

RANDOM *Oscillations*

A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club

From the President

Neil, KC2KY

Hello again from the KC2KY keyboard. This was an exciting month at the KC2KY shack. Last week I had a mini-split heat pump installed in the 15 x 15 foot back room of our storage barn, turning the otherwise cold-as-outside room into usable living space for my ham shack and "man cave". This weekend I moved the shack computer, operating desk, and other accessories from my old Centereach QTH to the newly climate-controlled radio room at my Bayport QTH. Now I will have to start thinking seriously about putting the tower and beam back up.

New Club Members

Please join me in welcoming new members Bill, N2WPT, and Subash, KE2BKS.

January Meeting a Smash Hit

Our January meeting turnout was excellent. It was a lively meeting with guest speaker and RCARC member Ed Wilson, the ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director. Our members in the audience were vocal but respectful, communicating their opinions on new ARRL policies. Ed did a stellar job fielding questions and comments and was particularly upbeat about various youth Amateur Radio programs throughout the Hudson Division. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Ed for contributing to an interactive and thought-provoking meeting.

Dues are Due

We have had a trickling of renewals this month. To those who sent in their renewals, thank you! If you haven't renewed yet, you have options. You can renew through the club web page via PayPal. If you don't have a Pay Pal account, you can still renew online. Just follow the instructions for paying without a PayPal account. You can use a major credit

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February Meeting : Chinese Auction and Membership Drive

Auction Rules:

1. Members are encouraged to donate ham-related items that need a new home. Anything in the shack that you no longer need or want, with a reasonable expectation that someone else might be interested in rescuing. Think "too good to throw out but not worth trying to sell".
2. Where practical, donors are encouraged to bring their donated items to the meeting. However, if you have an item to donate that is too bulky to bring to the meeting, it's acceptable to bring a photo of the item or a user manual. If someone wins the item, you can make arrangements with the winner for pickup or delivery.
3. It is each donor's responsibility to take home any unclaimed items.
4. There will be a container for each item in which you can deposit tickets. Deposit tickets for each item that you are interested in. The more tickets you place in a given container, the better your chances of acquiring that item.
5. We will have a drawing from the containers for each item.
6. Members who are paid up for 2024 will receive 5 free tickets. Additional tickets are available to paid-up members for \$.50 per ticket.
7. If you are not paid up for 2024, you can renew in person at the meeting.
8. Membership initiation fee and first month's dues will be waived for new members who join in person at the February meeting.

February Meeting Announcement
Wednesday February 28 6:30 PM
At the Middle Country Public Library in
Centereach
Chinese Auction and Membership
Drive

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card. Pay Pal will not give your credit card information to Radio Central. If you prefer, you can mail a check (payable to Radio Central Amateur Radio Club) to PO Box 396, Centereach, NY 11720. Or you can renew in person at the next RCARC general meeting. As an added incentive to renew at or before the February meeting, all members who are up to date will receive five free tickets toward the Chinese Auction.

February Meeting

Our February meeting will be our traditional February Chinese Auction. Not a fundraiser, this event is intended to get members together

to have a fun evening. Members are encouraged to look through their shack, basement, or junk box for things they want to get rid of - too nice to put to the curb but not of enough value to sell. The auction works like a series of mini-raftles. As an incentive to update your dues for 2024 (if you are not already paid up), each member whose 2024 dues are paid gets 5 tickets. If you are not current, you can pay your dues at the meeting. You put tickets into cups for each item that is on display. You can put as many or as few tickets into any particular cup for an item you are interested in taking home. Additional tickets will be offered for sale for 50 cents each.



Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, Silent Key

I was saddened to hear the news of the passing of William Hudzik, W2UDT. An avid ham licensed since 1961, Bill served with distinction as the Hidson Division Vice Director from 2011 to 2022

Radio Central Amateur Radio Club's 2024 Meeting Calendar

DATE	TOPIC
January 31, 2023	Meet the ARRL - Ed Wilson, N2XDD
February 28, 2023	Chinese Auction and Membership Drive
March 27, 2023	
April 24, 2023	
May 29, 2023	Future
June 26, 2023	Meetings
July 31, 2023	To Be
August 30, 2023	Announced
September 28, 2023	
October 25, 2023	
November 20, 2023	
December 18, 2023	

2024 Club Officers

President: KC2KY

Neil Heft

Vice President: KB2ZPB

Richie Fisher

Treasurer: W2EMN

Ed Newman

Secretary: AB2UW

Bill Lynch

Editorial Staff

Editor KC2KY

Neil M. Heft (737-0019)

Directors

Serving Until 12/24 . . .

Bob Muller KC2FYZ

Serving until 12/25 . . .

Bob Ciappa WB2NFL

Steve Sussman-Fort AB2EW

Serving until 12/26 . . .

Frank Mazovec..... W2FDM

Founding Members

Stu Goodman K2RPZ sk

Harry Lersner N2AWM sk

Honorary Members

Frank Kiefer, K2PWG sk

Art Greenberg W2LH sk

Warren Bogin W2GZA sk

JoAnn Colletti N2IME sk

Club Resources

W2RC/R 145.150 MHz, 4Z PL

W2RC/R 449.525 MHz, 2A PL

Repeater Nets

Tuesday at 20:00 EST : Club Rag Chew Net

Club Web Page: <http://rcarc.org>

The K7RA Solar Update

From the ARRL Letter, February 22, 2024

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP008:

The Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre (ASWFC) issued the following geomagnetic disturbance warning at 0237 UTC on February 22, 2024:

A solar filament has erupted from the northwest solar quadrant and a component of the predominately westward associated coronal mass ejection (CME) is expected to arrive at the Earth during the second half of February 24. G1 conditions, with the chance of G2 periods are possible during the second half of February 24 and first half of February 25. Modeling shows the bulk of the CME missing the Earth. Increased geomagnetic activity is expected due to coronal mass ejection from February 24 - 25, 2024.

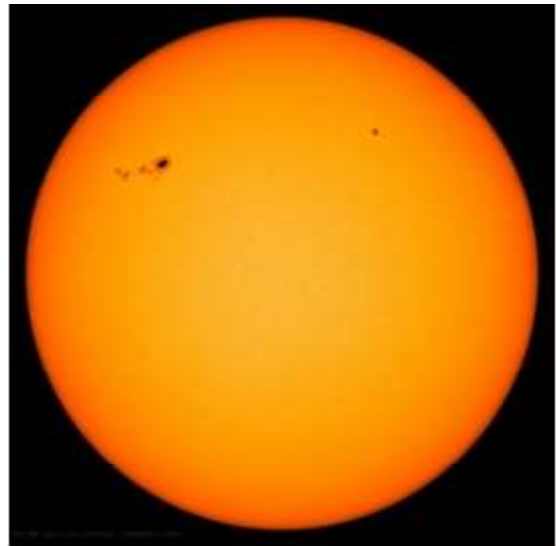
Sunspot numbers and solar flux values dropped over the past week, with average daily sunspot numbers down from 134.6 to 84.4, and average daily solar flux dropping from 190 to 164. Geomagnetic conditions were very quiet. Only four new sunspot groups appeared: three on February 15 and one on February 18.

Spaceweather.com says all of their content is written by humans, with no artificial intelligence (AI) at all. I decided to ask an AI bot when Cycle 25 will peak. From Google's Gemini AI bot:

There are two main perspectives on when Solar Cycle 25 will reach its maximum. Original prediction: an expert panel convened by [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the International Space Environment Service (ISES)] in 2019 predicted a peak in July 2025 with a maximum sunspot number of 115. This prediction assumed a similar strength to the weak Solar Cycle 24.

Revised prediction: in October 2023, NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) released a revised prediction based on observed activity. This new prediction suggests a faster rise and higher peak, likely between January and October 2024, with a sunspot number between 137 and 173. However, it's important to note that the timing could still fall within the broad error range of November 2024 to March 2026.

So, the answer depends on which prediction you consider. Original prediction: July 2025. Revised prediction: between January and October 2024 (more likely than July 2025). It's important to stay updated on the latest information as scientists continue to monitor the sun's activity. You can find more details and updates on the NOAA Space Weather



This solar disk image was taken on February 22, 2024.
[Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

Prediction Center website at <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>.

Here is a revised outlook for the next few weeks:

Predicted solar flux is 170 and 175 on February 22 - 23; 180 on February 24 - 28; 170, 160, and 165 on February 29 through March 2; 170 on March 3 - 9; 165 on March 10 - 16, and 162, 160, and 165 on March 17 - 19.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 22 - 24; 8 on February 25, and 5 on February 26 through the first week of April.

Sunspot numbers for February 15 through 21, 2024, were 151, 97, 100, 84, 64, 50, and 45, with a mean of 84.4. 10.7-centimeter flux was 178.3, 168.8, 169.9, 156.5, 152.1, 152.6, and 169.9, with a mean of 164. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 4, 6, 3, 6, and 4, with a mean of 4.4. Middle latitude A index was 3, 3, 4, 4, 1, 5, and 3, with a mean of 3.3.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service, read "What the Numbers Mean...", and check out the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzel Schwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin archive is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website.

Share your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on ARRL News.

THE DX CORNER

FEBRUARY 2024

A rather rare entity, TX5S, Clipperton Island, was the highlight of DX for the end of January into the first days of February. The PDXG dx club operated from January 17 till February 2, with strong signals into our area on most bands and modes. Yours truly was able to work them on multiple bands on both FT-8 and SSB.

ZD7Z on St. Helenas Island and 7O2WX in Yemen followed, again with strong signals on multiple bands and modes. (Worked or spotted FT-8, SSB and CW activity)

CBOZA,CBOZW and CBOZEW, a DX-Pedition consisting of Hal Turley of Index A and a US team, operated from Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez Island chain. Signals were very strong in our area on most bands and modes.

Ed, W2EMN, reported working two new countries. TX5S, Clipperton Island and 1A0C, Sovereign Order of Malta, bringing his total worked count up to 288.

The following are some of the DX-Peditions or Lone Wolf stations that are currently active or will be activated in the next couple of months, as reported by DX WORLD or INDEX A:

- NL7RR/KH9 – Wake Island – Tom – Active until mid Mar.
- 5R8BV – Madagascar – Borut S53BV – 80 & 40m CW & SSB - Feb 12 – Mar 3
- A31DL – Tonga – Al & Bob – Feb 15 - 27
- FW8GC & TX8GC – Wallis Island – Bulgarian Op's – Feb 19 – Mar 9 (active)
- H40WA – Temotu Province – US Team – Feb22- Mar 7, 2024
- VP6G – Pitcairn Island – Cerban PG5M- CW & SSB – Apr 4-14.
- A52CI & A52P – Bhutan – Polish Team – Apr 19 – May 4
- VK0DS- Davis Station Antarctica – will be operational from Dec 2023 until Nov 2024.
- EM1EHR – Antarctica – Ukraine- Ongoing
- RI1ANE – Progress Station, Antarctica – Russian – on going to May 2025
- RI1ANC – Vostok Base Antarctica – Russian – on going

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Report your DX standings and activities to Frank W2FDM at frankfish4@optimum.net. **Also, you can scan posted upcoming DX events at DXWorld.net. There are many other activations, that I have not listed, in NA, SA, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania that may interest new and seasoned DX chasers.**

CLUB DXCC STANDINGS

Reported Club DXCC Standings are as follows: (Per on-line ARRL listing)

<u>Call</u>	<u>ARRL DX Standings</u>	<u>Confirmed but not reported</u>	<u>Total</u>
W2FDM	289	0	289
W2EMN	275	10	285
KB2ZPB	275	1	276
WB2NFL	202	10	212

I'm sure other club members have some numbers to report. Don't be shy post them here!!!

CONTEST PARTICIPATION & PARKS ON THE AIR (POTA)

Our first contest report comes from Bob, WB2NFL. Bob participated in the ARRL 2024 CW DX contest. Here are his impressive results:

Class: SOUAB HP **QTH:** NLI **Operating Time:** 17:30

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSO'S</u>	<u>Multipliers</u>
160	0	0
80	44	27
40	156	55
20	218	76
15	202	61
10	235	62
<u>Total</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>281</u>
<u>Total Score:</u> 720,765		



Anyone interested in reporting any contests participated in, provide your results to me, and we will report them here. Also, if you conducted a POTA event we would like to hear about your activities in that area.

73 and Good DX Frank W2FDM

frankfish4@optimum.net

Radio Central Amateur Radio Club February 7, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes

—Bill, AB2UW, RCARC Recording Secretary

An asterisk () before each name indicates that the member has read the minutes and inserted any changes they may have had.*

*Board Members Present: *Steve, AB2EW; *Frank, W2FDM; Neil, KC2KY; Bob, WB2NFL; *Bill, AB2UW; *Richie, KB2ZPB*

Guests present: none

Board Members Absent: Ed, W2EMN; Bob, KC2FYZ

Membership:

Neil has emailed Bill a list of 2023 members and their current membership status. Bill will then send membership reminders to lapsed members before the 2/28/24 meeting, reminding them to renew for 2024.

Insurance:

RCARC paid \$320/year for liability & \$120/yr for equipment insurance. Neil reported that he was able to find liability insurance through the ARRL for \$200 after our insurance company cancelled our policy. Now, we need to determine the procedure to request an 'additional insured party'.

2/28/24 Membership Meeting:

This will be our annual 'Chinese Auction' and membership drive.

3/27/24 Membership Meeting:

We had several suggestions for this (and future) membership meetings:

Richie suggested that we invite Gordon West, WB6NOA to give a talk via Zoom (he lives in California)

Neil had previously put together "A History of Amateur Radio" that he could present.

Bill suggested that he ask the library people to do a presentation on their 'Innovation Space' (It's open to library patrons AND non-patrons).

New RCARC member Bill, N2WPT indicated to Neil that he would be willing to do a talk on FT8.

Field Day 2024:

Setup on Friday 6/21/24; operating Sat & Sun 6/22/2024 & 6/23/2024.

Marconi Day 2024:

Will be on 4/27/2024.

Repeater:

On 2/20, four of us made a repeater visit. After two hours, we were able to modify the 2m repeater so that it needs a 136.5 Hz tone to cause the repeater to transmit. The 440 repeater still needs to be fixed. It was installed and working some time ago, but on driving away from the hospital, the 440 locked up and was continuously transmitting. A return to the hospital couldn't find the problem and the 440 was disabled. Neil will schedule a trip to the repeater site in the next couple of weeks to troubleshoot the 440 repeater.

Exec Board Dates:

3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24, 7/3/24, 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/9/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24

Membership Meeting Dates:

2/28/24, 3/27/24, 4/24/24, 5/29/24, 6/26/24, 7/31/24, 8/28/24, 9/25/24, 10/30/24, 11/20/24, 12/18/24

Newsletter Articles Wanted

Working on a new kit or homebrew project? Have you recently received a rare or interesting QSL card? Received a new DXCC award or band endorsement? Or just have a cool photo (ham radio related) or some soap box comments to share with other club members? Why not consider submitting an article for the Newsletter. We're always looking for material for the Newsletter and feedback from club members goes a long way towards keeping the Newsletter interesting as well as stamping the club "personality" on our monthly publication. Articles can be submitted electronically or on paper, whatever you feel comfortable doing. As RCARC's Newsletter editor, I particularly look forward to putting a new edition together when I have material submitted by members.

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