



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 11 November 20 2006

Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting will be on November 20th 7 pm at the club house in Bruce IL All amateur & their guests are welcome Note: There will be testing after the meeting...If you are wanting to upgrade or know someone who does bring them to the meeting so they can take the test

No regular meeting was held

Those in attendance were: KD9AC-Dave, Bill-W9LYN, Ralph-WC9V, Sam-K3BY, Alan-KA9Z, Byron-KB9BWS, Jerry-WX9D, Bob KA9LRZ (if I have missed anyone please let me know I misplaced my attendance list)

A note from previous meeting of the officers was read: The officers met on September 28th 2006 to discuss the selling of the club house After some discussion it was decided to make the recommendation to the membership that we sell the building due to the fact that the expenses to maintain the club house were exceeding the current income.

At the November 20th meeting a vote will be taken for selling the club house The club will continue to exist but will have to find an alternate meeting site(s) if the club house is sold A proxy vote ballot will be sent to each paid up member along with a S.A.S.E. so they can return this to the club before the November meeting...

-In absents of an assigned secretary, the Notes were take by Bob KA9LRZ

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux Index for the last month, October 11th to November 15th, varied 27 points. That is with a low of 70 from October 16th to the 20th to a high of 97 on November 11th. That is as low as it has been recently but also higher than last month. The surge is the result of a fairly large single Sun Spot that has persisted more that half way across the Earth facing side of the Sun. It is being followed by several smaller spots that have appeared in the last few days. Currently, November 15th, the Solar Flux is at 95.

There was more activity at W9LYN this past month than for some time. Part of it was the result of the Dxpedition to Revilla Gigedo by the XF4DL group for more than a week. Years ago I had caught an operation from there on 80 meters but their excellent operation from Socorro Island this time provided me with contacts on six more bands 160 – 12 meters. (It is an island in the Pacific west of Mexico and about 300 miles south of that long peninsula of Baja California.) Other additions that

were pleasant surprises here included contacts with Kermadec Island–ZL8R on 17 CW in the South Pacific north of New Zealand and an “all time new one” Franz Josef Island–R1FJT also on 17 CW that is north of western Siberia at about the latitude of northern Greenland.

Conditions during the CQ WW DX Phone contest were a pleasant surprise with the Solar Flux only at 75. I am not aware of how 10 meters was but 15 meters was especially good Sunday afternoon. There were many North American stations from British Columbia to central America and the Caribbean and South American stations from the northern part of the continent all the way south to Argentina and Chile. In Oceania there were two Hawaiians that went in the log but the best surprise was VK4CZ in Queensland Australia. If I had realized how good 15 meters was, I would have spent time on it when I might have caught an Asian or two and at least a few Europeans and Africans. Originally, it was my plan only to operate looking for new “band countries” but I got caught up in the excitement of the contest and operated on 80 through 15 meters managing WAC on 40 and 20 meters.

Hope those of you who are in the M.A.R.K. DX Competition had fun in the Phone contest and have been adding to your totals since then. Remember that the CW running of the CQ WW contest is the last weekend of November and also that you have until just before the Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 2nd to add to your total DXCC countries/entities worked.

“Murphy” visited several of us that I know of. Dave-KD9AC had problems apparently with a bad connection of his coax to his beam. At W9LYN the whipper mechanism on the variable inductance in the tuner that I use at the base of the inverted “L” came unglued before the contest. I called Ten-Tec and asked about what kind of cement to use to fix it. Followed their suggestions and thought I had it fixed. It worked fine on 80 and the higher bands. What I did not check before the contest was if it would work on 160 meters. Well in the contest I could not get it to work on 160 were I had hoped to operate. Hope “Murphy” has not and will not visit the rest of you during your efforts in the M.A.R.K. Competition!

--- FLASH ---

**NEW FREQUENCIES authorized by the FCC will become effective
December 15, 2006**

SEE <http://www.arrl.org/new/stories/2006/11/15/100/?nc=1>

EIGHTH M.A.R.K. DX COMPETITION

Remember that our 2006 competition will start at 7:00 PM (CDT), Friday, October 27th, the last weekend in October with the CQ WW Phone DX Contest and run until our Christmas dinner gathering at 6:00 PM (CST) Saturday, December 2nd. If you have not done the antenna work you may have planned, as I have not, there is not much time left... With a beam atop a new tower, Clint-KC9S may be the person to watch this year. Let's hope more members will be able to participate this year than were able to last year. The program will offer suggestions on operating to reduce the frustrations of the busy bands during the contests here near the bottom of the Sun Spot Cycle. With probably only moderate activity

on 15 meters and less on 10 meters the hoards of operators will probably be especially active on 20 meters.

WEB Sites to keep in mind include:

1) <http://www.ng3k.com> where under NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page are found "Announced DX Operations" and "DX Entity Tables", under Packet Cluster Resources is found "DX Summit", and under Links To Propagation Tools is found "NCDXF/IARU Beacon Transmission Schedule" along with loads of sometimes useful WEB Sites.

2) <https://thunderstorm.vaisala.com/> that will show you where "static" is coming from and which way the storms are moving. (This one is a "secure site" and you have to also click on a spot for a "FREE MAP")

Weekly Nets

Saturday Night 10 meter Net 28.400 USB 8 pm CST (1:00 UTC)

Sunday Night 2 meter Net 146.655 162.5 Hz tone 8 Pm CST (1:00 UTC)

A Ham Radio breakfast every Friday morning 8 am at D&W Restaurant Mattoon IL

Coles County ARES will meet Fridays 8 am D&W restaurant

Officers

KA9LRZ Bob President

KC9S Clint Vice-President

KA9Z Alan Treasurer

Secretary

Trustee

KB9BWS Byron 3 year term Expires Sept 2007

KD9AC Dave 3 year term Expires Sept 2008

K3BY Sam 3 year term Expires Sept 2009

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