor for climate on earth.

According to [data](#) from Mount Wilson Observatory, UCLA, more than an entire month has passed without a spot. The last time such an event occurred was June of 1913. Sunspot [data](#) has been collected since 1749.

When the sun is active, it's not uncommon to see sunspot numbers of 100 or more in a single month. Every 11 years, activity slows, and numbers briefly drop to near-zero. Normally sunspots return very quickly, as a new cycle begins.

But this year -- which corresponds to the start of Solar Cycle 24 -- has been extraordinarily long and quiet, with the first seven months averaging a sunspot number of only 3. August followed with none at all. The astonishing rapid drop of the past year has defied predictions, and caught nearly all astronomers by surprise.

In 2005, a pair of astronomers from the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson attempted to publish a paper in the journal *Science*. The pair looked at minute spectroscopic and magnetic changes in the sun. By extrapolating forward, they reached the startling result that, within 10 years, sunspots would vanish entirely. At the time, the sun was very active. Most of their peers laughed at what they considered an unsubstantiated conclusion.

The journal ultimately rejected the paper as being too controversial.

The paper's lead author, William Livingston, tells *DailyTech* that, while the refusal may have been justified at the time, recent data fits his theory well. He says he will be "secretly pleased" if his predictions come to pass.

But will the rest of us? In the past 1000 years, three previous such events -- the Dalton, Maunder, and Spörer Minima, have all led to rapid cooling. One was large enough to be called a "mini ice age". For a society dependent on agriculture, cold is more damaging than heat. The growing season shortens, yields drop, and the occurrence of crop-destroying frosts increases.

Meteorologist Anthony Watts, who runs a climate data auditing site, tells *DailyTech* the sunspot numbers are another indication the "sun's dynamo" is idling. According to Watts, the effect of sunspots on TSI (total solar irradiance) is negligible, but the reduction in the solar magnetosphere affects cloud formation here on Earth, which in turn modulates climate.

This theory was originally proposed by physicist Henrik Svensmark, who has published a number of scientific papers on the subject. Last year Svensmark's "SKY" experiment claimed to have proven that galactic cosmic rays -- which the sun's magnetic field partially shields the Earth from -- increase the formation of molecular clusters that promote cloud growth. Svensmark, who recently published a [book](#) on the theory, says the relationship is a [larger factor](#) in climate change than greenhouse gases.

Solar physicist Ilya Usoskin of the University of Oulu, Finland, tells *DailyTech* the correlation between cosmic rays and terrestrial cloud cover is more complex than "more rays equals more clouds". Usoskin, who notes the sun has been more active since 1940 than at any point in the past 11 centuries, says the effects are most important at certain latitudes and altitudes which control climate. He says the relationship needs more study before we can understand it fully.

Other researchers have proposed solar effects on other terrestrial processes besides cloud formation. The sunspot cycle has strong effects on irradiance in certain wavelengths such as the far ultraviolet, which affects ozone production. Natural production of isotopes such as C-14 is also tied to solar activity. The overall effects on climate are still poorly understood.

What is incontrovertible, though, is that ice ages have occurred before. And no scientist, even the most skeptical, is prepared to say it won't happen again.

Article Update, Sep 1 2008. After this story was published, the NOAA reversed their previous decision on a tiny speck seen Aug 21, which gives their version of the August data a half-point. Other observation centers such as Mount Wilson Observatory are still reporting a spotless month. So depending on which center you believe, August was a record for either a full century, or only 50 years.

LARC would like to thank Ary Citvaras, WA4ZQF for his equipment donations to our club.

General Class scheduled to begin October 25
See <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/licensing.html>
for details.

Sealed Bid Auction Gets Underway:

You should have received an e-mail outlining the sealed bid items up for auction.

REMEMBER: Bidding concludes at midnight October 27.

Send you bids directly to w4djg@bellsouth.net

Winning bids will be announced at the October meeting and via phone/e-mail notification.

This is a great opportunity to help raise funds for our club and pick up sought after items as well.

JOIN THE FUN !!!!!!!!!!!

CLUB LOGO ITEMS

(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

Ball Caps Embroidered Logo



\$10.00

T-Shirts (Silk Screen LOGO)



\$10.00

Embroidered Patches



\$3.50



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)

Visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> for more info

FEMA Independent Study Program (ISP)

For those of us who are emergency responders, it is a prerequisite to have taken and passed independent Study courses IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and IS-700 (National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction) as a minimum. All ISP courses are designed to allow you to learn at your own pace and at your leisure and are FREE. All it will cost you is a little time.

A list of all FEMA ISP courses and links for each course can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

When you have completed the required courses (and/or other ISP courses) and have your course completion certificate in hand, please let Ron Mulberry, KI4RBE or one of his assistants know so we can get your training logged. Take as many of the courses as you wish but REMEMBER IS-100 and IS-700 are required.

BUY, SELL, TRADE

Bill Farr, KJ4FQR is in the market for a multi-band mobile rig. He also has a mobile business band antenna looking for a new home. Contact Bill at billfarr@windstream.net



OSCAR STATUS :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>

OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/frequencies.php>

October Club Meeting

October 28 at Curt's in Oakwood.

Dinner at 5:30pm with meeting at 6:30pm

LARC dates for 2008 (mark your calendars)

LARC Family Picnic October 25

LARC Christmas Breakfast December 6

Lunch Bunch Every Friday at 11:30 there is a lunch get-together at a local restaurant. The location is announced on the Wednesday night net, our web site under the activities tab and under the calendar icon as well as announced on the 146.67 repeater. ALL are welcome

Repeater Info: 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz 224.840 (-) open 444.950 (+) 131.8 Hz

Hall County Nets W4ABP repeater 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz
Hall County ARES Net, Wednesday @ 20:00 & LARC Net Wednesday @20:30
"Everyone is welcome to check in"

Quote of the Month:

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." William Arthur Ward

Chinese Proverb of the Month

A good fortune may for bode a bad luck, which may in turn disguise a good fortune.

Beware of latest E-mail Scam to Hams!!

There is yet another e-mail scam circulating the Internet, that all Hams should be on alert for. The scam has apparently been directed to HAM Radio Call sign e-mail addresses!!

This time it is an e-mail purportedly from American Express. The fraudulent message arrives appearing to be From: "AMEX SERVICES" with a Subject Line: reading: "AMEX UPDATE".

The scam messages seeks to have the recipient send a front and rear copy of both their Driver's License and AMEX card.

More savvy e-mail users will readily see that the message is a bogus attempt to obtain personal and account information.

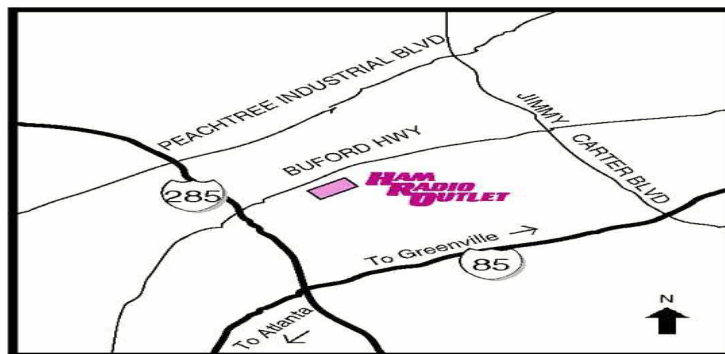
The message originates from the e-mail and IP address: aaron@digital-glass.com [82.165.179.193].

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE!!!



Mark Holmes KJ4VO, M a n a g e r
6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax 770-263-9548

Mark KJ4VO Tim KE4VDH Dale W4GCL Bill KF8AZ Josh W4JDH David W4EGT



My radio is sick. Who do I call?

We recommend "The Radio Doctor" Milton Lord, N4DA

Visit his web site at <http://www.n4da.com/>

Or give him a call at 770-966-1166

While your on his site, check out his Home Brew AMP

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LARC's Mike Strong, K4CRO



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- VEHICLE GRAPHICS
- LIGHTED & MORE

**P.O. BOX 1212
GAINESVILLE, GA 30503
770-535-7446
michael@crowderinc.com**

LARC's Michael Crowder K9VR

Many thanks go to those who submitted news, information and articles for this edition. Send you newsletter contributions to

W4DJG@bellsouth.net

As a reminder, the newsletters are archived within our website. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first.

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>

73 to all