

ANODE

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Editor's Comments

**August 2004
Volume 5 Issue 01**

Geomagnetic Storm And Ham Radio

A huge geomagnetic storm has hit the Earth, wiping out a lot of High Frequency communications. At the same time its making the VHF and UHF bands a veritable D-X playground. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:



OM Keith receiving his award at the AGM

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The ARES Takeover Attempt, and Why...

From: "Charles Brabham" <n5pvl@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: The ARES Takeover Attempt, and Why...
Date: 2004-08-01 12:57

Check this out, in order to understand what is being discussed, here:

Reference: <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0407/>

The ARRL set up a committee to look into digital communications for ARES last year.

Talking to one of the committee members early on, not long after this digital group was assembled, I was told that two or three affluent and powerful members of the committee had already decided the group's final conclusion, to utilize the Winlink 2000 system for ARES HF communications. who attempted to inject a note of sense into the issue, but all attempts to suggest that anything other than Winlink2000 be used were rejected by the committee, often rudely and in one case the rejection involved name-calling and ridicule of fellow Hams that was entirely uncalled-for.

The six months or so that the committee "studied and discussed" the matter were a formality, a sham.

I know of three persons

A note of sense? - As a digital experimenter, I know that finding space anywhere on the Ham bands to operate the new wide digital modes like PACTOR II and PAC-

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Special points of interest:

- Contact details on back page

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According to a propagation bulletin issued on July 25th by CQ Magazine's Tomas Hood, NW7US, the estimated planetary K index reached a level of 8, with the Bolder, Colorado K reading a level 7. Translated into everyday talk, that's one heck of a solar storm and it does odd things to radio communications. All you need do is turn on a 6 or 2 meter CW or SSB radio to hear it for yourself.

Solar storms bring with them an increase in Aurora and Aurora based communications. Reports over the VHF Reflector say that this one was no exception. According to Dave Wenner, K3KEL, in Benton, Pennsylvania, his 150 watts to a homebrew 9 element Quagi antenna made it possible for him to make dozens of 144 Mhz contacts. These ranged from Maine across to Missouri plus Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario Canada. Dave's posting said that he did not work any stations to the South but that they were there. He says that he heard K4QI in North Carolina's grid FM06 very strong toward the end of the session.

Wenner's was typical of the reports posted to the VHF Reflector. Many of them said that this was the best Aurora session heard in years.

[For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.]

How long does a solar storm

like this last? NW7US reports that as Saturday, July 25th progressed, the geomagnetic field again became highly active and reached storm levels. He says that it has continued to get more intense, reaching very high storm levels. As the week progressed more Aurora contacts were reported world wide with some on the 222 Mhz band and above. (NW7US via VHF Reflector)

Is The Sun Harming Earth?

Meantime the CGC Communicator cites an interesting propagation report. One that says Greenland's ice cores indicate that the sun is more active now than it has been at anytime in the past 1,000 years.

That report also says this has caused a warming trend here on Earth. As a result of this and other solar observations the pseudo-science doomsayers have been quick to jump on the gloom and doom bandwagon. They are out there predicting dier consequences for those of us living here on the surface of our home planet Earth. But is any of this based on reality? That's what RAIN's Hap Holly asked CQ's Thomas Hood, NW7US:

Audio report only. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast downloadable at: <http://www.arnewslines.org/quincy>

Echo On The Air

I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, with some breaking news that hams worldwide have been waiting to hear. This, as AMSAT announces that its new Echo satellite, now renamed AO-51 will be turned on for general use in FM repeat mode on July 30th at about 02:15 UTC.

Echo will be on for a trial period of about three weeks. During that time command stations will be watching the power budget and adjusting the UHF transmitter output as needed for management of the battery supply. Initially, the transmitter will be running at about 1 watt but if all goes well it will be slowly increased during the trial period.

Echo's uplink is 145.920 MHz using FM voice with 67 Hz PL tone (CTCSS) required. The downlink is on 435.300 Mhz, also FM voice. And like many terrestrial repeaters the downlink transmitter will only come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz PL tone for about 1 second. After the uplink signals drop away the downlink transmitter stays on for 10 seconds. After that, the downlink signal goes away. You might say that the operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second "kerchunk" filter and a 10 second hang time. The only difference is that this one is cir-

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cling the Earth in space.

Norm. (AMSAT)

—

Newsgroup stuff

From: "Paul W. Schleck"
<pschleck@novia.net>
Subject: (UPDATE, SHORT)
Auto-FAQ Sent to Over 35,000
rec.radio.amateur.* Posters
Date: 2004-01-31 06:35

For those who are curious, here is the current version of the message, modified in response to feedback as the project progressed.

>Subject: WELCOME to rec.
radio.amateur.* >X-Loop: rec.
radio.amateur-auto-faq@oasis.
novia.net

Hello,

The following message is automatically sent to every new poster or cross-poster (as of June 19, 2002) to any of the rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups. It should be sent once, and only once, to each unique address. This is a welcome message. The Internet amateur radio community welcomes you to the newsgroups, including rec.radio.amateur.*, and welcomes your input, opinions, and constructive participation. To help make you feel welcome, experienced participants like myself have chosen to systematically inform you, as a new poster, about use-

ful information resources and user tips to enable you to get the most out of these newsgroups. I hope you will consider the message in that spirit.

* * *

1. The news.announce.newusers newsgroup, moderated by Jon Bell, et al, contains a number of very informative articles providing an overview of net-etiquette, suggested writing styles for electronic forums, and other various do's and don'ts concerning Internet culture. If the articles have expired at your site, you may also access them from:

<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/news/>

2. Original newsgroup voting and charter information for the rec.radio.amateur.* hierarchy, as well as for rec.radio.info and rec.radio.swap, may be accessed from:

<ftp://ftp.uu.net/usenet/news.announce.newgroups/rec/rec.radio.info> <ftp://ftp.uu.net/usenet/news.announce.newgroups/rec/rec.radio.amateur-reorg> <ftp://ftp.uu.net/usenet/news.announce.newgroups/rec/rec.radio.amateur.dx> <ftp://ftp.uu.net/usenet/news.announce.newgroups/rec/rec.radio.amateur.boatanchors>

3. The Guide to the rec.radio Newsgroups, originally writ-

ten by Jay Maynard, K5ZC, is now maintained by Jeffrey Herman, KH6O. It provides an excellent overview of all of the Usenet newsgroups devoted to amateur and CB radio. It may be accessed from:

<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/radio/personal-intro>

4. The rec.radio.swap FAQ: A Guide to Buying and Selling on Usenet, also originally written by Jay Maynard, K5ZC, is now also maintained by Jeffrey Herman, KH6O. It contains a number of good pointers for reading and posting articles concerning the buying and selling of radio and radio-related equipment on the Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.swap (which, with the sole exception of rec.radio.amateur.boatanchors for vintage equipment, is the only appropriate newsgroup in the rec.radio.* hierarchy for such articles). It may be accessed from:

<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/radio/swap-guide>

Please direct any submissions feedback, or administrivia regarding the above two resources to jeffreyh@hawaii.edu.

5. The national amateur radio society of the United States, the American Radio Relay League, has a presence on the

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Internet. You may access their comprehensive and informative home page at:

<http://www.arrl.org/>

(They also have information about amateur radio organizations in other countries.)

6. Read the newsgroup first to see if your question has already been answered. You may also view, and search for keywords in, older news articles (going all the way back to 1981) at the Google (formerly DejaNews) archive:

<http://groups.google.com/>

Many topics have been discussed before, often in great depth, but the articles have expired at your local news server. Services like Google allow Usenet a much longer "institutional memory," greatly benefiting both new and experienced users.

7. If you do post to the newsgroup, give as many details as possible. After you post, read the newsgroup for a week or two to see all replies to your posting. A recommended practice is to ask for responses by E-mail and offer to post a summary if others are interested in the answer to your question. Note that it is (almost without exception) inappropriate to post your article to all (or even a significant subset of) rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups. Please

pick only the most relevant newsgroups (2 or 3 at most), and post your article as a simultaneous cross-post (check your newsreader documentation) so that only one article is propagated, and the article is only shown once in a newsreader.

8. Remember, Usenet newsgroups are based on the idea of mutual aid. Usenet only works if we put as much into it as we get out of it.

73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU

The author welcomes any and all constructive feedback. Please direct all such feedback to pschleck@novia.net and retain the original subject (e.g., "Re: WELCOME to rec.radio.amateur.*") in your reply.



OM John gets his award for the Anode at the AGM

The ARES Takeover Attempt, and Why...

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TOR III without interfering with other Hams is extremely difficult.

A PACTOR III signal is six or seven times as wide as a Packet signal, for example, and fifteen times wider than PSK31. - This proposal calls for dozens and dozens of these stations operating from NWS EOC's around the country - if the committee were being honest about its intentions.

The committee was not being honest about its intentions though, which may explain why repeated attempts to talk sense to this committee failed.

Not being honest? - Take a look at the pdf file describing the committee's plans: <http://winlink.org/Emergency.htm>

While you are there, do a word-search on the word "future" in the article. - You will find that as often as not, the word "future" is used in the article to describe the HF links in this system. These "future" links are the ones I mentioned earlier, the ones that knowledgeable hams tried to warn the committee as to the impracticality of. - The impossibility of getting that many wide-mode digital stations on the air for any purpose without causing massive interference of every other ham-related activity on the air.

The thing is, you see, that the

cynical members of this committee knew that they could ignore warnings about the chaos that multiple wide-mode digital signals would cause on our bands - because the committee never intended for this system to use Ham Radio in the first place.

That's right; this is another one of those "Amateur Telephone" scams, where Internet junkies put Amateur Radio traffic on the Internet and call it "Ham Radio" because the data was taken from Hams. They lied about it because they knew that if they told the truth, their non-ham ideas would be laughed right out of the hobby. Winlink2000 is another one of those "ham radio digital modes" that could not exist or operate without Internet linkages.

Yes, the ARRL actually decided that we as Hams should back up the Internet - by using the Internet. (Duh!)

In other words, these people have no clue whatsoever about emergency communications - but they are going to force their ignorant, anti-ham policies upon the Amateur Radio community anyway - with the help of the ARRL. - The result will be that all Hams will look like idiots, not just the members of this "committee".

What has this got to do with the ARRL's decision to "take over" ARES, its logo and all of

its operational issues? - It is so they can cram this cynical non-radio solution down the throats of Amateur Radio operators who are really more interested in trying to use Ham Radio.

ARRL: The hobby is "Amateur Radio", not "Amateur Telephone"... Get it?

Take-overs like this are usually motivated by a desire to force something upon people against their will, and this shameful takeover attempt on ARES by the ARRL is no exception.

I call it an "attempt" because ARES members across the country are already up in arms over this ignorant, cynical and destructive crap.

If you know any of the great Hams; The real Hams who pass emergency traffic every day on HF, please send them a copy of this via E-mail. That way, when they have been pushed aside to make room for "Amateur Telephone" operators who do not even use radio, they'll know how it all happened, and why.

It's another attack on the hobby by cynical Internet junkies, aided and abetted by the ARRL, as they did with Packet Radio. We all know how Packet Radio ended up after this treatment... Now the same "wisdom" is being applied to ARES.

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The ARES Takeover Attempt, and Why...

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Isn't that "special"?

Hey, the ARRL is made up of humans, and is not by any means "all bad"... Why not give the president of the ARRL, Jim Haynie the benefit of the doubt and let the gentleman know how you feel about this matter? His E-mail address is: w5jbp@arrl.org

Charles Brabham, N5PVL

Director: USPacket <http://www.uspacket.org> n5pvl@uspacket.org

Administrator: HamBlog.Com <http://www.hamblog.com> admin@hamblog.com

Director: Texas Southmost Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
<http://www.tsarcinc.com> n5pvl@tsarcinc.com

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club
26.14122 South - 27.91870 East

P.O. Box 562
Roodepoort
1725

Phone: +27 11 475 0566
Email: john.brock@pixie.co.za

Bulletins (Sundays at ...)
11h15 Start call in of stations
11h30 Main bulletin start

Frequencies
439.000MHz 7.6MHz split
(West Rand Repeater)
145,625 MHz (West Rand Repeater)
10,135 MHz (HF Relay)

Radio Amateurs do it with more frequency!

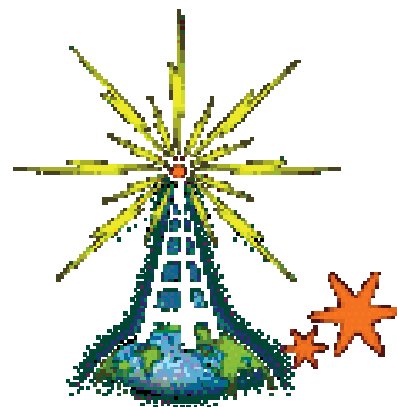
Chairman/Treasurer	Dave	ZR6AOC	475 0566 (H)	zr6aoc@mweb.co.za
Vice Chairman	Keith	ZS6AGF	675 1604 (H)	Mwbronie@iafrica.com
Secretary	John	ZS6FJ	672 4359 (A/H)	
Technical	Phillip	ZS6PVT	083 267 3835	workshop@multisource.co.za
Member	Anton	ZR6OST	953 5564 (H)	
Member	Craig	ZR6CRW	795 1550 (H)	craig.woods@absamail.co.za

West Rand members - we need your input!

To make this the best ham radio magazine in South Africa we need your input. Please submit articles, comments, suggestions etc.

Please send plain text with no formatting to the email address below.

In July 2003, we re-published an Anode Compendium on CD. It has the issues from July 2000 until June this year. This included the new Adobe reader. It has been updated, check with the chairman for details.



We need your input! Email us articles, comments and suggestions please.
john.brock@pixie.co.za