



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/> e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Don Urschel, WA8DTU
Vice-president:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD
Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

June 2009

Minutes of the May 18, 2009 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, KC8DUX, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, N8LRP, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, N8NRF, N8OZN, N8QF, NR8R & Barb, K8RJH, N8TFH, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Don, WA8DTU, at 7:01 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published was made by Bob, K8RJH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2009 membership is presently 88 members representing 63 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Bob, NR8R, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron then went on to present a preliminary report on Dial's expenses/earnings at Hamvention. The 10% donation more than offset the cost of the spaces and the drinks/snacks provided for Dial members with a net profit of \$264.83. In addition, the Club

sold some excess equipment for \$215.00. Dave, KD8W, moved to accept Ron's preliminary report and Jason, KD8GXD, seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was noted that last year the "Club Table" provided \$90.00 towards the cost, and that this year there was no "Club Table".

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "the same old stuff" regarding the repeater system. He did emphasize that the mobile repeater in the Club trailer that is used for Hamvention needs to be upgraded.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, announced that persons planning to attend the picnic at the combined Dial/BCVHFA Field Day on June 27 should email her of their intention to attend no later than June 22 (dishgirl222@sbcglobal.net) and they should bring a dish to share. The clubs will be providing meat, soft drinks, and disposable dinnerware as in recent years. She noted the need for one or more gas grills to prepare the food. If you have a grill that can be used, please contact Lorie.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, announced that 9 persons had taken exam elements at the April exam session. The next exam will be in August, a week before the new Technician Class start. Details will be provided at a later date.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, at the Golden Corral

Old Business

During the April meeting, Brian, KC8NHP, had asked for advice as to a gift for his wife on her 22nd wedding anniversary. He was thinking along the lines of a new 7-element yagi or a 500 watt amplifier. Bob, NR8R, asked Brian which gift he had chosen for such a special occasion. Brian admitted that he had repaired and restored a clock that he had given to his wife on a much earlier anniversary.

Membership

Jim Frey, W8ISZ, sponsored David F. Tritch, N8YFQ, for membership in Dial. Ron, N8QF, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded the motion to accept David's application. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, David.

New Business

Dave, KD8W, noted that the Club trailer is in dire need of rust removal from its frame and repainting of its aluminum side panels. An estimate for the repairs is \$1,000. Ron, N8QF, reported on the club's checking account balance. Including predictable expenses, the repair of the trailer can be performed without having to dip into funds set aside for emergency repair of the repeater system. Don, WA8DTU, noted that the contents of the trailer would have to be removed and stored during the process. Ron, N8QF, added that the work must be performed after Field Day. Eventually the following motion was made by Dave, KD8W: That funds be allocated for the rust removal and painting of the Club trailer. The provider will be chosen after a minimum of 3 bids, and that the best of the offers will be chosen. Further, the work cannot begin until after Field Day. Bob, NR8R, seconded the motion, which passed.

Don, WA8DTU, appointed a committee consisting of N8QF, KD8W, and KC8TXA to get the quotes and have the work done. The committee is expected to report their progress at the June meeting.

Jason, KD8GXD, brought forward a motion to allow the DoDropIn Echolink server to link to W8BLV for their Saturday night net at 9:00 p.m. After some discussion it was suggested that a two month trial would be appropriate as the meeting prior to Field Day is expected to be busy. Roy, N8LRN, asked that the membership vote on the issue and Brian, KC8NHP, seconded the motion to allow the test. The motion passed with one nay.

Ron, N8QF, announced that Rick, AF8T, has passed his duties as newsletter editor to Jason, KD8GXD. As a result, the masthead needs to be updated. Also, the transition was responsible for the late arrival of the May newsletter. Thanks for stepping up Jason!

The Dial trailer will remain at Ron's (N8QF) place of business until Wednesday (two days hence). A possible reload

date is May 27th at Ernie's (W8EH) shop at 6:00 p.m. An email confirmation will be sent.

Adjournment:

Bob, KC8DUX, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Editor's Post Script:

Several members stood around for a short period of time discussing Field Day. Since the meeting had adjourned, no business could be held – which might be a good thing. Ernie, W8EH, suggested that we do "just like we did last year". Since last year's Field Day was such a success (except for the storms), that seemed like a good plan of action. Each reader is asked make the same contribution (or more??) to the Field Day effort as they did last year. Details will be discussed at the June meeting.

News and Information

Hamvention

Hamvention appeared to be a success to me. I personally had a great time. Got to meet several people that I have talked with on the radio, hang out with friends, and I got to drool over all the new, and used equipment. But, I have to admit, this was my first trip to Hamvention as a ham, so I'll have to do a few more to give a better opinion.

It was reported that sales were up for both indoor vendors, and the outdoor flea market. There were decent sized crowds.



The gang was hanging out near the Dial lots.



Some were even trying to hide.



Jason KD8GXD

President Obama to Renominate FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for New Term

On Tuesday, June 2, President Barack Obama announced that he will renominate current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for another term. McDowell, a Republican, was first nominated by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in June 2006, filling the unexpired term of Republican Kathleen Q. Abernathy. McDowell, whose present term expires June 30, 2009, would need to be confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners' terms are five years long.

According to the White House, McDowell has collaborated with his fellow Commissioners to develop and establish American communications policy covering the wireless, media and Internet industries, as well as international policy matters. He has worked to create rules governing wireless auctions, establish a framework for unlicensed use of TV "white spaces" spectrum, develop incentives to encourage the development of new broadband technologies, review public interest benefits as part of the approval process of proposed corporate mergers and adjudicate enforcement proceedings.

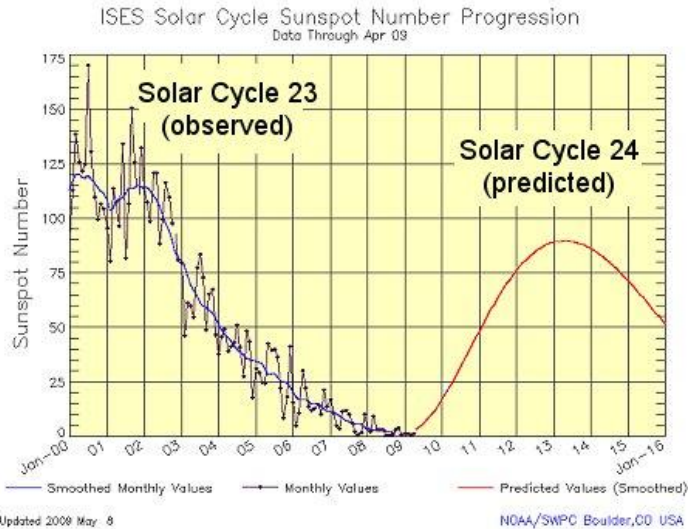
McDowell brings to the FCC approximately 16 years of private sector experience in the communications industry. Immediately prior to joining the Commission, McDowell was a senior executive for a trade association representing competitive facilities-based telecommunications service providers. He has served on the North American Numbering Council and on the Board of Directors of North American Numbering Plan Billing and Collection.

Acting Chairman Michael Copps congratulating McDowell on his renomination, saying he was "truly delighted that he will continue on as a fellow Commissioner. Since becoming Acting Chairman several months ago, I appreciate more than ever Rob's collegiality, his openness, his creative intellect, and the deep sense of purpose he brings to his work. I especially want to thank him for all the talent and energy he has brought to our work on next week's DTV transition. He has traveled near and far to help consumers prepare and he has done an outstanding job in helping us deploy an extensive DTV Call Center operation. I look forward to our continuing work together as we tackle the many tough communications issues confronting the Commission and the country."

McDowell was graduated cum laude from Duke University in 1985. After serving as chief legislative aide to a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, he attended the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Upon his graduation from law school, McDowell joined the Washington, DC office of Arter & Hadden, a national law firm, now closed, that was based in Cleveland. McDowell is admitted to practice law before the courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the US Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia, First, Fourth and Fifth Circuits, as well as the US Supreme Court. He lives in Fairfax County, Virginia on his family's farm with his wife Jennifer and their three children.
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NASA Releases New Predictions for Solar Cycle 24

An international panel of experts -- led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA -- has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). This report clarifies a NOAA report from earlier this month that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average."



This plot of sunspot numbers shows the measured peak of the last solar cycle in blue and the predicted peak of the next solar cycle in red. Chart courtesy of NOAA/Space Weather Prediction Center.

The latest forecast revises an earlier prediction issued in 2007. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

In 2007, experts varied in their predictions on when the solar cycle would peak and how strong it would be. In April of that year, NOAA, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

At a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December 2007, David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, along with colleague Robert Wilson, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They said they believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past 50 years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

Right now -- June 2009 -- the solar cycle is in a valley, the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the Sun showed some of the lowest sunspot counts on record, as well as weak solar winds and a low solar irradiance, going more than two years without a significant solar flare. "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," Pesnell said. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, Pesnell said that the Sun has begun to show some small signs of life: Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the Sun's surface are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward its equator. Radio astronomers have detected a tiny but significant uptick in solar radio emissions. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24 and form the basis for the panel's new, almost unanimous forecast.

Pesnell cautioned optimism, telling the ARRL that there is an "error bar of +/- 20." This means Solar Cycle 24's sunspot number could be as high as 110, or as low as 70. "Based upon my own personal research, I don't think we'll see 90 [sunspots in Solar Cycle 24]," he said.

When asked if such a low number foretold the beginnings of a Maunder Minimum, Pesnell said that a Maunder Minimum takes several cycles to appear: "Sunspots [in solar cycles] leading up to the Maunder Minimum took several cycles to disappear. I really can't predict what will happen in Solar Cycle 25. What we're seeing now is something that look likes a sunspot, but it looks as if someone has come along and 'stomped' on it, creating a multitude of little things. We don't have a name for this and we've never seen anything like it before."

There could be more surprises, panelists acknowledge -- and more revisions to the forecast. "Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013," Pesnell said. "But use a pencil." -- *Some information from NASA*

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If you have an article, or see any news that you would like to see in the newsletter, send it to kd8gxd@gmail.com, and it will be taken into consideration.