



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

May 2009

Minutes of the April 20, 2009 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8AA, K8CM, KD8CPV & Kim, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, W3GP, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, N8NRF, N8OZN, WA8PRA, N8QF, K8RJH, AF8T, N8TFH, N8TQG & Steven, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YIG & Becky

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Don, WA8DTU, at 7:04 p.m. after some distraction from the audience – it seems that the Secretary dropped his digital voice recorder into a partially filled glass of iced tea. Don asked those in attendance to give their name as we had not done that in a long while.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published was made by George, W3GP, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. 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. Thirteen members representing seven families still have not renewed. Carl, K8CM, made the motion to accept the

treasurer's report and, Ernie, N8EH, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that no problems had been encountered during the past month, and that the replacement power amplifier for W8BLV seems to be working well.

Ernie requested the Club's permission to get rid of some repeater related 'Junk' that is cluttering his space. Carl, K8CM, moved and George, W3GP, seconded the motion which passed without objection. Come to Hamvention, and perhaps you can carry the 'Junk' to your home.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, thanked Jason, KD8GXD, and Rick, AF8T, for taking the net during the days that she is in class this quarter.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, announced a review session for April 22nd, and she encouraged those who have instructed part of the class to attend. The next exam will be in Verity Lodge, Miami University, Middletown Campus, on April 29th. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm and exams will begin around 6:30.

Next Meeting: Monday May 18, at the **Golden Corral**

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, reported that we have email receipt and confirmation for flea market spaces at Hamvention. Tickets have not arrived yet.

Food is 'On Your Own' again this year at Hamvention. Dial will be providing soft drinks, coffee and water for members and their guests same as last year. Donations are appreciated.

Ron announced that the caravan will depart Wilson Schramm Spaulding at "O' Dark: 30" otherwise known as 5:30 a.m. They expect to be at Calvin's, WB8MYT, at about 5:45 and to head up to Hamvention from there on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The portable Dial repeater will again be running on 147.315 (100 Hz PL) – same as years past.

Those selling at the Dial site are encouraged to give the Club a 10% donation to help cover the cost of the flea market sites.

Trailer cleanup is tentatively set for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, at Ernie's, W8EH, place of employment. If you need directions, catch someone on 146.61 just before 6:00.

Those taking part in setup will depart Ron's place of business at noon on Thursday, May 14. They will travel to the McDonalds in Germantown on S.R. 4 for lunch before going to set up the shelter.

Anyone wishing to have items placed in the Club's trailer should get those items to either Ron, N8QF, or Ernie, W8EH, prior to Thursday's departure.

New Business

George, W3GP, announced that he has a free 'over the air' satellite antenna and possibly a receiver as well. Anyone interested should contact him – preferably at the end of the meeting.

Brian, KC8NHP, announced that his 22nd wedding anniversary gift was coming up and he wanted the audience's opinion as to whether to get his wife a 500 watt amplifier or a 7-element yagi. (*If he buys either, he will be lucky to survive until the 23rd anniversary Ed.*)

Phil, N8YIG, asked about the protocol for bringing up an Echolink node via RF through the repeater. Carl, K8CM, and Ernie, W8EH, responded with advice: Identify, hit the '#' key (to allow touch tones to pass through the repeater controller and get to Echolink) followed by the node number. To drop the link hit '##' to hang up. Carl, K8CM, offered to make a tutorial.

Phil, N8YIG, announced that he had a packet TNC to donate to the club box.

Bob, K8RJH, brought up the topic of having a digital station this year at Field Day. After some discussion regarding whether to go to 4A or remain at 3A, it was decided to try sharing the time between the other stations and the digital station. At times when the phone contacts are slow, the antenna would be disconnected, and digital run for a while to pick up the 'easy' contacts. Barney, N8HP, suggested that the cw station be switched to digital during the late night when the excellent operators are resting for Sunday's burst. This would allow less capable operators (like him) to make more contacts by reading a screen. Bob offered to bring his FT-857 and computer. The Club will provide Bob with the logging software so that all of the digital contacts remain together regardless of which antenna is used. Thanks for 'Volunteering' Bob!

Adjournment:

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News and Information

ARLS003 Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013

ZCZC AS03
QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 003 ARLS003
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT May 12, 2009
To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS003
ARLS003 Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013

Scientists predict that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16 which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles -- the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet Sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS.

A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the Sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring, as well as produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause

\$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.
NNNN
/EX

ARRL

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.