



THE PROPAGATOR

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

JUNE 2009

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. Frank, W2XYZ will present Field Day training on logging and operating. The second meeting in June will be on **Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross** - Regional Office, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Besides Field Day preparation, this meeting will be about using Logbook of the World. 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>

CQ FIELD DAY

Field Day is coming this year on June 27-28 and GSARA will again be operating from Dean Field at Fort Monmouth. It is still unknown whether we will operate 1 or 2 transmitters since we don't know how much participation to anticipate. Obviously, we would like to have round-the-clock operation of whatever stations we have on the air. Do we have enough operators to staff two stations? Perhaps the best plan is to set up two stations but only operate one of them unless it looks like there are plenty of operators. The decision will have to be made by Chief Engineer Jeff, N2LXM. If you have any opinions or ideas about this, please contact Jeff.

Also, the decision to use W2GSA or K2USA has to be made by Jeff. Again, if you have a preference, please let Jeff know.

We're looking forward to another great GSARA Field Day. Please plan to participate as much as you can.

W1AW/8 QSL Cards

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, reports that the QSL card for the W1AW/8 Special Event station at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention has yet to be designed and printed. "Once we have the cards in hand, all W1AW/8 QSL requests received at W1AW will be processed," Carcia said. "It just might take a few months, so please be patient." QSL via W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 20, May 22, 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@gardenatateara.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

I apologize for being so late in getting this issue of *The Propagator* out to you. The last half of May was a bit disruptive. We spent a week in Pennsylvania with two of the grandchildren and the day after we got home my wife's brother from California arrived for an 8-day visit. This means that I couldn't start preparing the *Propagator* until the 28th. But wait, there's more! I also had to get the quarterly QCWA Bulletin out by June 1. So, I spent the last days in May preparing two different 10-page documents. I hope that my rushing doesn't show too much.

Field Day 2009 is coming up on June 27-28. Our plans with GSARA have had to remain quite flexible since it is unknown how many members will participate. Turn-out has been a bit disappointing the last few years but those who do participate all have a lot of fun. So why don't you make arrangements to get on the Base (see Frank, W2XYZ or come to the next meeting) and come over whenever you can, starting Friday afternoon, June 26? I look forward to seeing you there.

This next sunspot cycle is certainly not going to be as spectacular as some of the past few (see p. 8) but we are definitely at the bottom now so the only direction to go is up. Certainly within the next year we should see better conditions. Get on the air!

There are still lots of goodies available at the MARS building free to members. When you are at the June 3 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 July issue is June 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

MINUTES OF MAY 6 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 7:45 PM. There were 13 members and one guest present. The guest was Adrienne Hourihan from the BEST team of the Fort Monmouth BRAC. After the pledge to the flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the April meetings were published in the May Propagator. A motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Peggy Struening to accept the minutes of the April meetings as published in the May Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ was not present as he had the flu. His report for April was presented by Frank, W2XYZ. A motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Laura, N2HGI to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Health and Welfare

Joe, W2KQ is at home with the flu.

Old Business

GSARA had two tables at the OMARC Hamfest and sold \$160 worth of surplus equipment. With the tables costing \$20, we realized a profit of \$140.

Since Jeff, N2LXM was absent, all activity regarding T-shirts was tabled until the next meeting.

Andy, KA2VXA is working on an exhibit about the Cold War. Infoage has an interest in displaying the exhibit. It will include the R-390 receivers.

Bob, W2OD has compiled a list of about 35 former members of GSARA who have dropped out in the past five years. This can be used in conjunction with a letter being written by Bill, NJ2H to invite these former members back.

We have applications for ARRL membership from 4 members so far (two renewals and two new members). We need one more by the next meeting on May 20 to be eligible for a free handbook to be used as a door prize.

New Business

The new procedure for obtaining passes for Ft. Monmouth as reported in the last Propagator is too detailed. Frank, W2XYZ offered to coordinate this activity so when your pass is coming up due, please contact him and he will proceed with the new procedure.

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas has introduced a Bill in the House (H.R. 2160) to further support Amateur Radio in emergencies. A sample letter was distributed at the meeting and members are encouraged to send a similar one to their Representative.

Field Day

GSARA will again operate from Dean Field for Field Day. Jim, K2EI has been experimenting with methods to successfully get the lines over the light poles without assistance of the Fire Department's fire truck. It is proposed to have a second antenna in the middle of the field. This is proposed to be a NVIS antenna for near-in contacts. The question was brought up as to whether GSARA should run a second transmitter. The answer depends upon how many operators are available. It was suggested that a second station be set up but not operated unless we find we have sufficient operators. The final decision will rest with Chief Engineer Jeff, N2LXM who was not at the meeting.

Announcements

Section Manager Rich, N2SMV gave a class on Winlink on Thursday, April 16 at the Red Cross. This class will be repeated in May (either May 21 or 28) at the Freehold Emergency Management Center.

There is one seat left on the bus going to Dayton. See Mike, KC2Q if interested.

The May 20 meeting will feature Rich Krohn, N2SMV bringing us up to date on ARRL activities.

Closing

The drawing for the door prize was won by Bernie, W2QFQ. There being no further business, a motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Peggy Struening to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

MINUTES OF MAY 20 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, called the meeting to order at Red Cross Headquarters at 7:36 PM. There were 15 members and one guest present. The guest was Rod Grindell, N3JAZ from Maine, the son-in-law of Joe, W2KQ.

Old Business

Jeff, N2LXM reported his findings on getting T-shirts printed with the GSARA logo and member's name and call. Some thought that polo shirts might be better so Jeff will get a price on those and report at the next meeting.

Bill, NJ2H has prepared a letter to be sent to old members. This will be reviewed by Bob, W2OD and customized before being sent out.

Frank, W2XYZ had a meeting with the Ft. Monmouth BRAC people. The MARS building will be officially closed by July, 2010 and we should have all equipment out of the building somewhat before that.

Field Day

Jim, K2EI has obtained permission to again use Dean Field for Field Day. The next meeting at Fort Monmouth will be the last meeting before Field Day. Training will be provided at the meeting on logging, using PSK-31, etc.

The Program

Rich Krohn, N2SMV, NNJ Section Manager gave an interesting talk. There was more discussion about ARES and RACES than about the ARRL. Rich announced that he would hold a Winlink class on Thursday, May 28 at 7 PM in Freehold. He invited us to try to connect to K2MON-10 on 145.510 or K2GE-10 on 145.050 to try out Airmail on Winlink. To find out more, do a Google search on "monmouth-ares-races".

Closing

The door prize was won by Andy, KA2VXA. An ARRL book on RFI donated by Rich, N2SMV was won as a second door prize by Howard, W2HTS. A motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to adjourn the meeting. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was ended at 9:27 pm.

ARRL SEEKS HR 2160 SUPPORT

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9/11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is also not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expeditiously received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative <<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc>>. "Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your member of Congress on the ARRL Members Only Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/>>.

Once it has been personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

- * As a signed attachment to an e-mail <arri@chwatco.com>

- * As a signed fax to 703-684-7594

- * As a regular letter to John Chwat, Chwat & Co, 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of having it be the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:

- * Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009

- * Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most

- * Ask your congressional representative to consider becoming a cosponsor

- * Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important to send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows Chwat to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added.

Aside from bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-2).

"We congratulate ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Representative Guthrie -- the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your Congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail <reginfo@arri.org> or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants <http://www.arri.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf>. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 19, May 15, 2009

FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 21, May 29, 2009

LATEST STATUS ON FT. MONMOUTH

By Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

On Monday, May 11, Howard, W2HTS and I attended a meeting hosted by the Garrison Commander (Col. Christian), on Fort Monmouth, for all "Private Organizations." The purpose of the meeting was to officially notify us we must permanently vacate the space/building that has been assigned to our organization by 31 July 2010.

We were told to plan and submit a timeline for the execution of that action. That means, they want to monitor our progress, to be sure we will be out, and the building empty by the date instructed. In order for us to comply with this directive, we will have to stop holding meetings at the Fort Monmouth MARS station, at least several months prior to the termination date. I haven't decided at the moment when our last meeting at the Fort will be, as I'll have to get a better grasp on how long this action will take to complete.

The bottom line is, we have to go. The Colonel said, there is essentially no hope for an eleventh hour reprieve through an extension date of the Fort's move, or even removing Fort Monmouth from the BRAC list. Talk of Homeland Security or the Veterans Administration taking over parts of the Post are extremely unlikely. There are no plans for any federal agency to occupy any part of what is now Fort Monmouth. Present plans are to return the lands to the appropriate townships and to Monmouth County.

Q: Where should 60+ year olds look for eye glasses? **A:** On their foreheads.

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

The Brooklyn Bridge, which links Brooklyn to Manhattan Island, is one of the most famous bridges in the world. At the time it was first conceived, bridge-building experts throughout the world told the designer, a creative engineer by the name of John Roebling, that his idea wouldn't work.

Roebling convinced his son Washington, who was also an engineer, that his idea had merit. The two of them developed the concept, resolved the problems others had forecast, and enthusiastically hired a crew to build their bridge.

After only a few months of building, a tragic on-site accident took John's life and severely injured Washington, who became unable to talk or walk. Everyone thought the project would have to be abandoned, since the Roebling's were the only ones who knew the dynamics of building the bridge.

Washington, however, could still *think*, and he had a burning desire to see the bridge finished. As he lay in his hospital bed, he had an idea. He would communicate with the engineers by using one finger to tap out in code on his wife's arm what he wanted her to tell them.

Washington tapped out his instructions for 13 years until the bridge was built!

Leaders are not only self-starters, they are finishers.

From God's Little Devotional Book For Leaders

FULL POWER STATION FOR SALE

Dear fellow HAMs,

I am making preparation to retire and move out of state. My ham station is so much a part of the house that I would like to sell the two of them as a package. I am still preparing the house for sale during the fall, but I will entertain all questions via email at this address nedkoble@optonline.net My call sign is AA2LN. As you will see as you read below, it would be a shame to separate this station from the house. The house is a three bedroom rancher on a nice lot 150 X 200', it has central air and baseboard heat, with the roof and A/C being around 5 years old. It is relatively maintenance free with white vinyl siding and a 2-car garage. The driveway was recovered 2 years ago. This house is located in the Windswept development off Line road. It is a safe neighborhood and contains 73

houses all on about 3/4 acre lots that provides privacy. We are bordered by farmer's fields, yet we have city sewer and water service by AQUA, NJ. My lot is level and well cared for.

This house has all copper plumbing, i.e., heating, cold and hot water and sewer. All are tied together with copper straps. In the back yard is a free standing tower that has been professionally installed into a hole 3-1/2 X 3-1/2 X 8' deep, with 200 pounds of REBAR and 3 cubic yards of concrete vibrated into the hole. Ground rods are driven into the bottom and actually puncture the water level at all seasons. The ground rods have #2 stranded and insulated cables around the outside of the enclosure. Internal REBAR and one inch rods through the top platform are electric welded. This is a steel crank-up tower, I have never cranked it down due to forecasted weather, nor has any lightning ever caused damage. This grounding is also tied to the house grounding.

The tower is up 70' and has a TA 33M antenna at the 70 ft level. This covers 10, 12,15, 17, and 20 meters with very little tuning and is all High quality COAX. At the 55 ft level, I have a parallel dipole installed as an inverted V, and it is 125 ft and four inches. This covers 40, 75, and eighty meters, again with very little tuning. All COAX between the tower and radio room are contained in PVC pipes that are waterproof and underground through the foundation of the house.

Radio is a Yaesu 990 with auto tuner, connected to an AMP full legal power amplifier. The tower has a Yaesu rotator in excellent condition. Other equipment is a full power compatible MFJ tuner, full power filter, station speaker with phone patch, Heil headset, bencher paddle keyer, and electronic keyer.

All coax is connected through an antenna selector switch. A ground bus in the station connects all equipment to the previously defined grounding system. The Radio room is approximately 8 X 10' and contains a closet, and a desk platform. The room is paneled and insulated, with wall to wall carpet.

I will have the house appraised soon, and if the radio equipment is purchased with the house it will be heavily discounted. Please contact me by email if you have questions. Ned Koble, AA2LN, Hamilton Sq., NJ

SHEEHAN RUN JUNE 13 IN RED BANK

The Sheehan run will be Saturday June 13 from about 0700 to noon. N2VFK will be on the Red Bank Rig at or near the Field Hospital. KC2QVO will be aboard Little Silver's rig at Harding and prospect. Jeff, N2LXM will be NCS at the Field Hospital.

That leaves the following positions open:

Branch & Spring (near Little Silver Chiropractic) in Little Silver

Prospect (south of Harding near Rosslyn) in Little Silver

Hance & Dartmouth in Fair Haven

Contact me if you can help out.

Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK 732-842-6020 or
n2vfk@verizon.net

SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO PEAK IN 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/sww/index.html>, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles – the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring. It also produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 19, May 15, 2009

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see last page)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **KY2S** June 12. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the June QST, p. 80.

June 1 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

June 2 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

June 2 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

June 2 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

June 3 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

June 4 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

June 5 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-35 wpm). See June QST, p. 80 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

June 6 – **Alabama QSO Party** from noon to midnight. See www.AlabamaQSOParty.org

June 7 – **NY Hall of Science Hamfest** in Queens. See www.hosarc.org

June 7 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.

June 8 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

June 9 – **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

June 10 - **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 7 PM in Toms River. Pre-register with Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net.

June 11 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

June 13 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

June 13 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

June 13-14 – **ARRL VHF QSO Party**, SSB and CW from 2 PM Saturday until 11 PM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contests

June 15 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

June 17 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 7 PM (10-35 wpm). See June QST, p. 80 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

June 17 – **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.

June 18 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

June 20 – **Raritan Valley RC Hamfest** in Piscataway. See www.w2qw.org

June 20 – **West Virginia QSO Party** from noon to 10 PM. See www.qsl.net/wvsarc

June 20 – **Kid's Day**, SSB all HF bands from 2 PM until 8 PM. See www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html

June 27 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

June 27-28 – **ARRL Field Day**, all bands from 2 PM Saturday to 5 PM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contests

June 29 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ARES/RACES 7:30	2 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	3 GSARA Mtg	4 Hol. City Mtg.	5 CW Qual. Run	6 Alabama QSO
7 Queens Hamfest InfoAge	8 RACES Net 7:30	9 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	10 Hol. City VE	11 JSARS Mtg.	12 KY2S	13 OMARC Mtg. MARC Mtg KA2ZSI VHF QSO
14 VHF QSO InfoAge	15 W2HAM ARES/RACES 7:30	16 QCWA News 9 PM	17 CW Qual. Run GSARA Mtg	18 JSARS VE	19	20 Piscataway Fest W. Virginia QSO Kid's Day
21 WB2KCV InfoAge	22 ARES/RACES 7:30	23 QCWA News 9 PM	24	25	26 N2LXM	27 Neptune Mtg W2HTS Field Day
28 Field Day InfoAge	29 RACES Net 7:30	30 QCWA News 9 PM				



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FIRST CLASS