

May 20 2023 Exercise
GANN / Get The Message Out
DATA / HOTWASH / Solar Events

Hotwash comments including as many oral or written input as possible.

1. Bulletin notifications better separated if each had a defining number or letter ("alpha" "bravo" etc)
2. Notifications & scheduling didn't work for some participants.
3. Very difficult to reach distant RMS's in afternoon (critical frequency down to 6 MHz & D-layer significant)
4. Several participants had to raise their VHF antenna in order to be heard on Simplex point to point -- significantly more difficult than using repeaters
5. Surprising larger number of messages moved on HF Digital than VHF digital Easier?
6. Voice comms were very difficult under these conditions on HF unless you were CLOSE or had an AMPLIFIER. Having BOTH was much nicer. (Normally we would have expected Waldo to work FINE)
7. Some participants were unfamiliar with the frequencies listed on the ICS-205
8. 146.65/146.75 not standard frequency spacing
9. 7.255 was on top of ECARS net -- try different frequency next time
10. Try 30m or 60m for data
11. Use BCC for book traffic [Ah...I finally understand this point! Great idea!]
12. Shannon - 40 meters quit after 1:15. (sure did!)
13. Leland - amps help (and having a critical frequency above net also helps!)
14. Leland - heard about 8 stations on 40 meters. power was very helpful
15. Possible serial port conflicts running multiple different types of programs back and forth
16. Difficult to know when actual end of exercise [typically under control of Exercise Director, not participants]
17. Digital "the way to go" per some participants
18. QRM on 7.255 until 2:15 PM
19. ECARS stations NJ/Delaware coming in on 7.255 (So skip WAS working--but only past the skip zone)
20. "could have done VHF " 146.55
21. Reminder: amplification not allow above 100W on 60m
22. RMS in Virginia and SC were reachable on 30meters
23. Difficult to change back and forth between programs
24. Possibility of using "tower trailer" to position temporary digipeater!
25. Comment from Barry (my handwriting difficult) "short distance"
26. Power out? Real event easier to recognize than planned exercise
27. Waldo -- working on improving VHF capabilities, weak @ current time
28. VARA -- often NOT BACKWARDS COMPATIBLE -- both Huckstep & Gibby have run into problems where different versions won't talk.
29. Wonder if JS8 -- even fast or turbo speeds -- might not have worked for much of our group even to Waldo, and possibly on both 80 and 40 meters? Might be worth trying a different way of running the command net on a subsequent exercise. We have not succeeded in getting more people to learn how to use CW-decoder software, but waveforms such as psk31, MFSK-8 (only

250 Hz) can also offer significant gains over voice SSB. The difficulty is getting volunteers facile at switching back and forth. VAR-AC offers both file and broadcast transfers in one package! Working on both HF and VHF, it also provides an alternative.

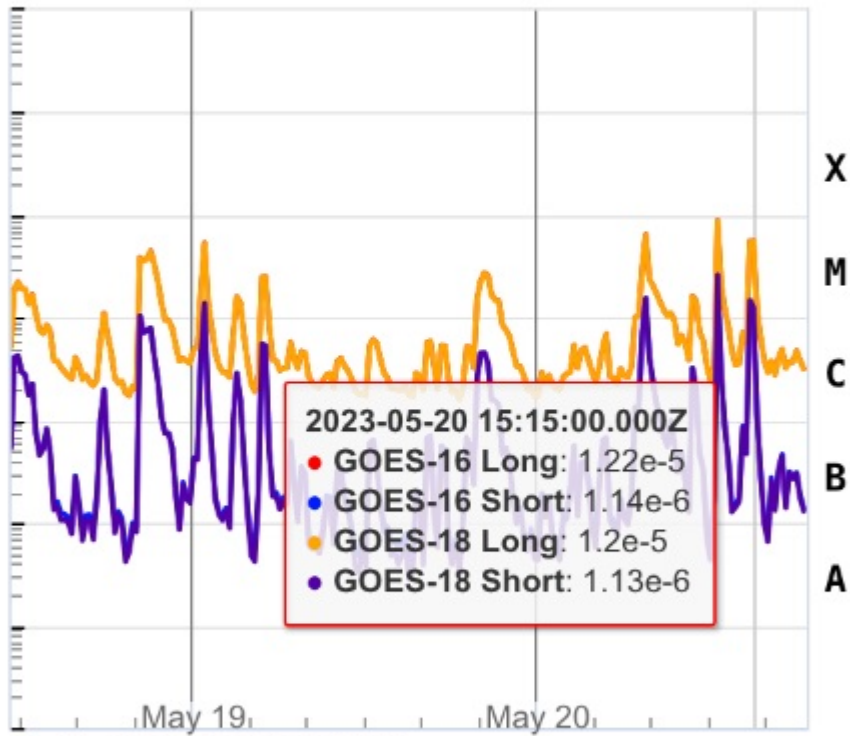
30. I don't think the Winlink propagation predictions were able to take into account the fast changing solar storms?? Stations that were ranked as very high probabilities -- I could not connect to, at noon. Connections had been EASY at 0730.
31. A LOT of our traffic appeared to go out by WINLINK. Connecting to established VHF (KX4Z-12) or HF RMS's (here or distant) is easy if you have adequate propagation, and message transfer is quick compared to voice. That may account for the high prevalence of DATA transfers in our results.
32. By contrast to RMS transfers, doing **peer to peer** HF winlink requires stations to confront the difference between "center" and "dial" frequencies. (This does not exist on VHF FM peer to peer.) I observed stations having some confusion dealing with that for the first time, undersanding that on upper side band, "center" is considered 1500 Hz higher than "dial." Worth going over.
33. Very impressive improvements in our group capabilities over where we were several years back!

FORMAL / TACTICAL TRAFFIC TRANSFERRED

STATION	ORIGINATED		RECEIVED (only)		RELAYED		TOTAL
	Voice	Data	Voice	Data	Voice	Data	
NF4AC	0	121	2	18	5	5	151
W2TTT				5		68	73
WA4AMY					3	43	46
KO4ILJ		9		3			12
K9RFT	3	26				20	49
KO4ZSD		20				15	35
KO4LBS		24					24
KC2ASY	5						5
W4UFL				3			3
W4JIR		46					46
AA3YB							0
K4ZSW		37		8	4	4	54
KD0QIX					4		4
KG4VWI				3			3
TOTALS	8	283	2	40	16	155	505
Percent	1.6%	56%	0.4%	7.9%	3.2%	30.7%	

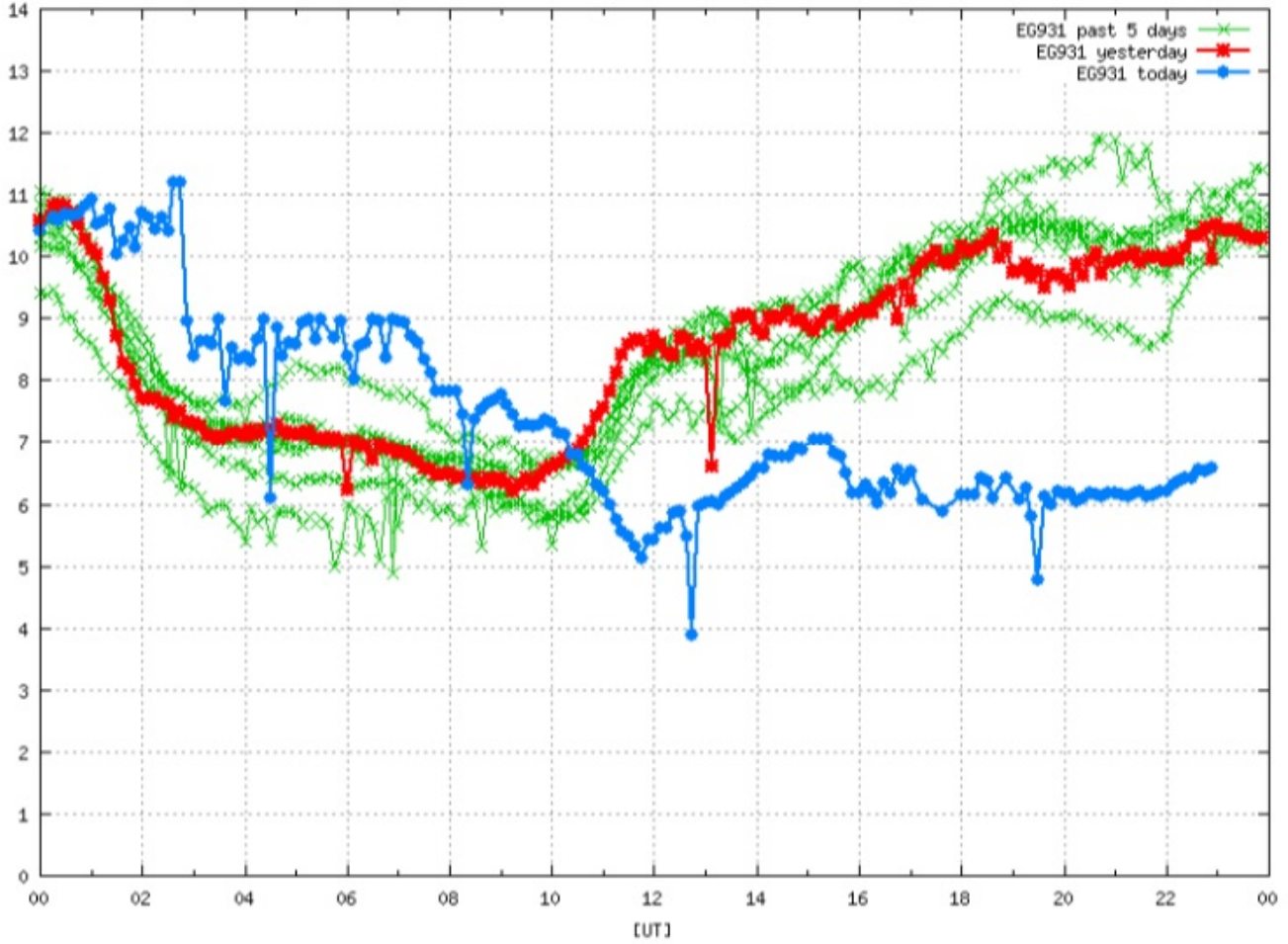
GOES X-RAY FLUX

Zoom 6 Hour 1 Day 3 Day 7 Day



Updated 2023-05-20 22:42 UTC

GOES X Ray Flux showing 3 high-M class events on Saturday 5/20/23



Critical Freq, Eglin AFB (Florida), BLUE = 5/20/2023