

CQ Chatter

APRIL 2013

VOLUME B13 • ISSUE 3

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Solar Cycle 24 May Have Double Peaks

from ARRL Letter

According to NASA, the current solar cycle -- Solar Cycle 24 -- should hit its "solar max" sometime in this year, but so far, solar activity has been relatively low. According to an article by NASA's Dr Tony Phillips, this period of quiet has led some observers to wonder if forecasters missed the mark. But solar physicist Dean Pesnell of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center has a different explanation: "This is solar maximum. But it looks different from what we expected because it is double peaked." Pesnell noted similarities between the current cycle and Solar Cycle 14, which happened between February 1902 and August 1913 and experienced a double peak. If the two cycles are in fact twins, he said that "it would mean one peak in late 2013 and another in 2015. "Solar activity tends to swing back and forth: At one end of a solar

cycle, there is a quiet time with few sunspots and flares, while at the other end, solar max brings high sunspot numbers and solar storms. Even so, astronomers -- who have been counting sunspots for centuries -- have noticed that a solar cycle is not perfectly regular, with the swing in sunspot counts taking anywhere from 10-13 years to complete. In addition, the amplitude of each cycle can and does vary, with some solar maxima being very weak (such as Solar Cycle 6), while others can be very strong (such as Solar Cycle 19).

"The last two solar maxima, around 1989 and 2001, had not one but two peaks," Pesnell explained. Phillips' article explained how "solar activity went up, dipped and then resumed, performing a mini-cycle that lasted about two years." Pesnell said that the same thing could be happening now. Even though sunspot counts jumped in 2011 and dipped in 2012, he said he expects them to rebound again in 2013: "I am com-

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Net Check Ins

Feb 26

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
WB8ABY
KD8RNO
K8OVO
KD8NJW
KD8NCP
KD8BIN
WD8PIC
WB8VUL
KC8EKT (11)

Mar 5

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
WB8ABY
N1RB
WD8JWJ
KG8FH
KD8NJW
K8OVO (8)

Mar 12

N1RB (NC)
WD8JWJ
WB8NQW
KC8EKT
KD8RNO
KD8NJW
WB8ABY
K8BBK
K8OVO (9)

Brain Teasers

1. How many amps are flowing in a circuit when the applied voltage is 12 Vdc and load is 120 W?
a.) 0.1 A b.) 10 A
c.) 12 A d.) 132 A
2. What does the acronym BER mean when applied to digital communications systems?
a.) baud enhancement recovery
b.) baud error removal
c.) bit error rate
d.) bit exponent resource
3. What is the maximum power level that an amateur station may use at VHF before an rf exposure evaluation is required?
a.) 1500 W PEP output
b.) 1 W forward power
c.) 50 W PEP at the antenna
d.) 50 W PEP reflected power

It's Time to Renew!

Club Dues for 2013

Payable to: WCARC

P. O. Box 534

Bowling Green, OH 43402

\$10-student/senior \$15-regular \$20-family

April Contests

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

Apr 6-7	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
SP (Poland) DX `test		CW/SSB
Apr 6-7	<i>1600 to 1600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
EA (Spain) RTTY `test		RTTY
Apr 6-7	<i>1800 to 0500; 1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Missouri QSO Party		all modes
Apr 13-15	<i>0000 to 0000 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Montana QSO Party		all modes
Apr 13-14	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
New Mexico QSO Party		all modes
Apr 13-14	<i>1800 to 0359; 1400 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Georgia QSO Party		all modes
Apr 19-20	<i>2100 to 2100 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Holyland DX `test		all modes
Apr 20-21	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Michigan QSO Party		all modes
Apr 20-21	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Nebraska QSO Party		all modes
Apr 20-21	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
South Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Apr 20-21	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
North Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Apr 20-21	<i>1800 to 0500; 1200 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Ontario QSO Party		all modes

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Mar 19

K8OVO (NC)
K8BBK
WB8ABY
WB8NQW
KD8RNO
N1RB
KD8NJW
KD8UHO-Zack
WD8JWJ
KD8RSS (10)

Mar 26

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
WB8ABY
N1RB
KD8RNO
KD8UHO (6)

solar---from p. 1

fortable in saying that another peak will happen in 2013 and possibly last into 2014."

According to Phillips, solar activity in the Sun's hemispheres does not always peak at the same time. "In the current cycle, the south has been lagging behind the north," he said. He explained that if a second peak occurs, it will likely feature the Sun's southern hemisphere displaying a surge in activity.

Pesnell is a member of the NOAA/NASA Solar Cycle Prediction Panel, a group of solar physicists that assembled in 2006 and 2008 to forecast the next solar max. "At that time, the Sun was experiencing its deepest minimum in nearly a hundred years," Phillips' article explained. "Sunspot numbers were pegged near 0 and x-ray flare activity flat-lined for months at a time." The panel issued the following statement at the time, explaining its prediction:

"The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has reached a consensus. The panel has decided that the next solar cycle (Cycle 24) will be below average in intensity, with a maximum sunspot number of 90. Given the date of solar minimum and the predicted maximum intensity, solar maximum is now expected to occur in May 2013. Note, this is not a unanimous decision, but a supermajority of the panel did agree."

But according to Pesnell -- given the lack of solar activity in February 2013 -- a maximum in May now seems unlikely. "We may be seeing what happens when you predict a single amplitude and the Sun responds with a double peak," he said. ■

2013 SSB Rookie Roundup - April 21

The weather's getting warmer, and that means the SSB Rookie Roundup is just around the corner! This year's SSB 'RR will be on Sunday, April 21 from 1800 - 2359 UTC.

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March Breakfast Attendees

<i>K8NEA</i>	<i>Duane</i>
<i>K8BBK</i>	<i>Steve</i>
<i>KC8PFP</i>	<i>Rex</i>
<i>WB8VUL</i>	<i>Hoot</i>
<i>WB8NQW</i>	<i>Bob</i>
<i>WB8ABY</i>	<i>Al</i>
<i>K8JTK</i>	<i>Jeff</i>
<i>WD8JWJ</i>	<i>Bill</i>
<i>W8CNJ</i>	<i>Roger</i>
<i>KD8SFI</i>	<i>Ron</i>
<i>N1RB</i>	<i>Bob</i>
<i>K8JU</i>	<i>Jim</i>
<i>K8OVO</i>	<i>Don</i>
<i>WD8ICP</i>	<i>Chuck</i>

NEXT MEETING

BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, April 8th

TIME: 7:30 pm/7:00 EB

PLACE:

Sheriff's Training Room

E. Gypsy Ln. and

Dunbridge Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2130 EDST

(0130 Z)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Mar 26	WB8NQW
Apr 2	N1RB
Apr 9	K8OVO
Apr 16	WB8NQW
Apr 23	N1RB
Apr 30	K8OVO

DON'T FORGET!

10 METER

INFORMAL NET

MEETS

SUNDAY

@ 2030 EST/EDST

ON 28.335 MHZ

April Contests---continued

Apr 20-21	2100 to 0500; 0900 to 1700 Z	160 m to 10 m
YU (Serbia) DX `test		CW
Apr 21	1800 to 2359 Z	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Rookie Roundup		SSB
Apr 27-28	1200 to 1200 Z	80 m to 10 m
SP (Poland) DX RTTY `test		RTTY
Apr 27-28	1300 to 1259 Z	160 m to 10 m
Helvetia (Switz.) `test		all modes
Apr 27-28	1600 to 0159; 1200 to 2159 Z	40 m to 10 m
Florida QSO Party		all modes

April Hamfests

Apr 20 Milford ARC Annual Hamfest, Milford High School, Highland, MI.
Contact Robert, K8RGM, (248) 685-8903.

e-mail: k8rgm@comcast.net

rookie---from p. 4

Any operator licensed any time during 2013, 2012 or 2011 qualifies as a Rookie. Work as many stations as you can in as many different states, Canadian provinces, Mexican districts as possible. DX stations can get in on the fun, too! If you were licensed prior to 2011, get on the air and work the Rookies, help a Rookie get on the air, or help your club members put together a team. Elmering the Rookies and working them is important, too!

Clubs can promote either a Multioperator effort (several Rookies operating from the same station) or a team

effort (up to 5 Single-Operator Rookies operating from their own stations and combining their score). Let's see how many team rivalries we can drum up! Hmm... Rookie FRC'ers versus Rookie PVRC'ers? NCCC vs SCCC? Could be interesting.

The complete rules are at: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>, along with score summary submission instructions. Don't forget, all entrants must fill out the score summary form on this page by 2359 UTC Wednesday, April 24. No late entries will be accepted! CQ RR! ■

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

