

# RANDOM Oscillations

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

## From the President

Neil, KC2KY

Greetings once again from the KC2KY keyboard. Our July "Open Mic" meeting worked out nicely. Bob, WB2NFL, regaled the group about his latest toy, an inexpensive Radioddity model GA-510 dual-band HT. While he was describing his new HT, I went on Amazon Prime and ordered one for myself. It isn't quite in the same league as Yaesu, Kenwood, or Icom, but it seems to do everything I expect from a dual band radio. Actual power output is a little bit lower (8 watts in high power as opposed to a claimed 10 watts) but that doesn't bother me. Actually 10 watts - even 8 watts - is a lot of RF for a handheld radio, well above RF safety standards, particularly on 440.

## Welcome Aboard

George, formerly WB2ONK, now WA2FXP (which was his original call sign) rejoined the club during Lighthouse Weekend. George was a member back in the 1990s and served on the Board of Directors for a couple of years. He was well known for his sense of humor and for his work as a Volunteer Examiner along with George Sintchak, WA2VNV, at Suffolk Community College. Please join me in welcoming George back into the fold.

## Lighthouse Weekend

On August 20 and 21, we got together and put on a fantastic special event at the Old Field Point Lighthouse for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Band conditions were not the best, only bringing us about 50 contacts throughout the weekend. But what really made the weekend a success was the excellent turnout - we had at least 15 club members, too many for me to list here. We swapped lots of war stories and just had a very pleasant two days. Frank, KC2ZOR, brought us some nice snacks including some pastries and donuts from the famous Benkert's Bakery in Centereach. I got busted by the XYL for eating a jelly donut that I wasn't supposed to have, but was forgiven.

See "President", Page 2

## International Space Station Upgrades Amateur Radio Operations

From the ARRL Letter, August 18, 2022

ARISS, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, announced that simultaneous operations of the ARISS voice repeater and digital APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) communications on the Space Station are now a reality.

Current ARISS operations include voice repeater transmissions with the JVC Kenwood TM-D710GA in the Columbus module and APRS operation from an identical radio in the Zvezda module. Packet operations are on 145.825 MHz.

(See ARISS, Page 3)



NASA Astronaut Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS, tweeted this photo of the ham radio station in the Columbus module, just before ARRL Field Day in June. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9cr53f>

**August Meeting Announcement**  
**Wednesday August 31, 6:30 PM via Zoom**

**K7K Kiska Island DX-Pedition**

**Guest Speaker Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA**

## August Meeting

Our August meeting will be a special presentation about the recent K7K Kiska Island DXpedition with guest speaker Adrian Ciupperca, KO8SCA. As one of the operators at K7K, Adrian will be able give a unique perspective of the event, including the planning and logistics and the challenges involved just to get to the island with all of the equipment. Since the event was taking place during the Islands On The Air (IOTA) weekend, K7K was a particularly sought-after station to work. This is a presentation you will not want to miss.

## September 16 - Tesla Celebration

The Tesla Science Center had to postpone their annual Tesla birthday celebration, which normally takes place in July, to September 16. It turns out that thr people who were transporting the 40 foot tall Tesla coil from Arizona to New York had a truck malfunction and could not get to New York in time for the gala celebration. So, we will be doing our thing in September instead. Last year we had three stations on the air, but more importantly, we shifted our focus more toward public outreach, talking up ham radio with those who came by to visit our exhibit. With visitors checking out our graphics (thanks to Steve, AB2EW), tapping out their names in Morse on a code practice oscillator, and generally having a good time and learning about ham radio, our approach was a big success. Setup will start

at about 9:30 Saturday morning and will continue as long as there is interest and we have enough people to do a teardown at the end of the day. We will be operating with the special event call sign N2T

## September 24 and 25 - Brookhaven Town Fair at the Longwood Estate

The Longwood Town Fair is always a fun exhibit. This year, the weekend coincides with the CQWW RTTY contest, so we can use RTTY to build up a country count for the map or we can try to work some DX on SSB. Either way, it's an easy setup and teardown, with lots of other activities to check out between the QSOs throughout the day.

## Upcoming Parks On the Air at Wertheim Wildlife Refuge

Frank, W2FDM, and Richie, KB2ZPB, are working with the people at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge to get permission for the club to do a Parks On the Air operation, maybe sometime late Autumn. We will have more info available as it develops.

## 2022 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 12/22 . . .*  
Bob Ciappa ..... **WB2NFL**  
Steve Sussman-Fort **AB2EW**

*Serving until 12/23 . . .*  
Frank Mazovec..... **W2FDM**

*Serving Until 12/24 . . .*  
Bob Handel ..... **WB2ICQ**  
Bob Muller ..... **KC2FYZ**

## 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>

## Radio Central Amateur Radio Club's 2022 Meeting Calendar

| DATE                   | TOPIC                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| January 26, 2022       | RCA Radio Central History        |
| February 23, 2022      | ARRL News and Views              |
| March 30, 2022         | Scarborough Reef DX-Pedition     |
| April 27, 2022         | Parks On the Air                 |
| May 25, 2022           | SKYWARN                          |
| June 29, 2022          | Membership Round Table           |
| July 27, 2022          | Membership Round Table, Take Two |
| <b>August 31, 2022</b> | <b>K7K DX-Pedition</b>           |
| September 28, 2022     | Future Meetings                  |
| October 26, 2022       | To Be                            |
| November 30, 2022      | Announced                        |
| December 28, 2022      |                                  |



The Columbus module radio uses the call sign NA1ISS and the new radio in Zvezda uses RS0ISS. Aside from the call signs, the radios are identical, and packet operations are the same as before. You can use RS0ISS, ARISS, or APRSAT as the packet path. Both radios are expected to be running full time, except during educational contacts, extra vehicular activities (EVAs), and docking maneuvers. Final checkouts and equipment activation occurred on August 11.

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said, "Simultaneous operation of APRS and the voice repeater on ISS is transformative for ARISS. It represents a key element of our ARISS 2.0 initiative,

providing interactive capabilities 24/7 that inspire, engage, and educate youth and lifelong learners — especially lifelong learning in ham radio operations. Our heartfelt thanks to Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, for making this crucial ARISS 2.0 initiative become a reality."

Rosalie White, K1STO, one of two US delegates to ARISS, said the ham radio community will be very happy with the new radio operations from the ISS. "Hams really love doing ARISS packet, cross-band repeater, and Slow-Scan Television (SSTV) operations. Besides the thousands who download ARISS SSTV images downlinked from the ISS, we discovered that in a year's time, hams did 80,000 ARISS packet messages," she said. "We are not sure how many have been enjoying the ARISS cross band repeater, but we know it is a lot. This simultaneous operation capability is going to make many hams happy — and we know that keeping hams on the air is good for ARRL and good for amateur radio," White added.

Operational status and expected downtimes of the ISS radios can be found at [www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations](http://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations).

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, sponsors are the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, and NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program. The primary goal of ARISS is to promote exploration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics topics. ARISS does this by organizing scheduled contacts via amateur radio between crew members aboard the ISS and students. Before and during these radio contacts, students, educators, parents, and communities take part in hands-on learning activities tied to space, space technologies, and amateur radio. For more information, see [www.ariss.org](http://www.ariss.org) and [www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station](http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station).

## The K7RA Solar Update

*From the ARRL Letter, August 25, 2022*

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

A new sunspot group emerged on August 18 and August 21, and two more emerged on August 23. Overall, solar activity was down slightly, with the average daily sunspot number declining from 60.8 to 58.7, and average solar flux from 123.7 to 104.5.

Planetary A index changed from an average of 11.7 to 12.6, and middle latitude A index, measured at a single magnetometer in Virginia, was 11, after an average of 10 last week.

The Wednesday night forecast from the 557th Weather Wing at Offutt Air Force Base showed a probable solar flux peak at 130 on September 11 for the near term.

Predicted solar flux is 105 on August 25 - 26; 108 on August 27 - 28; 110 on August 29 through September 1; 114 on September 2; 116 on

*See "Solar", Page 4*

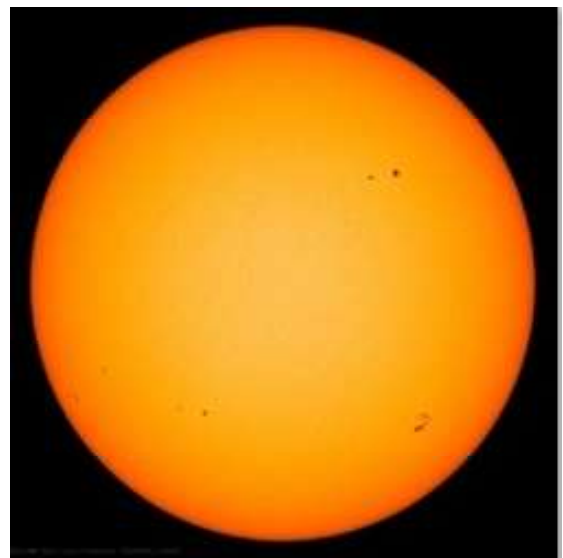


Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI



# Whistling Dixie

*DX Humor from Paul Dunphy, VE1DX*

One of the local QRPer's was by the other day, this one with a troubled look on his face. He sat down in the chair and we could tell by the way he was squirming around that something was up. "What's new?", we asked. "Well, look at this", the QRPer said, handing us a QSL card, "should I send this into the league for DXCC credit?" We looked at the card carefully. "Looks good to us", we replied, "15-metres from Kyrgyzstan. Nice catch on CW." The QRPer agreed, but kept shifting back and forth in the chair. "There might be a problem with the QSO", the QRPer said, "and I'm a bit worried." We looked at the card again, "What's the matter?", we asked, "is the date or time wrong?"

"No", the QRPer replied, "no, not at all. I worked Vlad at exactly the time he put on the card . . . it's the mode I'm worried about. This is 125 on CW and I need it for my endorsement sticker. I'm finding the CW countries harder and harder to come by these days and I really need this one." We were becoming confused and this wasn't making any sense. We decided to dig a bit deeper. "What do you think is wrong with the QSO?", we asked in a concerned tone. "Well, Vlad was on 15-metre SSB calling CQ with not many takers", the QRPer replied, "and I answered his call. We exchanged 59 reports and since there wasn't any pileup, I asked him for a CW QSO because that would be a new one on that mode." We nodded in agreement. "Nothing wrong with that", we replied, "and he gave you your

CW QSO, right?" The QRPer replied slowly, "Well, I guess so. He said for me to call him so I did and sent my call and a 599 RST. He came back with a 599 too, but his tone sounded terrible. So we went back to voice and I asked him what the problem was."

"Oh, you felt you should have sent 591 or 595CK or the like to indicate his tone was bad." we replied, feeling we understood the situation now. The QRPer shook his head, "No, he told me he didn't have a key. He whistled the CW into the microphone! He sent the call signs and the report by whistling CW. Now I don't know what to do. Is this a CW QSO or a phone QSO? Will the league accept it? It's the only UM I've ever worked on CW, too"

Son of a Gun! We'd expected almost anything but this! So we hauled the QRPer up the hill to the Old Timer. The QRPer repeated his story, ending with ". . . so I don't know if it's CW or not. It wasn't A1A modulation, but it wasn't voice either. Does this mean it won't count?" The Old Timer thought for a minute, then replied, "Whistling to keep up your courage is easy enough; the difficulty is to get up enough courage to whistle." The QRPer thought this over for a minute, then said, "So what you are saying is it will count?" The Old Timer just smiled and began tuning 20-metres. "Then you are saying it won't count, right?" The Old Timer kept on tuning and it was clear that this was all he was going to say.

We walked down the hill together and all of a sudden the QRPer shouted, "I know! I understand now!" We were curious at this new found knowledge for we had to admit the Old Timer's words were still puzzling to us. "It will count if K5FUV wasn't listening to the QSO! The card says 599, 2-way CW! What do you think the odds are that Bill Kennamer was listening to my QSO? Pretty much zero! It's a good one!" And with that he was off down the hill with his QSL card, ready to send it off to the league. Son of a Gun! What could we say? There are mysteries in this world of DX that defy explanation. We report them as we see them, but don't ask us to explain them!

## *Solar, from Page 3*

September 3 - 4; 112 on September 5; 108 on September 6 - 7; 115, 120, 124, and 130 on September 8 - 11; 128, 120, 118, 105, and 102 on September 12 - 16; 98 on September 17 - 18; 96 on September 19 - 21; 94 on September 22 - 24, and 92, 98, and 100 on September 25 - 27.

Predicted planetary A index has some surprises in store: 5 on August 25 - 26; 8 on August 27 - 28; 5 on August 29 through September 2; then jumping way up to 30, 38, and 20 on September 3 - 5; 15, 18, 10, 12, and 8 on September 6 - 10; 5 on September 11 - 12; 12, 15, and 10 on September 13 - 15; 8 on September 16 - 17; 25, 15, and 8 on September 18 - 20; 5 on September 21 - 22; 12 on September 23, and 8 on September 24 - 26.

My main power supply failed on August 21, so for a week or two I will be unable to make on-the-air observations as I await factory repair.

News about a large sunspot can be found at <https://inshorts.com/en/news/huge-sunspot-on-suns-surface-grows-10-times-in-size-in-48-hours-pic-surfaces-1661347322422>.

Sunspot numbers for August 18 through 24 were 83, 74, 56, 56, 44, 52, and 46, with a mean of 58.7. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 116.5, 105.4, 101.5, 97, 102.6, 100.9, and 107.8, with a mean of 104.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 26, 20, 14, 14, 7, 4, and 3, with a mean of 12.6. Middle latitude A index was 19, 15, 16, 13, 7, 3, and 4, with a mean of 11.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto: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 Luetzelschwab, 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.

# Lighthouse on the Air Photo Gallery

*Photos Courtesy of Frank, W2FDM*



# Radio Central Amateur Radio Club August 3, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

—Bill, AB2UW, RCARC Recording Secretary

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

*Board Members Present: \*Steve, AB2EW; \*Frank, W2FDM; Bob, KC2FYZ; Bob, WB2ICQ; \*Neil, KC2KY; \*Bob, WB2NFL; \*Bill, AB2UW; \*Richie, KB2ZPB*

*Guests present: none*

*Board Members Absent: Ed, W2EMN*

## August 31 RACRC Meeting

Guest speaker Adrian, KO8SCA will talk about the DXpedition to Kiska island July 23rd - July 31st 2022.

## August 20 and 21 Lighthouse On the Air Outing

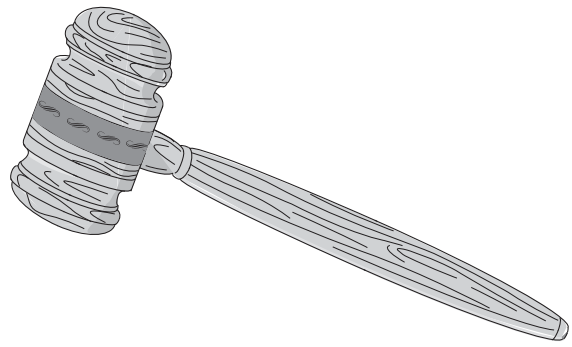
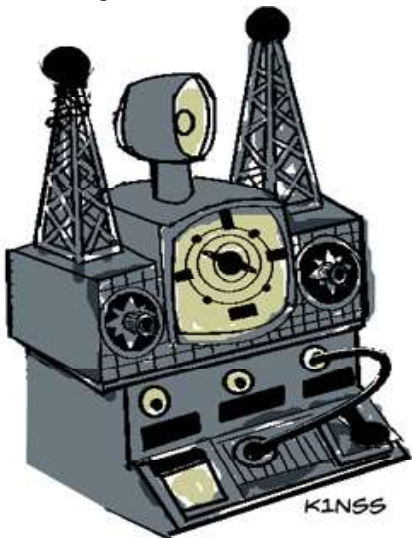
We will activate the Old Field lighthouse as part of 'lighthouse weekend'.

## Tesla science Center Event

Saturday September 17 - We will operate and educate at the Tesla Science Center in Shoreham, NY.

## Longwood Town Fair

September 24&25 - We will operate at the Brookhaven Town Fair at the Longwood Estate.



## Parks On the Air

Frank, W2FDM and Richie, KB2ZPB, will try to contact the appropriate people at the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge to try to obtain permission for the club to operate from there sometime in mid-October.

## Possible future RCARC Meeting

Ed, W2EMN, has communicated with Winston, KD2WLL, to see if he would be interested in doing a presentation on the many digital VHF/UHF modes available for repeaters. We are waiting to hear from Winston.

## Exec Board Dates

9/7/22, 10/5/22, 11/2/22, 12/7/22

## Membership Meeting Dates

8/31/22, 9/28/22, 10/26/22, 11/30/22, 12/28/22

## 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.*

**August Meeting Announcement**  
**Wednesday August 31, 6:30 PM via Zoom**  
**K7K Kiska Island DX-Pedition**  
**Guest Speaker Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA**

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