

Indian River Amateur Radio Club's Spurious Emissions

Sept 2012

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IRARC Board Meeting Items for Membership Action

On August 11th the IRARC Board met to discuss business for upcoming meetings and specific projects that require further action. The first item addressed was a need to update the club bylaws to remove language reflecting committees or functions no longer performed by the club. The RFI committee and scholarship committees are groups no longer supported by the club. The board members decided to

perform a "first cut" review of the bylaws then pass their work on to a committee to be formed at the September meeting for the formal review. Next item was a discussion regarding use of Echolink on the club repeaters. The intention of the board was to limit echolink operations on the flagship 145.37 MHz machine to membership contacts and support of IRARC operations - ARES etc. Contacts on the 146.88 MHz repeater would be much more informal and allow club members to more fully operate echolink for longer time periods with other amateur radio operators. The board will solicit inputs from club member echolink operators to develop a "best practices" document that will be posted on the IRARC website. Another discussion item was upgrading the radio station computers. The present machines are over 10 years old running Windows XP. Support for XP will end in April 2014 thereby making the two present computers very vulnerable to operating

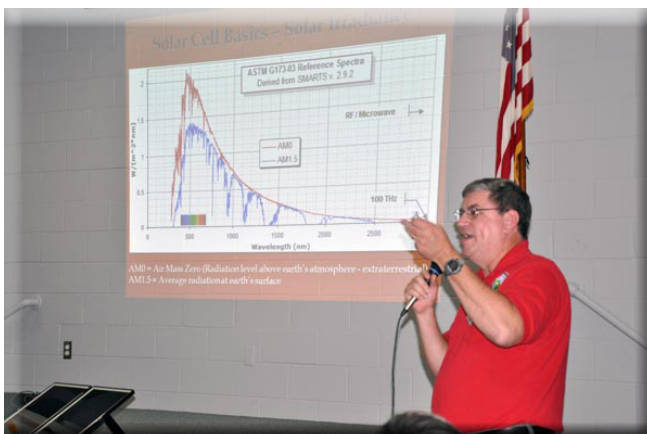


IRARC President Steve Luchuck, N4UTQ putting on his game face for the September meeting.



Field Day Ops and use of a computer logging program in the IRARC station. Computer system & screen shown here were borrowed.

system malware. Also the present computers are very slow and may not support newer releases of amateur radio software. With the pending release of Windows 8 in late October, now is a very good time to purchase a new computer to support logging, rig control or other functions in the shack. The board would solicit members for a late model computer donation before presenting a request for purchasing a new computer by the October club meeting. Finally the board approved purchase of connector preparation/crimping tools for the club station.



Dave Lerret, KU0R giving his presentation on amateur radio operations using solar power at the September IRARC meeting.

Meet Us On the Following...

On Wednesday evenings at 7:15 local, the Central Brevard County ARES net meets on IRARC's 145.370 MHz repeater (tone 156.7 Hz). After the net, informal ops on 147.42 MHz simplex. Friday Tech Net meets at 7 PM on the 37 repeater. Sunday Half Time Net meets at 3 PM on the 37 repeater. On the web point your browser to: <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net>

IRARC's Spurious Emissions is published monthly. Comments and articles are welcomed, contact Dave Lerret, KU0R, payloadone@earthlink.net

Welcome to Cycle 24 - Time to Think 10 Meters

Whether you are a new ham or have been around for past cycles, it is time to hold on 'cause you are in for one of the rides of your life in Ham Radio. I'm sure that you have heard the stories from the "Old Timers" about other cycles on Ten Meters and wondered if any of it was true. You had been turning on your rig only to hear background noise, but in the last year you have been able to work stations on 10. Is it here? Is this what all the fuss is about? Believe it or not-- it is only just starting!

HF propagation will peak in 2014-2015, so you need to think about your station and your antennas. The time to get ready is now.

Antennas- so lets start with a little math (just a little, I promise) to see what you will need: $468/28.4 = 16.47$ With this formula

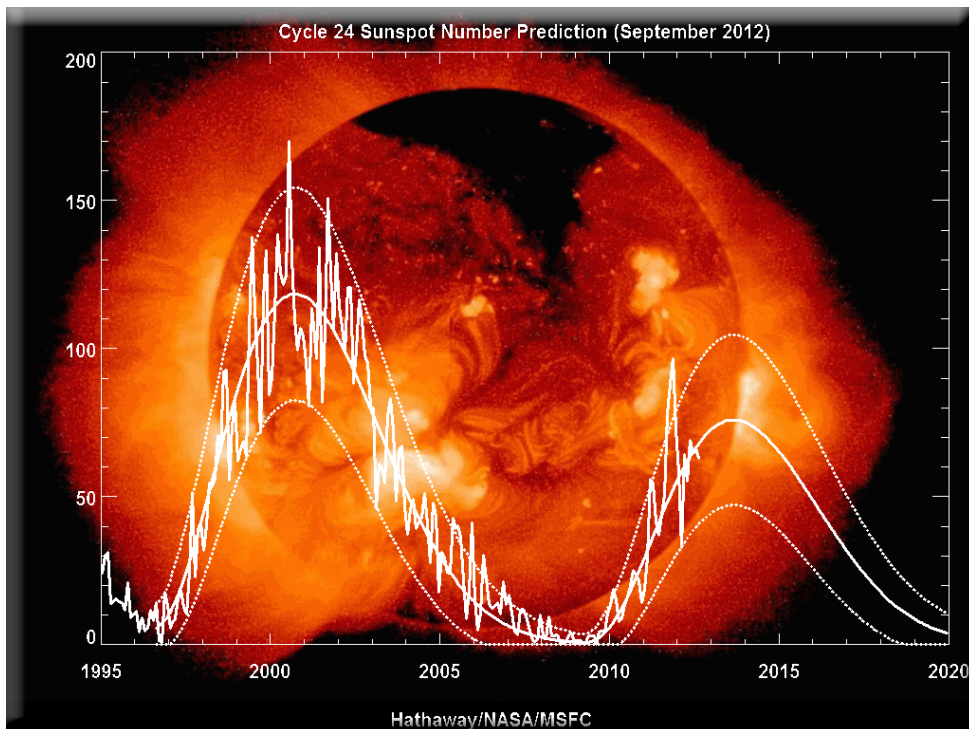
you can see that your antenna is quite small at about sixteen and one half feet long end to end. This is a size that most of us can put up no matter where we live, and if you can't install one permanently, you can always take it out to a park. Just a small antenna and a rig-- you can work the world.

Radios- Just like the antenna, it doesn't take a lot of radio to get on ten meters (or a lot of power) If you don't already own a HF rig, take a look online at eBay or other sites and you will be able to find a 10 meter-only rig for about \$100. Radio Shack sold some back during the two last cycles that were great radios and put out 25 watts, more then enough power to communicate world-wide. You will need to do this quickly because as the band opens up the price will also go up. There are lots of other

radios out there like Rangers and Unidens. I have seen the CBs that trucker use that will not only do 11 meters but 10 and 12 as well. Then there are the roll-your-own rigs that start with an old CB SSB radio that you can modify for our ham band. Lots of info out there on the web to do this.

Feed-lines and power supplies- RG-8X is a light and inexpensive coax that will work just fine. Your power supply doesn't need to be very heavy duty if you are working low power. You can always run the radio off a car battery as well.

I hope that this gets you thinking about Ten Meters. I will bring you more on it in the next few months, in the mean time, 73 and good DX! de K4UZM.



Sunspot number predictions for Cycle 24 (present) versus the previous Cycle 23 event. Based on the first three years of this cycle, it appears we will experience a smaller peak for Cycle 24 so take advantage of the good openings while they are available. Graphics courtesy of NASA, see http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/ssn_predict_1.gif

10.7 cm Solar Radio Flux Report (as of 2012-09-11 at 23:00Z)

Julian Day Number: 2456182.447

Carrington Rotation Number:
2128.023

Observed Flux Density: 110.5
Flux Density Adjusted for 1 A.U.
111.9

URSI Series D Flux, Adj. x 0.9: 100.7

source: www.spaceweather.ca

Club Meeting News

Our September 6th meeting was promptly called to order by President Steve Luchuk at 7:30 PM, and was immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 27 members present including 1 visitor. Upon the news of our Treasurer's recent resignation, Steve gave the treasurer's report, which was approved by the membership. The meeting minutes were located in the last newsletter, and were also approved by the membership.

We received word that the bylaws are being reviewed for edits and requested that others join us on the website to have an open discussion on the revised edits once they are available. Regular news was given by the respective committee chairmen, and a congratulations goes out to Dave Slawson (K4UZM) for taking on the monumental task as the new VEP Chairman. Also, there will be satellite terminal tests held on September 15 and 29 at the normal location.

In other news, we heard that Steve Luchuk (N4UTQ) had eloquently set fire to a table at the hurricane party on September 1, and had learned a valuable lesson on using charcoal chimneys. Other than the poor table, no other casualties were reported.

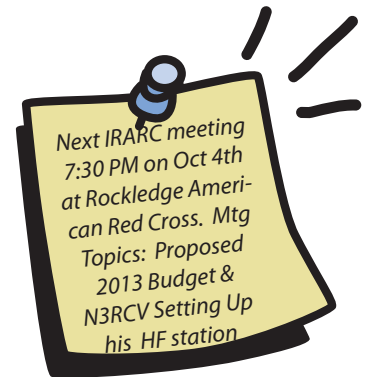
There were several motions and actions of note made at this meeting, including a recommendation by Bob Kisko (N4VO) that we purchase a club coax crimp set with dies for our membership to use at the club station. The motion was given, seconded, and approved by majority with one opposed. Also, Dave Lerret explained to the membership that in order to maintain our eligibility with the county shelters we should work on getting operators ARES trained. In order to save ... the membership the cost through ARES, we could have someone get certified as an ARES Emergency Trainer, and thus would be able to train our own folks. Stan Harrell volunteered for this duty and a motion was made to pay for Stan's training so he would not have to carry the burden himself. This motion was seconded and approved by a majority vote. Lastly, Bob Kisko nominated John Webb (N3RCV) for treasurer and he accepted the nomination. A vote was cast and by a majority vote John has become our new club Treasurer.

We enjoyed an exciting presentation by Dave Lerret (KU0R) on solar power and emergency radio power, including many hands-on examples

of the latest solar tech. Afterwards, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03PM.

IRARC Needs You

- Need volunteers to serve on Echolink best practices committee for use of the IRARC repeaters.
- Need volunteers to serve on Bylaws revision committee.
- It's not too early to plan for our December 7th (yes it is a Friday) Christmas party. Contact Carol O'Neill for details.
- Need new station manager for the IRARC radio station.
- Need two late model or new computers for the club station (Win 7 or later OS).



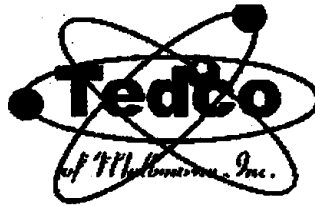
Strays -n- Stuff



Don't let this happen to your picnic. Steve, N4UTQ and the Club Shack Gang on Merritt Island enjoyed a Labor Day weekend feast of chicken, hot dogs and other fixings; however, the table under the cooker was not rated for Steve's QRO cooker. Keep it safe boys!

- IRARC Financial Report for Sept 2012
Checking: \$4558, Equipment Fund: \$863.
- Upcoming Satellite Terminal Tests will be on Sept 15th and 29th with setup at 9 AM.
- Mark your calendars for the 47th Melbourne Hamfest on October 13 and 14.
- Try the new DStar repeater in Bithlo FL at 1400 feet, KJ4OVA, 443.1375 MHz and 1291.300 Mhz voice/1251.300 MHz data.
- Are you RadioActive? Check the IRARC website calendar at <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net/> for upcoming events, photos and links to other local clubs.

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