

# R F Feedback

Volume 7 Issue 8 Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub P O Box 91 Lovington IL 61937 August 16, 2008

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There will no business meeting this month. Instead on August 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday we are meeting at Yoders Kitchen in Arthur on East Route 133 for lunch followed by a program "D-Star" by at 1 pm. All amateurs & their guests are welcome.

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub will be hosting a program on the new D-STAR technology given by Kermit Carlson, W9XA. Kermit operates D-STAR repeaters in the Batavia, IL area. For more information on D-STAR, please see the following:  
[www.icomamerica.com/amateur/Dstar/](http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/Dstar/)

## **WHAT: D-STAR PROGRAM**

**WHEN: AUGUST 16, 2008 (LUNCH AT NOON; PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.)**

**WHERE: YODER'S COUNTRY KITCHEN, ARTHUR, IL**

## **Minutes of July 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

### **Sullivan Public Library**

Meeting was called to order at 6 55pm President Clint-KC9S

1<sup>st</sup> order of business was to listen to comment about change or not to change the yearly dues..After some discussion a vote by show of hands those in favor of keeping it the same 5 Opposed 3 Motion to keep the dues the same at \$20 passed

A repeater status report from Ralph-WC9V Repeater 146 655 was still in repair And would be checked on in the following days Reporting back at next meeting

It was agreed that there would not be a business meeting held. Instead we would all meet at Yoders Kitchen in Arthur at noon on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> for lunch and a Program at 1 pm "D-Star" by W9XA Kermit Carlson  
Meeting was ajorned 7 45 pm

Bill-W9LYN gave a short talk on "Old time radio" but time ran out Thanks Bill

Those present at the meeting were Clint-KC9S Alan-KA9Z Bill-W9LYN Ralph WC9V Dave-KD9AC Byron-K9BFA Jerri-WX9D Sam-K3BY Bob-KA9LRZ

## **H F conditions**

During the last month, July 16<sup>th</sup> to August 12, 2008 the solar flux again varied only two points. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the SFI low was 65 and on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 it reached a high of 67. The last time it reached 70 was on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Hence, the plot of the solar flux has remained a rather flat squiggly line for

nearly three months. There were 24 days WITHOUT sunspots and only 3 days WITH sunspots during this twenty-seven day period. Even during the three “weak sunspots” the highest the SFI reached was 66.4.

There has been much recent discussion about why we are not seeing better HF conditions. There has even been speculation that we can only look forward to another “Maunder Minimum”, a period for 1645 to 1715 when there were no sunspots for seventy years. A NASA solar physicist David Hathaway addresses these concerns as reported in an online article titled “What’s Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)”. In it he points out that statistically we are still within the “first standard deviation” and that thus this minimum is “not at all abnormal.” You may find the article, which is the best I have seen on the topic, at: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/11jul\\_solarcycleupdate.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/11jul_solarcycleupdate.htm)

The WEB Site points out that: “In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there were periods of quiet lasting almost twice as long as the current spell. .... Most researchers weren’t even born then.”

Carl Luetzel Schwab, K9LA in his comments on this article and other considerations of propagation, notes we have already “seen three sunspot regions tied to Cycle 24 (January 4, April 13, and May 5), ... it is coming.” See: <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/2008-arlp033.html> **WHEN** is still the question... In this same bulletin report Carl also points out that good mid latitude sporadic E conditions as seen recently on 6, 10 meters and even 15 meters are not tied to sunspots.

W9LYN, having had to take down and unhook antennas for some tree removal, is still puzzling as to what antennas and were to return them to his backyard.  
73, Bill

On Friday morning the retired amateur group meets at Pagliaccs Logan Street  
8 am for breakfast All amateurs and their guests are welcome

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**WEEKLY NETS**

**Tuesday 7 pm 80 mtrs Informal Net 3.825 Initial contact 444.925  
then over to 80 mtrs**

**Saturday Night 10 Mtrs Net 28.400 USB 8 pm**

**Sunday Night 2 Mtrs Net Tone 162.2 8 pm NCS KA9LRZ**

## OUR OFFICERS

## KC9S Clint

## President

## W9LYN Bill

## Vice-President

**KA9Z Alan**

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## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**KD9AC Dave**

**3 Years term expires September 2008**

**K3BY Sam**

### 3 Year Term Expires September 2009

## K9BFA Byron

### 3 Year Term Expires September 2010

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