

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

February 13, 2008
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
Hoover Elementary
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

CONTENTS

Around Town	10
Converter Boxes	6
CQ DX & Contesting	5
Cycle 24, At Last	8
Dayton	11
Dick K8NKB SK	3
Envelope Sizing	6
KL Counties	4
Nets	2
Officers/ Volunteers	2
President's QRM	1
Siren Testing	2,4
Traveling Waves	7

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Old Man Winter has finally taken hold of Michigan for good. Now's the time for us to huddle together around the fire and chat about times long gone and where we are headed. Refreshments will be available while John K8UP provides us with the results of the Swap.

The Board has hinted on some ideas they want to share and they are hoping that you will bring some ideas of your own. This is going to be an important meeting. Come to the meeting—visit with friends and be part of your club.

PRESIDENT'S QRM

So many things to talk about and so little space to put them all!

First off, I would like to thank all the club members who came together to make this year's Swap and Shop work as well as it did. Our vendors were quite happy with this year's event, and much of the credit for that goes to all of you who came together on a cold Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to make it all work out.

Even now, we are beginning to plan for next year. We have made lists of what worked well and what could stand a little improvement to make next year even better for all who attend. You can be part of that process, too. If you noticed something that you feel needs to be addressed, please mention it to one of the club officers. Similarly, if you saw something that you feel worked very well, please let us know! Part of building successful events is to cast off old ideas that no longer work, and to embrace our successes.

I have written before about the need for volunteers to assist with club functions.

This will be another such time.

Our Swap Chair, Sean, has informed the board that he would like to step down as the chair of this event and pass it on to another energetic member of our group. For next year, he will still be able to work with the new chair and to offer guidance to help you with creating a fun event. But he needs to move on; after all, he has run the event for several years without an assistant. Will that person who steps up be you?

I won't write here about the finances of the event or about club finances in general. That's why we have a Treasurer, and K8UP will be happy to go over the financials next week with the whole club.

Start thinking ahead. We will be asking a few members to serve as a Nominating Committee for next year's Board of Directors. The old joke was that the advantage of serving on the committee was great, as nobody could ask you to run for office. While that's true, the important reason to serve on the Committee is to make sure

(Continued on page 2)

RICHARD SILVERMAN K8NKB SK

Richard Gary Silverman K8NKB succumbed Saturday January 19, 2008 after a long illness. Graveside Services were held the next day at Beth Tefilo Emanuel with arrangements by Hebrew Memorial Chapel.

Dick grew up in Detroit and graduated from Mumford High School in 1961. His family moved to Oak Park where he lived until moving to Menorah House nursing home this year. We met Dick in 1979 when we started becoming active in the Oak Park ARC. Dick's personality allowed him to stand out in a crowd. I remember his passion for the club and its members. If anyone needed something done, he was right there. His only shortcoming was being too kind. I think there might be one or two of us in the ham community that can think back and remember taking advantage of his kindness.

Richard embodied the Yiddish meaning of the word "mench". His obituary, written by a cousin does not give us a clue as to his character. It seemed as though the writer really did not even know him. Richard, "Dick", to most of us that knew him, graduated in 1961 from Detroit's Mumford High School. He lived with both his parents until the late 70's when his father passed away. He then continued to live with his mother, taking care of her until her death sometime in the 90's. His family lived in a duplex and his Aunt occupied the top floor. After his mothers passing he took care of his Aunt until she also passed on a few years back. Afterwards Dick lived alone until he became so ill he was forced to move to Menorah House where he lived for the past year until he passed away at the age of 64.

Dick held several jobs throughout his life. He was a police dispatcher, and Emergency Medical Technician, a drug store clerk, and he worked in an electronics parts store just to name a few of his jobs.

Dick was devoutly religious. He practiced Judaism by attending Saturday services at his Synagogue regularly. He also was available for daily services and rushed over to the synagogue many days to help make up the minyan. He made himself available for other synagogue functions such as Brises and Funerals as they too needed a minyan.

Just keeping up with the previously mentioned activities would have been a lot for most men to take on, but Dick was an active participant in his City. He served on

many of the boards for the City of Oak Park. He was at one time a member of the Cable Television Advisory Committee. He served on the Beautification Committee and also the Emergency Services Council. He was a member of the Oak Park Civil Defense Amateur Radio group and became the RACES Radio officer for the City of Oak Park. He was also active with the City of Southfield Civil Defense Radio group and was a Parking Enforcement Officer for both Southfield and the City of Oak Park.

Dick belonged to the FOPA Lodge 130 and helped out with many of the Lodges functions. Larry Szymanski (Chaplain) said that Richard was a member of the Lodge for either 23 or 24 years. He was on these committees: Bingo, Family Picnic, Family Christmas and Santa Visitation for special children. He also helped with the zoo outing for our special children. He was very active in the Lodge or at least present, he will be missed by all.

When Dick was a sophomore at Mumford High he got interested in Amateur Radio and got his first license back in 1958. He continued studying and while still in school Jerry Begel mentored him until he obtained his General class license before graduation in 1961. Dick learned more and more about Ham Radio and eventually acquiring the highest-class license available to Hams, the Extra Class License. His call K8NKB was heard on many of the local Detroit repeaters.

He helped to start the Detroit Area Repeater Team (DART 146.640) and the Oak Park Amateur Radio Club. He was the Oak Park club's president for many years. He was also active in the Catalpa and Hazel Park Clubs. Dick was present at almost every parade, walkathon, race or event that needed Ham radio for communications. He was involved with the Oakland County ARPSC and skywarn. For many years he was net control operator for the skywarn nets. He was a Life member of the ARRL and was very proud of the fact that he was licensed for 49 years. He belonged to the QCWA and would have received a 50-year award certificate from them this year. Dick embodied the public spirit of Amateur Radio.

We first met Dick on the air on the DART repeater when we first moved to Oak Park in the 70's. Dick instantly befriended our family. He helped us out often and

(Continued on page 4)

DICK K8NKB CONT.

(Continued from page 3)

was always ready to assist at any time. When we had occasion to take our children to the hospital for emergency treatment, Dick came along to aid us. Dick attended many of our family life functions including my oldest son's wedding. He was truly a great friend. We will miss him and miss hearing his familiar "This is K8NKB" on the repeaters.

73 my friend

John K8UP and Marsha N8FE Fleming

A mench is someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character. The key to being "a real mench" is nothing less than character, rectitude, dignity, a sense of what is right, responsible, decorous. (Rosten, Leo. 1968. The Joys of Yiddish. New York: Pocket Books. 237)

KL COUNTIES

There are no counties in Alaska. The Alaska Statehood Act specifically prohibited the creation of counties in Alaska.

This is because of lobbying pressure by mining, fishing and logging interests at the time who did not want the feds to allow counties, which would have taxing capabilities. In response, SOME areas of the state have incorporated into boroughs rather than counties. However, not all areas of the state have incorporated into boroughs because they too have taxing capability. Bush Alaska, where native Alaskans live a subsistence lifestyle and are typically cash poor, doesn't want a local government that can levy taxes on them either.

Les, KL7J, has more information about the Judicial Districts and the corresponding regions of the state, as well as a map showing the judicial boundaries at his web site:

<http://www.qsl.net/kl7j/county.htm>.

73, Gary AL9A

Sean K8KHZ entered the Detroit North American Auto Show Photo Contest. The links below are for the six categories that he entered.

[snapshots of show](#) [Concept](#) [Coolest Close-up](#)
[Black & White](#) [Convertibles & Coupes](#) [luxury](#)

SIREN TESTS

I would like to thank everyone that helped out with the siren tests that the Hazel Park subnet did last year. We here in Hazel Park checked more sirens than any other subnet for Oakland County. You guys and gals are the best.

Again this year I am in charge of the subnet and we are already gearing up to check the sirens. We have more sirens to check this year and a larger area (this was added late last year). We also have a few more willing and able bodies to check them.

The Southfield Amateur Radio Service (SARS) is up and running under the leadership of Ron Czesny. This is the Amateur Radio arm of the Southfield EM Department whose EM is Frank Coutts. They will be checking Southfield sirens and also be accepting other assignments in the area as necessary. For reporting the Southfield sirens they will run their own subnet and report them to their net control who will then come over to the DART and give the info to me. We are also training new Amateurs in Bloomfield Township and hopefully they will be online by April or May.

The first siren check of the year is on Saturday March 1, 2008 at 1 pm. As you know the siren tests are conducted on the first Saturday of the month at 1pm. In April the siren test will be on Wednesday April 9, 2008 at 11:30 am. This is a special test for Severe Weather Awareness Week. There will be no Saturday test in April.

Thanks to all listed below for the great job last year.

- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Phil | AA8KR | Mike | KD8ATK | Paul | AA8OZ |
| Peter | KD8GCC | John | AA8UU | Murray | KE8UM |
| Alan | AB8SA | Joe | KJ8O | Jim | K8ABZ |
| Marsha | N8FE | Bill | K8DRV | Mike | N8FI |
| Sean | K8KHZ | Ed | N8LBS | Ted | K8NA |
| Jim | N8USP | John | K8UP | Bob | W8BHF |
| John | K8ZEC | Don | W8PDI | Bill | K8AAR |
| Mike | W8VPC | Gerald | KA8D | Bill | W8WRB |
| Don | KB8PAM | Bob | WB8ATZ | Bill | KC8JAY |
| Phil | WB8NXP | Rich | KC8WPW | Jay | WB8SBI |
| Kevin | KD8AMQ | John | WG8R | Shannon | KD8ATI |

VY73
 John F. Fleming
 K8UP

C Q D X . . .

CONTEST CORNER

Listen for SB SC SH SK in 2008

Sweden will have special callsigns on throughout the rest of this year to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Treaty of Roskilde, signed on February 26, 1658, when some Danish provinces became part of southern Sweden. QSL SB16580Z via SK7JC, SC16580Z via SK7BQ, SH1658DK via SK6JX, SH16580Z via SK6KY, SK1658DK via SK7CE and WK16580Z via SK7BQ. For full info on an associated award, go to

<http://www.sk7bq.com/roskilde/index.php>.

[source: Daily DX]

QSLing FJ/OH2AM — Approved for DXCC #338

A Message from the QSL Management
Congratulations on making QSO with FJ/OH2AM, Saint Barthelemy Island, the latest DXCC Entity # 338.

The FJ/OH2AM cards will be arriving from the printers on the 15th of January (Tuesday) and we will start processing direct requests immediately. The legwork is already done, all envelopes opened and sorted.

Those 23.340 QSOs made by the duo represent 11.730 individual DXers and obviously a high QSL request rate and a noticeable sense urgency because of immediate acceptance of FJ cards at the ARRL.

We plan to make out all QSLs received during January as soon as possible but no later than the end of February. By the 20th of February we will release a status report to give an indication of the rate at which QSL requests are being answered.

We have offered to put our log onto the LoTW immediately to ease the situation but it can only be facilitated by the ARRL around May 2008 due to LoTW technicalities.

We thank you for your kind words about the operation and support received through the QSL mail.

<http://www.kolumbus.fi/oh2bn/barts.htm>

DX IS!

– 73 de Jarmo, OH2BN
Kiilletie 5 C 30
FI-00710 Helsinki
FINLAND

Welcome to Contest Corner. Feb. — Mar. line-up are as follows:

February 2008

- 9-10 CQ WW RTTY WPX
- 9-10 [Louisiana QSO Party](#) - All
- 9-10 OMISS QSO Party - SSB
- 16-17 ARRL International DX Contest - CW
- 18 Run For The Bacon QRP Contest - CW
- 22-23 Russian PSK WW Contest - PSK31
- 23-24 CQ WW 160-Meter Contest - SSB
- 23-24 UBA DX Contest - CW
- 23-24 [Mississippi QSO Party](#) - CW/SSB
- 23-24 [North American QSO Party](#) - RTTY
- 24-25 [North Carolina QSO Party](#) - CW/SSB
- 24-25 CQC Winter QSO Party - CW/SSB

March 2008

- 1- 2 ARRL International DX Contest - SSB
- 1-2 Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band (1) - RTTY
- 8-9 DIG QSO Party - SSB
- 8 AGCW QRP Contest - CW
- 8- 9 [OK & ID QSO Party](#) - All
- 9 UBA Spring Contest - CW
- 9-10 [Wisconsin QSO Party](#) - CW/SSB
- 11-12 & 15-16 CLARA & Family HF Contest - CW/SSB
- 15 10-10 International Mobile QSO Party - All
- 15-16 Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB
- 15-17 [Virginia QSO Party](#) - All
- 16 UBA Spring Contest 6 m - CW/SSB

Party your way to a WAS Award

Working QSO Parties is a great way to get states for your WAS award. Try to work them on all the bands propagation allows so you can aim toward 5Band WAS.

Here's a link to a State QSO Party Calendar with information for each one:

http://www.wa4pgm.us/qso_parties.htm

When you get close and need only a few states or if you want to join a group of folks concentrating on WAS, then you can join one of the directed HF nets. A couple of WAS nets:

<http://www.hhhnet.net/index.html>

<http://www.3905ccn.com/>

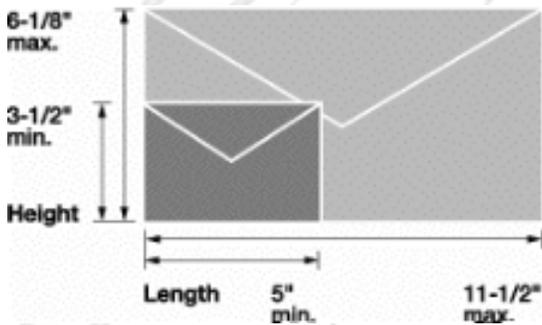
CU on the air, Marsha N8FE

LETTER VS. LARGE ENVELOPE

Sending a QSL Card is not just to get an award but it is the final step in confirming your QSO. Even with LoTW many hams still collect paper QSL Cards.

Most QSL cards are usually 3.5 x 5 inches. For Direct QSLing you can use any combination of #6, #9 and/or #10 envelopes. I like the #9 since they fit nicely into the #10 and the larger QSL cards fit inside the #9 return envelopes.

Letter First Class



Here is the Post Office Guidelines for regular Letters that would include your QSL card and (GS or IRC and SAE) or SASE.

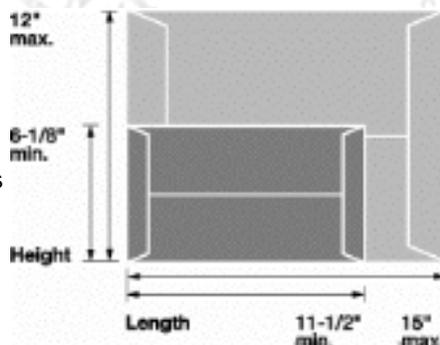
Make sure to write the address the same way (parallel) to the longest length of the envelope.

Dimension	Minimum	Maximum
Height	3-1/2 inches	6-1/8 inches
Length	5 inches	11-1/2 inches
Thickness	0.007 inch	1/4 inch

Weight Not Over (ounces)	Rates
1	\$0.41
2	0.58
3	0.75

Large Envelopes

For sending piles of cards to the Bureau there is nothing like the good old 6x9 manila envelope.



Remember to tape over the clasp to avoid paying a surcharge. Large Envelopes require **thickness is 1/4"–3/4"** so wait to send it until you can fill the envelope.

The rate to send a large envelope (6x9) is **80¢ for 1 ounce then add 17¢ for each additional ounce with maximum of 13 ounces for \$2.84**

So—remember that you may want to send your Incoming Bureau some postage to augment your 6x9 envelopes that used to be straight 1st class postage.

Media Mail

If you have a lot of cards to mail to one place, and you do not mind waiting, then media rate may be the way to go. **You could send 3 POUNDS of cards for the price of 13 ounces first class.** The maximum size is 108 inches in combined length and distance around the thickest part. **Mark each package "Media Mail" in the postage area.**

The rate to send an envelope via media rate is **\$2.13 for 1 pound then add 34¢ for each additional pound up to 10 pounds for \$5.19** (goes up to 70 lbs. but I do not have those figures)

Hope to hear you on the AIR,
Marsha N8FE

CONVERTER BOXES

As you probably know, after February 17, 2009, analog TV stations in the US are scheduled to go QRT. If you want to continue watching over-the-air TV, you will either have to purchase a new digital set or invest in a set-top converter that will feed an analog signal to your old TV.

These are expected to become available in February of this year for a cost of about \$50 to \$75. To help defray this cost, the government is issuing up to two \$40 coupons per household, on a first come basis, that can be used toward the purchase of converters.

To apply, simply go to www.dtv2009.gov and fill out the on-line request.

73, Paul, KE8UD

TRAVELING WAVES

By Steve Gladstein N8FH
HPARC Junkologist

I guess I'm like John Belushi's character in Animal House. Sometimes I just feel the need for a Road Trip. As you learned from my previous Zero Beat article about stopping at Mendelsons to gawk at the amazing variety of surplus electronic paraphernalia, I try to work a radio-related destination into my road trips.

During the summer of 2007, I felt the urge for a final road trip in my 1985 Chevy Camaro Z-28. It was the first car I ever owned, but I was beginning to accept that it was time to part with it. It had been a few years since I visited some old friends, now residing in Rochester NY, so the final destination was selected. Now to see if any ham-fests could be found enroute.

A review of the ARRL's hamfest schedule didn't reveal anything conveniently located, so I started to look for other things to do. I've heard of a few radio museums towards the East coast, so I began searching the internet to find them. I eventually stumbled upon the Antique Wireless Association's (AWA) museum located near Rochester. Even better, their annual conference was scheduled soon, and was able to adjust my timing to attend it. It also included a swap meet in the hotel's parking lot. Reservations were made at the hotel hosting the conference. Registration for the conference required either AWA or ARRL membership. Although I'm already an ARRL member, I joined the AWA to sample their bulletins. They are available for loan if anyone would like to see them. Just ask me.

The conference was held at a former Marriott, now known as Rochester Institute of Technology's Conference Center. I arrived Wednesday evening, in time for the opening Mixer. The AWA set-up a temporary bookstore in the hotel, and it featured many publications, including several written by AWA members. One author was available to sign his book. The international community was well represented by members from Sweden, England, and several other countries.

Thursday and Friday contained presentations on various antique radio related subjects. One gentleman demonstrated an early form of television using spiral mirrors

that he constructed. There was an interesting paper on a

Chicago based ham radio manufacture. Another session concentrated on telegraph keys. I really enjoyed the restoration forum, which started with a photographic presentation documenting one member's restoration project of a radio. The before picture looked like something removed from a war zone. The after photo looked brand new. The second part of the forum was a "Hints and Kinks" session with many good suggestions.

Another presentation focused on a now deceased, member of the club, Phil Weingarten, who used to build antique radio related replicas and sell them. He didn't always tell potential buyers he was selling replicas! Some years ago, two club members were talking, and one was commenting about a one-of-a-kind piece he owned. The other member said he owned the same one-of-a-kind piece. Mr. Weingarten was busted! The AWA president was so irritated by his behavior, he was kicked out of the club. Mr. Weingarten was reproducing parts other than complete radios. He owned some of the original DeForest Audion tooling, and was recreating Audions with original tooling. One of these replica tubes was sold at the conference for \$1900. Yes, I know this opens the debate: is it a replica if it was created with the original tooling?

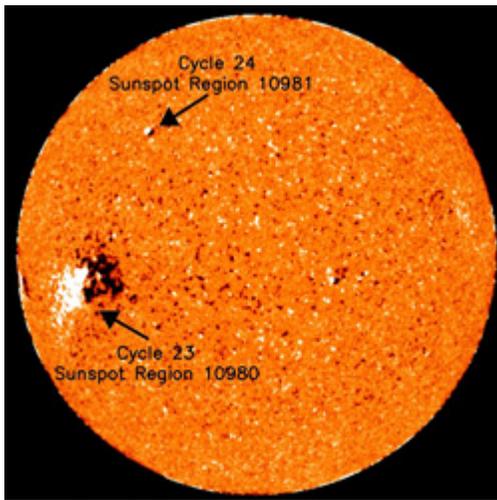
There was a special meeting regarding amateur radio. The AWA has their own on-air contest called the 1929 QSO party during early December. For scoring points, both parties must use radios made before 1929, or build a radio using parts available in 1929. Input power is 10 watts maximum.

Speaking of contests, Friday evening was a spectacular contest where many of the attendees brought one or more prized antiques. It included console units, homebrew transmitters, various components, and advertisements. Members were allowed to vote, and awards were handed out at the banquet that evening. The keynote speaker was Mike Adams, Chair of the Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre at San Jose State University spoke of DeForest's accomplishments.

Saturday was the main auction with many nice pieces on display.

The Camaro was sold two months after returning from the AWA conference. I may return in 2008. If anyone would like to join me for a road trip, let me know.

CYCLE 24, HERE AT LAST



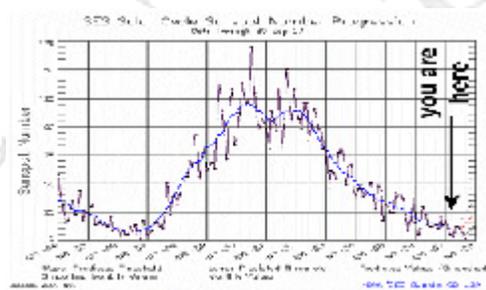
This shows the emergence of Sunspot 981, hailed as the beginning of Solar Cycle 24. The decline of Solar Cycle 23 is evidenced by the gradual disappearance of Sunspot 980. At the start of a solar cycle, sunspots appear approximately 30 degrees from the solar equator. As the solar cycle progresses, sunspots form closer and closer to the equator. [Photo courtesy NOAA]

With the appearance of [Sunspot 981](#) – a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot – on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later.

Reversed polarity means a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude

and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.



This chart shows the progression of Solar Cycle 23. With experts claiming Solar Cycle 24 is now here, they expect a strong and vibrant solar cycle peaking somewhere around 2011-2012. [Photo courtesy NOAA]

Solar Cycle 24 Predictions

While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next [11-year cycle of solar storms](#) "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe

(Continued on page 9)

CYCLE 24, CONT.

the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years – which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

Amateur Radio and Solar Cycle 24

According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the *National Contest Journal* ([NCJ](#)), continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter [DXCC](#) efforts."

Active Solar Cycles Bring Sunspots, Solar Storms

A [sunspot](#) is an area of highly organized magnetic activity on the surface of the sun, and is marked by a lower temperature than its surroundings. The new 11-year cycle, called [Solar Cycle 24](#), is expected to build gradually

with the number of sunspots and solar storms reaching a maximum by 2011 or 2012, though devastating solar storms can occur at any time

While sunspots are good news to Amateur Radio operators, an active solar cycle can disrupt other aspects of life that we take for granted, since violent eruptions occur more often on the Sun during an active period. According to NASA, solar flares and vast explosions, known as [coronal mass ejections](#), shoot energetic photons and highly charged matter toward Earth, jolting the planet's ionosphere and geomagnetic field, potentially affecting power grids, critical military and airline communications, satellites, Global Positioning System ([GPS](#)) signals and even threatening astronauts with harmful radiation. These same storms illuminate night skies with brilliant sheets of red and green known as [auroras](#), or the northern or southern lights.

NOAA Administrator and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Vice Admiral (Ret) Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr said, "Our growing dependence on highly sophisticated, space-based technologies means we are far more vulnerable to space weather today than in the past. NOAA's space weather monitoring and forecasts are critical for the nation's ability to function smoothly during solar disturbances."

According to NASA's Tony Phillips, many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to a frenzy and Cycle 24 will be no exception. "We still have some quiet times ahead," says Hathaway. [source: ARRL web site]

OAKLAND COUNTY ARPSC

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next Board Meeting of the Oakland County ARPSC will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the EOC in Pontiac. All current registered members of Oakland ARPSC may attend this meeting and they are permitted to bring a guest who must accompany the ARPSC member to the meeting.

Due to security regulations at the EOC only current members of Oakland ARPSC and an invited guest who

accompanies the member may attend Board Meetings.

For those who are not currently registered members of Oakland ARPSC you are cordially invited to attend the two General membership Meetings held each year in approximately June and November.

You may, of course join Oakland ARPSC at any time throughout the year by calling Loretta at the EOC at 248-858-5300 and requesting a membership application.

AROUND TOWN . . .**17 Feb 2008 + 37th Annual Swap 'N Shop**

Livonia Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.LivoniaARC.com>

Talk-In: 145.35

Contact: Sharon Ann Keller, KA8SRC

30148 Puritan Street

Livonia, MI 48154

Phone: 734-427-3934

Email: driskell55@aol.com

Civic Park Seniors Center

15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI

15 Mar 2008 48th Annual Mi Crossroads Hamfest

SEMARS & Marshall HS Industrial Arts Club

<http://www.w8df.com>

Talk-In: 146.660 (PL 94.8) -600 & 146.520 simplex

Contact: Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ

20960 NE Capital Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49017

Phone: 269-966-0770

Email: daffne25@yahoo.com

Marshall High School

701 North Marshall Avenue, Marshall, MI

16 Mar 2008 Hamfest and Computer Fair

Toledo Mobile Radio Association

<http://www.tmrhamradio.org>

Talk-In: 146.27+ (will be in net mode - no tone needed)

Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR

4463 Holly Hill Drive, Toledo, OH 343614

Phone: 419-385-5624

Email: bharrington@meduohio.edu

Lucas County Recreation Center

2901 Key Street, Maumee, OH

19 Apr 2008 Milford Swap and Shop

Milford Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.gsl.net/w8ydk>

Talk-In: 145.49 (PL 67); 146.52 backup

Contact: Rose Moore, KC8NQJ

1383 Sylvan Drive, Hartland, MI 48353

Phone: 810-632-5174

Milford High School

2380 Milford Road, Highland, MI

ARRL BOARD MTG**Senior Discount Discontinued**

Effective January 1, 2009, the \$3.00 dues discount for senior citizens will be eliminated. Taken collectively, this change will permit us to keep the ARRL budget in the black. I realize that some of you may greatly dislike losing this discount; however, \$3.00 over an entire year for an individual should not be a financial burden. If this \$3 proves to be a true burden for anyone in our Division, please let me know. I may be able to help.

6 Meter Fish Award

A new award will soon be available on 6 M. This will be the Fred Fish, W5FF (SK) award and will be available to anyone who confirms 6 M QSOs with all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous US states. Fred Fish, W5FF Award No. 1 will be issued posthumously to Fred Fish and presented to his wife, Lee Fish, K2FF.

Was Amateur Radio really "dissed"?

First, please understand that my comments that follow are not promoting or opposing any of the candidates who are seeking nomination for the US Presidency. It is simply as a matter of accuracy that I am providing the URL to the TV program in which Mitch Romney supposedly "dissed" Amateur Radio in 2005. The much-traveled complaint about the alleged dissing has recently resurfaced – quite heatedly.

You now have the opportunity to view the broadcast in full context to decide for yourself if Romney is a scurrilous knave or a living saint (or in between). Go to www.thebostonchannel.com/video/5334306/index.html. This URL will take you directly to the TV clip. Obviously, have the volume on your computer turned on.

Listen to the entire clip to get the complete background to the discussion, as well as to specific statements. [source: Weaver's Words—Jim Weaver]

CW READER

The question was raised on the newsgroup as to the best CW reader to use if you need help and want something simple. The answer came back from one of our own specialists. CWGET software and your computer's sound card use the sound card so no TNC or multimode controller needed.

Dee, N8UZE

HPARC 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION RESERVATIONS

MEMBER'S COPY - KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Please complete both sections identically, and return to Steve Gladstein.

Hampton Inn
45 Troy Town Dr.
Troy, OH 45373
(937) 339-7801

Located off I-75 at exit 74

Name _____ Call _____

- Thursday, May 17 2008 Friday, May 18 2008 Saturday, May 19 2008
\$93/1 night \$186/2 nights \$279/3 nights **All rooms include 2 double beds**
Payment due April 12, 2007

- Smoking Non-Smoking
(Check only if you have a preference - We have a limited number of each type, and I may ask you if the other type is acceptable - if your preference isn't available)

To be completed by HPARC Administration only:

Paid: Check Cash Amount \$ _____ Verified _____

HPARC 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION RESERVATIONS

HPARC COPY - RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO STEVE
GRADSTEIN N8FH

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Other Occupant _____ Call _____

- Thursday, May 17 2007 Friday, May 18 2007 Saturday, May 19 2007
\$93/1 night \$186/2 nights \$279/3 nights **All rooms include 2 double beds**
Payment due April 12, 2007

- Smoking Non-Smoking
(Check only if you have a preference - We have a limited number of each type, and I may ask you if the other type is acceptable - if your preference isn't available)

To be completed by HPARC Administration only:

Paid: Check Cash Amount \$ _____ Verified _____

**M
a
r
k
e
t
f
o
r
a
m
a
t
e
u
r
a
n
c
e
r
a
d
i
o
c
l
u
b**

2008 DATES

- March 12
- April 9
- May 14
- June 11 Banquet
- August 13 Picnic

TIME

Socializing @7:00 P.M.
Meeting @7:30 P.M.

PLACE

Hoover Elementary
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030



Locations: 1- Meeting 2- Swap 3- Picnic

We're on the Web
www.hparc.org



Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 368
Hazel Park, MI 48030



Please check mailing label — is your membership about to expire?

FIRST CLASS MAIL — Dated Material