



The Spirit of '76 and '88



MARCH

Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

2011

Editor: Ken Kane, KG8DN

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

Emergency Communications with APRS: What's New and What's Cool! By Matt Welch, W8DEC



Matt Welch, W8DEC, a LEARA member and the current ARES District 10 Emergency Coordinator for this six-county region, will be our presenter at the meeting on Tuesday, March 29th.

“There are many new ways the Automatic Position Reporting System is vital during emergency communications. At this meeting, we will look at all of them, including the newer equipment involved.”

This is the meeting at which you can determine one of your next steps toward full capability in an emergency.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the formal meeting will begin around 7:30.

Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but reservations are required if you do wish to eat. Restaurant service is available only for those who purchase dinner. If you are attending the meeting only, kindly purchase beverages at the bar and bring them to your table.

The dinner menu will consist of Steak, Broiled Boston Scrod, or Chicken Parmagiano for \$16. Also available is a vegetable and pasta dish for those who prefer a meatless dinner.

In addition, this month, Dimitri's is also providing a **Breaded Pork Chops entrée** for those who would like to try something new!

The dinner includes a salad, main course, dessert, coffee or iced tea, and gratuity. (Please note, bar service and soft drinks are not included.)

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY 11:00 A.M. OF THE MEETING DATE.

Please call in your reservation and your menu choice to Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at 440-248-0031.

You can also visit www.leara.org and make your reservation through the club's website. -AR-



Are your 2011



If not, **THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!**
If NOT SURE, call Marv, W8AZO, 440-248-0031.
If so, **GREAT! TNX!**

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The *Spirit of '76 & '88* is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 2nd Sunday of the month (except on months with 5 Sundays and Tuesdays, when the 3rd Sunday will be sufficient.)

Editor: Ken Kane, KG8DN

E-mail: editor@leara.org

Proofreading: TNX to Marv, W8AZO and Jeff, N8YNR

Well, it's the ides of March. Yesterday, we had 9" of snow in the driveway, today, it's 50 degrees and sunny. Gotta love Cleveland weather, and if you don't, just wait 5 minutes and it'll change!

I'm reflecting on this morning's trustees meeting, and one of the topics we discussed was 'what's next' for LEARA. The 76 machine is back together and functional, we're planning on reworking 88 this summer, and there's the usual complement of public service events, dinner meetings, Field Day, Dayton, and all the other things that make up the amateur radio experience. It's seemed to me, though, that we've become content with the status quo. Things are idling along, no excitement, no changes, no PROGRESS. My question to you, then, is what do you want LEARA to be?

To some, we're a repeater club. To others, we're a Field Day club. We have dinner meetings, which is kind of a unique thing. We do lots of public service events. We operate more repeaters than any other club in the area. But is that what YOU want YOUR club to be? I'd be interested in hearing from anyone who has suggestions for activities, or technology we can explore, or new modes to experiment with. Please send your ideas to me via email at wd8jmm@gmail.com.

The trustees are putting together a survey to kind of 'take the pulse' of the membership. There will be several subjects addressed, which should help us better serve you as we continue to try to grow the club. Look for that in your email in the next couple of months.

Due to a personal engagement, I was unable to attend the February dinner meeting, but I'm told it was enjoyed by all. March should prove to be an interesting month as well. Matt, W8DEC, has agreed to come and give us a talk on APRS. It's been a while since I heard what's going on with APRS around town, so it should be neat to hear what Matt's got to say.

(Continued on page 6)

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., **LEARA**, is a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and Public Service. Club information packets and applications for membership are available from **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, 440-248-0031**, or may be downloaded from our web site at www.leara.org. Annual membership is \$25.00. **LEARA's address** is: LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

LEARA is an **ARRL**-affiliated club. When you join or renew the **ARRL**, **LEARA** benefits monetarily if you so through the club. Send **ARRL** Applications/renewals to Club Treasurer Dave Foran WB8APD, 5439 Nan Linn Dr. Willoughby, OH 44094-4365. Make the check payable to **LEARA**, not the **ARRL**.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except December at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center, just west of Broadview Road). Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but **reservations are required** if you do wish to eat. Call **Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031** to leave a message.

Trustees' Meetings are on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9 AM in a first floor room at the Highland Hills Village Hall, 3700 Northfield Road. Meetings are open to all current members of LEARA.

The Prez Says

by Alex Manuk, WD8JMM



New Zealand Amateurs Assist in Earthquake's Aftermath

from www.arri.org and www.cnb.com

2/24/2011

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the Canterbury region in New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday, February 22 at 12:51 PM local time (2351 on February 21 UTC). According to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, 10 radio amateurs are using their two emergency broadcast vans to keep rescue teams and Civil Defense staff in touch. One is at a major welfare center, providing portable communication so they can talk to Civil Defense, and the other vehicle is on its way to assist search-and-rescue teams in an area where communication is poor.

"Richard, ZK4FZ, said Amateur Radio operators from around the country are volunteering to help out," Linton said. "Others are sending updates on the disaster to families of people in Christchurch who are overseas."

As of February 24, the death toll from the earthquake stands at 98, with dozens yet to be rescued from beneath building rubble and hundreds of people still missing. The massive rescue effort now involves 300 rescuers -- boosted by urban experts from Australia -- and has rescued 20 people so far. Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said a pocket of 15 had been found in the TV3 building, the heart of local television production. **-AR-**



[http://www.cnb.com/id/41712032/Scenes from New Zealand Earthquake 2011](http://www.cnb.com/id/41712032/Scenes%20from%20New%20Zealand%20Earthquake%202011)

Did you know?

- Most Radio Amateurs assisting in New Zealand are using 2 meter frequencies, not HF.
- This was the second major earthquake to hit Christchurch in five months. Police have said the death toll may rise to more than 200, with around 50 people still unaccounted for. (2/28/2011)
- There are fourteen active IRLP nodes in New Zealand? See www.irlp.net for Node Info.
- New Zealand sits between the Pacific and Indo-Australian tectonic plates and records on average more than 14,000 earthquakes a year — about 20 would normally top magnitude 5.0.
- Lying just west of the International Date Line, the North Island of New Zealand is first to see the sunrise on each new day. **-AR-**



Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

03/27/2011 | [Newton Falls OH 44444-1639](#)

Sponsor: Warren ARA

Location: Newton Falls Community Center

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/02/2011 | [Ravenna OH 44266-2708](#)

Sponsor: Portage County ARS, Inc

Location: Center of Hope

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/14/2011 | [Cleveland OH 44114-1130](#)

Sponsor: NOTACON VE Team

Location: Hilton Garden Inn

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/16/2011 | [Mansfield OH 44905-2848](#)

Sponsor: InterCity ARC

Location: Former Peoples Hospital Comm Rm

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/17/2011 | [Elyria OH 44035-1343](#)

Sponsor: Lorain County ARA Red Cross

Location: American Red Cross

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/19/2011 | [Sandusky OH 44870-1926](#)

Sponsor: Sandusky Radio Exp League Inc

Location: Sandusky Rad Exp League Clubhouse

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/30/2011 | [Bentleyville OH 44022-3337](#)

Sponsor: WRECS

Location: Bentleyville Town Hall

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Hamfests

from www.arrl.org

03/26/2011

[Columbus Hamfest](#)

Location: Columbus, INDIANA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/carc>

[Learn More](#)

04/03/2011

[Two Rivers ARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Boston, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.trarc.net>

[Learn More](#)

04/09/2011

[57th Annual Hamfest,
Electronics, and Computer Show](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

Web: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2011.html>

[Learn More](#)

04/16/2011

[Milford Swap and Shop](#)

Location: Highland, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>

[Learn More](#)

04/16/2011

[North Central Indiana Hamfest](#)

Location: Peru, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cass County, Miami County,

Grant County, & Kokomo ARCs

Website: <http://www.nci-hamfest.net>

[Learn More](#)

04/23/2011

[Jackson County ARC Swap](#)

Location: Jackson, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://jacksoncountyarc.org/index.html>

[Learn More](#)

LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information *by David Noeth, KD8ACO*

Reminder: The Skywarn Wednesday Evening Practice Net returned on February 16, 2011 on the 146.76 repeater at 8:00 PM local time. Member participation in each and every net is greatly appreciated.

Wanted: Net Control Stations for the SSTV Net are needed, in order to keep this net on the air. Please get in contact with me at kd8aco@leara.org, if you are interested in helping-out with the LEARA SSTV Net.

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets have returned on February 16, 2011 on the 146.76 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater and will continue on Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM local time until the last week in October. Everyone is welcome! The 146.880 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater is used as a backup. Skywarn nets may be activated on one of these repeaters anytime threatening weather is approaching.

Thursday Club Net

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly club net is held every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM local time on the 146.76 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater. This is an open and informal net intended to provide the opportunity to test radio equipment, promote fellowship among local amateur radio operators, and develop radio traffic handling skills. You do not have to be a member of LEARA to participate.

Since the club net is a practice and informal net, LEARA would like to recognize those who take the time to check in and keep the net active and alive. During the past month, the weekly Thursday Night Club Net had a total of seventy-five (75) check-ins from thirty-six (36) different stations. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Bill AC8CO, Clyde AE8C, Arp K8ARP, Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, Steve K8SAS, Terry K8TJM, Fritz K8WLF, John KA8GZA, Bill KA8VIT, Jeff KB8PIH, Leone KB8VBR, Carl KB8VXE, John KC8FOC, Mark KC8FQV, Jeannie KC8MNW, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Barry KD8KSQ, Leon KD8NVX, Mark KD8OLG, Steve KD8OLH, John KD8PJE, Ken KG8DN, Chuck N2MHA, Eric N8AUC, Raye N8NAP, John N8OBJ, Tom N8UAZ, Bill N8UPZ, Bob W2THU, Matt W8DEC, Matt W8EBB, Stu W8STU, Gary WA8TJL, and George WD8GEO.

Net Control Stations: David KD8ACO, Eric N8AUC, Bob W2THU, and Matt W8DEC.

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

3/17/11	Eric	N8AUC
3/24/11	Bob	W2THU
3/31/11	Matt	W8DEC
4/7/11	David	KD8ACO
4/14/11	Bill	AC8CO
4/21/11	Ken	KG8DN
4/28/11	Matt	W8DEC

The feedback received from members regarding the Thursday Club Net promotion has been very encouraging. This promotion encourages participation in both the weekly club net, as well as, the monthly LEARA membership meetings. Specifically, any individual who checks into the Thursday Club Net during a given month will be given one extra door prize ticket at the following month's LEARA club meeting. This extra door prize ticket will be given in addition to any other door prize tickets the individual has already been given. Participation in only one net during the preceding month is required. Participation in the monthly meeting is obviously required.

Friday SSTV Net

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly slow scan TV net has been held on Friday evenings at 7:30 PM local time on the 146.880 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater. Net Control Stations for the SSTV Net are needed, in order to keep this net on the air. Please be aware that the day and/or time for the LEARA SSTV Net may change, as needed. Stay tuned ...

Wanted! Net Control Stations

We now have six Net Control Stations for the Thursday evening LEARA Club Net. There's always room for more stations who would like to give it a try.

Any member of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association can be a net control operator for one or all of the nets held on one of the club's repeaters. Never tried it you say? No problem. Now would be a really good time to start. It's as easy as getting in touch with me and we'll schedule you into the rotation. If you should have any questions or requests for assistance to get started, just contact me at one of our club meetings or by using any of my contact information in the membership directory or send me an email at kd8aco@leara.org. Hope to talk with you "on the air" soon! **-AR-**

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The digital modes are always changing and improving. Come on out on March 29th and see for yourself what you've been missing with APRS lately.

The Prez cont.

Finally, for those of you who are awaiting the return of IRLP, we're ironing out a few 'site access' issues and hope to have the system back up and running very soon. The IRLP team has checked out the PC, given it a clean bill of health, and are ready to re-install it as soon as we have the go-ahead from the right people.

Well, that's all I have for this month. I'm going to go back to watching the Indians (pre-season game) and dream of warmer weather. 73 to all, and I'll see you at the meeting!

de WD8JMM -AR-

**LEARA Meeting February 22nd
Dave Goodman WA8UIT, says,
“Here Are Some Very Expensive RFI Rigs
(But You Really Don’t Need Them!)”**

“Practice, learn from experience, gather the data, be determined and above all DON’T GUESS,” were Dave Goodman’s opening recommendations as he presented Part II of his talk on Radio Frequency Interference hunting for the LEARA meeting this past February 22nd at Dimitri’s.

Dave entertained the gathered membership with more stories from his colorful career as a radio sleuth. “You don’t really need fancy equipment. But if police stop by, be ready to explain (perhaps with some good ID) what you’re doing!”

Many thanks, Dave, for providing LEARA with another great evening about RFI!
-AR-



ABOVE:
Dave shows off his favorite light-weight analyzer.



Photos TNX to Jim, WA8ZHN

LEFT:
Assisted by his spouse, Helen (a LEARA field day operator), Dave demos a pricy detector.

Notes on the Earthquake in Japan
Sources: Jim VK3PC and the JARL

- The magnitude of the Earthquake which struck just off the coast of northern Japan on Friday, March 11, 2011, was upgraded from 8.9 to 9.0 early the following week. On this logarithmic scale, the Japan quake was about 500 times as powerful as the 6.3 magnitude New Zealand quake in February, and was the most powerful earthquake recorded over the last 140 years.
- From the JARL building headquarters, the newly appointed secretary Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, reports that the building shook quite strongly, but no serious damage was caused. "With regard to Amateur Radio activity in the affected areas, we are not aware of any so far," he said. "It seems that the communications infrastructure has survived the quake and is in working order in regard to priority communications". **-AR-**

Notes excerpted from Weaver's Words
Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE

- Radio amateurs are invited to respond to the introduction of bill HR 607 in the US House of Representatives last month. This bill recommends the "give-back" of the 420-440 MHz segment of the 70 cm band to first responders. For details, see <http://www.arri.org/news/arri-members-respond-to-hr-607>
- The Great Lakes Division Convention this year will be held concurrently with the Findlay Hamfest in Findlay, Ohio, on Sunday, September 11, 2011, and will feature Allan Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager.
- Meet Jim Weaver at any of the following events:
May 20-22: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
June 19: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI
Aug 21: Warren Hamfest, Cortland, OH
Sep. 11: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH
Sep. 25: Cleveland Hamfest, Berea, OH
[Weaver's Words, March 7, 2011](#)

Spring 2011 Skywarn Training Calendar
For further information, contact Don, KJ5KB@hotmail.com

Portage County	3/21/11	6:30 PM	Maplewood Career Center	7075 State Route 88 Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Lorain County	3/22/11	6:30 PM	Gates Medical Center	125 East Broad Street Elyria, Ohio 44035
Ashtabula County	4/7/11	6:30 PM	Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC)	2420 Lake Ave Ashtabula, OH
Cuyahoga County	4/11/11	6:30 PM	Independence Civic Center	6363 Selig Dr. Independence OH. 44131
Geauga County	4/18/11	6:30 PM	Bainbridge Township Town Hall	17826 Chillicothe Road Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Lake County	4/19/11	6:30 PM	Lakeland Community College Bldg T-129	7700 Clocktower Drive Kirtland, OH 44094-5198
Cuyahoga County	4/20/11	6:30 PM	Bartter Hall	3909 Rocky River Drive Cleveland, OH 44111

Meeting of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association Board of Trustees Saturday, March 12, 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Trustees Present: KD8ACO, N8XDO, K8EHP, KG8DN, WA8TJL, WB8APD, K8SGX, WD8JMM, K8JTK, N800F, N8YNR.
Trustees absent: W8AZO, W2THU, N8AUC, KC8FOC

1. The meeting was called to order at 0905 by WD8JMM.
2. The minutes of the January meeting were accepted as provided.
3. Treasurer's Report: The club assets are in good condition and all outstanding bills have been paid.
4. Membership report was skipped at this meeting.
5. By-Laws Revision Committee Report from K8EHP: The committee has spent several hours working on the revision of the by-laws, and has made progress.
6. Programs for 2011: As of this meeting, we had no information on the meeting topic for the March 29th LEARA meeting. It was suggested that we consider Matt Welch, W8DEC, for a program on digital ARES communications or APRS. The report by phone from N8AUC is that Matt is already engaged for April to give a program on ARES. We contacted Matt directly by cell phone message to see if he could also do a program in March.
7. Dave KD8ACO told us regarding the slow scan TV net that there is not much activity. Terry K8TJM tells us that he would like to close the net or at least withdraw himself as the net control manager at this point. Three people showed up a couple of weeks ago and no one showed last Friday. It was proposed that we contact Terry about a future program to promote slow scan TV. Also, at the end of the meeting, K8EHP expressed an interest in picking up this net.
8. We received a return message from Matt Welch, W8DEC, saying that would provide a program on APRS at the March 29th meeting, as well as a program at the April meeting on ARES.
9. Bill K8SGX distributed a LEARA roster from May of 1970 for our perusal. The group enjoyed reviewing the full membership list of ten persons who were LEARA members at that time.
10. Status of IRLP: We were unable to confirm whether or not entrance could be gained to the hill at Lakewood Center North for work on the unit. The IRLP equipment is in Jeff's (K8JTK) basement at this point. N800F volunteered to stop over there to see if the list of admissible people is still posted, and if so, who these are.
11. Technical committee: Alex indicated that we should now turn our attention to upgrading the 88 repeater now that 76 is fully functioning. They would like to pull the 88 equipment out of Lakewood Center North and rebuild it, since it is in serious need of attention. Bill K8SGX is willing to work on the repeater if we can pull it out and give it to him for review and repair. In the meantime, Bill can provide a temporary replacement repeater with somewhat limited functionality. There was discussion involving removal of the batteries that are no longer useful, and the possibility of moving the entire repeater unit to a "side room" that is not currently being used at LCN.
12. Regarding 76, Bill K8SGX suggests that we put in a modem that will allow for better remote access. He has found that levels are not set correctly for touch-tone control. Bill hopes to get there once the snow/weather situation improves. We may also want to upgrade the 76 software. The receiver sensitivity in Newbury (for 76) also needs to be checked. Bill plans eventually to deal with these and several other issues.
13. Alex mentioned that the 220 repeater enjoys a lot of use, (224.9 MHz) even if by only four people. 444.7 is "dead quiet" most of the time, and the clock time reported by 444.4 will become "correct" as of the change to daylight time this weekend. Jeff N8YNR still has the 444.4 repeater at his home, and hopes to get its profile improved.
14. We discussed being aware of an eventual reduction in our repeater bandwidth to 2.5 KHz, and the general view was that newer equipment on the market can readily make the change, even though there may be other related issues to consider.

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15. Dimitri's Menu Changes: Jim N8XD0 told us that the restaurant can provide menu changes if he tells the restaurant a week ahead of each meeting time. Other menu choices they provided to Jim were: breaded pork chops, Chicken Marsala, half-ribs, or chopped sirloin. (The current menu includes: steak, chicken parmesan, and scrod, with a vegetarian option.) The group discussed some alternatives, which would allow different choices but limited to a total of three. Jeff N8YNR wondered if we could keep the three choices we have now, but offer a fourth among the new items as an option "to try." Jim N8XD0 said he would check with "Cindy" at the restaurant about this possibility. It was generally acknowledged that Dimitri's currently gives us a "good package deal" compared with what is available elsewhere.
16. We were reminded that the current agreement we have with "VotingPlace" through email could provide a method of polling the LEARA membership on this and other issues. Bill K8SGX suggested that it is "time" for a new club survey, which we could run perhaps in July. (Brian N8OOF wondered if this would have to include a hardcopy; the consensus was that we could provide other web options easily.) Bill was approved by consensus to begin compiling survey questions for a club survey that could probe interest in such issues as Slow Scan TV, IRLP, D-Star, etc. This could be done any time. He welcomed question ideas from others.

New Business:

17. Dave WB8APD has arranged for the cancellation of our six-meter repeater pair through the Ohio Area Repeater Council.
18. Bryan N8OOF reminded us that by the April membership meeting the president needs to appoint an election committee for the upcoming election. Alex commented that there is a need for this kind of planning to encourage members to run for election. Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, John KC8FOC, Eric N8AUC and Jim N8XD0 are the current incumbents who would be up for re-election or replacement. At this board meeting, Gary WA8TJL, Jeff N8YNR, and Bryan N8OOF all volunteered to be on the election committee to invite other candidates. Alex would like whoever chairs the election committee to deal with the VotingPlace details.
19. Jeff K8JTK mentioned that he and Marv have worked to refresh the names of those who are allowed access to the online membership directory because some memberships have changed status. He asked us to let them know if we hear of problems with this.
20. Jeff N8YNR mentioned that if we want a change in the dues for the club we need to announce this by the September club meeting (decision at the September board meeting). The Board at this time does not anticipate a change.
21. Bill K8SGX reiterated some of the factors that have led to the Skywarn Training sessions to be separated from "club meetings," including preferences for Gary Garnett as presenter, and the discomfort felt by non-club-members who attend club meetings for Skywarn.
22. Bill K8SGX and Dave WB8APD were appointed to contact Jim K8QOT and Raye N8NAP and arrange for redeployment of various equipment items, much of which is at Jim's location, to the proper owners.
23. Bill K8SGX mentioned that he has some plaques (appreciation for club outreach to other organizations in the past) and paperwork that all amount to archival material. He asked if we could scan the paperwork and then discard it once it has been stored in electronic form. Jeff N8YNR suggested that we photograph the plaques, perhaps in high resolution for later posting and display, followed by a discard of the plaques themselves. Ken KG8DN offered to coordinate with Bill to work on this scanning and storage.
24. Bill K8SGX recommended that we give up the 444.7 repeater pair, citing that D-Star has stimulated interest in such repeaters. Bryan thought 444.4 should be given up instead. There was discussion of how IRLP options could be expanded using one or both of these repeaters. If 444.7 were used, we would need dual IRLP nodes functioning at the same site. Jeff N8YNR also mentioned that the club could well consider getting into D-Star. As a related issue, Alex wondered how we could get more amateurs to use our repeaters (which are quieter now than in the past). There was also interest in streaming D-Star from WB8APD's repeater onto the club website. Finally, Dave WB8APD volunteered to work with Jeff K8JTK to get this D-Star streamed audio going. No decision about the 444 repeater pairs was taken.
25. The meeting was adjourned near 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted, Ken Kane, KG8DN
Substituting today for Bob Winston, W2THU

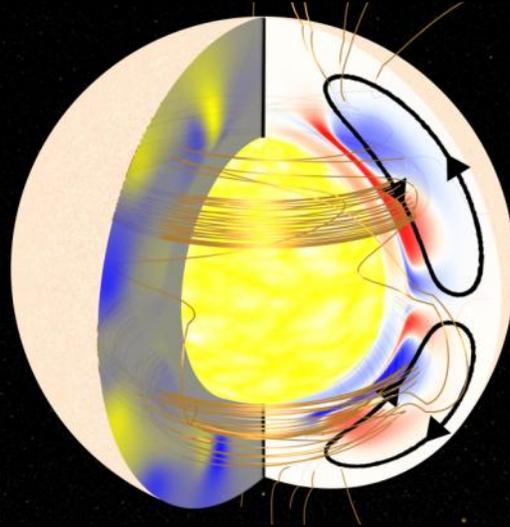
Minimum to the Max: Shifting Solar Plasma Could Account for Sun's Recent Slumber

Excerpt from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=sunspot-cycle>

Numerous ideas have been put forth [to explain the prolonged recent solar minimum](#), and now [a study in the March 3 issue of Nature](#) adds a new explanation. After modeling the circulation of plasma within the sun, the study's authors conclude that variations in the plasma flow speed may be the cause. (*Scientific American* is part of Nature Publishing Group.) But a prominent solar scientist who studies those flows says that the model does not match observational data.

The sun's meridional flow, a looping stream of plasma (hot, ionized gas) flowing from the equator to the poles and then, at greater depths, back to the equator, speeds up and slows down within the course of a single solar cycle as well as between cycles. By simulating the sun's meridional flows with a computer model, the new study's authors identified a specific pattern of flow variations that would cause a deep sunspot lull: a fast flow at the start of the solar cycle, followed by a slower flow toward the end of the cycle.

...
NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, which launched in 2010, should be able to peer deeper into the sun's churning plasma to help settle the issue. "This is a point that is still being debated," solar physicist Dibyendu Nandy concedes. "I would say that this is something that needs to be resolved with more observations."
-AR-



FLOW MOTION: The looping meridional plasma flows in the sun, marked by black arrows, seem to be tied to a recent deep lull in sunspot activity. *Image: William T. Bridgman (NASA/GSFC), Dibyendu Nandy (IISER Kolkata), Andres Munoz-Jaramillo (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics) and Petrus C. H. Martens (Montana State University)*

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