

PARC News

February, 2009

Volume 19 Issue 2



Spaceweather.com recently introduced a nice utility to look at historic sunspot numbers. See: <http://spaceweather.com/glossary/sunspotplotter.htm> Using this tool you can center the graph on your birthday, wedding night, first license date, etc. It also displays values 5.5 years either side of your center date. I was first licensed in 1958 near the peak of Solar Cycle 19. Wow! The mean sunspot number in December 1957 was 239.4. The bands were alive, many times for 24 hours a day. But then I learned about the solar cycle and how band conditions change at the bottom of the cycle. For comparison, the mean sunspot number for January 2009 was 1.5. And, here we are waiting for Solar Cycle 24 (my 6th cycle) to really kick in, but all we seem to see are those occasional pesky old Cycle 23 spots and days on end of a blank sun. Yet, DXpeditions at the bottom of the cycle are able to rack up thousands of contacts, many of which take place on bands that are seemingly useless. So what is the point? As many experts have pointed out, DX at the bottom of a cycle IS possible, it is just not as easy as it is at the peak and it takes a different set of operating skills. Plus, we do have something to look forward to when Cycle 24 peaks sometime around 2013.

See you at the PARC meeting Friday. We will have a great program by the National Weather Service.

Dave T. W0NRW



Dave's Time

Program Scheduled For PARC Meeting

PARC and Friends,

We have a program scheduled for the February 27th meeting of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (PARC).

But, first the background for the program. For the past several years, it has become customary for Greg Carbin with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman to present his Top Ten Weather Events for the USA during the past year at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) meeting in Omaha each December.

Following his lead, Dan Nietfeld and Brian Smith from the NWS Valley office put together a program on the Top Weather Events for the Omaha area in 2008. They presented their program at the AMS meeting in January in Elkhorn.

After the meeting I asked them if they would present the program to PARC. Tonight I received confirmation that they will do that on February 27.

Right now my plans are to let them give the program right at 7:30 pm and then hold the regular business meeting after their program, which allows the speakers the option to stay or leave as they see fit. Of course, they will be our guests for the eating portion of the meeting at 6:30 pm.

I think you will enjoy the program, especially since the one storm they will discuss just missed Fremont. I'm letting you know now so that you can get the date on your calendar.

Dave T. W0NRW, PARC President

PARC Minutes

January 23, 2009

New president, Dave W0NRW called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Introductions were given. 18 people present.

Announcements: New officers Dave Theophilus W0NRW- president, Bob Kirchmann W0ICE - Vice President; Darlene Hoffman N0LOP—Secretary; Sharon Martens KB0TVB—Treasurer. Dave thanked the old officers.

Approval of Minutes as printed in PARC News. Treasurer's Report is approved also.

Hospitality: Thanks from Heros for the gift.

Field Day June 27-28 – Larry Martens K0SW said think about where you want to go. Let him know. Dave asked Rich Mehaffey KB0ARZ about the availability of North Bend again. That's a possibility. Dave said we should settle this next month.

Flea Market July 18 –Rich doesn't have a flyer yet. Start thinking about prizes. Support other flea markets per Rich like SWIARC, Lincoln and Kearney. Rich asked for suggestions.

Picnic: September 27 -5 p.m. Board Meeting; 5:30 picnic. This is the last Sunday in Sept.

Christmas Party: Nothing.

Net Control: John Beranek KC0KKE passed around a sign up sheet for net control. It is filled out thru next week.

ARES: Spotter Training 7 p.m. March 11 Christensen Field. Bill Pook trying for 100 people. REACT is sponsoring and providing treats.

**Check into the PARC Net
Every Wednesday at 7 p.m.
on the 146.67 repeater!**

OMMRS – Dave went to a meeting this week. They are planning all day training on March 7. Which is the same day as SWIARC flea market. It's primarily for people who have not gone thru it yet. Location is Methodist Nurses School, 90th and Dodge and then north. The equipment for Three Rivers is in Omaha. Installer is new, so its not done yet.

New EC - Art has asked if everyone wants to be re-appointed. Our section manager is Todd Weakland. Dave said if someone else interested in being EC, you are welcome because he has been for 5 years now. But doesn't mind either. Bill Pook had forwarded Columbus training flyer and talked about ham radio training along with spotter training. Lance Hoffman WN0L suggested we advertise it at this year's spotter training and see how many people might be interested in classes. It's too late to get a class together now.

Bob N0MRV has an antenna down from the storm. Would someone be able to climb 25 feet and reattach?

Don Launer is donating Henry Lechtenberg KA0AEW equipment to club. Dave wants suggestions what to do with it. Steve wants to determine the value. We could determine value and put in newsletter. Sharon suggested we let Jared Chrisman KD0EFC try one out before we sell at the flea market. Larry to take one rig to him.

Lance asked how people felt about the videos. He can get for \$2. We just have to ask.

Cleo called Sharon, she has two orange PARC jackets. She wants to know if anyone wants them. Sharon will check. Dave said contest on 160 CQ this weekend. Rich is mentioned in 3 different places in Nov/Dec. CQ magazine. Rich said bands aren't bad. Try it out because everybody wants Nebraska. Bob has questions on QSO parties. What's the procedure, you don't have to sign up; doesn't have to have log sent in, but it helps to keep it straight.

Mel's new granddaughter was featured on the news tonight. Set record for weight 12 lbs, 9 oz. On another note, Mel is retired.

Drawing for Pot: Dave W0NRW was drawn \$3.60. Total \$4.00, club .40c. Meeting adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by Darlene Hoffman N0LOP, Secretary

**Dave T's, call
was pulled for
the pot of
\$4.00. Yeah!
The club gets
\$.40.**



Membership Dues:

Dues are \$10 for first member of a family and \$3 each additional member per calendar year if paid between Jan. 1 and March 1. Dues are prorated at \$1 per month after March 1 for new members. Previous year member's dues remain \$10 whenever they are paid. Life membership is \$200.

SEND TO:

Sharon Martens
2316 E. First St.
Fremont, NE 68025



- This Month — Hero's / Gambinos
- CLUB MEETING: February 27, 2009
- Supper at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30



www.k0jfn.com

Mac McDaniel, NØOB, Is First Nebraskan To Earn ARRL Triple Play Award

Mac McDaniel, NØOB of rural Morse Bluff, has become the first Nebraskan to earn the ARRL's Triple Play award. The award is for working all 50 states in three different modes, SSB, CW, and digital (RTTY or others). All contacts must be made in 2009 and submitted to the Logbook of the World (LoTW) for credit.

For McDaniel it took less than 28 days. He was given award number 59 on Jan. 28. "I didn't really become aware of Triple Play until January 14th. That is my first stateside entry for the TPA (Triple Play Award). I did work 43 contacts in the RTTY Roundup on January 3. And 130 contacts in the BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest. From January 1st to the 14th, I only have 57 contacts. After the 14th, I have worked 935 and 245 of those being on RTTY, and 180 on CW," McDaniel said.

He said most of QSOs were on band from 20 meters to 80 meters. He said he's felt like "DX" at times with many station calling. The hardest part of working the award has been the having to change modes a lot. He runs two IC-7000 and an Icom PW1 amplifier, when needed.

And yes, he says, Nebraska is still in big demand. He still gets lots of e-mails looking for skeds. He said this website is where people are meeting:

[Http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/index.html](http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/index.html)

McDaniel, first licensed in 1979 and then again in 1991, has been an ARRL member since he can remember.

Jeff Beiermann, WBØM, Nebraska Section PIO

Section Manager Will Be Speaker at April Meeting

PARC and Friends,

Yesterday I was having a discussion with the new ARRL Nebraska Section Manager Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ, about posting the OMMRS Training notice on March 7 on the Nebraska Section News on the ARRL page. He said he would do that.

Darlene, NØLOP had previously extended an invitation to Art to attend a PARC meeting. So, we settled on a date. Art will be the speaker at the PARC meeting on Friday, April 24.

I also asked him to update the Nebraska Section news to correct the address for the PARC website, which he also did within a few minutes.

Check out: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=NE>

Dave T. WØNRW, PARC President

SWIARC Flea Market

March 7, 2009 8 a.m.

Hourly drawings and Grand Prize Drawing!

Talk in 146.820-

Admission fee: \$2.00 Table fee: \$5.00

McClelland Hall

170 Main St - McClelland, IA

Interstate 80 to Exit 17, turn east on Magnolia Rd 500 feet, then south (right) on 26th St., 3.2 miles to McClelland, IA

Contact: Greg Ross NØGR@arrl.net 712-566-2698

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Report - February 2009

Savings.....	\$ 130.68
Checking.....	\$ 859.62
Petty Cash.....	\$ 20.00
Total.....	\$1,010.30

Income:

Dues.....	\$ 195.00
Drawing Pot.....	\$.40
Field Day Donation.....	\$ 10.00
(KGØRD)	
Total.....	\$ 205.40

Expenses:

Newsletter.....	\$ 24.00
Web Site Fee.....	\$ 67.75
Total Expenses.....	\$ 91.75

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Fremont, NE

Darlene Hoffman—Editor Ph: 402-628-2038
2411 County Rd 15 e- mail: darleneh@futuretk.com
Colon, NE 68018 Call: NOLOP

President—Dave Theophilus Secretary—Darlene Hoffman
V. President—Bob Kirchmann Treasurer—Sharon Martens

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Joe Roberts, Larry Martens, Sandy Cunningham
+ 2 Officers

Committee Chairs

Field Day—Larry Martens	Publicity—Kiel Eltiste
Flea Market—Rich Mehaffey	Education—Steve Benke
Picnic—Dave Theophilus	Net Manager—John Beranek
Christmas Party—Darlene Hoffman	ARES Mgr.—Dave Theophilus
Hospitality—Sharon Martens	Technical—Carl Johnson

ARRL Nebraska State Convention

End of Winter Hamfest

Hosted by the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club

March 21, 2009 Hours: Sat. 8—4

Flea Market—Forums—FCC Testing
& CW Certification

Lancaster Event Center
84th & Havelock

Exhibitors: D&L Antennas; Burghardt Amateur Center;
WBØW Tarheel Antennas; OSLs by NØTT; NCEE LABS

Forums & Fun

D-Star; Forecasting Next Storm Season; County Hunting; DX for
Beginners; Kit Building; Remote Operating; Stealth Antennas; CW
Certification at the speed of your choice; QSL card checking
(DX & WAS), ARRL Forum

Meet the new Nebraska Section manager—Art Zyguelbaum, KØAIZ

Admission: \$5.00

Prizes: Great Hourly Prizes—Grand Prize at 4 p.m.

www.lincolnhamfest.org

HAMBOREE 2009

New Dates

April 17th & 18th

You're invited to join us for a
fun-filled weekend!
Again on the River's edge
in Nebraska

Sponsored & Hosted by
Your 3900 Club
ARRL Midwest
Division Convention

Thirty-Third Annual Event
All events held in the beautiful

Marina Inn
Sioux City