



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday January 7, 2021,
7:00 PM

Via Zoom.
Login sent via email or upon request.

Program: My Favorite DX'ing
Tools

Volume 2021, Issue 1

January 2021

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President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Newsletter & Membership

Club Notes

Congratulations to our new slate of club officers !

2020 has been a difficult year for pretty much everybody, and all organizations. Hopefully the arrival of vaccines will lead to more normal club functioning in the later half of 2021. Amateur exams has been one of the more difficult problems so far.

Zoom works OK for club meetings, but the social interaction is not as smooth as when the meetings are in person.

The new solar cycle has brought a welcome increase in sunspot numbers and corresponding increases in the solar flux leading to band openings up through 10 meters. The

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The Repeater is the official newsletter of the Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It is published 10 times a year—once per month excluding July and August.

Secretary's Report

RVARC Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020

Meeting started at 7:00 P.M. via zoom.

Mike (treasurer) reported our bank balance as \$4881.76

Election of officers for 2021 were held. Nominations made (and said agreeing to run):

- Pat Cunningham for President
- Don Bennett for Vice President
- Mike Bach for treasurer
- John Armstrong for secretary.

No further nominations were received. After vote of those present, all were elected unani- mously to their respective offices.

7:12 PM Don Bennett discussed the current status of license examinations in the Rogue Valley. They have been shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, the test location

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Club Notes

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ten meter contest had two big openings, and a lot of contacts compared to prior years. Several efforts produced huge scores, one from the Pacific Northwest! There was a lot of DX to be worked during the contest.

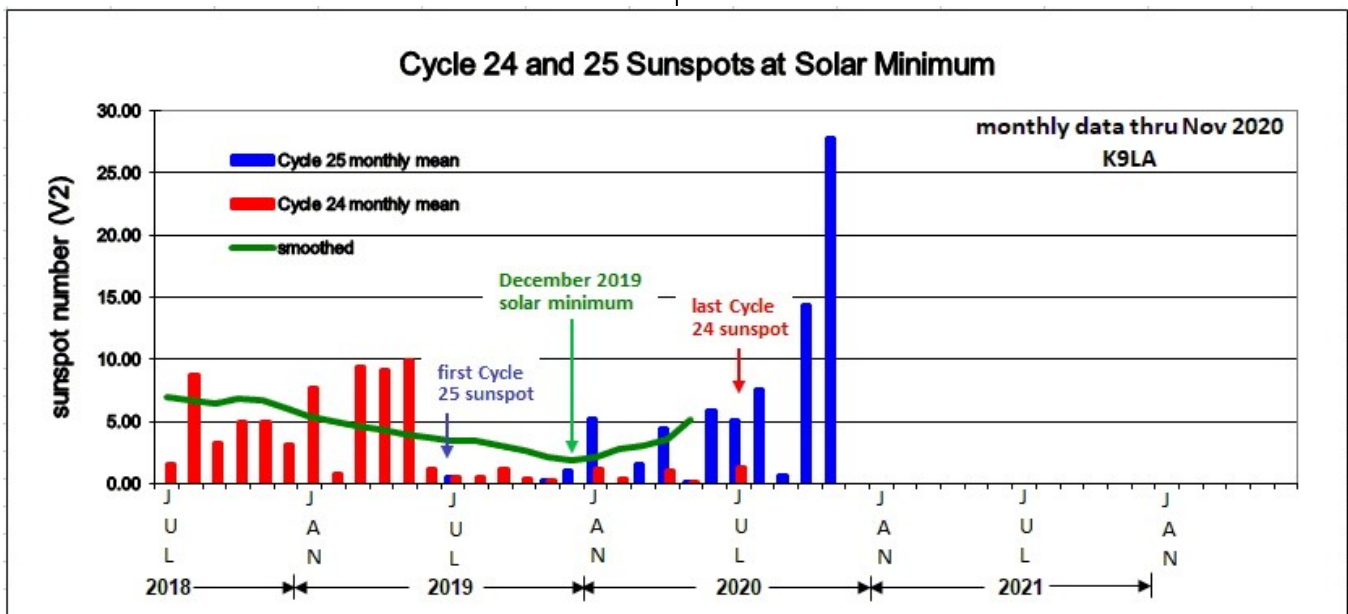
The flux climbed over 100 briefly during December 2020 with predictions of low 80's for January. During the bottom of the cycle recently, the flux has been hanging at about 68 (usually 62-65 is about as low as the flux gets).

Secretary's Report

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had been closed to public use by the fire department. Methods to startup the exams again discussed. Some possibilities:

1. Give test to applicants in their automobile. Use FM rig to give instructions to the applicants.
2. Use zoom (or something similar) to proctor examinations remotely. This has been done by a few groups, but is labor intensive as each applicant has been separately proctored.



The sunspot number climbed to 28 late in the month.

Where all this heads for cycle 25 is still a guessing game. The attached chart is from Carl, K9LA, showing December 2019 as the solar minimum. As you can see there were a few straggling spots from cycle 24 until about July 2020. The first sunspot from cycle 25 was around July 2019.

Is it time to get the 10 meter beam repaired ?

The club needs some form of payment option for this, suggestion made that we could use Paypal to accept credit cards on the club webpage, although Paypal extracts a fee for each transaction. Those present thought that the hit to the club treasury would be small and acceptable given that there would not be a large transaction volume.

7:23 PM **Motion seconded and passed:** Club investigate a payment and exam process to be used at least until the end of the pandemic.

7:30 PM. Program—discussion on N1MM

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Secretary's Report

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and remote contesting.

Distributed multi-op contesting is now being accepted for an increasing number of contests due to COVID. All the participants use one callsign, thus there is a need to coordinate the bands used (to avoid multiple signals on one band/mode), check for duplicates, assign serial numbers, collect logs, etc.

Traditionally N1MM assumes that all the stations are on the same local network. It uses this for discovery and communication to all computers. However with remote stations, none of the remotes are on the local network (they have different IP addresses, and need to be routed via the Internet).

A solution is to a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to tunnel the remote stations over the internet to the main location. The VPN makes all the computers appear to be on the same local network, which can then be used by N1MM+.

Possibilities for VPN:

1. Use wireguard (support for which is present in the Linux kernel starting at kernel version 5.6). Pro: free, and no per-node cost. Drawback: GUI interfaces and wide platform support are somewhat lacking as it is a new protocol. Complicated configuration may be needed.
2. Hamachi VPN. Work has been done by N1MM folks to use the Hamachi VPN to do this, Pros: already integrated into N1MM+. Free. Con: limitation of 5 remote stations (for the free version).
3. Zerotier VPN. Pros: up to 50 remote stations (for the free version), easy configuration via the web interface and automatic hole-punching in many user routers/modems. Con: N1MM folks have not tested this. It may work fine, or there might be issues.

Meeting adjourned (missing exact time, but after 8:00 PM).

John took the meeting minutes, transcribed by Tom later. If there are any additions or corrections, please let Tom know, any errors are likely due to mistranscription of John's notes.

John, KF7UMK, secretary,
Tom, N5EG transcribing

This Month's Program

1. My Favorite DX'ing Tools

Program: My Favorite DX'ing Tools.

Scott will present some of his favorite computer (mostly) tools for DX'ing

Knowing when the band will be open to a particular location, the right direction to point your beam, and a whole host of other information is useful in working that rarew or elusive Dx.

- **Biography:** Scott Cummings, NA7OM is past club president and vice president. He is active on HF contesting and DXing.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 • CP ERC Net	4 • CARE Net	5 • 2M SSB Net	6 • 2M SSB Net	7 • RVARC Meeting Zoom • ARES Net	8	9
10 • CP ERC Net	11 • CARE Net	12 • 2M SSB Net	13 • 2M SSB Net	14 • Rogue Hack Lab Zoom • ARES Net	15	16
17 • CP ERC Net	18 • CARE Net	19 • 2M SSB Net	20 • 2M SSB Net	21 • ARES Net	22	23
24 • CP ERC Net	25 • CARE Net	26 • 2M SSB Net	27 • 2M SSB Net	28 • ARES Net	29	30
31 • CP ERC Net						

Events

Meetings

- **RVARC** via Zoom.
- **Rogue Hack Lab** via Zoom.
- **CARE** UNKNOWN status.
- **JC-ARES** UNKNOWN status.

Nets

- **JC-ARES** Thursdays 7:30 PM - K7JAX Mt. Baldy Repeater 146.840 (-) [PL 123.0]
- **CARE** Mondays 7:00 PM— KB7SKB Jacksonville Repeater 147.100 (-) [PL 136.5], open, directed net, visitors welcome
- **2 Meter SSB** Tuesdays 7:00PM and Wednesdays 10:00 AM—144.200 USB
- **Central Point Emergency Radio Communications** Sundays 8:30 PM— KB7QMV Medford Repeater 145.410 (-) [PL none]. Move to simplex net on 147.585 MHz when finished. Directed net.
- **Siskiyou County ARC** Thursdays 7:00 PM—Net K6SIS Repeater 146.79 (-) [PL 100.0]

RVARC Membership

RVARC membership dues run from January 1 through December 31. Please bring cash or a check payable to RVARC to a club meeting, or mail (checks only) to:

RVARC Membership
c/o 1940 Stevens Rd.
Eagle Point OR 97524-6523

Regular Member:	\$20.00
Senior Member (62 and over):	\$15.00
Family Member:	\$20.00
Student Member:	\$10.00

For Sale / Wanted

WANTED:

2020 Amateur Radio Examinations

In the Rogue Valley, amateur radio exams are provided by the RVARC and the SOARC. New exam participants need to provide identification, while upgrading amateurs need to **provide a copy of their current license** as well as show identification. The exam fee for 2019 remains \$15.00. All license candidates must provide a picture ID. Upgrading amateurs must also provide a photocopy of their current license to send in with their application. To search for other exam locations, see:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> or our club webpage: <http://w7dta.org>

Medford—Phoenix, OR

Time: Saturdays, Registration 8:30 AM. Exam session at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

Location: Fire District 5 HQ. 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon 97535

Dates 2021: **Suspended due to COVID-19**

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: kq7bp@arrl.net Phone: (541) 973-3625

Grants Pass

Time: Fridays Registration 6:00 PM. Exam session at 6:30 PM. **NO WALK-INS** due to COVID. Please email a reservation request to John.

Location: Fruitdale Grange. 1440 Parkdale Dr., Grants Pass OR 97527-5288

Dates 2021: **May 21 Aug 20 Nov 19**

Contact: John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: jstubbe7@gmail.com Phone: (541) 218-2244

Roseburg, Bend, Redding, Brookings, Crescent City — Please see our club webpage, <http://k7mfr.org> for updates as we receive schedules for these cities.

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