

# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### "The Voice of GNARC"

#### January 2008

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## President's Blog

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### THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

A happy New Year to all and may the year bring a little stability and peace to people around the world. Regarding club matters, it has been a pretty good year and hopefully we will continue in that trend for 2008.

2007 ended with a festive holiday party at the Laurel Athletic Club in Norwalk, and assessing feedback from the attendees, everyone had a good time and we also had a few suggestions to make future holiday parties better ones. Not forgetting our own Marty/KA1WBN, 'Diamond Entertainment' with his karaoke and golden voice.

Betsey/K1EIC our section manager and her twin sister Barbara were also present at the party. Betsey took the opportunity to give away ARRL calendars to lucky winners from the raffle pool, and also gave away a 2008 ARRL Handbook.

Tim/W1GIG the chairman of the nominating committee announced the officer candidates for possible election for 2008. This is also a reminder that nominations are still open from the floor.

Our next general meeting will be held on Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at our regular meeting place on the second floor of the Shop Rite supermarket on Connecticut Ave.

The candidates announced are:  
President...Toy Alladin/K1WYQ  
Vice President...Steve Verbil/NA1SV  
Secretary...Jim Francoeur/KC1FB  
Treasurer... Ed Ashway/K3EIN

A reminder that Field Day is only six months away and we should think about what we want to do this year to make our performance a better one than last year. We should be returning to Veteran's Park this year  
**FACT: CHEWING GUM WAS INVENTED IN NEW YORK IN 1870 BY THOMAS ADAMS.**

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## Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be held on 1-9-08 at 8:00 pm in the Community Room at the Shop Rite supermarket on Connecticut Avenue in Norwalk.

As always, pizza at John's Best on New Canaan Ave in Norwalk beginning at 6:00 pm.

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## Secretary's Minutes

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There was no regular business meeting in December

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## Hamfests

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### 13 Jan 2008

#### **Event & Contact**

NLI Section Convention / Ham Radio University  
ARRL NLI Section and NLI Clubs  
<http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org>  
Talk-In: 146.850 (PL 136.5)  
Contact: Neil Heft, KC2KY  
27 Middy Drive, Centereach, NY 11720  
Phone: 631-231-1700 Ext 32 (D) or 631-737-0019 (N)  
Email: [kc2ky@arrl.net](mailto:kc2ky@arrl.net)

#### **Location:**

Bethpage, NY  
Briarcliffe College  
1055 Stewart Avenue

Ok, its not a hamfest. There is, however, a great deal of good information for free. There are seminars and demonstrations throughout the day. For a schedule of forums go to:

<http://www.hamradiouniversity.org/HRU2008.ForumSched.htm>

The keynote address, "**Spreading Ham Radio Knowledge and Know How**", will be presented by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon is a noted author of amateur radio study guides and frequent contributor to CQ magazine.

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**24 Feb 2008**

**Event & Contact**

Long Island Indoor Hamfair & Electronics Show  
Long Island Mobile ARC  
<http://www.limarc.org>  
Talk-In: 146.850 (PL 136.5)  
Contact: Richie Cetron, K2KNB  
198 Haypath Road  
Old Bethpage, NY 11804  
Phone: 516-694-4937  
Fax: 516-694-4937  
Email: [hamfest@limarc.org](mailto:hamfest@limarc.org)

**Location**

Hicksville, NY  
Levittown Hall  
201 Levittown Parkway  
Div: Hudson  
Sect: New York City-Long Island

Editor's note: Usually more individuals trading than commercial vendors

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**1 Mar 2008**

**Event & Contact**

North Jersey Hamfest  
Splitrock ARA  
<http://www.splitrockara.org/hamfest/>  
Talk-In: 146.985 -600 (PL 131.8)  
Contact: Michael Greenfeld, K8BQ  
c/o Splitrock ARA  
PO Box 610  
Rockaway, NJ 07866  
Phone: 866-457-6687  
Fax: 866-457-6687  
Email: [hamfest@splitrockara.org](mailto:hamfest@splitrockara.org)

**Location**

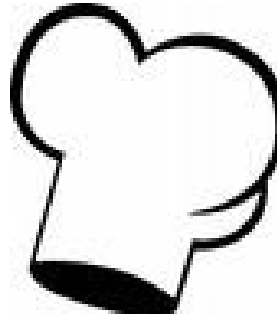
Parsippany, NJ  
Parsippany PALBuilding  
33 Baldwin Road  
Div: Hudson  
Sect: Northern New Jersey

Editor's note: Quick trip down I-287. Nice smaller hamfest. Most of the good stuff is gone early.

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## **The Sunspots are Back!**

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*From the ARRL Letter*

With the appearance of Sunspot 981 -- a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot -- on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later.

Reversed polarity means a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

### **Solar Cycle 24 Predictions**

While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

### **Amateur Radio and Solar Cycle 24**

According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ), continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts."

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar  
January 2008

<b>Contest Name</b>	<b>Time/Date/(Band)</b>
NCCC Sprint	0330Z-0400Z, Jan 11
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 12 to 2400Z, Jan 13
070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 12
NCCC Sprint	0330Z-0400Z, Jan 12
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 12 to 2359Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 12 to 0600Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 13
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 17
NCCC Sprint	0330Z-0400Z, Jan 18
NCCC Sprint	0330Z-0400Z, Jan 19
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 19
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 19 to 1200Z, Jan 20
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 19 to 1159Z, Jan 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 19 to 0600Z, Jan 20
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 19 to 0400Z, Jan 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 21
NCCC Sprint	0330Z-0400Z, Jan 25
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 26 to 2359Z, Jan 27
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 26 to 1800Z, Jan 27
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 26 to 1200Z, Jan 27
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 26 to 1300Z, Jan 27
SPAR Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 26 to 1700Z, Jan 27

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

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