



THE PROPAGATOR

8 Donner St.
Holmdel, NJ 07733
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD

JULY 2009

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. We will have a post-mortem on Field Day. The second meeting in July will be on **Wednesday, July 15 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. This meeting will be about using Logbook of the World and Frank, W2XYZ will actually upload log information to LoTW. Don't miss it! Guests are always welcome.

CHANGE FOR FT. MONMOUTH PASSES

Please ignore the detailed information that was in the last Propagator. To renew your pass for Fort Monmouth when it is ready to expire, simply give the information to Frank, W2XYZ and he will take care of the details.

FREE TRIP TO DAYTON 2009

A **\$10 donation** to the North America DX Association, Inc. (NADXA, Inc.) will allow each donating person an opportunity to earn an **all expense paid trip** to the **2010 Annual Bus Trip** to the **Dayton Hamvention** in **Dayton, OH** in May 2010. Send your donation to **NADXA, Inc., PO Box 357, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720** or via **Pay-Pal**.

The odds of being selected will be restricted to one in 75 and the numbers will be drawn on March 29, 2010. For further information contact: nadxa@juno.com. Thank you.

NEW GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

STAN, N5AVY RECEIVES AWARD

Past GSARA member Stan Sinicki, N5AVY was presented an award at the American Legion Convention in Wildwood this June. The award was for the volunteer work that he has been doing with disabled veterans. Hats off to Stan for this well-deserved award!

APPALACHIAN TRAIL PACKET TEST

On Sunday, July 26, hams in thirteen eastern states will attempt the first annual Appalachian Trail Golden Packet attempt. The objective is to locate 15 drive-up or hike-up sites where simple APRS packet mobiles or HT's can be used as emergency digipeaters to demonstrate emergency communications capabilities. The APRS stations and other hikers along the 2000 mile Appalachian Trail area will be able to exchange APRS text messages live during the six hour event. The temporary RF links zig-zag across the trail to take advantage of the height above average terrain across valleys. Fifteen excellent sites have been identified so that all messages can be accomplished using a dual 7-hop digipeater path.

Although hikers along the trail can already get into the global APRS system from anywhere on the high parts of the trail using the national 144.39 MHz frequency, such routine operation depends on Internet gateways and is highly dependent on the established infrastructure. This golden packet event will use all portable equipment and an alternate frequency for six hours to attempt the 2000 mile all-RF packets. For details and current information see [WB4APR's Web site](#). -- [Bob Bruninga, WB4APR](#), Glen Burnie, MD

From *The ARRL ARES E-Letter*, June 17, 2009

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

<http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Vice Pres.	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
Engineer	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
Publicity	NJ2H	Bill Shockley	207-4466
Trustees	KG2NV	Don Pingitore	229-2925
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	WA2FVL	Jack Keating	264-7670

PROPAGATOR AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

Would you like to help the finances of GSARA and at the same time get your issue of *The Propagator* a few days earlier? You can get every issue e-mailed to your computer every month by simply giving your e-mail address to Josh Gluck, KC2TKK and request *The Propagator* electronically. Josh's e-mail address is <kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org>.

BADGES AND PATCHES

If you would like a GSARA name badge, you may order one by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$7.00 payment.

We also now have patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). We then send them as a group at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

Click on "The Propagator" and then select the month you want.

EDITOR'S NOTES

As I write this, Field Day is only a few days away on June 27-28. I plan to be at Fort Monmouth Friday afternoon to help with setting up and erecting the antennas. I plan to be back on Saturday morning to finish set-up and see how the operating is going. I have to go home on Saturday afternoon but will be back Saturday evening to help send the NTS message for extra points. I'll also log or operate as needed that evening. Finally, I plan to be back by noon or so Sunday to do any last-minute operating and to help with the tear down and clean up. What are your plans? I hope to see many of you this weekend. If you can't participate with GSARA, find another local club to help out with. If that is not possible, then get on the air and give us some contacts from your home station. The more participation, the more fun!

June has been hectic for me. My mother fell last month and broke her hip. Being her only living child, I had to make an emergency trip to Oregon and arrange her transfer from a rehab center to assisted living. She's now settled in and slowly beginning to walk with a walker. Growing old ain't for sissies!

Then, to top it all off, I got a nasty chest cold with a deep cough after I got home (I probably picked it up on the airplane). I'm feeling better and should be OK for Field Day.

There are still lots of goodies available at the MARS building free to members. When you are at the July 1 meeting, look things over and take what looks interesting to you.

If you are interested in obtaining a gardenstateara.org email address which will give you webmail and POP3/SMTP access, please send an email to Josh at kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org with your First Name, Last Name, and Call Sign. Your email address call_sign@gardenstateara.org will be created and the login information sent back to the email address your request came from.

Remember if you change your e-mail address; please be sure to inform Josh Gluck, KC2TKK.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for *The Propagator*. The deadline for the August issue is July 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

MINUTES OF JUNE 3 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 7:51 PM. There were 14 members and two guests present. The guests were two members of the Civil Air Patrol who are interested in getting their amateur licenses. After the pledge to the flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Lou, W2HAM and seconded by Tony, KA2ZSI to accept the minutes of the May meetings as published in the June Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob, W2OD reported that the membership package was mailed to ARRL on May 16 so we are awaiting our Handbook to be used as a door prize.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ gave the Treasurer's report for May. A motion was made by Peggy Struening and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

New Member

An application for membership was received from Andy Bodnar, KA2VXA from Fort Monmouth. It was accepted by unanimous vote.

Old Business

House Bill H.R. 2160 to further support Amateur Radio in emergencies is making progress. An article in the June Propagator outlined how to urge support for this by your representative in Washington.

Frank, W2XYZ reported that progress is being made at the Red Cross. We have a 20-meter hamstick on the roof that seems to be working OK. The Red Cross received desks and 4 computers for our use and they will build cubicles for us in the radio room.

Jeff, N2LXM reported progress on a GSARA shirt. It will be a short-sleeved polo shirt with pocket. The club logo will be silk-screened on one side of the front and the owners name and call embroidered on the other side. After some discussion, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Peggy Struening to get a firm

price for 20 shirts, color gold with black silk-screened logo. The total price is expected to be in the \$30 to \$35 price range.

Public Service

Tom, N2VFK announced that the ARC Walk this year will be on June 6 at Liberty II Park. This is being coordinated by the Monmouth Amateur Radio Club in Union Beach.

The Sheehan Run in Red Bank is on Saturday, June 13 and Tom needs a few more volunteers.

Field Day

GSARA will again operate K2USA as 1A at Dean Field for Field Day. Jim, K2EI has been experimenting with methods to successfully get the lines over the light poles without much assurance if it is windy. Arrangements have been made with the Fort Monmouth Fire Department to use their ladder truck at 4 PM Friday if the tennis balls don't work. Jeff, N2LXM suggested that GSARA supply the Fire Dept. crew with bagels and cream cheese for their work. A NVIS second antenna will be erected in the middle of the field for backup.

A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Tom, N2VFK to allocate \$200 of GSARA funds for food and fuel for Field Day. The motion passed unanimously. If there is interest, GSARA will also operate a separate Field Day station at the MARS building as W2GSA operating 1F using existing antennas and radios.

For extra points, the following GSARA members volunteered: Copy ARRL message – W2OD; Send NTS message – W2OD; Information table – N2LXM; Publicity – K2EI with press release; Solar power – N2LXM; Bringing in Girl Scout guests – KA2VXA; Alternate communications means – W2KQ.

Jim, K2EI passed out a set of operating tips similar to what was published from ARRL in the Propagator. He then outlined some of the important points.

Announcements

Museum ships will be on the air this weekend (June 6-7). This is being coordinated by the Battleship New Jersey in Camden. Sometime in July or August, GSARA could car-pool to Camden to tour the ship.

There will be a free breakfast on June 11 from 8 to 9 AM at the Red Cross.

The Antique Radio Club of NJ will hold a swap meet at InfoAge in Wall on July 25-26.

Closing

The drawing for the door prize was won by Joe, W2KQ. There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to close the meeting which was adjourned at 9:02 PM. Many members then went down to the MARS station where Frank, W2XYZ demonstrated the SQUIRL logging system and how to use Digipan for PSK-31.

MINUTES OF JUNE 17 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, called the meeting to order at Red Cross Headquarters at 7:30 PM. After a Pledge to the Flag, each attendee introduced themselves. There were 13 members and one guest present. The guest was Mel Palawasta, N2MEL from Forked River.

Old Business

Jeff, N2LXM reported his findings on polo shirts printed with the GSARA logo and member's name and call. There is a \$35 tooling charge for the silk screen for our logo and then each shirt will cost \$21.90 with embroidered name and call. It was decided that GSARA will pay for the tooling charge and the shirts will be available to members for \$22 each. Jeff took note of size, name and call for members present desiring a shirt. Frank, W2XYZ sent an e-mail to members requesting this information by noon Friday, June 19 for those wanting a shirt in time for Field Day.

Announcements

The Red Cross breakfast held on June 11 was a very nice affair with good food and very well organized.

We have a 20-meter Hamstick on the roof of the Red Cross building and it works quite well. The location is relatively quiet.

The Red Cross radio room should have cubicles coming in next month.

The Sheehan run in Red Bank on June 13 had about 1000 runners. The radio support went well even though we were short a couple of operators.

The Program

Frank, W2XYZ gave an interesting program on Field Day and also introduced us to Logbook of the World (LoTW). He demonstrated how easy it is to use SQUIRL for logging and made good use of the projection system to show us all how it looked on his computer screen. He next brought up Digipan and demonstrated how easy it is to work PSK-31.

Finally, Frank introduced us to Logbook of the World and encouraged us to download the appropriate programs from ARRL and apply for our signature key from the League. Armed with this, we can bring our computers with logging information to the next meeting at the Red Cross (July 14) and he will help us upload the log to LoTW.

Closing

The door prize was won by Joe, W2KQ. An ARRL 2009 Handbook donated by ARRL for new members and renewals through the club was won by Rich, KB2USF. A motion was made by Ed, WB2KCV and seconded by Peg Struening to adjourn the meeting. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was ended at 9:30 pm.

MANUEL GRECO, K2LFG - SK

Manuel B. Greco, 69, of Paradise Township, PA, formerly of Atlantic Highlands, died June 13, 2009, at home. He was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years, retiring in 2002. He was an avid amateur radio operator with the call K2LFG. Mr. Greco was a graduate of Monmouth College. He was a member of the National Association for Letter Carriers and the Gettysburg Historical Society. In recent years, he was an "unofficial" tour guide at Gettysburg National Park. He was past president of Henry Hudson Regional Board of Education in Highlands and served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps. Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Atlantic Highlands before moving to PA four years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Myra DePascale Greco of Long Branch, a son, a brother, two sisters, two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

W1AW FMT IN JULY

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, and WA6ZTY on the West Coast will conduct a summer Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) on July 1 at 9:45 PM EDT (0145 UTC on July 2) <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt>>. According to FMT Coordinator H. Ward Silver, N0AX, the format will be a "do-over" of the dual-tone test conducted in November 2008: "The timing glitches that occurred during the November test have been ironed out, so the format will be repeated to give everyone another opportunity to make measurements."

Silver said that both stations will transmit on a carrier frequency of 3597.5 and 7095 kHz; these are the W1AW digital bulletin frequencies. Two audio tones between 2000 and 2500 Hz will be transmitted in an alternating sequence, with a shift between 100 and 500 Hz. This is similar to what is used for RTTY communication. Beginning on 80 meters, Tone 1 will be transmitted for 10 seconds, followed by Tone 2 for 10 seconds. The tones will then alternate until each tone has been transmitted six times, for a total transmission of 120 seconds. The transmitting station will then change to 40 meters -- after identifying in Morse code -- and repeat the two-tone sequence.

All transmissions for announcing the test, identification and band changes will be in CW at 15 WPM (18 WPM character speed). CW transmissions will be on the carrier frequency, with each lasting more than one minute.

Time Sequence for W1AW (begins at 9:45 PM EDT [0145 UTC July 2, 2009]):

- * QST and test announcement on 80 meters.
- * Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
- * ID and notice of QSY to 40 meters.
- * QST and test announcement on 40 meters.
- * Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
- * Announce conclusion of W1AW transmission and ID.

Time Sequence for WA6ZTY (begins at 10 PM EDT [0200 UTC July 2, 2009]) is similar.

According to Silver, the FMT has been run in the past where a modulated carrier or audio tones are held steady for a very long time. "This 'classic' carrier frequency FMT format will return in November," he said. "The new format addresses the growing importance of digital modes. The challenge of this format is to make quick, accurate measurements of the characteristics of a digital signal where the tones do not stay steady for a long period of time. It's not expected that the level of accuracy demonstrated for a long-tone test will be achieved for these short tone transmissions -- that's not the point."

Silver said that he predicts there will be a future FMT that will conduct a true-FSK test. "In this future test, there would be four variables: Carrier frequency, Audio Tone 1, Audio Tone 2 and Shift," he said. "Given the value of any one of the variables in advance, two of the remaining variables would be measured and the final variable calculated or measured. The symbol rate (the number of transitions per second) would be representative of actual digital signals. For example, a 60 WPM RTTY signal."

Silver said that this can present some challenges to FMT participants: "One of the reasons we conduct the FMTs goes back to FCC Part 97.1(c): '...advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the [radio] art.' We look forward to seeing the creativity and innovation of the measurement community applied to this new format".

Participants should send their FMT reports -- indicating their values of Tone 1, Tone 2 and Shift (the difference between the tones) -- via the Web data collection form <<http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtenry.php>> by July 8. The published results will evaluate error in Tone 1, Tone 2 and Shift. "Be sure to include the details of how you made the measurements, obstacles you faced and how you overcame them," Silver said. "It will make great reading and sharing in the best traditions of Amateur Radio. If you have pictures or diagrams, please send them <fmt@arrl.org> so that they can be posted on the FMT Web page" <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 24, June 19, 2009

NEAR-NORMAL HURRICANE SEASON

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are calling for a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season this year. In its initial outlook for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season -- which runs from June 1-November 30 -- the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>> is calling for a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season. According to the CPC, global weather patterns are imposing a greater uncertainty in the 2009 hurricane season outlook than in recent years.

Forecasters say there is a 70 percent chance of having nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). Tropical systems acquire a name -- the first for 2009 will be Ana -- upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 MPH. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 MPH and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 MPH. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes.

"This outlook is a guide to the overall expected seasonal activity. However, the outlook is not just about the numbers, it's also about taking action," said Dr Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at the CPC. "Prepare for each and every season regardless of the seasonal outlook. Even a near- or below-normal season can produce land falling hurricanes, and it only takes one land falling storm to make it a bad season."

Rick Palm, K1CE, editor of the ARRL's ARES E-Letter gives several tips for amateurs involved with hurricane operations:

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz is one of several key players <<http://www.hwn.org/>>. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami <<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>>. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from

low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening.

The SATERN Net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) <<http://www.saturn.org/>> provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20 meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) <<http://www.mmsn.org/>> meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its Web site, the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

The VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net <<http://www.voipwx.net/>> operates by combining both the EchoLink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events. These operations have gained national stature in recent years, making the Net a critical partner with WX4NHC. Whenever tropical weather is posing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX net will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net Web site for more information.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 23, June 12, 2009

HIGH SPEED CW ON WORLD STAGE

The October 1936 issue of QST reported on the first official "Amateur Code Speed Contest" ever held. Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy with his wining speed of 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text for two minute

intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. "Only bona-fide amateurs, holding at least an amateur operator's license, were eligible" to compete in the contest, the article stated.

Fast forward to 1995. Competitors from 15 countries on three continents traveled to Siofok, Hungary to show off their CW operating skills in the first IARU High Speed Telegraphy (HST) World Championship. According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. Kutner was the sole US representative at the 2005 HST World Championship in Macedonia. In 2009, he is leading a team of seven this September to Obzor, Bulgaria for the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship <<http://www.hst2009.eu/>>.

In the US, Kutner said those who wish to participate in the World Championship do so at their own expense. "In past years, there has either been one -- myself in 2005 and Ilya Kleyman in 2007 -- or no US participants," he told the ARRL. "This year, we have a team!"

The US team consists of shortwave listener Brana Kleyman (category A, women 16 and younger); Kody Low, KB3RUP, and Cal Darula, K0DXC (category B, men 16 and younger); Ilya Kleyman, KE7OPG, and Ken Low, NV1P (category H, men age 40-49), and Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, and Kutner (Category I, men 50 and older). "The 2 OM categories are full," Kutner said. "But we are always looking for younger hams, especially young ladies!" There are nine categories, and each country can only send two competitors per category, for a maximum of 18 competitors.

There are three main competitive events at HST meets: Transmitting, receiving and receiving Amateur Radio call signs via RufzXP <<http://www.rufzxp.net/>>; the sending and receiving portions of the competition are referred to as the Radioamateur Practicing Tests (RPT). There is also a pileup competition.

In the RPT, random letters and numbers are sent via Morse code -- five characters at a time -- at a high speed. Separate competitions are held for the reception of only the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, only the 10 Arabic numerals or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols. The competition starts with one minute of

transmission sent at an initial speed defined for the entry category (usually 50 letters per minute for juniors and 80 letters per minute for the other age categories). After each test, the competitors' copy is judged for errors. Subsequent tests are each conducted at an increased speed until no competitor remains who can copy the text without excessive error.

The transmission tests require competitors to send five character groups in Morse code as fast as possible. Competitors send a printed message of five character groups at a specific speed that is judged for its accuracy by a panel of referees. Like the receiving tests, there are separate competitions for sending five character groups of only letters, only numbers or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols.

Kutner noted that 100 letters per minute is equivalent to 25 words per minute and 100 numbers per minute is equal to 36 words per minute. The mixed category of 100 letters, numbers and punctuation is equal to 29 words per minute.

The Amateur Radio Call Sign Receiving Test uses a software program called RufzXP that generates a score for each competitor. Rufz is the abbreviation of the German word Rufzeichen-Horen that means "listening of call signs." In RufzXP, competitors listen to an Amateur Radio call sign sent in Morse code and must enter that call sign with the computer keyboard. If the competitor types in the call sign correctly, their score improves, and the speed at which the program sends subsequent call signs increases. If the competitor types in the call sign incorrectly, the score is penalized and the speed decreases. Only one call sign is sent at a time and the event continues for a fixed number of call signs (usually 50). Competitors can choose the initial speed at which the program sends the Morse code and the winner is the competitor with the highest generated score.

There is also a Pileup Trainer Test that simulates a pileup situation on the air -- numerous stations attempt to establish two-way contact with one particular station at the same time. This competition uses a software program called MorseRunner. In this test, more than one amateur radio call sign is sent at a time via Morse code that is generated at different audio frequencies and speeds, timed to overlap each other. Competitors must record as many of the call signs as they can

during a fixed period of time. The winner is the competitor with the most correctly recorded call signs.

HST has definitely come a long way since 1936 when Hubbell dazzled the crowds with 52.2 words per minute; competitors at the IARU HST World Championships consistently have speeds of more than 500 characters per minute -- 100 words per minute.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 22, June 5, 2009

FROM THE DXCC DESK

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the HZ1EA operation in Saudi Arabia has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said. "Once completed, if you have an account in Logbook of the World (LoTW), the update will be posted to your account" <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>.

Questions have been coming into DXCC regarding the status of 5N/LZ1QK in Nigeria. "DXCC is currently working with his QSL manager to resolve the status of this operation," Moore said. "At this time, DXCC accreditation is on hold pending the outcome of the review."

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nos. 22 & 23, June 5 & 12, 2009

NEW SOLAR CYCLE 24 PREDICTIONS

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. This report clarifies a NOAA report from May 2009 that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average".

The latest forecast revises a 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 and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

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 looks like 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 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

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 22, June 5, 2009

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see last page)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **K2QXW** July 8. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the July QST, p. 76.

June 30-July 1 – **Canada Day Contest**, all modes, all bands from 8 PM Tuesday to 7:59 PM Wednesday. See www.rac.ca/service/contesting

July 1 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

July 1 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (35-10 wpm). See July QST, pp. 76 and 101 or www.arrl.org/w1aw

July 2 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

July 5 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

July 6 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

July 7 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

July 7 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

July 7 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

July 9 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

July 10 – **FISTS Summer Sprint**, CW from 4 to 8 PM. See www.fists.org

July 11-12 – **IARU HF World Championship**, SSB from 8 AM Sat. to 8 AM Sun. See www.arrl.org/contest

July 11 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

July 11 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

July 11 - **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 10 AM in Toms River. Pre-register with Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net.

July 12 – **Sussex ARC Hamfest** at Sussex County Fairgrounds. See www.sussexhamfest.org

July 13 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

July 14 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or n2pvp@n2pvp.com

July 15 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls. Program is NNJ Section Manager Rich Krohn, N2SMV.

July 16 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

July 17 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (10-35 wpm). See July QST, pp. 76 and 101 or www.arrl.org/w1aw

July 18-19 – **NA RTTY QSO Party** from 2 PM Sat. to 2 AM Sun. See www.ncjweb.com

July 18-19 – **CQ WW VHF Contest**, all modes from 2 PM Sat. to 5 PM Sun. See www.cqww-vhf.com

July 20 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

July 25-26 – **IOTA Contest**, SSB and CW from 8 AM Sat. to 8 AM Sunday. See www.rsgbhfcc.org

July 25 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

July 27 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Canada Day	1 Canada Day GSARA Mtg CW Qual. Run	2 Hol. City Mtg.	3	4 Independence Day
5 InfoAge	6 ARES/RACES 7:30	7 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	8 K2QXW	9 JSARS Mtg.	10 FISTS Sprint	11 OMARC Mtg. MARC Mtg Hol. City VE IARU Champ
12 Sussex Hmfst IARU Champ InfoAge	13 RACES Net 7:30	14 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	15 GSARA Mtg	16 JSARS VE	17 CW Qual. Run	18 NA RTTY CQ WW VHF
19 NA RTTY CQ WW VHF InfoAge	20 ARES/RACES 7:30	21 QCWA News 9 PM	22	23	24	25 Neptune Mtg IOTA
26 IOTA InfoAge	27 RACES Net 7:30	28 QCWA News 9 PM	29	30	31	



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FIRST CLASS