

# RANDOM *Oscillations*

*A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club*

## From the President

*Neil, KC2KY*

Hello from the KC2KY keyboard. We're coming off of a very successful Marconi Day weekend despite the wet weather. Setting up the antennas the day before was a winning move. With the warm weather coming, I'm hoping we can get in some additional outings, perhaps one or two Parks On the Air events.

## April Meeting

This month's meeting will feature a presentation by Frank, W2FDM, about getting started with Logbook of the World (LOTW). LOTW is an essential tool for confirming contacts with countries, states, and Canadian provinces world wide for award chasing or just keeping track of your accomplishments. If you are interested in keeping track of how many countries or how many states you've contacted, and aren't currently using LOTW, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

## Marconi Day

Our annual Rocky Point outing got off to a rocky start with a forecast of heavy rain showers for the entire day Saturday. Four dedicated members - Frank, W2FDM, Bob, WB2NFL, Bob, KC2FYZ, and Yours Truly, KC2KY scrambled to the Marconi site Friday afternoon to get the antennas set up so we wouldn't have to do a setup in the rain. When we arrived at the shack Saturday morning, it was indeed raining but not nearly as hard as the forecast had predicted. We got the radios into the building in a light drizzle. While setting up the rigs and computer, we found, to our surprise, that the electricity in the Marconi shack was turned off. There were a few staff people working outside Saturday morning. We got their attention and let them know about the situation. They made a phone call and within 5 minutes the electricity was back on. By 9:00 AM, we had two stations on the air making QSOs. Here are some highlights - 167 QSOs in all for the day - here is the breakdown: SSB: 120 contacts (including 100 from Iron Man Bob, KC2FYZ); 2M fm: 5 contacts; CW: 6 contacts; FT8: 32 contacts; FT4: 4 contacts. Total countries: 20; Total US States: 23.

Club members who participated throughout the weekend were Frank, W2FDM (whose antenna launcher, with its fishing reel improvement, got us up into the tree across the road on the first try), Bob, WB2NFL (thanks for lugging the TS940 to the site), Bob, KC2FYZ, Bill, AB2UW, Ken,

## Where did All the Old Radios Go?

*by C. Dubbya Physt*

I was thumbing through an accumulation of back issues of several ham magazines, looking at the ads for radio gear, reading over the specs and physical attributes of equipment from a past era. Recently, after one of our meetings, a handful of RCARC members gathered for a round of refreshments our favorite watering hole at the Rocky Point Diner.

There, I challenged them with a mind-probing trivia and brainteaser session. They were tasked with recalling the names of US companies that were once dominant in the market of supplying amateur radio equipment. It was a fun session, and the senior members really came to life, recalling the days when their radio shacks were once occupied with ham gear that dominated the earth, as the dinosaurs once did. (Say, that old stuff was BIG, so it really was dominating!!)

How many of you recall the names of these famous and vibrant ham radio manufacturers? Do have others to add to the list?

Allied (Knightkits), Ameco, Central Electronics, Clegg, Collins, Davco, Drake, Echophone, Eico, Genave, GLB, Gonset, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, HarveyWells, Heath, Johnson, Kelvin (kits) Lafayette, Lakeshore, National, P&H, Parks, Polycomm, RME, SBE (SideBand Engineers), Sonar, Swan, Utica, Technical Material Co, Vanguard, World Radio Labs (Globe and Galaxy lines).

While some of these companies are still in business and marketing radio equipment, they have shifted their market base to the commercial arena, or have scaled down their involvement in the amateur radio marketplace.

Every now and then, when exchanging station information, I'll discover the person I'm in contact with is using a classic, instead of the usual report indicating the rig is an Icom, Kenwood or Yaesu transceiver. (Atlas and TenTec users are out there, but they make up a small group compared to users of radios from one of the Japanese manufacturers). For instance, not long ago, I worked a fellow on 20m CW who was using a Viking Ranger II and National NC-300 combination. The ol' Ranger II drifted more than we're used to seeing from modern rigs, but it did the job, nevertheless.

There are a handful of collectors and radio restorers, who relish the thought of finding a relic at flea markets, chomping at the bit to dust it off and get it operational and cleaned up like new. What of all the thousands of other pieces of old gear, where do they wind up? Like the venerable Volkswagen Beetle, the infamous "Bugs"

*See "CW Physt", page 2*

*President, from Page 1*

KE2DFA. We had cameo appearances from Dick, K2RFP and NLI Section Manager Jim, W2KFBV. There were a few other visitors but I don't remember their call signs.

**Field Day**

It's not too early to start thinking about Field Day. We plan to operate once again from the Longwood Estate. We are going to try some a little different to keep things

interesting and hopefully easier. We will be renting a trailerable bucket lift to help get the mast for the first beam antenna stood up. The bucket lift will serve as the support for the second beam. The hope is that this will reduce the effort to about half of what it was in previous years. Another change for this year is a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for any of you who are newly licensed and haven't had much experience on the HF bands yet. Field Day is a great way to get immersed in a lot of aspects of ham radio.

*CW Physt, from Page 1*

that roamed the earth's roads (paved or otherwise) for 4 or 5 decades. There were millions and millions of them (sorry, Carl Sagan, couldn't resist) at one time, but they are a rare sight now. So, where are all the old radios???

Another famous and once commonplace item that has become extinct is the tube tester. Once occupying a 5 square foot piece of floorspace at just about every drugstore and electronics supplier, this "appliance" served us all very well at one time or another in days gone by. How many of you, in an effort to perform do-it-yourself repairs on our ham gear or the family radio or TV set, dragged a bagfull of tubes to the corner drugstore?

There, we would look each tube up on a chart, setting up a myriad of rotary selector switches to configure them for every particular tube type, and then searching for the right socket to plug the tubes into. Then came the moment of truth, as we pushed the "TEST" button, waiting

for the tube to warm up and watching the needle on the giant BAD-WEAK-GOOD meter, telling us the condition of the "thermionic emitter" in the socket.

Come to think of it, how come manufacturers didn't put transistors and IC's in sockets? Then we could drag a bagful of them to the corner drug store and pop 'em into a tester, just like we did with tubes.

Hmmm, I gotta run home with this bag of tubes and get them back into the old Dumont set, 'cause Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca are going to be on tonight. Should stop at the gas station with the Flying Horse, filling up the tank of my Chevy (hello Dinah!) with petrol (remember 10 gallons for a buck???). What's going on here? The Shadow knows!

Catch you on the radio, whatever the brand may be ...

CW Physt

**Radio Central Amateur Radio Club's 2025 Meeting Calendar**

DATE	TOPIC
January 22, 2025	ARRL News and Views - Ed Wilson, N2XDD
February 26, 2025	Chinese Auction and Membership Drive
March 26, 2025	Artificial Intelligence and Amateur Radio
<b>April 30, 2025</b>	<b>Logbook of the World</b>
May 28, 2025	
June 25, 2025	Future Meeting Topics To Be Announced
July 30, 2025	
August 27, 2025	
September 24, 2025	
October 29, 2025	
November 19, 2025	
December 17, 2025	

**2025 Club Officers**

**President:** ..... **KC2KY**  
*Neil Heft*

**Vice President:** ..... **KB2ZPB**  
*Richie Fisher*

**Treasurer:** ..... **W2EMN**  
*Ed Newman*

**Secretary:** ..... **AB2UW**  
*Bill Lynch*

**Editorial Staff**

**Editor** ..... **KC2KY**  
*Neil M. Heft (737-0019)*

**Directors**

*Serving until 12/25 . . .*  
*Bob Ciappa ..... WB2NFL*  
*Steve Sussman-Fort AB2EW*

*Serving until 12/26 . . .*  
*Frank Mazovec..... W2FDM*

*Serving Until 12/27 . . .*  
*Bob Muller ..... KC2FYZ*  
*Winston Lawrence ... KD2WLL*

**Founding Members**

*Stu Goodman K2RPZ sk*  
*Harry Lersner N2AWM sk*

**Honorary Members**

*Frank Kiefer, K2PWG sk*  
*Art Greenberg W2LH sk*  
*Warren Bogin W2GZA sk*  
*JoAnn Colletti N2IME sk*

**Club Resources**

W2RC/R ..... 145.150 MHz, 4Z PL  
W2RC/R ..... 449.525 MHz, 2A PL

**Repeater Nets**

**Tuesday at 20:00 EST** : Club Rag Chew Net

**Club Web Page:** <http://rcarc.org>

# The ARRL Solar Report

*From the ARRL Web Page, 04/25/2025*

Solar activity has been at low levels with only minor C-class flaring through April 24, 2025, and is expected to be moderate with a chance of M-class flares (R1-R2, Minor-Moderate) through April 26. No Earth-directed Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) have been observed. A southwest CME was observed on April 23 and is considered to be far-side due to the lack of any on-disk plasma motion/flare activity.

Solar wind parameters continued to be slightly enhanced due to the Coronal Hole High-Speed Streams (CH HSS) associated with the positive polarity coronal holes in the southern hemisphere. Solar wind parameters are expected to continue to be influenced by positive polarity, with CH HSS conditions through April 26. Nominal conditions are expected thereafter.

On April 25, Spaceweather.com reported the Earth was struck by an interplanetary shockwave on April 24 around 0700 UTC. An interplanetary shock wave is an abrupt change in the solar wind - probably caused by the Coronal Mass Ejection.

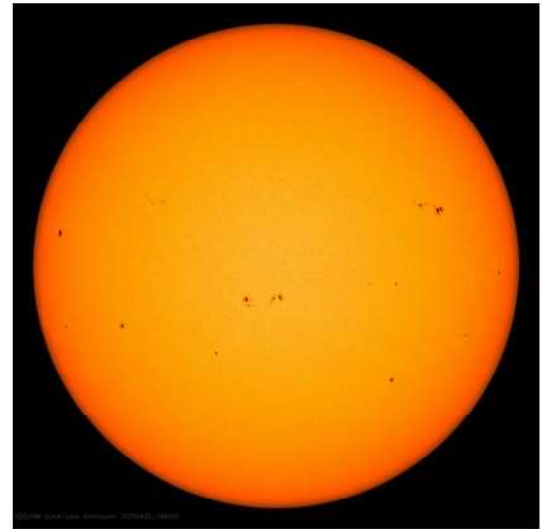
Overall, solar activity remained at low levels. Region AR4064 remained the largest sunspot group on the disk. The regions intermediate spots grew in penumbral area over the past 24 hours.

The geomagnetic field is expected to remain at mostly quiet to unsettled levels, with active conditions likely on April 27 due to the influence from multiple positive polarity CH HSS.

There are currently 11 numbered sunspot regions on the solar disk.

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for M-class flares on April 26 and 27.

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service web



*Photo courtesy of NASA SDO / HMI*

page at, <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. Information and tutorials on propagation can be found at, <http://k9la.us/>.

Also, check this: <https://bit.ly/3Rc8Njt> "Understanding Solar Indices" from September 2002 QST.

The Predicted Planetary A Index for April 26 to May 2 is 8, 8, 6, 6, 6, 25, and 35, with a mean of 13.4. The Predicted Planetary K Index is 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 5, and 6, with a mean of 3.3. Predicted 10.7 centimeter flux is 165, 165, 170, 170, 170, 170, and 175, with a mean of 169.3.



# THE DX CORNER

APRIL 2025

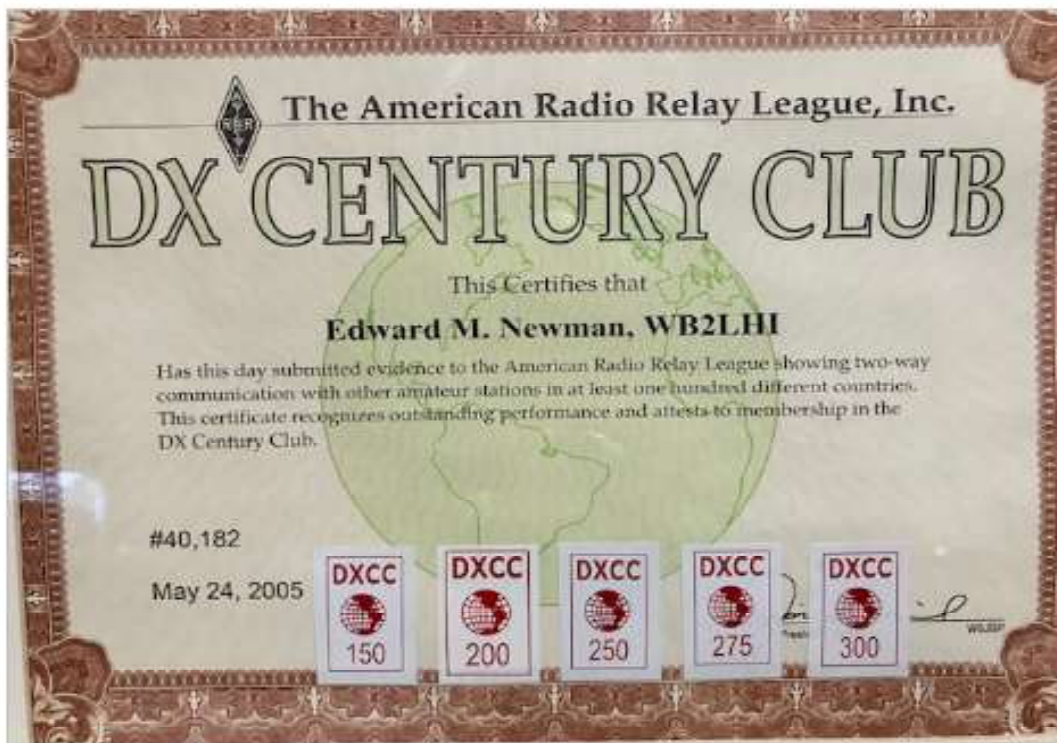
A good start for the year is upon us. There are plenty of Caribbean stations on the air. Namely, the British Virgin Islands , Jamaica, Baffin Island, St. Barts, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and others. The only DXpedition heard was VP2VI, British Virgin Islands. Active 4-10 to 4-27.

I've heard and worked some of the less prominent stations working around, such as TCOG on Gokceada Island (Turkey), and, TK1CX in Aleria Corsica and C6APS in the Bahamas. There is lots of good DX out there if you look for it.

Starting April 21 a very rare DXpedition will start activity. ZS8W, Prince Edward and Marion Island, located south of South Africa, slightly south west of Crozet, will be operating for about three weeks. This is number 11 on the ARRL DX most wanted list.

Anyone who worked the Mt. Athos DXpedition back in January, can now obtain a QSL through Club Log.

Ed W2EMN( AKA WB2LHI) and yours truly finally received the DXCC 300 confirmation from the ARRL.



*See "DX Corner", Page 5*



The following are some of the DX-Peditions or Lone Wolf stations that are currently active or will be activated in the next couple of months, as reported by DX World:

- ZC4RH – UK Sovereign Base Area Cyprus – 4/28 – 5/9
- ZS8W – Prince Edward and Marion Island (Africa) – 4/21 – 5?16.
- TZ4AM – Mali – Mid Feb – May
- E6RS – Niue – 5/27 – 6/2
- 8Q7NI – Maldives – Currently active – length of stay unknown.
- V73HW – Marshall Islands – Currently active – early mornings and weekends.
- Z68TT/Z68ZZ -Kosovo -6/26 – 7/10
- T88GF – Palau – 8/18 – 8/22
- VK0DS- Davis Station Antarctica – Operational until Nov

Report your DX standings and activities to Frank W2FDM at [frankfish4@optimum.net](mailto:frankfish4@optimum.net). **Also, you can scan posted upcoming DX events at DXWorld.net. There are many other activations, that I have not listed, in NA, SA, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceana that may interest new and seasoned DX chasers**

## CLUB DXCC STANDINGS

Reported Club DXCC Standings are as follows: (Per on-line ARRL listing)

<u>Call</u>	<u>ARRL DX Standings</u>	<u>Confirmed but not reported</u>	<u>Total</u>
W2FDM	302V	0	302
W2EMN	300V	10	300
KB2ZPB	281V	0	281
N2WPT	239V	4	243
WB2NFL	207V	29	236

The ARRL List only stations with a DXCC of 100 or more verified entities.

V (Verified), NV (Not Verified)

DXCC application processing is back to typical processing times. They are currently processing applications submitted in December. The DXCC standings published appear to be up to date. Those who have submitted applications should be looking for approval shortly.

### CONTEST PARTICIPATION & PARKS ON THE AIR (POTA)

No Contests reported

No other POTA or contests were reported.

Anyone interested in reporting any contests or POTA activity participated in, provide your results to me, and we will report them here.

**Postal rates will increase, once again, starting July 13. A domestic letter will increase to \$.78 and an international letter to \$1.70. Time to start using LoTW!**

73 and Good DX

Frank W2FDM

frankfish4@optimum.net

### Important Upcoming Dates

**April 30**— General Meeting - Logbook of the World

**May 7**—Board Meeting “Zoom”

**May 28** - May General Membership Meeting

**June 4** - Board Meeting "Zoom"

**June 8** - LIMARC Outdoor Hamfest

**June 25** - June General Meeting

**June 27** - 29 Field Day

# Radio Central Amateur Radio Club April 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

*Bill, AB2UW, RCARC Recording Secretary*

*An asterisk (\*) before each name indicates that the Board member has read the minutes and inserted any changes they may have had.*

*Board Members Present: \*Steve, AB2EW; \*Frank, W2FDM; Bob, WB2NFL; \*Neil, KC2KY; \*Bill, AB2UW;*

*Guests present: none*

*Board Members Absent: Ed, W2EMN; Bob, KC2FYZ; Winston, KD2WLL; Richie, KB2ZPB*

## Marconi Day

Saturday, April 26, 2025. We have the permit

## April General Meeting

Frank will talk about Logbook of the World.

## May General Meeting

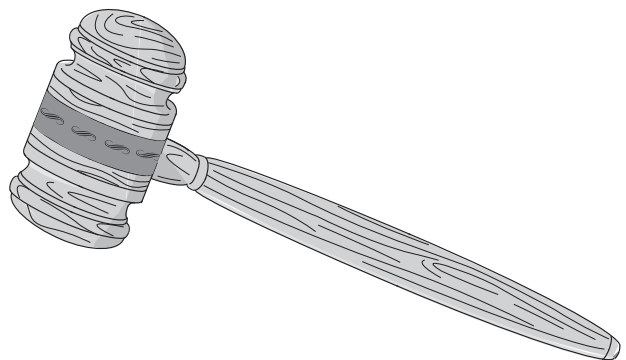
Neil will ask Don, N2LDY to speak about 3-D printing

## June General Meeting

Bob, KC2FYZ was scheduled to do a talk but may have to postpone because of work commitments.

## Field Day

Permit has been obtained. \$300+ to rent a man lift to help put up antennas. Neil will check with the Boiled Owls to see if they want to spend the money. Maybe use May as a FD planning meeting?



## Future Meetings

Neil has previously put together "A History of Amateur Radio" that he could present.

## Repeater

The repeater is now working on both bands.

## Board Meeting Dates

May 7, 2025; June 4, 2025; July 2, 2025

## General Membership Meeting Dates

April 30, 2025; May 28, 2025; Jun 25, 2025

## Newsletter Articles Wanted

*Working on a new kit or homebrew project? Have you recently received a rare or interesting QSL card? Received a new DXCC award or band endorsement? Or just have a cool photo (ham radio related) or some soap box comments to share with other club members? Why not consider submitting an article for the Newsletter. We're always looking for material for the Newsletter and feedback from club members goes a long way towards keeping the Newsletter interesting as well as stamping the club "personality" on our monthly publication. Articles can be submitted electronically or on paper, whatever you feel comfortable doing. As RCARC's Newsletter editor, I particularly look forward to putting a new edition together when I have material submitted by members.*

**April General Meeting Announcement**  
**Logbook of the World**  
**Presented by Frank Mazovec, W2FDM**  
**Wednesday April 30, 6:30 pm**

**Inside this issue**

<b>From the President .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Neil, KC2KY</i>	
<b>Where did All the Old Radios Go? .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>C. Dubbaya Physt</i>	
<b>Radio Central Amateur Radio Club's 2025 Meeting Calendar .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The ARRL Solar Report .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>From the ARRL Letter, March 20, 2025</i>	
<b>The DX Corner .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Frank, W2FDM</i>	
<b>Radio Central Amateur Radio Club April 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Bill, AB2UW, RCARC Recording Secretary</i>	

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