

WRC UPDATE

-December-

November 21, 2003

Radio Amateurs Serving The
Western Communities of
Palm Beach County, Florida

remember to Z-O-O-M in
on the photos... 200% recommended



More Inside...

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IMPORTANT

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY DECEMBER 6TH AT 7:30PM

- <> MOBILE INSTALLATIONS & TESTING <>
- <> FINAL OFFICER NOMINATIONS <>
- <> ELECTIONS <>
- <> FREE FLEAS <>
- SEE PAGE 2

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NATIONAL HORSE SHOW

CONTACT: BRUCE K2MBF 281-6396
TELL HIM HOW MANY PASSES YOU NEED

<>
**SHOW DESCRIPTION, DETAILED PROGRAM AND
PRINTABLE VENUE MAP ON PAGE 5**

NATIONAL HORSE SHOW



VOLUNTEER NOW... FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

WRC's LOST CHILD & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTH AT THE NATIONAL HORSE SHOW CHILDREN'S FAIR

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 29TH - 11AM TO 3PM - SETUP 10AM

EVENT PASSES AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Over the past three years the unique WRC Lost Child & Communications Booths have resulted in dozens of separated kids and parents being reunited quickly at major community events. Wellington's National Horse Show has now been added to our list of such events where amateur radio will again serve the community while gaining positive exposure.

The National Horse Show has quickly become the Western Communities' largest event. Last year, over 50,000 people attended this event and this year's crowds are expected to be even larger. At Saturday's Children's Fair, a few thousand children and parents

will be enjoying rides, exhibits and entertainment. As usual, the WRC Lost Child banner will hang high above our booth able to be seen by all... especially children.

As is often the case, the WRC tries to combine our community service with opportunities that you can enjoy with your family. As many as eight volunteers can be accommodated. Children 12 and under are free. Several passes are available for rotating use by volunteers or family members. Coordinate with Bruce K2MDF.

If you prefer, you may purchase an NHS *Gold Membership* for a box seat for six good for all events including the gala banquet... just \$5000. *What a deal!*

IMPORTANT DECEMBER 1ST MEETING

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

It seems that all meetings *are described as important...* but this one is! If 25% of the WRC membership doesn't attend, officers won't be elected for 2004.

At the last meeting, nominations were opened to the floor for the Officer positions and the Nominating Committee presented its slate. Based upon previous experience, it came as no surprise that the current Officers were again candidates for their same positions.

With any luck the business part of the meeting will move speedily along with the acceptance of any additional nominations from the floor and the actual voting process.

OLD BUSINESS... THE QUARTERLY FREE FLEA

At the November meeting there was a lively discussion of whether the WRC should sponsor a quarterly "free flea." In years past, such events were not long-lived. Those of the Yester Year Village Radio Club appear to have met a similar fate. There were mixed arguments and it was resolved that the Board would discuss the matter at its next meeting and present a recommendation. Come and be heard on this matter.

THE PROGRAM: MOBILE INSTALLATIONS

The fun part of the evening will be discussing, looking at and testing members' mobile installations. Power, ground and antenna systems are all critical to putting out a good signal. How does yours measure up? Come to the meeting and get some good ideas.

DUES: ONE TIME 50% REDUCTION

The November WRC meeting produced a motion that will make most members happy. At a time when most peoples' expenses are going up, WRC members will be getting a break!

There was a treasurer's report by Georg KR4WD that assured us of sufficient funds to meet the club's normal needs. Larry KS4NB then presented a summary of the Board's discussion about dues for the 2003/2004 membership year. He then informed members of the Board's final recommendation which was confirmed by a motion unanimously approved by the membership:

"Motion for there to be a 50% discount due to the shift in the dues schedule and that we are half a year behind in the billing cycle."

Among the revisions of the Constitution and By-Laws, adopted August 2002, was the change in the dues period... from the calendar year to a July 1-to-June 30th fiscal year. Because the revisions were adopted after the fiscal year was to have begun, its implementation was delayed.

Shortly, dues statements will be sent out that will cover membership through June 30, 2004:

\$ 9.00 Full and Associate Members

\$ 4.50 Retirees, students, spouse, other family members, etc.

To receive the 50% discount, dues *must* be paid **WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT** and members must have been in good standing as of August 2002.

PHOTO SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 8TH:

THE ADVANCED SKYWARN TRAINING CLASS

Some 25 people were captivated by the presentation of lecturer, meteorologist and NWS Warning Officer Jim Lushine.

Beyond the normal advanced material, he shared with us some intriguing, preliminary research findings. Also there were many facts, such as *"there are an average of 100 thunderstorm days in South Florida"* that some might consider trivial. But not the radio amateurs in class... they wanted to buy Polyphasor stock and never again leave home without their radios!

Jim, many thanks for another fine class!

NWS TROPICAL STORM SCORECARD TO NOV. 8TH

	FORECAST	ACTUAL	DEATHS & DAMAGE
TROPICAL STORMS	12-15	14	44 Deaths \$2.5 Billion
HURRICANES	7-9	7	32 Deaths \$2.4 Billion
MAJOR HURRICANES	3-4	3	26 Deaths \$2.3 Billion

Forecasts seem to be on target for this 2003 Hurricane season. The typical major hurricane took 8 people's lives and caused \$767 million in damage, whereas the average tropical storm had close to one loss of life and caused about \$14 million in damage.



Jim Lushine's Power Point presentation included many resources to get further information. **Center:** Sandy WB2MBV, believed to be the first to call in with Spotter information on the Rivera Beach Tornado, is congratulated by Jim... his original SKYWARN instructor! **Right:** SKYWARN Coordinators Don Morris KE4JHH, Miami-Dade, and Melissa KE4WBQ, Palm Beach, chatted and posed with Jim after class.

ON GOODWILL AND IMAGE... A UNIVERSAL CHALLENGE

This Newsletter frequently touches upon *Goodwill* and *Image* because these topics are often neglected elsewhere yet are very important to achieving our many goals.

The Ham Radio History Newsgroup had an interesting item about a European ham, Peter Vekinis, EI4GV, SV0GV, VA3PPV, KC1QF. He is a writer and one of his passions has been the improvement of the image of Amateur Radio in Europe... sounds familiar doesn't it?

Peter lists 7 guidelines for improving the im-

age of Europe's hams and discusses Goodwill:

Continuation and Extension of International Goodwill

"Hams are unique even in these days of worldwide jet travel. They journey to the far reaches of the globe with their radios, they make friends with foreigners, they advertise what a wonderful place Europe is and they invite and get invited to explore each others countries. All radio amateurs have a certain type of bond where no matter where they are, they become friends because they share a commitment to the 7 principles. Radio amateur communications cross the boundaries between countries and cultures."

Peter's website: <http://www.ellada.com/ham/kc1qfb.html>

BEWARE... GOODWILL Is CONTAGIOUS!

When the leaders of a radio club believe something is of interest, important or requires support... that belief often stirs and motivates others. The feeling that we live on a small planet hits home when our comments and thoughts are appreciated by our distant neighbors... in this instance half way around the globe.

The reaction of the NIAR of India to the WRC's November Newsletter was very positive. It's articles were felt to be meaningful enough to be posted on the NIAR homepage. Hundreds of Indian hams and officials have reportedly read our Newsletter.

Radio amateurs everywhere should be aware that their goals and aspirations are not unique but are shared by their brothers around the world.

NIAR's homepage. Magnify to read or go to www.niar.org to see the original and view the latest NIAR news. See page 4 for information about HamFest India 2003.



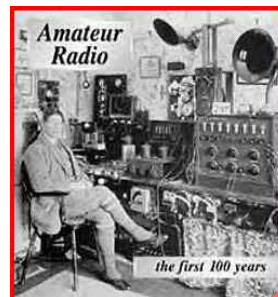
Image of Chris M3DOL, on his website, is an example of how he excels at computer graphics, another favorite pastime.

Chris eloquently conveyed greetings from the Northampton Radio Club and presented the WRC with *Amateur Radio... The First 100 Years*. It is the beautifully bound, pictorial book published by the RSGB. Our volume is number 691 of just 1000 copies and contains the history of ham radio in Great Britain. The NRC's contribution to our library is much appreciated and has already been used as the basis for the WRC Memory Lane Net in its study of how our great hobby developed in the UK.

MORE ON GOODWILL... ANOTHER AMBASSADOR FROM THE NORTHAMPTON UK RADIO CLUB VISITS THE WRC!

Chris M3DOL cherishes the opportunity to personally meet those he's contacted... including at least a half dozen WRC members. Attempting to attend our October meeting, Chris drove all the way from Orlando while on vacation.

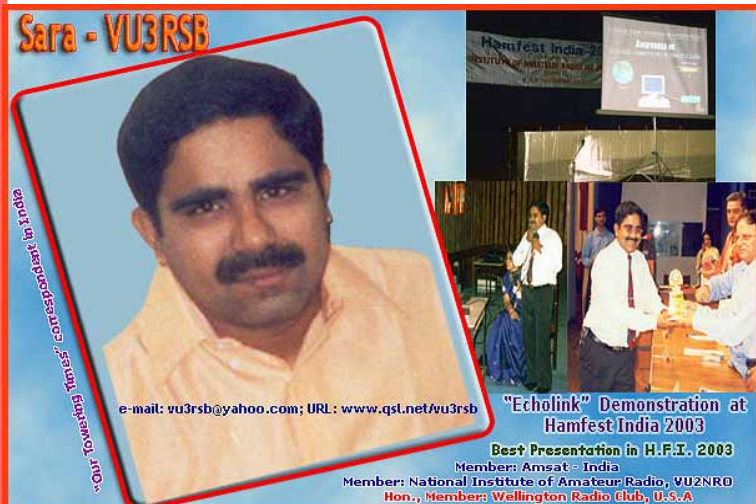
Misplacing his directions, Chris sought assistance at the Florida Highway Patrol's secure Lake Worth dispatch center. The steel doors opened to Chris after he uttered the magic words "Wellington Radio Club." It also resulted in the FHP Commander providing him with a printed map and directions to our EOC meeting site... really!



HAMFEST INDIA 2003

Hamfest India is an annual, national festival where individual hams, clubs and national associations attend as one group leaving aside their individual affiliation. It is a good occasion for meeting other hams, exhibitions, technical discussions, sales of equipment and components and demonstrations of latest technologies. A young tradition, the very first national Hamfest was held in 1991 in Kerala and its site changing yearly.

The 13th Hamfest of India was held this November the state of Gujarat. It was organised by Gujarat Institute of Amateur Radio (GIAR) headed by Mr. S.K.Nanda IAS. About 450 delegates from different parts of India attended. A team of 18 members from National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) led by its Founder and Executive Vice Chairman & Director Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY also participated.



Sara's QSL from HamFest India... lots of interest in Echolink!

A QUARTERLY WRC FREE FLEA?



Another tradition lost? WRC members enjoying the Lantana Free Flea: (l-r) Rob KG4BZF, Ken W9KEN, Larry KS4NB, Dick WB4CRB, Charlie N4JZK, Stu KM4GJ and Jack KG4FKY.

Ham traditions seem to be crumbling in Palm Beach County. It was announced that there will NOT be a West Palm Beach Hamfest in 2001! Jeff WA4AW, organizer of the quarterly Lantana free-flea, has publicly stated that the March 3rd event will most likely be the last.

Above: Photo & excerpt from the March 2001 WRC newsletter. Three of these hams are now inactive and the Lantana Free Flea did die. A renewed Palm Beach Amateur Radio Council, led by Jeff WA4AW, has a Hamfest and similar events as major goals. With its 12 members and their substantial collective resources, a free flea could be forthcoming. For more on the PBARC: www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/detail.html?master_id=0007017786

PCARC's AUCTIONS... SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES

Port City Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report – November 2003

By Scott – KB1IPT

Keep the junk...excuse me, vintage gear coming! Last meeting's auction brought in \$714 to the club's treasury. That's \$1,145 including last month's auction.

Secretary's Report –

Auction

Finally an auction of more "club gear" was held, with the following successful bids:

N1KJN, scope
KB1YJ, boxes
KB1KBC, Icom 2m rig
K1JCJ, HP voltmeter
KB1KBC, Kenwood 2m rig
KA1GJU, Tandy RG-8 coax, mint cond.
K1STT, box of misc. quality components
W1PIE, isolation xformer
N1ZGI, 17m QRP rig, contester's dream
KA1A, Heath amp (best deal of the night!)
KB8MAN, coax cable



EXCERPTS FROM THE...

November 2003 PCARC's LONGWIRE

The 'almost' monthly newsletter from PCARC.



KB1KBC, parts, parts bin
K1JCJ, low pass filter
N1ZXZ, packet TNC
KB1EOF, four (4) 2m HT's
KA1GJU, 20A power supply
KB1KBC, 7A power supply
KB1KBC, 2m rig
N1KJN, AC voltmeter
N1ZXZ, autopatch
W1PIE, box o' meters
KB1EOF, 40 ft. tower and mast
N1KJN, 2 beam antennas
KB1KBC, the other box of misc. parts

In the end KB1KBC wound up with N1KJN's beams due to limited cargo capacity. Congratulations to all the successful bidders, and better luck next time to all the rest!

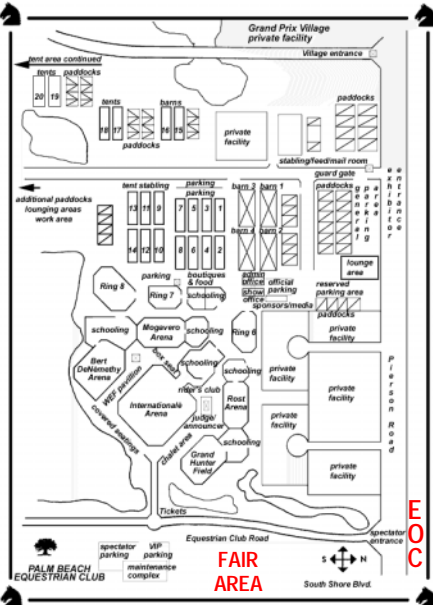
Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sloane (K1FOO), Secretary, Port City ARC



ABOUT THE NATIONAL HORSE SHOW

For over a century the National Horse Show has been the most important horse show of the competition calendar. Olympic Gold Medalist, William Steinkraus posed the question "How should the National be classified? Is it primarily a 'show' for the public or a true competition; a social phenomenon or a sporting event? Do we regard it as an el-

egant party extended over several days, or the climax to a whole year's rivalry compressed into only a few -- a matter of play with charmingly anachronistic toys, or a matter almost of life and death?" How should the 120th edition be classified? Why as all of the above and many other things as well of course! (From the NHS website: www.nhs.org)



Use the 'Graphics Select Tool', Right Click, Choose 'Print', then 'Expand to Fit Page' & OK! The Show entrance is on Pierson Road just opposite the Wellington EOC.

DETAILED TENTATIVE SHOW SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 INTERNATIONALE ARENA - 8:00 AM

Class Event

- 2552 Small Junior Working Hunter 16-17 Round 2
- 2553 Small Junior Handy Hunter 16-17 Round 3
- 2652 Large Junior Working Hunter 16-17 Round 2
- 2653 Large Junior Handy Hunter 16-17 Round 3
- 2703 Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 Round 2
- 2704 Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 Round 3
- Kilkenny Insurance Amateur-Owner Hunters
- 2722 Amateur-Owner Hunter 36 & Older Round 2
- 2723 Amateur-Owner Hunter 36 & Older Round 3
- 3101 Ladies Hunter Side Saddle Over Fences
- 1006 Chesapeake Petroleum Speed Stake

DENEMETHY ARENA - 9:00 AM

Class Event

- 1402 The National Children's Speed Classic
- 1302 Palm Beach Daily News Adult Speed Classic
- 1201 The National Junior Speed Stake
- 1101 Amateur-Owner Speed Stake

12:00 NOON

- 3201 Estates at Wellington Green Adult Am Hunter
- 3202 Estates at Wellington Green Adult Am Hunter

DENEMETHY ARENA - 2:00 PM

- 2505 Small Junior Hunter 15-17 Under Saddle
- 2605 Large Junior Hunter 15-17 Under Saddle
- 2503 Small Junior Handy Hunter 15-17 Round 3
- 2604 Large Junior Handy Hunter 15-17 Round 3

GRAND HUNTER ARENA - 8:00 AM

Class Event

- 3607 Large Pony Conformation Under Saddle
- 3506 Medium Pony Conformation Under Saddle
- 3407 Small Pony Conformation Under Saddle
- The Village of Wellington Pony Hunter Classic Round One

3605 - Large Pony Working Hunter

3504 - Medium Pony Working Hunter

3405 - Small Pony Working Hunter

3700 The Village of Wellington Pony Classic Round Two

3304 Children's Working Hunter Under Saddle

3303 The National Children's Working Hunter Stake

MOGAVERO ARENA - 8:00 AM

- 2nd Annual Zada Dressage at the National Competition

WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB Nets Open to All!

Monday....7:30PM - Wellington Emergency Net 147.285
Thursday..7:30PM - Memory Lane Net 147.285
Saturday...7:00PM - IRLP SKYWARN Net 442.050/103.5
Sunday.....7:30PM - Slow Scan TV Net 147.285

GETTING TO THE EOC



THE WRC UPDATE

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Wellington Radio Club
1213 White Pine Drive,
Wellington, FL 33414

(561) 793-0788 Email: LARRY33414@AOL.COM

President & Editor - Larry Lazar, KS4NB
Vice President - Juan Abellon, MD, KG4QYY
Secretary - John Moorman, KG4JMO
Treasurer - Georg Samulkewitsch, KR4WD
Program/Activities Chairperson - Bruce Fondiller, K2MDF

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WHERE ARE WE...

SUNSPOT CYCLE 23

NOAA's longterm tracking of Sunspot activity is summarized in its November 7th chart, left. From the June 1996 Cycle low Sunspot Number, SSN, of about 10, it took three years to reach the Cycle's average high. During the twin peaks from June 1999 to June 2002, the average SSN was about 112. By the end of October 2003, the SSN had dropped to about 60. It will continue to fall for three years when it is predicted that the Cycle bottom will again be reached.

In the mostly non-technical report, below, Tom KN4LF discusses how recent Geomagnetic Storms influenced day to day skip conditions.

THOMAS GIELLA, KN4LF REPORTING ON RENEWED SEVERE GEOMAGNETIC STORMING

Will it ever end?

Yes, in another year or so.

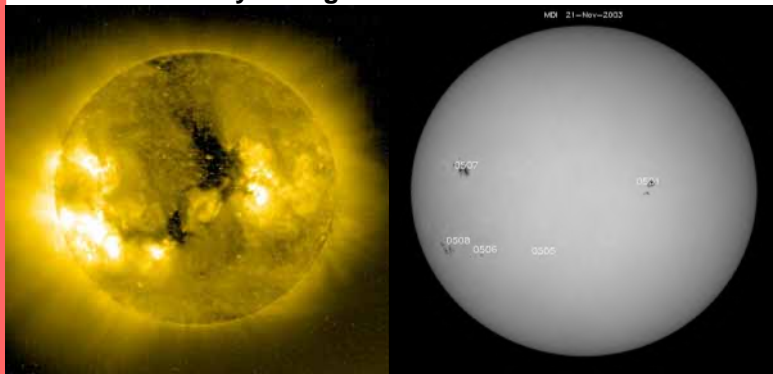
As all radio enthusiasts know band conditions from LF, MF to HF have been fair at best and very poor at worst for many days.

Here's why...

Thanks to the recurrent Coronal Hole #066. It has been a prolific pain in the ionosphere between 11/08/03 and 11/19/03, that's 12 miserable days of geomagnetic storming. Actually this is the third pass around the Sun that this particular Coronal Hole has wreaked havoc. Now that #066 has lost it's grip on Earth's magnetic field all should be quiet, **WRONG!**

The monster record breaking sunspot group regions # 10484, 10486 and 10488 are back in view again, this time as #'s 10501, 10507 and 10508. (See photos below).

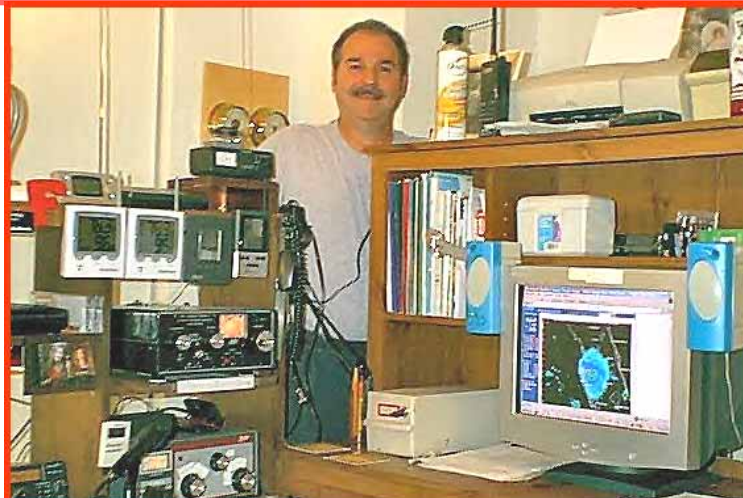
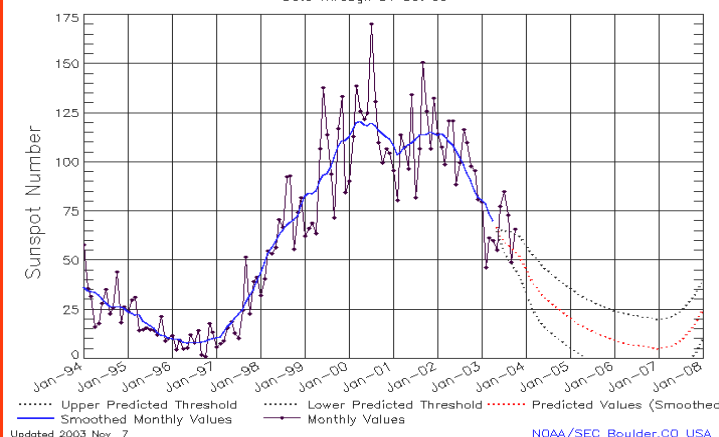
Last month I said that I had a real bad feeling (unscientific) about #'s 10484, 10486 and 10488 before all heck broke loose. Although I don't think we will see identical solar space and geomagnetic weather as last time around... it could still be very bad again.



Dramatic solar photos. Left: Extreme ultraviolet Imaging Telescope image from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center [2003/11/21]. Right: ZOOM IN to see sunspot regions 501, 507 & 508.

All three sunspot groups are capable of very large M class solar flares, with two capable of huge X class flares and associated Coronal Mass Ejections, day side radio blackouts, severe geomagnetic storming, visible mid latitude Aurora and polar cap and mid latitude absorption. There may

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression
Data Through 31 Oct 03



Tom KN4LF at his radio/weather shack... just a few of his toys are shown. also be elevated energetic proton storms. Oh yeah... if you have a lot of fillings in your mouth, they may heat up due to induced currents! ☺

Actually the sunspot groups are already wreaking havoc having produced seven very large M class solar flares in the past three days, one of which was just short of X class size. One associated Coronal Mass Ejection has already begun impacting Earth's magnetic field this morning with a Kp-6-7 (strong to major geomagnetic storming) and an elevated energetic proton event. Also there are three or four more Coronal mass Ejections headed for Earth as I write (on Nov. 20, 2003). Our current geomagnetic storm may peak at a Kp of 9 which is a G5 extreme level storm.

For those disinterested in all the physics discussed above, in simple layman terms:

expect long periods of poor to very poor propagation conditions on high and mid latitude paths, on night time LF and MF bands, and day and nighttime on the HF bands. Even low latitude paths will be impacted in a negative manner at times. As an example, due to the current geomagnetic storming I was not able to make scheduled BPSK31 contacts on 80 and 160 meters in the past 12 hours with large antennas and 100 watts. A sign of things to come.

73 from Thomas F. Giella, KN4LF
Plant City, FL, USA

Daily Solar Space Weather & Geomagnetic Data Archive:

<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf5.htm>

HF/MF Radio Propagation Theory Notes:

<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf8.htm>

Florida Space & Atmospheric Weather Institute:

<http://www.kn4lf.com/fsawi.htm>