

# RF Feedback

## Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting will be held at the Coles Co Airport at 6 pm May 21 2007 All amateurs & their guests are welcome

## Minutes April 16 Meeting

An informal meeting was held at the club house Bruce IL Since no financial report was available the report was tabled until next meeting.

Bill James passed out the Hamfest work schedule Several other subjects were discussed but no decision were made Minutes by ka9lrz

## HF Conditions

By Bill W9LYN

During the last month, from April 8th, to May 14th the Solar Flux Index varied about 19 points. The lowest was a period of about three days near 68 during April 12th to 14th. Surrounding and including these days, however, were two weeks from April 10th to the 23rd when the SFI was at or below 70. On the other side of the coin, there were ten days from April 26th through May 5th when the SFI was at or above 80 with three days near 88.

Scattered throughout the month there were fourteen days without Sunspots. Recently, there have been twenty consecutive days with one or more Sunspots. Currently, May 14th, the Solar Flux is at 73.

My "guess" last month that "While we may not be at the bottom of the Sun Spot Cycle yet, we would seem to be rather close" is likely wrong. NOAA held their annual workshop near the end of April. The panel of solar scientists they convened concurred that Cycle 24 "will most

likely begin its next round in March 2008." (according to "SCIENCE NEWS" May 5, 2007 Vol 171 page 286) The panel split on predictions of how intense the next cycle will be. About half forecast that it will be moderately weak while the other half predict a moderately strong cycle. (See the second and following paragraphs of the propagation bulletin Tad Cook - K7RA wrote for ARRL at <<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/2007-arlp018.html>> ) for more details on this subject.

Despite the fact that there was limited activity from W9LYN this past month, two DX operations, did go into the log. John - FS/K9EL ran a nice one man operation on French Saint Martin that was caught on 30 CW and 17 Phone. Then Hrane, a Serbian, lead an international team of about a dozen operators that included several of his countrymen, some Russians, a Greek and number of Americans that was the first real major DXpedition from Swains Island northwest of American Samoa. They are rumored to have put 112,000 QSO's in their logs. Two of those, a 15 and a 17 meter both Phone contacts are in the local log.

Then, there were also 30 meter CW contacts with French Guiana, the Isle of Man (in the Irish Sea), the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Finally, there was a 40 meter CW entry for the Slovak Republic. 73 DE W9LYN