

JUNE 24, 2011 No.354

JUNE

MEETING

The Beaumont Amateur Radio Club will hold this month's meeting, at 7:30 PM Monday, June 27, 2011 at Wesley Methodist Church, 3810 N. Major Drive (at the end of Folsom Drive) in Beaumont. This month's meeting will feature a talk by Roger Ericson of NOAA in Lake Charles and should be very interesting. Also we can expect an update on the progress of a second balloon launch attempt.

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The BARN

2011-12 HURRICANE SEA- SON UPDATE



Roger Ericson of the NOAA Weather Station in Lake Charles, La. Will be our guest speaker at this months meeting. Roger will fill us in on the expected hurricane activity this season.



06/24/2011

Over the past week -- June 16-22 -- the average daily sunspot number rose nearly 20 points to 55, while the average daily solar flux readings increased by nearly 9 points to 98.6. All geomagnetic indices declined slightly. These increases or decreases are relative to the previous seven days before June 16. Sunspot numbers for June 16-22 were 62, 65, 67, 47, 43, 57 and 44, with a mean of 55. The 10.7 cm flux was 103.3, 104.3, 99.2, 99.1, 96.4, 95.1 and 92.9, with a mean of 98.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 11, 4, 4, 7, 10 and 12, with a mean of 7.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 8, 4, 3, 7, 8, and 7 with a mean of 5.7.

For the past month, we've been looking nervously toward ARRL Field Day because a forecast from NOAA and USAF showed possibly unsettled geomagnetic conditions on Friday, June 24, and continuing through Field Day weekend. The forecast has evolved from troubling to frightening and back again. Early in June, the predicted planetary A index for June 24-26 was 18, 18 and 15. Then on June 7, it changed to 15, 15 and 10, a little better. Then a week later on June 14, things looked even more promising at 15, 10 and 5. But on June 17, it was revised upward to 30, 15 and 5. A planetary A index of 30 indicates a geomagnetic storm. The next day on June 18, the forecast shifted to 25, 18 and 8, and on June 19, it changed again to 25, 18 and 10. June 20 saw a slight change to 25, 18 and 8 again, then on June 21, it shifted to 15, 40 and 25. An A index of 40 on the first day of Field Day sounds ominous. On June 22 it changed again to 30, 10 and 10, and now the June 23 prediction for June 24-26 shows a planetary A index of 30, 18 and 12.

Basically, we would love to see the A index as low as possible, 5 or less would be wonderful. The latest news is that the solar wind from a coronal mass ejection (CME) which occurred on the solstice is moving slower than originally thought, which means a weaker effect here on Earth. A planetary K index of 5 is expected when the storm arrives, now predicted at 0700 on June 24, which is 35 hours before the start of Field Day, 1800 on June 25.

Surfin': Hammin', Hackin' and GPSin'

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' considers hacking ham radio projects and one thing leads to another.

Hack a Day (<http://hackaday.com/>) rightfully claims that it “serves up fresh hacks each day, every day from around the web, as well as hacking related news.” Occasionally, the hacks are ham radio specific. Oftentimes, the hacks are in the ham radio neighborhood.

A recent example of the former include turning a Linksys WRT54g router into an **APRS gateway**, (<http://hackaday.com/2011/06/09/turning-a-router-into-an-aprs-gateway/>) and Trackuino -- an **Open Source Arduino APRS tracker**. (<http://hackaday.com/2011/04/20/trackuino-80%93-an-open-source-arduino-aprs-tracker/>)

Recent examples of the latter include reverse engineering wireless a **weather station**, and **GPS without GPS**.

The hacks that have nothing to do with ham radio are interesting, too, so I visit Hack a Day regularly (and you should, too).

Speaking of hacks, I recently obtained some **HamStack kits** that I wrote about [here](#) in my post-Hamvention wrap-up. I am digesting the documentation while I figure out how best to use the kits in a cool ham radio application .

And speaking of GPS, there may not be any light at the end of the tunnel -- which is a good thing. I wrote [here](#) back in April how GPS may be negatively affected by the new LightSquared nationwide broadband wireless network that uses the airwaves next to those used for GPS.

Urgent Communications **reported** that a final report that LightSquared and the US Global Positioning System Industry Council delivered to the FCC on Wednesday (June 15) confirms that the new network will cause interference with GPS receivers and furthermore, there is “a huge gap between LightSquared and the GPS community concerning whether a technical fix to solve the interference issue is feasible. Reportedly, the GPS community now is saying that the FCC should move LightSquared to different spectrum as there is no viable technical fix.”

That is promising news -- as long as the “different spectrum” is not ours!

Until next time, keep on surfin'!

Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, recalls when “hack” only referred to a cough or a taxi cab, as in “I was hacking in a hack.” To contact Stan, send [e-mail](#) or add comments to the [WA1LOU blog](#).

Local Happenings

rie.h.hudginc@gmail.com, Christian Holidays, US Holidays

Jul 2011 (Central Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 7:30am - Beaumont Club	28	29 8am - JCARC Net	30 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net	1	2
3	4	5 7:30am - STARC Meeting	6 8am - JCARC Net	7 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net	8	9
10	11	12 7:30am - Jcars meeting @	13 8am - JCARC Net	14 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net	15	16 8am - STARC Breakfast @ Mama
17	18	19 6:30am - Dinner Social @ Iltan	20 8am - JCARC Net	21 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net 7:30am - ARES meeting @	22	23
24 7:30am - Beaumont Club	25	26	27 8am - JCARC Net	28 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net	29	30
31	1 7:30am - STARC Meeting	2 8am - JCARC Net	3 8am - STARC Net @ 146.23 7am - BARC Net	4	5	6

Local Repeater Frequencies and Access Codes...

52.525 6 Meter FM National Calling Frequency
 145.010 BPT (W5SSV) Packet
 145.050 Packet
 145.070 Packet
 145.210 S.W.L.A.R.C. (W5BII, pl 103.5)*
 145.230 B.T.A.R.C. (N5BTC, pl 103.5)*
 145.470 J.C.A.R.C. pl 103.5*
 145.350 Sulphur A.R.C. (KC5PNH, pl 103.5)*
 146.450 Mid County Simplex
 146.520 National Simplex
 146.700 B.A.R.C. (W5RIN, pl 107.2)*
 146.730 S.W.L.A.R.C. (W5BII, pl 173.8)#
 146.760 B.A.R.C. (SW Lynx Link) pl 107.2
 146.860 Port Arthur (WD5GJP) pl 103.5

146.980 H.A.M.S. (Devers, N5FJX, pl 103.5)*#
 147.060 DuPont (AA5P, pl 103.5)
 147.180 Orange A.R.C. (W5ND, pl 103.5)*
 147.300 Mobil Oil (W5XOM) (pl 103.5)*
 147.420 Simplex
 224.920 Devers (KA5QDG) Down
 442.575 Devers (KA5QDG, pl 103.5) Down
 444.500 Beaumont-(WB5ITT, pl 100.0) Down
 444.700 B.A.R.C. (W5RIN, (Salt Grass) pl 107.2) on low power
 444.900 Mobil Oil (W5XOM, pl 103.5) Down

* Denotes transmitted PL tone. # Denotes echo link.

BARN YARD

For Sale: Uniden HR 2510 10 Meter Transceiver with mic. and power cable\$100.00

Astron 25 Amp 13.0 Volt DC power supply.....\$85.00

Mosley 3 Element TriBand(10, 15 and 20 Meters) Beam. Good Condition.....\$100.00

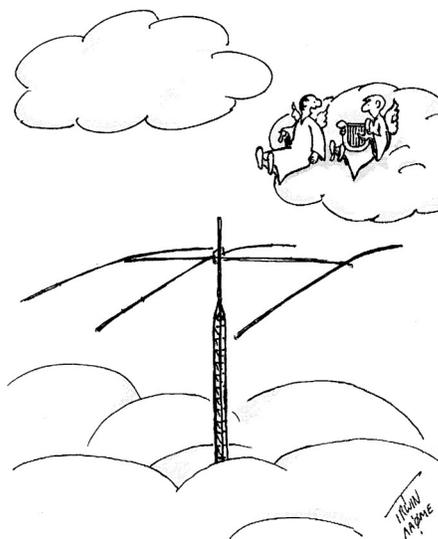
Contact: Earl, K5UJC at 833-4449

From: Doug Thomas, [N5BST](mailto:n5bst@arrl.net) (n5bst@arrl.net)
Secretary-Treasurer, [W5SSV](http://www.w5ssv.com)

I am adding a new page to our website. I have had a couple of members asking me to list some items that they have for sale.

So,, just "click" on the sign at www.w5ssv.com and it will take you to the listing.

If any of you have items that you might want to list, just drop me an e-mail and let me know.



'Man, I'll bet his neighbors really love him.'



Until he unscrewed the barrel connector, Tom had scoffed at obscure reports of water traveling down through coax cables.

Here is another installment of:

LB's Tips and Techniques.

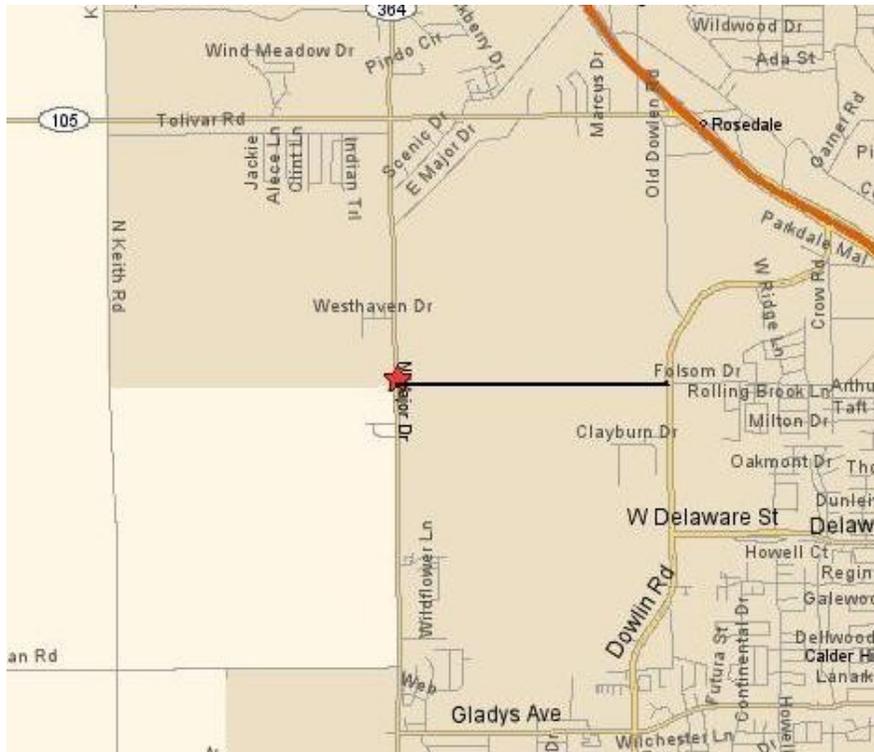
Power-steering fluid is the hydraulic fluid that transmits the power in power steering. Servicing it involves draining or flushing out your car's old power-steering fluid and then adding fresh power steering fluid.

The fluid is the cheapest component of your power-steering system. Changing it can help to prolong the life of other, more expensive power-steering components such as the power-steering pump and the stratospherically expensive power-steering rack.

Thanks to LB Little, WB5YDA

The BARN

A Publication of the
BEAUMONT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 P.O. Box 7073 Beaumont, TX 77726



Club Directory...

BEAUMONT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- FULL MEMBERSHIP..... \$20.00
 - ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER.... 5.00
 - BARN SUBSCRIPTION ONLY..... 7.50
- (ANNUAL RATES)

NAME	CALL	LICENSE CLASS	ARRL (Y/N)	PHONE
<hr/>				
ADDRESS	CITY/STATE	ZIP CODE	E-MAIL	
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NEW MEMBERS: DUES ARE PRORATED MONTHLY THROUGH DECEMBER. SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE BARN ARE GOOD FOR ONE YEAR (12 ISSUES) STARTING WITH THE FIRST ISSUE AFTER RECEIPT OF THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT. MARK THE CORRESPONDING BOX ABOVE AND MAIL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO "TREASURER" AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.