



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

November 2010

Toms River, NJ

## November Meeting

Our November meeting will be devoted to brainstorming the clubs direction and programs for the coming year. The new officers will be taking office this month and will be interested in your thoughts about the club.

Additionally, the holiday season is coming soon and we will be discussing the plans for a holiday party.

## Dates to Remember

- November 1 Club Luncheon
- November 4 Regular Membership Meeting
- November 10 VE Session
- November 15 Club Luncheon
- November 24 Executive Board Meeting
- November 29 Club Luncheon

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- Donna Kissel 11/10
- Andy Murin 11/03
- Sandy Ottenberg 11/15
- Marie Repetti 11/14
- Dolores Smith 11/19



### Anniversaries

- Russ and Jean Young 11/01
- Don and Joyce Smith 11/11



## The President's Corner By Dave WA2DJN



The meeting of October 7<sup>th</sup> was a little different than our previous type of meetings. We invited the wives to come and share in the surprise birthday celebration for Bill Haldane. Bill had a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and did not know that the club was having a party for him. We all wished him a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and celebrated with coffee and a very nicely decorated sheet cake, which all of the wives and members enjoyed. We also took pictures during his party.

The other event which took place was the installation of new officers for the club. Our new president is Steve Jackson, Vice President is Ed Picciuti, Secretary is Carl Lee, Treasurer is Larry Puccio. I want to wish them all good luck for their new term, and look forward to helping them out this coming year as an Executive Board member.

I want to thank the old officers, board members and club members who helped me during my tenure as President. I also will be working on the executive board and will help with the planning of future programs for our club.

I hope to see you all at our November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

73  
Dave Ottenberg  
WA2DJN

**NEXT MEETING: November 4, 2010**

**Thursday 7:00PM**

**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South  
Clubhouse**

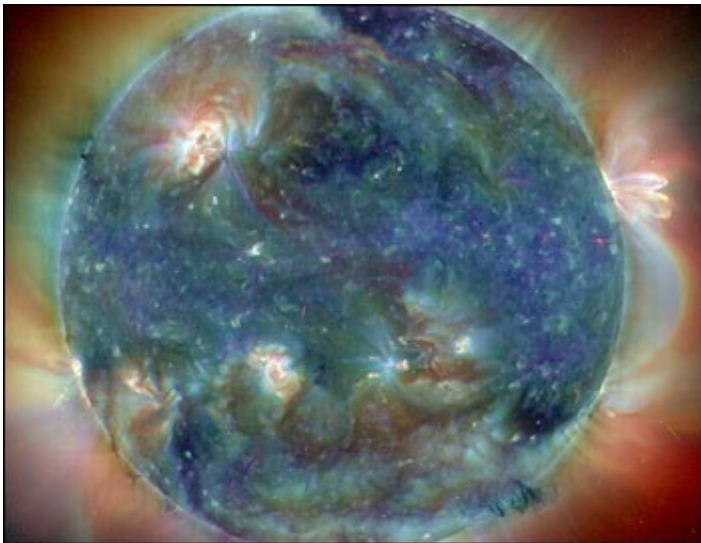
**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

## Dues are Due

Each year we ask our members to remember that our club is funded basically by contributions but mainly by dues. We do not run a Hamfest nor do we continually ask for extra monies.

Our dues, \$20.00, are reasonable and our club provides many interesting and educational programs each month. Digital Asset Management, High Speed Data transmissions, Financial Issues for the Senior, June and July are devoted to Field Day, videos on DXpeditions, PSK31, D Star and our Southern SNJ section manager talks. Please support your club and get your Dues to Treasurer Larry Puccio K2QDY.

## Absence of sunspots make scientists wonder if they're seeing a calm before a storm of energy



By Stuart Clark  
New Scientist

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Sunspots come and go, but recently they have mostly gone. For centuries, astronomers have recorded when these dark blemishes on the solar surface emerge, only to fade away after a few days, weeks or months. Thanks to their efforts, we know that sunspot numbers ebb and flow in cycles lasting about 11 years.

This Story

[Why is the sun losing its spots?](#)

[Scientists find a big drop in the strength of solar magnetic fields](#)

But for the past two years, the sunspots have mostly been missing. Their absence, the most prolonged in nearly 100 years, has taken even seasoned sun watchers by surprise.

## HCARC Official Badge Ordering

The club's official badge maker is the Capital Engraving Co. in Longview, WA. To order a badge, simply call Capital at 1-800-628-4985 after 1PM M-F. All that is required is to give your call and first name and your mail address. Use your credit card to pay. Cost is \$12.50 plus \$2 S&H. Al Ross WA7UQE will take care of you and create an official logo and club name on your personal badge.

### Our VE Crew

Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Stan KB2PD, Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA, Ed WA2NDA, Walter KC2LFD.

### CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Carl WA2IQE, Carl W2PTZ

www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA

Publicity: Ed W1EAP

Programs: Vacant

Sunshine: Ed W1EAP

Event Food Committee: Open

Field Day: Larry K2QDY

VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'

Skyhook: Larry K2QDY

Funds Raising: Vacant

Membership: Bill AC2F

## HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site [www.hcarc.us](http://www.hcarc.us)

President	Dave Ottenberg	WA2DJN	732 505-5953
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Norm Smith	W2PXE	732 920-5423
Treasurer	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732 657-7092
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732 505-4821
Executive Board	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732 349-2950
Executive Board	Bill Haldane	AC2F	732 240-7064
Executive Board	John Hann	K2JWH	609 660-0985
W2HC Trustee	Don Smith	W2III	732 505-4821

Membership is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required.

Dues are \$20.00 per year, payable Jan. 1st. Members joining during the year will have the dues prorated. Family membership \$10.00

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm.

Location: Meeting Room #1 in the Holiday City South Clubhouse.

Directions: Go to Mule Rd. and to the corner of Santiago Drive. Turn into Santiago Dr., then into the parking lot in front of the pool. Enter bldg. on right.

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"This is solar behavior we haven't seen in living memory," says David Hathaway, a physicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The sun is under scrutiny as never before, thanks to an armada of space telescopes. The results they beam back are portraying our nearest star, and its influence on Earth, in a new light. Sunspots and other clues indicate that the sun's magnetic activity is diminishing and that the sun may even be shrinking. Together, the results hint that something profound is happening inside the sun. The big question is: What?

Groups of sunspots forewarn of gigantic solar storms that can unleash a billion times more energy than an atomic bomb. Fears that these giant eruptions could create havoc on Earth and disputes over the sun's role in climate change are adding urgency to these studies. When NASA and the European Space Agency launched the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory almost 15 years ago, "understanding the solar cycle was not one of its scientific objectives," says Bernhard Fleck, the mission's project scientist. "Now it is one of the key questions." Sunspots are windows into the sun's magnetic soul. They form where giant loops of magnetism, generated deep inside the sun, well up and burst through the surface, leading to a localized drop in temperature that we see as a dark patch. Any changes in sunspot numbers reflect changes inside the sun. "During this transition, the sun is giving us a real glimpse into its interior," says Hathaway. When sunspot numbers drop at the end of each 11-year cycle, solar storms die down and all becomes much calmer. This "solar minimum" doesn't last long.

Within a year, the spots and storms begin to build toward a new crescendo, the next solar maximum.

What's special about this latest dip is that the sun is having trouble starting the next solar cycle. The sun began to calm down in late 2007, so no one expected many sunspots in 2008. But computer models predicted that when the spots did return, they would do so in force. Hathaway was reported as thinking the next solar cycle would be a doozy: more sunspots, more solar storms and more energy blasted into space. Others predicted that it would be the most active solar cycle on record.

The trouble was, no one told the sun.

The first sign that the prediction was wrong came when 2008 turned out to be even calmer than expected. That year, the sun was spot-free 73 percent of the time, an extreme dip even for a solar minimum. Only the minimum of 1913 was more pronounced, with 85 percent of that year clear. The flood of observations from space- and ground-based telescopes suggests that the answer lies in the behavior of two vast conveyor belts of gas that endlessly cycle material and magnetism through the sun's interior and out across its surface. On average it takes 40 years for the conveyor belts to complete a circuit.

When Hathaway's NASA team looked over the observations to find out where their models had gone wrong, they noticed that the conveyor-belt flows of gas across the sun's surface have been speeding up since 2004.

But the circulation deep within the sun tells a different story. Rachel Howe and Frank Hill of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson have used observations of surface disturbances, caused by the solar equivalent of seismic waves, to infer what conditions are like within the sun. Analyzing data from 2009, they found that while the surface flows had sped up, the internal ones had slowed to a crawl. These contradictory findings have thrown the best computer models of the sun into disarray. "It is certainly challenging our theories," says Hathaway.

These changes are raising questions not just about the sun itself but also about the extent to which the sun's activity affects our climate. There are those who believe that the solar variability is the major cause of climate change, an idea that would let humans and their greenhouse gases off the hook. Others are equally convinced that the sun plays only a minuscule role in climate change.

The extended collapse in solar activity these past two years offers the possibility of an experiment to resolve this dispute, allowing scientists to examine what happens when you switch off one potential cause of climate change and leave the other alone. With so few sunspots, the amount of solar radiation bombarding our planet has significantly changed. "As a natural experiment, this is the very best thing to happen," says Joanna Haigh, a climatologist at Imperial College London. "Now we have to see how the Earth responds."

### **Frigid Europe**

Michael Lockwood, a professor of space environment physics at the University of Reading in England, may already have identified one response: the unusually frigid European winter of 2009-10. He has [studied records](#) back to 1650 and [found that severe European winters](#) are much more likely during periods of low solar activity. This fits an idea of solar activity's giving rise to small changes in the global climate overall but large regional effects.

Another example is the so-called Maunder minimum, the period from 1645 to 1715 during which sunspots virtually disappeared and solar activity plummeted. If a similar spell of solar inactivity were to begin now and continue until 2100, it would mitigate any temperature rise caused by global warming by no more than 0.3 degrees Celsius, according to calculations by Georg Feulner and Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

## How's DX October - November By Russ Young WA2VQV

Sept. 14th through Oct. 15th  
Russ, WA2VQV worked:

**On 80 Meters CW:** FM5LD Martinique.

**On 20 Meters CW:** PJ4D Bonaire, PV8ADI Brazil, SP005MW Poland, VK2GWK, VK2KM Australia, VO2FF Labrador.

**On 20 Meters SSB:** 5V7TT Togo, PJ5/AH6HY St. Eustatius, EA7IZJ Spain.

**On 20 Meters PSK31:** 4J3M Azerbaijan, DL2KXA/P EU-057 Germany, IW8DON Italy, IS0IGV Sardinia, MS0SCG EU-123 Scotland, PV8ADI Brazil, S51PL Slovenia.

**On 17 Meters CW:** 6Y5WJ Jamaica, GP0STH Guernsey, H74LEON Nicaragua, IK2CIO Italy, PJ7E St. Maarten, PJ6A Saba, PY2WC Brazil, ZD8ZZ Ascension Island.

**On 17 Meters SSB:** CO8LY Cuba, EA1ABT Spain, PJ5/

AA4NC St. Eustatius, PJ7E Saint Maarten, TO7ZG ST. Barthelemy.

**On 12 Meters CW:** HH2/PY3SB Haiti, PJ2T Curacao, PJ5/K1XM St. Eustatius.

**On 12 Meters SSB:** CO8LY Cuba, NP2Q U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Joe, KC2QLA worked:**

**On 20 Meters SSB:** EA3AG.Spain, RK3AWL Russia, F4FHT France, T1II Costa Rica, LN8W Norway

**On 15 Meters SSB:** OE3DIA Austria, OZ5E Denmark, SE5E Sweden,

**On 17 Meters SSB:** CL6OC Cuba, KP2/N1WON Virgin Islands

**On 10 Meters SSB:** PY2LED Brazil, WP4OCA Puerto Rico

73 & God Hunting!  
Russ, WA2VQV

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