

# PARC News

**Inside this issue:**

State Convention	2
Scientists Warn	2
PARC Minutes	3
February Program	3
Antenna & Stuff	4

**January PARC Meeting**

- Friday, Feb. 25th
- Meeting at 7:30
- Meal at 6:30
- Hero's/Gambino's
- 1900 E. Military
- Fremont, NE

## Scientists Warn of \$2,000 Billion Solar “Katrina”

By Clive Cookson in Washington

The sun is waking up from a long quiet spell. Last week it sent out the strongest flare for four years – and scientists are warning that earth should prepare for an intense electromagnetic storm that, in the worst case, could be a “global Katrina” costing the world economy \$2,000bn.

Senior officials responsible for policy on solar storms – also known as space weather – in the US, UK and Sweden urged more preparedness at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington

Continued on Page 2

## Are You Talking In Text?

I read an article a couple of weeks ago about how people who text a lot are carrying the text abbreviations over into their daily speech.

For instance, LOL stands for Laughing Out Loud. So now texters, instead of actually laughing in a normal conversation, simply say LOL. Sounds weird but Hams have been doing something like that for years. We tend to say QTH instead of home, Qs for contacts, and etc.

We at times refer to each other by our call letters instead of our names. I have been called NRW instead of Dave. But there seems to be a limitation. I have heard Steve referred to as MS but I have never heard Lance referred to as L. Apparently our minds require a two or three letter call letter suffix to refer to people in that manner.

As we move into the spring season be alert for Tropospheric Ducting, or Tropo for short, on the VHF/UHF bands. Ducting forecasts, based on

numerical weather forecasts, are available every afternoon at: <http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>



**Dave's Time**

If you like to read about what the Lincoln ARC has been doing, you will need to go to their new website at: <http://k0kkv.org/>

Along the same line, there are lots of amateur radio news items available from W5YI at: [http://www.w5yi.org/ama\\_news.php](http://www.w5yi.org/ama_news.php)

Also, mark your calendars for Dodge County Spotter Training on March 22 at 7

PM in the Mohr Auditorium in Scribner. A complete list of spotter training sessions is available at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/skywarn/outreach.php>

Our speaker this month, weather permitting, will be Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB. Joe will be telling us about the ARRL Nebraska State Convention in Lincoln on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Details are at: <http://lincolnhamfest.org/>

See you at the PARC meeting on Friday.

Dave T. W0NRW

## Scientists Warn Continued from Page 1

“We have to take the issue of space weather seriously,” said Sir John Beddington, UK chief scientist. “The sun is coming out of a quiet period, and our vulnerability has increased since the last solar maximum [around 2000].”

“Predict and prepare should be the watchwords,” agreed Jane Lubchenco, head of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “So much more of our technology is vulnerable than it was 10 years ago.”

A solar storm starts with an eruption of super-hot gas traveling out from the sun at speeds of up to 5m miles an hour. Electrically charged particles hit earth’s atmosphere 20 to 30 hours later, causing electromagnetic havoc.

Last week’s solar storm may have been the biggest since 2007, but it was relatively small in historical terms. It caused some radio communications problems and minor disruption of civil aviation as air-

lines routed flights away from the polar regions, said Dr Lubchenco.

The 11-year cycle of solar activity is quite variable and the present one is running late, with the next maximum expected in 2013.

The most intense solar storm on record, which ruined much of the world’s newly installed telegraph network in 1859, took place during an otherwise weak cycle. An 1859-type storm today could knock out the world’s information, communications and electricity distribution systems, at a cost estimated by the US government at \$2,000bn.

In terms of terrestrial vulnerability, the biggest change since the 2000 peak is that the world has become more dependent on global positioning system satellites – and not just for navigation. The world’s mobile phone networks depend on ultra-precise GPS time signals for their co-ordination

### Treasurer's Report February, 2011

Savings .....\$130.68  
Checking.....753.69  
Total ..... \$ 884.37

**Income:**

Dues..... \$ 109.00  
Total ..... \$ 109.00

**Expenses:**

Dec./ Jan.  
Newsletter .....\$ 58.00  
Repeater (Lance)\$100.00  
Club Web Page ..\$54.83  
Jan. Guest Meal \$ 10.09  
Total ..... \$ 222.92

## ARRL Nebraska State Convention

End of Winter Hamfest

Hosted by the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**

Flea Market—Forums—FCC Testing

**Lancaster Event Center—84th and Havelock**

**8:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Exhibitors:**

**D&L Antennas  
Tarheel Antennas**

**WBØW  
QSLs by NØTT**



**Come To The  
Flea Market**

**Admission:**

\$5.00 till March 1, 2011 then \$8.00 the show.

**Tables:**

\$10 each until 1, 2011 then \$20 each until March 19, 2011.

**Hourly Prizes**

Grand Prize; 2 Uniden Home Patrol-1 Scanner Receivers  
Must be present to win Grand Prize

For additional info:

[www.lincolnhamfest.org](http://www.lincolnhamfest.org)

Lonnie & Cathy Rech WDØAOP & KCØVET

Talk-in KØKKV 146.16/76

## Time To Pay Your Dues!

The January, 2011 PARC Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President, Dave Theophilus on January 28, 2011. Twenty people were present. Everyone introduced themselves.

The minutes from November 2010 were approved as printed in PARC News.

The Treasurer's report was approved as printed in PARC News.

Jane Mehaffey KBØZUN made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Dan Steinhoff, W7UP.

Hospitality: Sharon Martens, KBØTVB received a note from Dick Newsome WØHXL on the condition of his wife Sharon, who is in remission.

Field Day—June 25-26, 2011: Larry Martens, KØSW was re-appointed as chair person.

Flea Market—July 23, 2011. Rich Mehaffey KBØARZ was re-appointed chair person. He said tables are being reserved. The grand prize will be a Weather station which he has purchased.

Picnic—September 25, 2011: Dave Theophilus WØNRW and Sharon Martens KBØTVB were reappointed chair persons.

Publicity: Dave Theophilus WØNRW was appointed as chair.

Christmas Party—Date to be determined. Sharon Martens KBØTVB and Jane Mehaffey KBØZUN re-appointed chairs.

Education: Jane Mehaffey, KBØZUN is the new chair.



**PARC MINUTES Jan. 2011**

Jane said we will plan for North Bend school presentation again this year.

Net Control: John Beranek KBØKKE said 30m is this weekend.

ARES: Dave T. WØNRW said Three Rivers Health is moving to 2400 N. Lincoln Ave. probably in 2012. They are responsible for moving the antenna and coax, but we could probably help if possible.

Dodge County Weather Spotter Training is 7 pm on March 22 in Scriber at Mohr Auditorium.

The snow observer reports receiving good distribution through NWS system.

Dave called for comments on LB573 concerning amber lights on spotter vehicles.

Old Business: None

New Business: Lance Hoffman WNØL got a letter from Sean K, KX9X about another mistake on his plaque when he was here.

Sharon Martens, KBØTVB made a motion to donate \$100 to Lance for the repeater. Rich Mehaffey, KBØARZ, seconded.

Dave T. is going to check with Steve Benke KFØMS if we donate to his repeater.

Lance made mention that he has a CD of raising of the tower sections for a short program at sometime.

There was no pot drawing because members are renewing their membership as of this month and are not yet in the pot.

Program: Bill Duffy, KAØVXK presented a program on the multi-faceted "DXLabs Suites for hams.

*Submitted by Darlene Hoffman NØLOP*

Check into the  
PARC Net every  
Wednesday at  
7 p.m. on the  
146.67  
repeater

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Yearly PARC Dues are \$10 for the first member of a family and \$3 each additional member if paid between Jan. 1 and March 1, 2011.

Dues are prorated at \$1 per month after March 1st for new members. Previous year member's dues remain \$10 whenever they are paid.

Life membership is \$200.

### **SEND TO:**

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

### **February Program**

Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB  
Will present a program on the  
upcoming  
Nebraska Section Convention  
in Lincoln  
On Saturday,  
March 19, 2011

**PIONEER AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB –  
FREMONT, NE**

**NØLOP**  
Darlene Hoffman, Editor  
2411 Co. Rd 15  
Colon, NE 68025

Ph: 402-628-2038  
darleneh@futuretk.com

***We're On The Web:  
www.k0jfn.com***



**www.k0jfn.com**

President—Dave Theophilus  
WØNRW  
V. President—Mel Cunningham  
KØVLA  
Treasurer—Sharon Martens  
KBØTVB  
Secretary—Darlene Hoffman  
NØLOP

Board of Directors:

Sandy Cunningham KBØTVB  
Joe Roberts, WAØSTV  
Frank Veverka, KØAJA  
And 2 Officers

Committee Chairs:

Hospitality: Sharon Martens  
Field Day: Larry Martens  
Flea Market: Rich Mehaffey  
Picnic: Dave Theophilus &  
Sharon Martens  
Christmas Party:  
Jane Mehaffey &  
Sharon Martens  
Publicity: Dave Theophilus  
Education: Jane Mehaffey  
Net Control: John Beranek  
ARES: Dave Theophilus

## *Antennas & Stuff*

The weather has finally turned warm and the snow is mostly gone from around the back yard. We could walk around and check out the vertical antenna and its radials. Everything seems to be ok after being under four feet of snow all winter. The wire antennas hung off the tower. All work ok also. And none of them quit working this year.

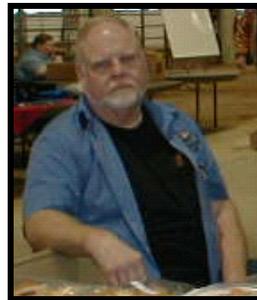
The beams on top of the tower look and work ok also. I kind of wish I could climb up there and check everything over closely and check the bolts and guy cables, but the medics won't let me climb anymore! Hi!

Thank goodness for JayRad going up and repairing my 6 meter beam. He checked over all the bolts and cables while he was up there last fall.

Industry calls it "preventative maintenance" and your antennas deserve a good checking over before the spring storms start in.

Antennas are exposed to everything the weather can throw at them so they need constant attention to detail if you want them to keep working properly. This winter was fortunate for me, unlike last winter when the feed coax broke off the 75 meter dipole early in the season and I was wading around in 5 foot drifts trying to put up the G5RV antenna so I could work and call the 75 meter nets. It was amazing that the new replacement 75 and 40 meter trap doublet that I built up seems to have a different radiation pattern than the G5RV dipole when mounted in the exact same position. The guys in Lincoln say the 100 watt signal is much stronger on the trap doublet.

The point of the story is "pay attention to your antennas"!



Larry, KØSW

73 de KØSW