



THE LED

June 2009

Published by the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell, Michigan

Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48844

www.W8LRK.org

**NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM**

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

**NEXT KLUB MEETING
Thursday, June 11th, at 7:30PM
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, MI**



BOARD MEMBERS

President	Jim	WB8AZP
Vice-President	Pete	W1LBR
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasurer	Patrick	W8LNO
Program Manager	Jon	KC8VAB
Tech Director	Les	W8MSP
Director	John	KD8CCR

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

Repeater Trustee	Jim	WB8AZP
LED Editor	Michelle	KD8GWX
VE Coordinador	Jim	WB8AZP
PIO Officer	Brandon	KC8YHE
PIO Officer	Jim	N8ENX
Web Site	Les	W8MSP

The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub maintains the 146.680 (Negative Offset, 162.2 CTCSS) and also the 444.525 (Positive Offset, 100.0 CTCSS) repeaters in Livingston County.

Jim's Jive

As Bob Dylan once crooned, "...oh the times, there are a-changin...". With last month's election behind us, we renew our focus on amateur radio, and fun! I officially inherited the gavel from Van, N8GVD, at the last board meeting, and look forward to serving as your president until the end of my term, or impeachment, whichever comes first!

I would like to publicly thank Van, N8GVD, for an outstanding job as your past president. He, along with all of the past and current officers and staff, has provided guidance and support for all of the amateurs within Livingston County. Even if you failed to support LARK, we have supported you!

There never has been a better time to invite someone to join our little group. I encourage all of you to reach out to both old and new amateurs. The future of ham radio, locally, and globally, depends on our involvement.

We have a couple of fun things planned for the coming months, so stay in touch. Be sure and listen on the 146.68 repeater for updates and information, as well as dropping into a meeting, or maybe attending a board meeting.

If you've got issues, you need to share them with the Klub leadership team. All of our crystal balls are in the shop for repairs, and we have failed to enlist the support of Dion Warwick and her Physic Friends network. Be prepared though. I expect you to at least have your own ideas on how to solve something. My motto is that if you're not part of the solution, then you must be part of the problem.

Help keep our meetings interesting; by preparing a little presentation on the things you like to do. I'm not so sure that I care if it's totally related to amateur radio. As I've said before, our strength is our diversity. I'd love to hear a short presentation on woodworking, especially done by one of our members. Need help with graphics or pictures or handouts? We've got folks that can help!

See you at the next meeting!

73



Jim WB8AZP

LARK General Meeting Minutes 5-14-2009

No minutes submitted at this time for the May LED Newsletter.

LARK Board Meeting Minutes 5-21-2009

No minutes submitted at this time for the May LED Newsletter.

Finance Report ...

OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND

May 11, 2009 -----\$1798.75

INCOME

50/50----- \$ 55.00

DUES----- +\$ 20.00

TOTAL----- \$ 75.00

ACCOUNT BALANCE (06/06/09) ----- \$1873.75

EXPENSES

ACCOUNT BALANCE----- \$1873.75

1000 CD----- \$1390.51

500 CD----- \$ 656.85

TOTAL BALANCES JUNE 6, 2009----- \$3921.11

BAL. FROM EMG FUND AS OF MAY 11, 2009

BALANCE ----- \$4752.01

INCOME

EXPENSES

State of Michigan Raffle Fee----- \$ 50.00

TOTAL Bal as of June 6, 2009----- \$4702.01

Joke of the day ...

To my fellow "Old Dogs"

One day the old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, 'Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!' Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, 'Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?'

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. 'Whew!' says the panther, 'That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!'

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes, but the old German Shepherd sees him heading after the panther with great speed, and figures that something must be up.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, 'Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!'

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, 'What am I going to do now?', but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

'Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!'

Moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs... age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery! BS and brilliance only come with age and experience.

Thought for the day ...

"You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." - Anonymous

**AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR
OF THE YEAR!!!!**

Congratulations W8LNO



I had the distinct pleasure of finding out from Patrick, W8LNO, what his nomination and this award means to him ...

“How does it feel?

Like I don't deserve it. There are so many others that know so much more, and that have done so much more. One thing is really apparent, that the HAM community is full of unsung heroes. People that spend their human capital in an effort to make life better and improve the welfare of others. People that give of their time, resources and themselves just to make a contribution. While small in scope, so many of these efforts leave a huge and lasting impression on the rest of us. Being HAM of the YEAR is less important than what I learned from Mike Lanning, my first Elmer in 196n. That the seeds of kindness, and allowing someone to learn a little from you may take root many years from now with that memory in their mind. Mike was a great example to the quiet passing of an idea to an impressionable young man, and all I can do to pay it back is to copy him. I pray my efforts may some day bring a hobby to someone who just remembers a few acts of kindness from a HAM, and we will all be better off because that memory took root.

Patrick

W8LNO”

Congratulations once again Patrick. You deserve it and you earned it! We are all very proud of you!

More Winners



Fred Lindberg
I'm Working On It



Mary Cartwright - KC8SER
Secretary

AWARDS
2008 – 2009

President -	Bruce Van Dam	N8GVD
Vice President -	Clairus Dunn	KC8QQN
Secretary -	Mary Cartwright	KC8SER
Treasurer -	Pat Shannon	W8LNO
Program Manager -	Jon Harris	KC8VAB
Public Information -	Brandon Field	KC8YHE
Tech Coordinator -	Jim Kvochick	WB8AZP
Web Page	Les Butler	W8MSP
Purple Crystal -	Duane Cruce	N8WMN
Most Persistent Stealer -	Jean Cruce	
Runner Up -	Mary O'Dell	KC8MSA
Cert. Of Appreciation -	Mary O'Dell	KC8MSA
I'm Working On It -	Fred Lindberg	
Master Chef -	Charlie McChristy	KB8OVJ
White Elephant -	Ray Melosh	N8CPO
WB8OHO AWARD -	Pat Shannon	W8LNO

New Solar Cycle Prediction

May 29, 2009: An international panel of experts led by NOAA and sponsored by NASA has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle. Solar Cycle 24 will peak, they say, 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," says panel chairman Doug Biesecker of the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

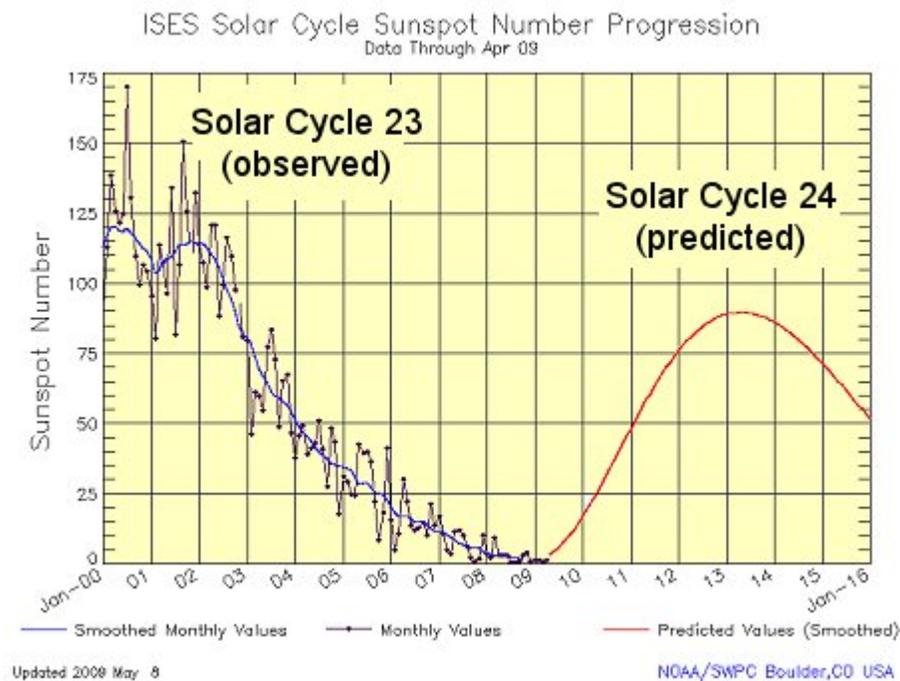


Right: A solar flare observed in Dec. 2006 by NOAA's GOES-13 satellite.

It is tempting to describe such a cycle as "weak" or "mild," but that could give the wrong impression.

"Even a below-average cycle is capable of producing severe space weather," points out Biesecker. "The great geomagnetic storm of 1859, for instance, occurred during a solar cycle of about the same size we're predicting for 2013."

The 1859 storm--known as the "Carrington Event" after astronomer Richard Carrington who witnessed the instigating solar flare--electrified transmission cables, set fires in telegraph offices, and produced Northern Lights so bright that people could read newspapers by their red and green glow. A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences found that if a similar storm occurred today, it could cause \$1 to 2 trillion in damages to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery. For comparison, Hurricane Katrina caused "only" \$80 to 125 billion in damage.

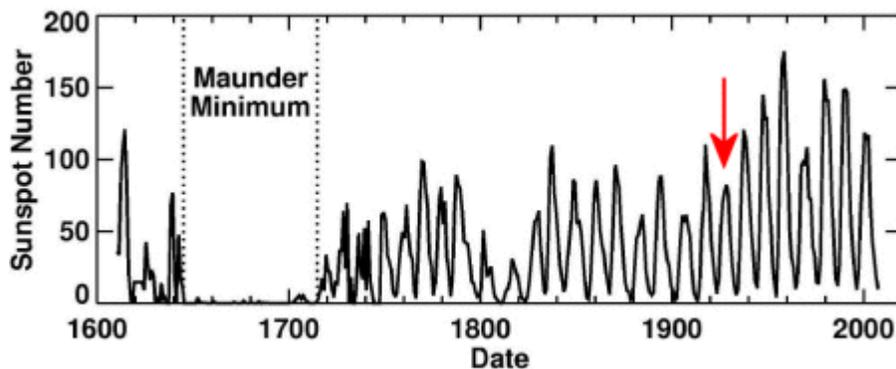


Previous Page: This plot of sunspot numbers shows the measured peak of the last solar cycle in blue and the predicted peak of the next solar cycle in red. Credit: NOAA/Space Weather Prediction Center. [[more](#)]

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. Competing models gave different answers, and researchers were eager for the sun to reveal which was correct.

"It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," says Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

Researchers have known about the solar cycle since the mid-1800s. Graphs of sunspot numbers resemble a roller coaster, going up and down with an approximately 11-year period. At first glance, it looks like a regular pattern, but predicting the peaks and valleys has proven troublesome. Cycles vary in length from about 9 to 14 years. Some peaks are high, others low. The valleys are usually brief, lasting only a couple of years, but sometimes they stretch out much longer. In the 17th century the sun plunged into a 70-year period of spotlessness known as the Maunder Minimum that still baffles scientists.



Above: Yearly-averaged sunspot numbers from 1610 to 2008. Researchers believe upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will be similar to the cycle that peaked in 1928, marked by a red arrow. Credit: NASA/MSFC

Right now, the solar cycle is in a valley--the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the sun set Space Age records for low sunspot counts, weak solar wind, and low solar irradiance. The sun has gone more than two years without a significant solar flare.

"In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," says Pesnell. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, the sun has begun to show timorous signs of life. Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the sun's surface ("zonal flows") are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward the sun's 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.

According to the forecast, the sun should remain generally calm for at least another year. From a research point of view, that's good news because solar minimum has proven to be more interesting than anyone imagined. Low solar activity has a profound effect on Earth's atmosphere, allowing it to cool and contract. Space junk accumulates in Earth orbit because there is less aerodynamic drag. The becalmed solar wind whips up fewer magnetic storms around Earth's poles. Cosmic rays that are normally pushed back by solar wind instead intrude on the near-Earth environment. There are other side-effects, too, that can be studied only so long as the sun remains quiet.



Meanwhile, the sun pays little heed to human committees. There could be more surprises, panelists acknowledge, and more revisions to the forecast.

"Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013," says Pesnell. "But use a pencil."

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaaprediction.htm#maincontent

One more bit of humor before we go ...

A LARK member in a local supermarket tries to buy half a head of lettuce. The very young produce assistant tells him that he can sell only whole heads of lettuce.

The man persists and asks to see the manager. The boy says he'll ask his manager about it. Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager, "Some asshole wants to buy half a head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he added, "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way. Later, the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, Son?" "Canada, Sir!" the boy replied. "Well, why did you leave Canada?" the manager asked. The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but whores and hockey players up there." "Really?" said the manager. "My wife is from Canada."

"No shit?" replied the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

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Please bring any articles you'd like to have in the next meeting. If you are unable to attend, have a friend bring the information to the meeting for you, email it to me at the above address or feel free to fax it to my work at the above number.

Thanks to everyone for the articles submitted to make the June 2009 LED a success!
