



The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 59 Number 2 February 2013

President's QRM



We had a great meeting in January, with Joy Matlack KD6FJV, who is Communications Director for the Baker2Vegas foot race that comes up in April. Please go to www.radiobaker2vegas.org for further information. Thanks to Joy KD6FJV.

Our BOD reviewed our membership renewals to date and found that the majority of our supportive membership has yet to renew. Remember that you must renew by December 31st 2012 if you want to continue your membership. Our bylaws provide a 60 day grace period, but after that we publish our final roster – so don't be left out – RENEW now!

On March 1st our membership report will be submitted to the ARRL. This is published on their site, for potential new members. We want to show a strong backbone, being the number of members our club has. If you have not renewed yet please do.

For anyone new to the hobby who has questions, or is simply stuck with their HT, some of our members will be available after our meeting to provide help. If it is an HT programming problem, please bring the HT and the manual.

Sometime in March, we will begin our 2013 field day planning. This will likely be a lunch meeting that we will probably hold on the 4th Saturday of the each month. We will provide the final date TBD when Don, WG6H FD Chair/Technical VP, gets back in town.

On May 18th we will be holding our annual W6SD Picnic. We have a reserved Woodley Park for this event. We are looking for someone to spearhead this event, and will need a few members to assist us in once again enjoying a great picnic.

Contact KN6Y@ARRL.net
Hope to see you at the meeting!
73, Steve KN6Y

Next **SFVARC Club** **Meeting**

Friday, February 15
at 7:30pm
Northridge Hospital
Penthouse
18300 Roscoe Blvd,
Northridge, CA 91325

Join a Committee:

- 1 Elmers / Mentors
- 2 Picnic
- 3 Field Day
- 4 Holiday dinner

Volunteer Hotline
KN6Y@ARRL.NET

San Fernando Valley
Amateur Radio Club
ARRL Affiliated Club #1684

W6SD

ARRL Special Service Club
P.O. Box 280517
Northridge, CA 91328

The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc (SFVARC) is an organization interested in Amateur Radio as a hobby. The SFVARC is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League and the Los Angeles Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, Inc. Members of the Club conduct licensing classes on a continuing basis. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to attend our monthly meetings.

Club Officers

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POSTINGS AND NOTICES

Monthly Meetings: Third Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Northridge Hospital (18300 Roscoe Blvd, Northridge). Most Club activities take place at the Fifth Floor Penthouse, but we may be assigned other rooms from time to time. Signs will be posted at the Penthouse elevator if there is such a change.

Board Meetings: Are now being held prior to the club meetings at Northridge Hospital. Call or email for the exact location. These are open meetings and all members are welcome to attend!

World Wide Web Site: <http://www.w6sd.net>

Club Nets:

- 2 meter simplex: Tuesdays, 8 p.m. on 145.570 MHz.

Net Control: The Net Control Operators are Jim Sullivan WB6TNF, Phil Reiber KJ6ZI, John Campeau AD6KT, and Johnnie Spotts W6HTY.

Net Control: Varies

- 10 meter: Wednesdays, 8 p.m. on 28.310 MHz +/- QRM in the Upper Side Band Mode

- 2 meter repeater: Thursdays, 8 p.m., on the Magic Mountain Repeater (147.735 MHz - PL100) or Duck Mountain (147.24 + MHz) if Magic is unavailable.

Net Control: The Net Control Operators are Phil Reiber, KJ6ZI, and Ted Mattock, KE6EIT.

6th District DX QSL Bureau: The 6th District DX QSL Bureau is now in Fairfax, CA. The Bureau prefers that you purchase envelopes from them (\$.64 each, including postage) Contact the Bureau at PO Box 970, Fairfax, CA 94978-0970 or visit their web page at <http://www.qslbureau.org/>

You can now follow them on Twitter.com! You will find us at @ARRL_6_Bureau .

Ham Exams: Held at the Northridge Hospital, on the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. **Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and doors close at 9:00 a.m. Testing begins after registration is complete.** You do not have to be a Club member to take an examination. There is a \$4 examination fee. Also, if you are upgrading your license, please bring your original license, a copy of your license, and originals and copies of any "Certificates of Completion". For more information, call Jim Sullivan (WB6TNF) 818-348-4155. In all other months, exams are conducted by the Santa Clarita Amateur Radio Club; contact Ron Klein, K6VPV at 661-259-0948

Newsletter Contributions: Please contact Bernard Falkin, KG6FBM [kg6fbm at bflocks dot com](mailto:kg6fbm@bflocks.com) if you have anything for the newsletter.

The opinions expressed in the W6SD Carrier are solely those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Board of Directors or membership of the SFVARC.

The K7RA Solar Update 02/01/2013

Both the sunspot numbers and the solar flux barely changed in the past week: The average daily sunspot numbers were 55.7, down slightly from 56.4 the previous week, while the average daily solar flux was 98.7, down from 110.7. Geomagnetic conditions continued their quiet spell. The most active day was Saturday, January 26, when both the mid-latitude and planetary A index were 18, and Alaska's College A index was 46. Sunspot numbers for January 24-30 were 60, 44, 55, 60, 52, 63 and 56, with a mean of 55.7. The 10.7 centimeter flux was 103.4, 100.5, 99.4, 97.7, 97.6, 95.4 and 96.6, with a mean of 98.7. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 6, 18, 6, 4, 2 and 2, with a mean of 5.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 7, 18, 5, 3, 2 and 2, with a mean of 5.4.

The predicted solar flux is 100 for February 1, 105 on February 2-5, 110 on February 6-7, 120 and 125 on February 8-9, 120 on February 10-11, then 115, 110 and 105 on February 12-14, 110 on February 15-18, 105 on February 19-23, 95 on February 24-25, 110 on February 26, and rising to 125 on February 27-March 1. Flux values are predicted to peak again at 140 on March 3-4.

The predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 1, then 12, 18, 15 and 8 on February 2-5, 5 on February 6-8, 8 on February 9-10, 5 on February 11-18, 8 on February 19, 5 on February 20-21, then 15, 10 and 8 on February 22-24, 5 on February 25-March 7, and back to 8 on March 8-9.

Regular readers know that we've been tracking a three-month moving average of sunspot numbers for several years now. The average daily sunspot number for the three calendar months ending January 31 was 82.8, better than last month, but nothing like the numbers we saw more than a year ago in fall 2011. The three-month averages for the past year -- the months ending in February

2012-January 2013 -- were 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, 96.5, 91.9, 89.9, 81.2, 82.3, 74.4 and 82.8. The one-month average sunspot number for January was 98.9, the highest monthly average since May and July of last year.

There's not much news from readers this week, but Jeff Hartley, N8II, of Shepherdstown, West Virginia reported this on January 25: "Today was pretty decent, considering the now-double digit solar flux index and K of 2. I worked RC4HAA on 15 meter CW who was S6-9, and 12 meters opened well to Europe from 1400-1440. I got in on the tail end of it with contacts with Greece, Switzerland, Slovakia and England. Last night at 0200, I caught T6LG in Afghanistan on 80 meter CW for a new band/country. He was about S3-S6 and not hearing the USA stations calling him that well (there were about 10 callers when I was there)."

Glenn Axelrod, N6INM/9, in Mundelein, Illinois, wrote: "Are the solar flux numbers and conditions going to improve by the spring and summer? Are we ever going to see numbers again -- like we saw in 1958 -- in my lifetime?"

We have no way of knowing when this solar cycle will peak, or even if it may have already peaked, but peaks of solar cycles become easier to predict later in the first part (the upswing) of any cycle. Until recently, experts predicted this cycle -- Solar Cycle 24 -- would probably peak in spring of 2013, which begins in less than seven weeks. But later predictions moved it out to fall of 2013, with slightly lower numbers. We had a period of higher solar activity in November and December of 2011, leading some to believe that perhaps the cycle had peaked early. Others believe we may see a double-peak in this cycle, as we have in some earlier solar cycles. But we should see seasonal

improvements in HF conditions in the spring and again in the fall. By seasonal, I mean that even if we saw no change in solar activity, just due to the season and position of the Sun relative to us, we see better conditions on the higher frequencies in spring and fall than we tend to see in summer and winter.

In September-December 2011, the monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers were 106.4, 123.6, 133.1 and 106.4. The previous four months (May through August) saw averages of 61.5, 55.5, 67.2 and 66, so the final third of 2011 showed a dramatic jump in activity. But the next year, the numbers dropped back again. The average daily sunspot number for all of 2012 was 82.3, while the average for all of 2011 was only 29.9, so that jump at the end of the year was exciting, and convinced many of us that the cycle was starting to really ramp up. The January 2013 average was a little less than 100.

There is a hypothesis which posits that we may see a grand minimum -- decades of depressed sunspot numbers -- but of course, that cannot be proven by observation in the next decade or two. I hope it isn't true. I hope we see future activity which is strong and surprises everyone, but I wouldn't count on it. I was licensed during the low point between Solar Cycle 19 (the biggest in history) and Solar Cycle 20, and along with many others, I have been wishing for decades to see another like Solar Cycle 19. But that cycle turned out to be a rarity. But just like Solar Cycle 19 surprised many people, I hope we can be surprised again.

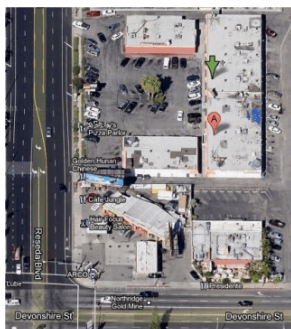
All times listed are UTC, unless otherwise noted.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-255>

Monthly Luncheon

Well, we had a great lunch at Maria's.

Now we are going to Golden Hunan on February 9, at 11:30am.



Address is 10334 Reseda Blvd,
Northridge, CA 91326.

818-363-5511. They are located near
Shakeys Pizza,
just north of Devonshire.

See you there!

Elaine

WAS & VUCC Award Card Checking

Please bring your QSL cards and completed applicable forms to the next meeting. Awards Manager Arnie, WB6PJC, will be available to check your cards.

Simplex Net Reminder

Two meter simplex:
Tuesdays, 8 p.m. on
**145.570 MHz, Jim,
WB6TNF**

General Meeting February 15th, 2013



Our guest speaker is Dave Jennings, WJ6W talk about Television Broadcast Systems design and how it influenced his Ham Radio Hobby.

David Jennings was born in 1951 in Iowa. During high school he became interested in broadcasting and obtained an FCC 1st Class license and immediately got a weekend job at the local radio station. After high school he went to Iowa State University and graduated in 1974 with a BSEE. He became assistant chief engineer at KTIV-TV in Sioux, City, Iowa. In 1981 he moved to Los Angeles to work for ABC-TV as a design engineer on the 1984 Olympics. He has since become an independent engineering design consultant in the broadcast television industry. He has been a part of many local, national, and international projects over the years.

He became a Ham relatively late in life in about 1999. He was drawn to the hobby by discovering vintage radio nets on SSB and AM. These activities allowed David to collect and use the ham and broadcast equipment he loved during his early days in broadcasting.

John, KI6ZS
VP Planning

Northridge VE Schedule for 2013

The test session registration is from 8:00 am until 9:00 am. Anyone arriving after 9:00 will be turned away.

Time limit to take a test is 90 minutes. Exams will be held in the fifth floor Penthouse of the north building (Carol Pump building) of the Northridge Hospital. Signs will be posted if the room is changed.

4/6/13, 6/1/13, 8/3/13, 10/5/13, and 12/7/13.

BSA to Offer Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

01/18/2013



The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. The strip is worn on the right sleeve (see illustration below).

<http://www.arrl.org/news/bsa-to-offer-amateur-radio-operator-rating-strip>

APPLICATION FOR SFVARC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Please Note: In order to receive your newsletter, we must have a **valid email address**.

If you prefer to receive your newsletter through United States mail, please provide a correct zip code with the 4-digit extension.

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Street _____ Tel#() _____ - _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (+4 digit Extension) _____

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if ARRL member	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude from Member Roster
	Full Year (January 1 - December 31)	April-July	August-December
Regular Member	\$18.00	\$12.00	\$6.00
Family or Junior Members (Under 18 years of age)	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00

Please print clearly or type, then mail this form with your check to:
 SAN FERNANDO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC., P.O. Box 280517-0517, Northridge, CA 91328-0517



San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 280517-0517
Northridge, CA 91328-0517



Next Meeting: Friday, February 15, at 7:30pm at Penthouse, Northridge Hospital

W6SD.NET

For Sale

IC 765 with matching speaker and microphone. Original owner. Mint condition and just back from an overhaul at Turner Electronics. 250 hz CW filter.

\$1,100. Roger W6LAX 818-455-5038, w6lax @ arrl .net

Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V. 500 hz and 250 hz CW filters. Original owner. Low hours and flawless condition. \$1,200. Roger W6LAX 818-455-5038, w6lax @ arrl .net

Ameritron HF Amp AL-1200 \$1,500. Roger W6LAX

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