CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B10 • Issue #9 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OCTOBER 2009
P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH http://wcarc.bgsu.edu

Fox Hunt Planned

The annual WCARC fox hunt will be held immediately before the regular business meeting on October 12th. The wily fox will be sitting in his lair on 146.55 MHz simplex. He will commence his taunts at 1800 hours local time. If the fox hunters are diligent and successful, the business meeting will commence at 1930 hours at the Sheriff's Training facility. If you haven't participated in a fox hunt yet, come out with your mobile rig and join the fun. A 2-meter directional antenna is ideal, but employing an HT with a rubber duckie and using your body as kind of a "reflector" for directionality has been shown to work. Also a decent rf attenuator can be of great help when you get "warm" because the fox's signal may be so strong that it overloads your front end. The fox will begin his transmissions, typically at much reduced power, on the above frequency and it is up to the fox hunter to home in on him. After a while, he may also give out enigmatic clues as to where he is located. The first fox hunter to locate the fox wins the contest. It's always a lot of fun. ■

WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130 EDST
(0130 Z Wed year-round)
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Next Meeting
Business
MONDAY, OCT. 12th
TIME: 7:30 pm
PLACE: Sheriff's Training Room, Dunbridge and Gypsy Lane, BG

SOLAR UPDATE

from ARRL News

Tad Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Two large sunspots, 1026 and 1027, both emerged in the past few days. We could see them in advance of their appearance while they formed on the side of the sun previously unseen from earth, via the NASA STEREO mission, mentioned in last week's bulletin. These spots, emerging on the autumnal equinox, should enhance HF propagation, and expect them to increase in size as they move into the most geoeffective position over the next couple of days.

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Net Check Ins

Sep 15

WB8NQW	*(NC)*
K8BBK	
K8NEA	
N8YAE	
WD8PIC	
KD8KBU	*(6)*

Sep 22

WB8NQW	*(NC)*
WB8VUL	
K8BBK	
KG8FH	
K8OVO	
KA8CKT	*(6)*

Sep 29

WB8NQW	*(NC)*
WD8JWJ	
N1RB	
KC8ZJW	
K8NEA	
K8OVO	*Traffic for KC8ZJW*
K8BBK	*(7)*

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130 EDST/2030 EST

Sep	**29**	**WB8NQW**
Oct	**6**	**N1RB**
Oct	**13**	**K8OVO**
Oct	**20**	**WD8ICP**
Oct	**27**	**N8QMV**
Nov	**3**	**WB8NQW**
Nov	**10**	**N1RB**

Brain Teasers

1. What is one way to determine if the maximum usable frequency is high enough to support 28 MHz propagation between your station and western Europe?

a.) listen for signals on the 10 m beacon frequency

b.) listen for signals on the 20 m beacon frequency

c.) listen for signals on the 39 m broadcast band

d.) listen for WWVH time signals on 20 MHZ

2. What is one characteristic of gray-line propagation?

a.) it is very efficient

b.) it improves local communications

c.) it is very poor

d.) it increases D-region absorption

3. By how many times must the power output of a transmitter be increased to raise the S-meter reading from S-8 to S-9?

a.) 2 times

b.) 3 times

c.) 4 times

d.) 5 times

October Contests

The contest lineup for the month of October is given below. Please note that the WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 m) are never open to contesting.

Oct 3	*0000 to 2400 Z*	160 m to 10 m
PSK Rumble		**PSK-31**
Oct 3-4	*0800 to 0800 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		**SSB**
Oct 3-4	*1600 to 2159 Z*	160 m to 10 m
California QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 4	*0700 to 1900 Z*	15 m to 10 m
RSGB 21/28 MHz 'test		**all modes**
Oct 10-11	*0800 to 0800 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		**CW**
Oct 10-11	*1200 to 1200 Z*	20 m to 10 m
Worked All Britain 'test		**SB**
Oct 10-12	*1600 to 2200 Z*	160 m on up
Pennsylvania QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 10-11	*1600 to 2359 Z*	160 m on up
Arizona QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 17	*1400 to 2300 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Iowa QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 17-18	*1500 to 1459 Z*	80 m to 10 m
Worked All Germany 'test		**all modes**

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Oct 17-18	*1600 to 2359 Z*	160 m to 10 m
W/VE Islands QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 18-19	*11700 to 0100 Z*	160 m on up
Illinois QSO Party		**all modes**
Oct 24-25	*0000 to 2359 Z*	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW SSB 'test		**SB**

October Hamfests

Oct 25 Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Assoc. (USECA). American Polish Century Club, Sterling Hts, MI. Contact Chuck, N8ZA.

e-mail: n8za@arrl.net
web: http://www.usecaarc.com

Nov 1 Massillon ARC. Massillon Boys and Girls Club, Massillon, OH. Contact Dan, N8DZM, (330) 478-6149.

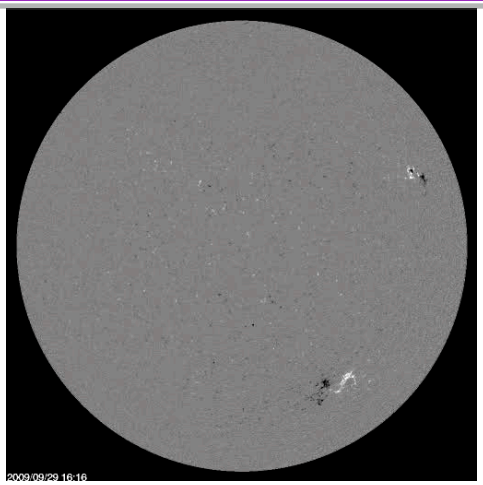
e-mail: ddann@sbcglobal.net
web: http://www.marcradio.org

Solar---continued from p.1

We will discuss this more in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, September 25. For more information concerning radio propagation,visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>.

To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

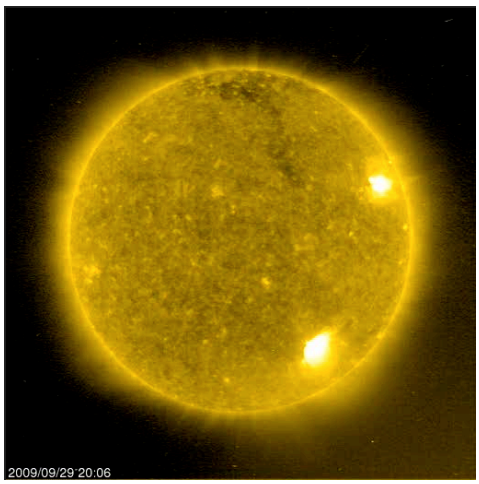
Brain Teaser answers: 1-a, 2-a, 3-c



As of Sept. 29th, there were at least 13 sunspots logged. The image above is the NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) satellite magnetogram, which shows magnetic

field polarity. Sunspots are associated with strong magnetic fields. The white and black areas associated with each group are opposite magnetic "poles".

A large number of sunspots is a secondary indicator of increased solar radiation in both the *mm* and the x-ray portions of the spectrum. The image below is also from SOHO, and shows the same sun in x-rays at a wavelength of 28.4 *nm*.



Notice that the bright x-ray regions correspond to the high intensity magnetic field regions as well as the visible "sunspots". We have definitely embarked into cycle 24 and this means that there should be gradual improvement of propagation on the HF bands. The 15 m, 12 m and 10 m bands should become especially active as the cycle progresses. ■

MFJ Purchases Cushcraft Antennas and Other Tidbits

MFJ has purchased the Cushcraft antenna operation from Laird Technologies, the parent. In a news release, MFJ said the antennas will continue to be manufactured in New Hampshire.

Radio Shack is dumping the "radio" from its name. In August the company announced that is "contemporizing" its brand by dropping "radio" and simply calling itself "The Shack". ■

More CubeSats in Orbit

Early morning on Sept. 24th (UTC), an Indian PSLV-C14 rocket carried the Oceansat-2 satellite: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceansat-2> to orbit, along with four CubeSats and two RubinSats. The RubinSats are 8 kg research modules that will remain attached to the PSLV-C14 booster. CubeSats are very small satellites, typically only a few inches on each side. As they are a relatively inexpensive research spacecraft, they've become increasingly popular with university science programs. A number of CubeSats use Amateur Radio frequencies to downlink telemetry, as is the case with this latest group. Early reports indicate that all of the CubeSats are active. You can check out the frequencies and modes of the four satellites on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/23/11090/?nc=1>. ■

DON'T FORGET!

10 meter informal net meets each Sunday at 2030 EDST on 28.335 MHz

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402