



The Communicator

Official monthly news of YE SSB'ers



Editor Pro-tem Barbara KESZI

Issue # 136

May 2008

Welcome to New Members

16302 KE4WMF Scott VA
 16303 N0DFP Rob MN
 16304 N9ZDD Jerry WI
 16305 N3DLS Doir PA
 16306 WB8ORN Allan FL
 16307 K1TOD Todd FL
 16308 W2ZU Bill NY
 16309 KC9JLY Alan WI
 16310 KE7SEA Eric OR
 16311 KD5DYJ Justin OK
 16312 KC8WPJ Dave OH
 16313 WB7TAR Gerald WA
 16314 KD4ONL Charles GA
 16315 KA4BLX John FL

Congratulations to our new TFO's A Job well done

#468 W1SQM George



#469 W7GMF Gene



CALL CHANGES

KC0PPR now AC0KV
 WB0TUI now K0XW
 WD8NQP now W8USN
 WB0UIS now AA0TF
 WA1VTF now W1YZ
 WD4CYN now KS4T

Silent Keys

KB9OGO 15682
 N0FOS 15928
 KF1B 13253
 W4TIM 14636
 W8EKR 8453
 WA9ROU 7424

Still time to register for our annual convention. This year in Halifax, Nova Scotia. VE1JIM hosting. Registration can be done

on line at our website www.yesystem.org.

If you have any items you wished placed on the Agenda at the Convention, please get them to Pres. Rose KL7EQQ quickly. Email kl7eqq@yahoo.com.

We thank our new coordinator for the 40/80M Systems. Jay, K14TXP for volunteering after the resignation of WZ1F. Lee because of health reasons. Rest easy, Lee, it's in good hands.

Would anyone like to host the convention for 2010? We like to plan them a year ahead if possible. In 2009 it will be in Washington, so it would be nice to have it in the central or eastern part of the states. DX bids are also welcome. Contact Rose if you are interested.

We are also in need of someone to compose,

edit, print and mail the VOICE. If anyone has a talent in this direction, please consider the Editor position for SSB'ers. This job description would include doing the Communicator also. Contact Rose for info.

By the way, the Communicator is available on line at our website, but if you want each issue mailed to you, you may send SASE's (you can get 5 #10 envelopes into an envelope for 1 unit of postage) and mail it to the Editor. Barbara Neiman KESZI.
4257 SW 7th Ave Rd.
Ocala, FL 34471-7497.



K7RA solar update: on Apr 23, the planetary A index rose to 32 due to a solar wind and south-pointing interplanetary magnetic field. Sunspot numbers for Apr 17-23 were 0, 0, 13, 12, 0, 13 and 13 with a mean of 7.3. The spring/summer sporadic E-layer propagation season is starting, which means enhanced propagation on 28M, 50M, 70M and 144M.

A Few Things You Will Hear On WWV

Beside the usual voice announcement of the exact time each minute, did you know there is much more information from WWV? Geophysical alerts are broadcast at 18 after the hour. They provide info about solar terrestrial conditions which provide current conditions for long distance HF propagation. Solar flux is a measurement of the intensity of solar radio emissions with a wavelength of 10.7 cm. The daily solar flux measurement is recorded at 2000UTC by the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory of the Canadian Nat'l Research Council at Penticton, BC. The

value given is in solar flux units that range from a theoretical minimum of about 50 to numbers larger than 300. During the early part of the 11 year sunspot cycle, the flux numbers are low. The numbers will remain high for extended periods around sunspot maximum. (Of course we all know that we are at a very low count now, but in a few years the numbers should pick up.) Solar flux is measured by counting sunspots, or storms on the surface of the sun, the more spots, the stronger the ionosphere. A strong ionosphere means the HF radio signals can be reflected over great distances. (Of course, this means more qrm too!) The A and K indices are a measurement of the behavior of the magnetic field in and around the earth. The K index uses a scale from 0 to 9 to measure the change in the horizontal component of the geomagnetic field. The A index is a daily value on a scale from 0 to 400 to express the range of disturbance of the geomagnetic field. An estimated A index is first announced at 2100UTC. At 0000UTC, the announced A index is from known measurements, hence the word "estimated" is dropped. Solar flux and the A and K indices can be used to compute the MUF (max usable freq) and the LUF (lowest usable freq) for a given time and location. If the A index is less than 10 or the K index is around 3, it indicates nearly ideal conditions for HF propagation. The lower the figure, the less the signals are absorbed by the earth's geomagnetic field. Less absorption means HF signals will travel farther and better. A 440 hertz tone is broadcast once each hour on the 3rd minute. This tone is the musical note "A" above middle "C". (Tune up your fiddles). The 8th -10th minute is storm info. 14th and 15th min are GPS reports. No audio tone 43-52 min, just a click. More info on the web at <http://tf.nist.gov>, and other places.