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March 2006

Turks & Caicos Islands

VP5/K7LAY and VP5/K7LAZ

This month's program is again presented by members of our own Western Washington DX Club. Bob Hudson, K7LAY and his son Harry, K7LAZ, traveled to the Turks & Caicos Islands last year for a wonderful father and son DXpedition trip. Their program will illustrate how you can go to a DX location and have a wonderful time playing radio from a foreign country. Rumor has it that they are looking for somewhere new to go to continue their "bonding."

March Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 – Program at 7:30

Angelo's Restaurant
601 SW 153rd,
Burien, Washington 98166
206-244-3555

Plan on staying after the formal meeting is over and enjoy some eyeball QSO's with various club members.

Angelo's Restaurant
601 SW 153rd
Burien, WA
206-244-3555

Tuesday, March 14th
Dinner at 6:30 PM
Program at 7:30 PM

Thanks K7WA

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY, *Tabloid* Editor

First off, I'd like to thank Jim Hadlock, K7WA, *Tabloid* Editor Emeritus, for stepping in last month while I was in Chile to publish an excellent edition of the *Tabloid*. One of the great strengths of the WWDXC is the generosity of members to fill in gaps when they occur. Thanks Jim!

Chile

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY
oolon@yahoo.com

My wife and I spent the last half of January and the first half of February in Chile. Most of the time was spent visiting family (Paula grew up in Chile) and relaxing around the country. I didn't get to do any radio operating and didn't see a yagi the entire time I was there. Oh well.

If you missed out on the blow-by-blow description of the trip, check out jackinchile.blogspot.com for pictures and commentary.

Contest News

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA
mwdink@eskimo.com

It always amazes how much contest activity is crammed into this month. I usually don't get to participate much but I managed to get a shot in the ARRL DX CW with the help of Ward, NØAX. However, many of you were much busier as is evidenced below.

CQWW 160M CW

Call	QSOs	StPrv	DX	hr	Score
~~~~~					
USA Multi-Op HP					
N7ZG(@N7WA)	398	43	7	20	51,550
~~~~~					
USA Single Op HP					
N9ADG	478	56	8	21	81,920
K7RL	505	52	5	8	67,830
W7OM	-	45	9	8	26,406
N7BF	159	37	4	6	17,466
K7LAY	102	36	5		9,720
W7QN	100	19			4,598
~~~~~					
USA Single Op LP					
K7SS	130	40	3		-
AK7S	57	14			1932
W7GTO	56	7	0		910

### 2006 CQ160 SSB

Call	QSOs	StPrv	DX	hr	Score
~~~~~					
All Single Op HP					
K7RL	500	52	7		72,747

2006 ARRLDX CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
All M/S HP				
N7WA w/N0AX	809	235	48	566,115
All SOAB HP				
K7ZA	800	249		596,853
N6HR	600	215	18	387,000
W7OM	628	205	19	384,990
K7EG	501	161	30	241,983
K7SS	450	155	7	150,480
N7BF	306	128		117,504
W7VJ	265	74	3.5	58,830
All SOAB LP				
N7ZG	506	138	29	208,242
NG7Z	256	114	10	87,210
W7GTO	155	78		36,270
All SOSB/15 HP				
N7BV	241	51	13.8	36,720
All SOSB/20 HP				
W7WA	1021	103		315,489
All SOSB/40 HP				
K7RL	657	95		187,245
W7DX(K7WA)	315	79	27	74,655

2006 RTTY WPX

Call	QSOs	Pts	Prfxs	hr	Score
All SOAB HP					
W7OM	610		294		410,424
K7EG	593		278		301,074
N7BF	335	609	195		118,755
W7TS	266	550	195		107,250
K6MBY	150	280	114	8	31,920
All SOAB LP					
W7GTO	224				49,911
NG7Z	228	120	403	12	48,360
KT7G	108	197	73		14,381
All SOSB/40 HP					
K7RL	637	2272	342	26	777,024

2006 NA Sprint CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
Single Op HP				
W7OM	185	39	3.3	7,215
Single Op LP				
N0AX	258	39	4:00	10,052
N7WA	217	37	4	8,029
NG7Z	127	31	2.5	4,064
K7WA	122	31	4.0	3,782
Single Op QRP				
K7SS	160	33	4	5,280

2006 NA Sprint SSB

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
~~~~~				
Single Op HP				
W7WA	297	42		12,474
K7RI(K7SS)	300	41	4	12,300
~~~~~				
Single Op LP				
K7WA	54	10	3.5	540

2006 ARRLDX SSB

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
~~~~~				
All SOAB HP				
K7RL	2167	326	43	2,119,326
W7OM	539	190		307,230
K7EG	430	141		181,890
N7BF	285	117		100,035
W7QN	231	107	16.3	74,151
~~~~~				
All SOAB LP				
SOAB				
K7HBN	319	111		106,227
W7TS	135	79		31,995
AK7S	120	61		21,960
N6MZ	100	63		18,900
W7GTO	102	50		15,300
K7LAZ	81	36		8,748
NG7Z	74	34		7,548
W7SNH	52	22		3,432
W7NG	9	6		162
~~~~~				
All SOSB/40 HP				
N7XY	4	4		48
~~~~~				
USA SOSB/40 LP				
W7TSQ	23	14		966
~~~~~				
USA SOSB/20 HP				
W7WA	1563	133		623,637

Hope to see many of you down at the Puyallup Swapfest this coming Saturday. Please say hello even if I look like I'm headed for a fire.

## **DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies**

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY

[n7xy@oz.net](mailto:n7xy@oz.net)

W7DX Bellevue (AR-Cluster node) 145.75 MHz, N6MZ sysop.

Telnet to w7dx.net

User documents at <http://www.ab5k.net>

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.

Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

user documents at <http://www.dxcluster.org/main/usermanual.html>

N7XY Bainbridge Is. (DX Spider Node) 145.77 MHz, N7XY sysop.

Telnet to n7xy.net, port 7300 or <http://n7xy.net/cgi-bin/spider.cgi>

K7JY-2 University of Washington NETROM 145.75

If you need help, email [n7xy@oz.net](mailto:n7xy@oz.net).

Lee Sawkins, VE7CC has written a versatile Windows user program which works with either AR-Cluster or DX Spider nodes. It can be downloaded from <http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7cc/default.htm>

## Totem Trader

1. Slightly damaged Model HS471 71ft Triex crank-up guyed tower(on the ground) - \$250
2. Telrex Model 20M436 4el Heavy Duty beam (36 ft boom) -\$230
3. Hy-Gain Discoverer Model 7-2 2el 40M Beam - \$250

John Owens - N7SEJ

(425)745-0577

Edmonds, WA

Wanted:

I'm looking for a tri-band (20-15-10) beam, used or what-have-you, in good condition. Also a rotator if you have one. Also a mast up to 40-feet or so to mount same.

Alan - N7BF Daytime: 206-423-5600 Nights and weekends: 253-863-2991

## Puyallup!

**T**he Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club's Electronics Show and Fleamarket is THIS SATURDAY! The fun event will take place on March 11th at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup. Entry for buyers is \$7 and a seller table is \$30 (the \$30 includes the table and one entry to the event). Check out all of the details at <http://www.mikeandkey.com/flea.htm>

## 2006 Pacific NW DX Convention - Vancouver

Check out <http://www.bcdxc.org/2006convention.htm> for information on the July 21, 22, and 23 event.

## South Georgia Relaxes License Logistics

By Marc Weinberg, K9PET, [www.CasualDX.com](http://www.CasualDX.com)

I'm surprised and pleased to report that the old problems of obtaining a License to operate on S. Georgia have been relaxed. Formerly one had to physically be present at the Postal Authority in Pt. Stanley, Falkland Islands to pay for and receive a license. I've been emailing them and working with a port agent who represents the expedition company (Lindblad Expeditions) who will host CasualDX on our voyage to Antarctica, S. Georgia and the Falklands in Feb 2007. The problem for us was that the Falklands was to be the last stop on our journey aboard *National Geographic Endeavour* and thus impossible to be physically present to get the license prior to landing on South Georgia.

The good news is that the authorities have faxed me the application and are promising that when received with the fee of 20 Pounds Sterling (GBP) or \$38 US they will issue and mail the license. They do caution us

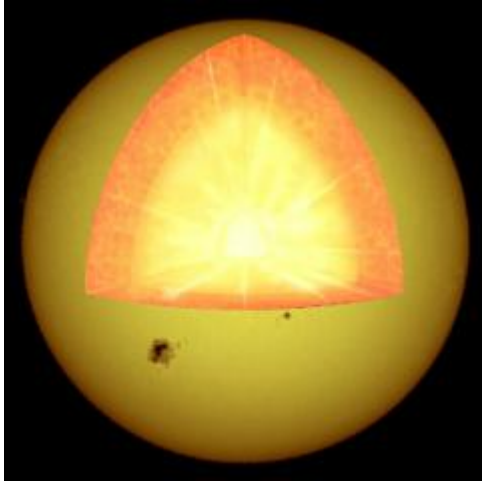
though, that because they don't have a "proper bank" in Pt. Stanley it may take some time for them to actually convert US dollars or the same in an International Money Order.

## Solar Cycle Predicting – Who Knows?

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY, Tabloid Editor

Check out the next two stories – one says the next solar cycle will be small, the other says large...

### The Next Solar Maximum the Smallest in 100 Years?



The interior of the Sun holds the key to predicting the strength of each solar cycle. Internal magnetic fields are twisted up and wrapped around the Sun due to the Sun's differential rotation. These fields are thought to be what gives rise to the formation of sunspots and related space weather activity.

From <http://www.spacew.com/news/05Mar2005/index.php>

05 March 2005 |

The latest research results[1] by Drs. Leif Svalgaard, Yohsuke Kamide at the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University (Japan) and Edward W. Cliver at the Space Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Hanscom Air Force Base (Massachusetts) suggest that the Sun may be less active during the next solar cycle than it has been during the last 100 years.

These results are based upon one of the most successful solar cycle prediction methods in existence. The "Precursor Method" is capable of predicting the magnitude of the next solar maximum up to about 7 years before the solar maximum occurs. This is possible by examining the strength of the magnetic fields that congregate in the polar regions of the Sun a few years before the solar minimum of each solar cycle and relating the strength of those fields to the observed sunspot numbers during the next solar maximum. The polar magnetic fields provide the "seed" magnetic flux necessary to

drive the sunspot activity during the next solar cycle.

The most recent findings by Dr. Svalgaard et al. are based on only the first of three years of data during the current decline of solar cycle 23. At least two more years of data (through the solar minimum) are required to provide a more accurate prediction. Nevertheless, sufficient data is now available to make an initial reasonable prediction. They predict that the next solar maximum (the time during which the proliferation of sunspots is greatest) will be associated with a sunspot number of only 75, with an error of  $\pm 8$ . If this prediction holds true, the next solar cycle (cycle 24) will peak around the year 2011 with a sunspot number that is lower than any previous solar cycle since cycle 14 when the observed sunspot number peaked at a value of only 64 in 1906.

What is the significance of this prediction, assuming it holds true? Sunspots are a source of eruptive phenomena such as solar flares. Energetic coronal mass ejections are also related to the occurrence of solar flares. And coronal mass ejections can produce hazardous space weather conditions to spacecraft, aircraft and power grids. One would think that a lower sunspot number would be good news for these industries. Overall average space weather effects may indeed be a bit milder. But these industries are more adversely affected by the few extreme solar outbursts that occur during the solar cycle than they are during the less volatile "average" conditions observed during the solar cycle. Svalgaard et al. are quick to point out that some of the most intense space weather storms have occurred during solar cycles having low sunspot numbers. For example, two of the eight most intense geomagnetic storms during the last ~150 years occurred during solar cycle 14, while three of the five strongest energetic proton events at greater than 30 MeV since 1859 occurred during solar cycle 13 when

the peak sunspot number plateaued at only 88. The scientists note that the next solar cycle could prove to be an excellent test-bed for a number of models and theories concerning the solar cycle and solar activity.

A direct measure of the strength of the solar polar fields will be possible during 2007-2008 when the Ulysses space probe will make another pass over the solar poles. Dr. Svalgaard and his colleagues fully expect the strength of the polar fields measured during these polar passes will be significantly smaller than the strength of the fields that were observed during the polar passes of 1994 and 1995 during the minimum phase of the last solar cycle. This would help validate their prediction of a much smaller solar maximum during the next solar cycle than has been observed in recent memory.

This research was published in the *Geophysical Research Letters*, volume 32 on 11 January 2005 (L01104, doi:10.1029/2004GL021664, 2005) by the [American Geophysical Union](#).

[1]Leif Svalgaard, Edward W. Cliver, and Yohsuke Kamide (2005), Sunspot cycle 24: Smallest cycle in 100 years?, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 32, L01104, doi:10.1029/2004GL021664, 2005.

## **Predicting the strength of solar cycle 24 using a flux-transport dynamo-based tool**

GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 33, L05102, doi:10.1029/2005GL025221, 2006

Mausumi Dikpati

High Altitude Observatory, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Giuliana de Toma

High Altitude Observatory, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Peter A. Gilman

High Altitude Observatory, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, USA

### **Abstract**

We construct a solar cycle strength prediction tool by modifying a calibrated flux-transport dynamo model, and make predictions of the amplitude of upcoming solar cycle 24. We predict that cycle 24 will have a 30–50% higher peak than cycle 23, in contrast to recent predictions by Svalgaard et al. and Schatten, who used a precursor method to forecast that cycle 24 will be considerably smaller than 23. The skill of our approach is supported by the flux transport dynamo model's ability to correctly 'forecast' the relative peaks of cycles 16–23 using sunspot area data from previous cycles.

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Jack Fleming, WAØRJY  
20148 6th Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98155  
206-361-2732  
oolon@yahoo.com

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Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at [www.wwdxc.org](http://www.wwdxc.org) or by email to [info@wwdxc.org](mailto:info@wwdxc.org).