

2022/11/17 Announcements - Operating Events, Propagation, DX and General News

These notes are posted to the SMARC website, <https://w4olb.org/>, after the Thursday Evening Net. Click on "Info" and then "Operating Events" on the drop down menu. The format is PDF and the highlighted links are directly clickable. Only the last four weeks of announcements are retained.

***** Operating Events *****

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website come the following operating events or contests that may be of interest to SMARC members and other Amateur Radio operators. Links to the rules and regulations for each event may be found at <https://contestcalendar.com/>. Select the "8 Day Calendar."

NOTE: All times are EST (UTC - 5), although most are listed at the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website as UTC. Translations to the correct days have been taken into account.

>>Weekly Sprints or Short Events:

NCCC (Northern CA Contest Club)

RTTY Sprint tonight (Thursday) 8:45 PM to 9:15 PM

CW Sprint tonight (Thursday) 9:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Website: (RTTY) <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html/>

Website: (CW) <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html/>

K1USN Slow Speed Tests (SST – CW max 20-wpm):

Friday 3:00 to 4:00 PM and Sunday 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Website: <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

Monday 8:00 PM to 8:59 PM

Website: <https://wwsac.com/rules.html>

Phone Weekly Test - Fray (SSB)

Tuesday 9:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Website: http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

RTTYOPS (RTTY) Weeksprint

Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Website: <http://rttyops.com/>

Operating events for the following 7-days:

>>State QSO parties: None. See <https://contestcalendar.com/> for details.

>>Weekend activities of interest: See links below or for details.

- ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes> [Note: See rules for exchange information as it is not the simple "59 TN" by any stretch of the imagination. This is a good weekend to haunt the WARC bands, 17M and 12M, for phone contacts. -ed]

The weekend after Thanksgiving is the CW session of the CQ WW DX Contest.

General CAUTIONS: Contests are allowed **only** on the "legacy" bands; there are **no** contests on 60M, 30M, 17M and 12M. Watch the band edges corresponding to the privileges of your license class and the phone edges with respect to LSB (160M – 40M) and USB (20M – 10M). Be aware of digital

segment limits. The lower 100-kHz of 6M and 2M is reserved for CW only, i.e., *no* phone.

******* Propagation ***** [K9JU]**

A very good source for articles on propagation may be found at K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab's, website <http://k9la.us/>. A wealth of information on the conditions on the sun may be found at <https://www.solarham.net/>.

>>From the HF Clock, the wm7d.net, the <https://spaceweather.com/> and <https://www.solarham.net/> websites: The Solar Flux Index (SFI) is 119 (139 last week and 134 this morning). The Wolf [Sunspot] Number ² is 85 (81 last week) from six Active Regions (six last week), including three regions with rather large sunspots. Unfortunately, two of the regions (3140 and 3141) are about to set on the northwest rim of the sun. The geomagnetic field is quiet with the Kp=0.67; the solar wind is low speed (370 km/s ⁷) but expected to increase on the 19th and 20th due to a coronal hole (⁵) that is earth directed. There is a chance of aurora borealis and aurora australis at high latitudes as the magnetic field of the wind is pointing in the same direction of the magnetic field of the earth. In her latest video, Tamitha Skov (⁶) mentioned that the high speed solar wind may increase noise on the HF on bands (probably more on 80M and 40). We should have decent DX conditions on the higher HF bands (20M to 10M) continue to be quite good. Stereo A is not showing any bright regions.

¹ Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) – a significant release from the Corona of the Sun of plasma (charged particles and the associated magnetic field) into the solar wind. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronal_mass_ejection

² Wolf [Sunspot] Number: See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolf_number.

³ Radio blackout categories may be found at the SMARC website under “Files” and “Documents.”

⁴ Geomagnetic Storm categories may be found at the SMARC website under “Files” and “Documents.”

⁵ Coronal Holes: See <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/coronal-holes>.

⁶ Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, <https://www.spaceweatherwoman.com/>.

⁷ Typical “quiet” sun solar wind speed is 300-km/s.

******* DX *******

From the 425 DX News (<http://www.425dxn.org/>), DXNews.com (<https://dxnews.com/>) and the ARRL DX Bulletin <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-dx> (ARLD044):

>>Once again, there are numerous DX Special Event Stations on the air operating between various dates. See the 425 DX News and ARRL DX Bulletin for details. For example, HH8NOV, Haiti, celebrates the last major battle for independence of the nation in 1803 (November 18). Operations from 11/18 to 11/27.

>>K8H, American Samoa (southern Pacific Ocean, at 21S/175W)

>>P44W, Aruba (Caribbean Sea, at 13N/70W) 11/21 to 11/29 with emphasis on CQ WW CW Contest.

Outside of the contest, they will operate the 30M, 17M and 12M.

>>Continuing DXpeditions are: T33T, Banaba (Ocean) Island and A35GC, Tonga.

******* General News ***** [K9JU]**

Sources include: the ARRL publications, all are copyright/published by the American Radio Relay League, Newington, CT; the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/>), and other sources as noted.

>>The ARRL podcast, “On The Air,” is new with a discussion of “Operating Amateur Satellites.” [Listen to the podcasts with iTunes for iOS, Stitcher for Android and blubrry for desktop computers.] (ARRL website)

>>New editions of the “ARRL Audio News,” a summary of the top news for the week of ham radio and the ARRL, appear every Friday. All editions of the Audio News are available at the blubrry website <https://blubrry.com/arrlaudionews/>. The latest Audio News may be heard locally on the W4KEV repeater (Knoxville), on 145.370 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30AM and 10:00 PM ET. (ARRL Letter)

>>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an online study course, “Preparing the Nation for Space Weather Events. See <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-66&lang=en>. (ARRL Letter)

>>Notices from the Volunteer Monitor Program were issued to hunting and recreation associations and retail establishments for illegal use of the Amateur Radio 2M equipment in their non-ham operations. An Amateur Extra Class ham in MA was cited for poor FT8 signals with severe distortion and harmonics from overdrive and improper ALC action. (2022 November QST)

73 DE

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