



CARS CONNECTION

CHARLOTTE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



VOL. XXX1V ISSUE NO 55 PUNTA GORDA/PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

FEBRUARY 2010

MEETING SCHEDULE: GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 7:30 PM, AT THE ROYAL PALM RETIREMENT CENTER, ONE BLOCK EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF US 41 & HARBOR BLVD. - REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE MEETING.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (ELECTED OFFICERS) MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH ALSO AT THE ROYAL PALM RETIREMENT CENTER BEGINNING AT 2:00 PM. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

The following are available to provide information and answers to questions, regarding the Charlotte Amateur Radio Society (CARS):

President

Lou Nagy, N1MAH, 743-9619

Vice-President

Robert Gutmann, KA8IGY, 505-9840

Treasurer

Ken Johnson, KG4KQW, 505-2167

Secretary

Al Romanosky, KB3U, 239 731-5130

Directors

Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, 624-6373
Al Zaboronak, WB4TEX, 629-9108
Wyatt McDaniel, W8HTD, 575-2197

Past President

Virginia Kadansky, KG4NKN, 575-1602

Charlotte County RACES Officer

Roger Weatherly, W3IGM, 575-7169

February 11 Program

The program scheduled for the next general meeting on Thursday, February 11, will be the conclusion of the video presentation of the ARRL Headquarters tour.

SILENT KEY

GEORGE CROWTHER, N4ZOG

Haitian Official Announces Contact Information for Amateurs going to Haiti to Provide Disaster Relief

(CONATEL (the Haitian Telecomm regulator) has set up temporary offices and released a public notice. Amateurs wishing to operate in Haiti to assist with disaster relief need to contact CONATEL to get formal reciprocal operating clearance.

CONATEL NOTICE The National Council of Telecommunications (CONATEL) hereby notifies the general public, ... a satellite office of CONATEL was installed at Number 97 of the Avenue Panaméricaine in Pétiön-Ville with the goal of assuring the continuity of its work. This arrangement will allow, among other things, better coordination for establishing a temporary emergency telecommunications network in Haiti.

Consequently, all concerned are asked to contact CONATEL at the above mentioned address between 9 AM and 1 PM and throughout the day at the following telephone numbers: (you must dial the international calling code 011 and then the Haitian country code 509 first): 3454-0541, 2516-0000 or 3702-1414, or at these e-mail addresses : techommunication@yahoo.fr or info@conatel.gouv.ht before any use of telecommunications equipment or the spectrum resources.

We hope to avoid interference problems and possible conflicts between the incumbent operators established in Haiti and those who are newly operating in this unusual circumstance.

The National Council of Telecommunications (CONATEL), while thanking the telecommunications service providers for all their efforts to keep their networks operational despite the widespread damage that has been noted, takes this opportunity to offer its sympathies to the families of the victims of the earthquake.

CARS Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2010

Call to Order: Made at 7:30 p.m. by President Lou Nagy, N1MAH, Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifteen members, constituting a quorum, were present.

Secretary's Report: Motion made and carried to accept minutes as posted in the December CARS Connection.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Ken Johnson, KG4KQW, Treasurer. As of December 31, 2009, Peninsula Checking—\$962.87, Petty cash—\$45.00, Colonial Bank CD—\$2021.53. Total assets—\$3029.40.

Old Business: None

New Business Following was presented, discussed and approved:

Projected Budget for January 1 through December 31, 2010

Income

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Membership Dues - Based on 50 single members@ \$14.00 each | \$700.00 |
| 5 Family members@ \$2.00each | \$10.00 |
| 2. Sale of Donated Equipment | \$200.00 |
| 3. 50/50 Contributions – Based on \$10.00 per meeting | \$120.00 |

Total Income	\$1030.00
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Expenses

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 4. Postage for CARS Connection Newsletter | \$150.00 |
| 5. Two Picnics – Spring and Fall | \$250.00 |
| 6. Door Prizes | \$50.00 |
| 7. Misc Contributions and Expenses | \$100.00 |
| 8. Post Office Mail Box Rental | \$95.00 |
| 9. State of FL Division of Corporations | \$65.00 |
| 10. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center - Donation | \$50.00 |
| 11. Christmas Party | \$50.00 |
| 12. Gifts | \$50.00 |
| 13. Insurance on Repeater | \$110.00 |
| 14. Office Supplies | \$60.00 |

Total Expenses	\$1030.00
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Roger Weatherly, W3IGM, discussed the Haiti earthquake and Amateur Radio participation. There has not been much traffic out of the affected area. The following frequencies can be monitored – 20 meters 14.265, 14.269, Salvation Army and the Red Cross and 40 meters 7.265 and 7.255

Program: Video presentation of a tour of ARRL headquarters—including interviews with staff

CARS Meeting Schedule – Next General meeting, Thursday, February 11. Executive Board at the Royal Palm Retirement Center, January 1st.

Romanosky, KB3U, Secretary

“Sometimes a man meets destiny on the road he took to avoid it!”

FOUR WAYS TO SPEED UP YOUR PC

1. Free up disk space

Use Disk Cleanup to: Remove temporary Internet files, empty the Recycle Bin, remove Windows temporary files, remove installed programs that you no longer use.

2. Speed up access to data

Disk fragmentation slows the overall performance of your system. Use "Disk Defragmenter" to consolidate fragmented files.

Run Defragmenter at regular intervals—monthly is optimal. Disk defragmentation also checks for bad disk sectors and repositions programs based upon usage.

3. Protect your computer against spyware and malware

Spyware collects personal information without asking for permission. Malware can hamper your computer's performance.

To combat spyware and malware consider using Microsoft Windows Defender, which is included in Windows Vista, and is available as a free download for Microsoft XP or Microsoft Security Essentials (Also provides Anti-virus functions).

Alternatively, there are other free anti-spyware software programs available – of which "Malwarebytes" (free version) is highly recommended..

4. Learn about ReadyBoost

If you're using Windows Vista, use ReadyBoost to speed up your system.

It allows the use of non-volatile flash memory—like a USB flash drive or a memory card—to improve performance without having to add additional memory.

Note

For information on Disk cleanup, Disk Defrag and Readyboost use the "Help and Support" startup menu option.

Surfin': Viewing the New Star of Ham Radio

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU

ARRL Contributing Editor

February 05, 2010

Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio -- better known as D-STAR -- is a means of transmitting and receiving voice and data digitally, rather than via analog means. Developed by the Japanese Amateur Radio League (JARL) and championed by ICOM, the system first hit the airwaves in late 2004.

Like most things that were "new" in ham radio (such as SSB, FM and packet), D-STAR grew slowly at first, but began taking off during the end of the last decade and now has approximately 11,000 users today.

Most of those users are on the air using D-STAR repeaters, which number more than 500 worldwide. Linking repeaters over the airwaves and via the Internet provides long range communications far beyond the normal boundaries of 2 meters, 70 cm and 23 cm, i.e., the bands where D-STAR operates.

If D-STAR is of interest to you, there are some Web sites that you should check out. Your first stop should be the D-STAR Information Site where you will find D-STAR news, applications, maps and a FAQ, as well as many other things that are D-STAR-centric.

Another place to stop is the Independent Radio Club D-STAR Tutorial Page that has a short and simple guide that explains the basics of D-STAR.

D-Star Users.org should also be on your D-STAR tour. There you will find lists of active D-STAR users and repeaters, as well as applications that interact with D-STAR.

Last, but not least, be sure to check out the D-STAR hardware available from ICOM. Their site also has more details about the mode, as well as a FAQ.

Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, is decidedly digitally disposed. To contact Stan, send him e-mail (wa1lou@arrl.org) (or add comments to his blog.

FEBRUARY 2010 HAMFESTS

12-14 Feb 2010 *	Northern Florida Section Convention (Orlando HamCation) Orlando Amateur Radio Club http://www.hamcation.com Talk-In: 146.160/146.760 (no tone during HamCation) Contact: Mort Cohen, WA2ARS PO Box 547811 Orlando, FL 32854-7811 Phone: 407-814-0434 Fax: 407-814-0434 Email: hamcation@aol.com	Orlando, FL Orlando Fairgrounds <u>4603 West Colonial Drive</u> Div: Southeastern Sect: Northern Florida
20 Feb 2010	+ Highlands County ARC http://www.strato.net/~hamradio/ Talk-In: 147.045 (PL 100.0) Contact: John Bliss, KF4IZT 615 North Roberts Road Avon Park, FL 33825 Phone: 863-452-6600 Email: kf4izt124@gmail.com	Sebring, FL Sebring Civic Center <u>355 West Central Avenue</u> Div: West Gulf Sect: West Central Florida
20 Feb 2010	+ Brooksville Hamfest Hernando County ARA http://www.hcara.org Talk-In: 146.715 -600 Contact: John Nejedlo, WB4NOD 15430 Waxweed Avenue Spring Hill, FL 34610 Phone: 813-838-5432 Fax: 352-683-3405 Email: wb4nod@tampabay.rr.com	Spring Hill, FL Sandhill Scout Reservation <u>11210 Cortez Blvd.</u> Div: Southeastern Sect: Northern Florida

Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Swap Shop

On the Second and last Saturdays of the month (Next scheduled for February 13) beginning at noon the Fort Myers club holds a "Swap Shop" - providing an opportunity for some tailgating, trades, purchases and Ham fellowship (Coffees and do-nuts available)

Although sponsored by the Fort Myers club, the swap shop is held at a former club hangout in Waterway Park, North Fort Myers.

From Punta Gorda head south on US 41 to Hancock Bridge Parkway (about 18 miles)- it is a big intersection, the last before going over the bridge. Turn right on the Parkway—proceed to Orange Grove Blvd (second light). At the Orange Grove and Parkway intersection is a gas station on the right and a drug store on the left.

Left on Orange to St. Claire Ave. (short distance, past a convenience store). Right on St. Claire to Poetry Lane—left on Poetry Lane - (road is slightly curvy) to the park. There are several signs (small, brown indicating Waterway Park) after Orange Grove Blvd.

Find out a lot about propagation, the subject of this month's ARRL Web quiz!

1) What makes sunspots appear to be dark?

- a. Excess iron content
- b. Absorption of solar radiation at visible wavelengths
- c. They are cooler than the surrounding area
- d. The Heisseluft-Rapp phenomenon

2) These astronomers were the first to document and study sunspots?

- a. Sumerians
- b. Etruscans
- c. Chinese
- d. Solarians

3) What satellite has provided new data about the Sun, improving our ability to predict solar behavior?

- a. Hubble
- b. Cassini
- c. SOHO
- d. GEOS

4) Where do sunspots from a new cycle appear on the Sun?

- a. High latitudes
- b. Equator
- c. Corona
- d. Penumbra

5) Which solar cycle peaked in 1959?

- a. Cycle 17
- b. Cycle 18
- c. Cycle 19
- d. 1959 was a solar minimum year

6) Once a spot disappears around the edge of the solar disk, how long would it take to reappear?

- a. They never reappear
- b. 13.5 days
- c. 27 days
- d. They do not move

7) What is the minimum value for solar flux?

- a. Please don't say "minimum"!
- b. 70

- c. 67
- d. 64

8) How does the current NASA prediction about activity in Solar Cycle 24 compare to Solar Cycle 23?

- a. More active
- b. Less active
- c. About the same
- d. The relationship is not predictable

9) Which type of propagation is most strongly dependent on solar activity?

- a. F layer
- b. NVIS
- c. Tropospheric
- d. Backscatter

10) What is the call sign of the author of the ARRL Propagation Bulletin and ARRL Solar Update?

- a. K7RA
- b. NM7M
- c. K9LA
- d. KL7RA

Bonus: What reverses at the peak of the solar cycle?

Answers listed below:

Bonus: The solar magnetic field's North and South Poles change polarity

- 1. c
- 2. c
- 3. c
- 4. a
- 5. c
- 6. b
- 7. d
- 8. b
- 9. a
- 10. a

Continued next column

NOTE

Beginning with the November issue of the CARS Connection it has been stressed that it is time to renew your CARS membership.

To date results have been encouraging however if you have not renewed, please consider doing so at the next scheduled meeting (Thursday, February 11).

if you prefer, you may use the form below and mail to the address indicated.

Happy Birthday**February**

Feb 5	BROOKS, RICHARD	W4OQ
Feb 28	GLASSPOOL, WALTER	KT4MX

March

Mar 4	BOLAND, DAVID	W9NWY,
Mar 16	COWAN, MURRAY	KF4UOO
Mar 21	HOPE, JAMES	AA4RV
Mar 22	GIZZI, JOE	W9HLA

So It's 2010

A new year—with new, and old, resolutions made with the goal of life improvement. If only we can overcome The following resolution “busters”:

1. There's too much information coming at me too fast

Each year we receive more and more data from a growing array of devices, which can be accessed from an increasing number of locations. If you're not careful, the quantity of data starts to drive you instead of the other way around.

2. I have to keep everything (You just never know when I might need it!)

If you're a "keeper," and you know who you are, hold on to your hats! There's nothing like laying your hands on “radio stuff” that has not been seen or used for years.

3. Organization cramps my freedom and creativity

Everything I need to know – I know –records and documentation not required!

4. There's not enough time in the day!

We all have the same 24 hours, so the issue isn't managing time □ it's managing what you can do with the time you have. You can't do everything, but you can do anything, as long as it fits into your calendar.

5. It takes too much time to get productive

Do not need a “things-to-do” list and do not need to keep a calendar or record of people to see, places to go and so forth.

CARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Note: Other than the name—only enter info that has changed since last renewal.

Check One: Renewal _____ Initial _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Initial: _____

Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

ARRL Member: Yes _____ No _____

E-Mail _____

Home Address (No Change-__ __):

Street : _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Individual dues \$14 _____ Family: -\$16 _____

Return application at a CARS meeting or mail to:

CARS
P.O. BOX 510415
Punta Gordo, FL 33951-0415