



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 10 October 16 2006

Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting will be on October 16th 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

"DXing Near the Bottom of Solar Cycle 23"

Or: How to Make the Best of Not Very Good

Conditions on the Higher High Bands

Bill James - W9LYN

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux Index for the last five weeks, September 5th to October 11th has varied some 17 points from a low of 70 to highs of 87 a few days either side of September 9th. That is lower and with less variation than in recent months. Currently, October 11th, the SFI is at 75.

Among the contacts since my last comments have been SSB QSO's on both 20 and 17 meters with Dave-AH6HY, a Hawaiian operating from the British Virgin Islands and on 17 meters with a fellow from the Netherlands-PA6Z operating from Luxembourg. I also caught LX/PA6Z on 30 meter CW. Additional contacts on 30 CW include England-G3FPQ, Northern Ireland-MI0SRR, Canada-VE7IG/1,

Hungary-HA8KW, and the Ivory Coast-TU2/F5LDY. QSO's on 17 meter SSB also include Italy-IK4GRO, Germany-DL2MDU, and Belize-V31LL. Finally, there was a 40 meter CW contact with Oleg on the South Shetland Islands-LU/R1ANF, an all time new one for W9LYN.

***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”)

You will find the M.A.R.K. 8th DX Competition sheet attached separately to this “R. F. Feedback” newsletter.

Program Suggestions

We would greatly appreciate your suggestions for programs for the club meetings. If you have something you would like to present, or know a person who could give us a good program please email Clint, KC9S. kc9s@mail2usa.com or Bob, KA9LRZ ka9lrz@consolidated.com

Notice This issue is not complete Do to a computer problem the minutes of September 18th 2006 was not available Sorry Sam Also several items are not here The list of officers and trustees and the monthly events weekly nets, amateurs breakfast etc I am sorry for this and hope next month all will be back to normal Bob KA9LRZ

Contact M.A.R.K.

MARK
P.O. Box 91
Lovington, IL 61937

Email: mark@qsl.net

Website: www.qsl.net/mark/