



# Southeastern DX Club W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB  
July 2008

From the President....

First, on behalf of the current SEDXC officers and management team...thanks for you continued support. Being re-elected by acclamation is an honor. We will continue to do our best for the club in the coming year.

I have several things to announce....

- (1) The annual summer/early fall SEDXC cookout will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Ken (K4TEA) and Trish Byers. Once again, they have generously opened their home to us. Ken promises some renovations to the outdoor area that really sound great and perfect for our Bar BQ. There will be no Club meeting in September, only the picnic/cookout.... so mark your calendar....Sept. 13.
- (2) Next, as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration the SEDXC is sponsoring a worldwide contest on September 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. All the magazines and DX news outlets have been notified and we may have thousands of participants worldwide. Check out [www.sedxc.org/50thcontest](http://www.sedxc.org/50thcontest) for details. It will be lots of fun, so make plans now to participate! Mark your calendar...Sept. 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- (3) We are planning a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebratory Banquet in the late Fall. Stay tuned for details...  
I am very gratified to see attendance at our monthly meeting growing each month. I think the word is out that we have a good time together and that the programs are top rate. See you Wednesday night !

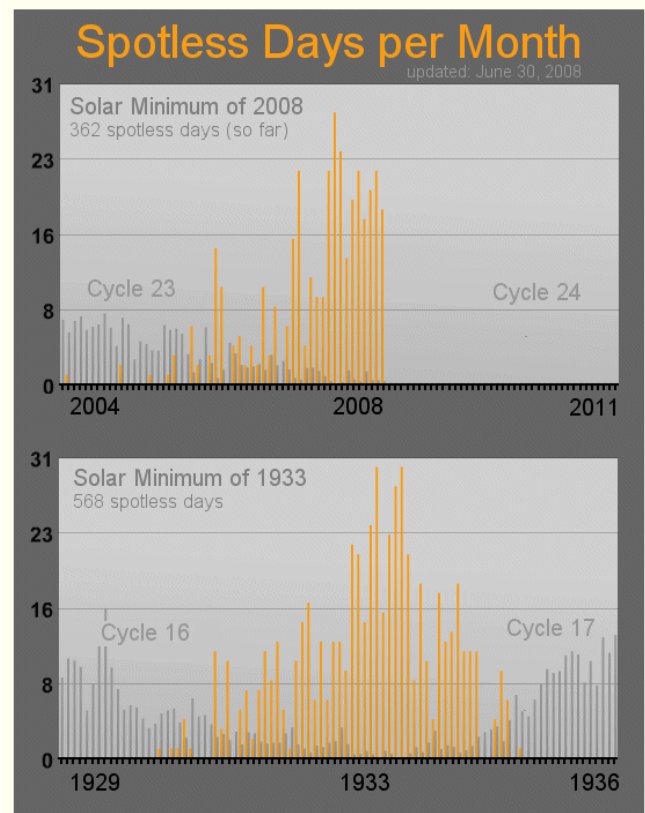
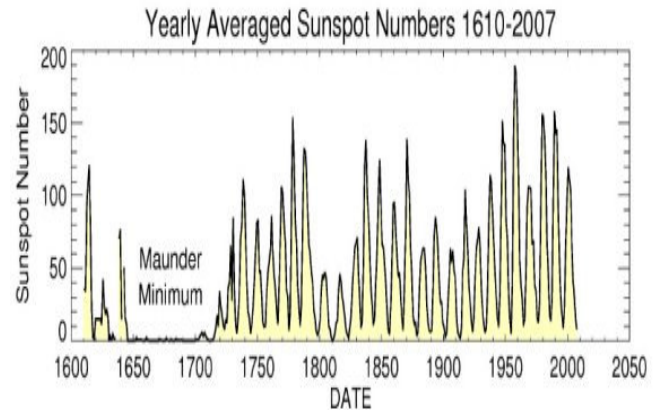
73, Bob-K4UEE

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From the Vice President.....

It's July already? Where are the sunspots? Actually this morning I saw a report from NASA saying that though they are delayed, this is normal behavior for the sun—we'll maybe not totally normal, but not as bad as the solar minimum of 1933. Other sources

say that we may not see the new cycle start in any meaningful way till late this year or as late as mid-2009.



Orange bars represent the number of spotless days per month. The ongoing solar minimum needs to accumulate another 206 spotless days before it matches the duration of the 1933 minimum, which is considered unremarkable by solar historians.

Actually, I am sure this is July, because July always follows Field Day, and Field Day nearly always means lightning. SEDXC members K1ZZI, K4DLI, K4UEE, WB4SQ, W5JR, W2DNO, and W5LE were part of the N4N Field Day effort this year. I probably have forgotten others—pardon please. We started as a 5A effort and finished as a 3A effort after lightning struck the tree adjacent to our Porta Potty. There were no human fatalities, but my faithful FT1000MP was turned into a brick along with the CAT interface to a FT2000, a router, a computer, data switches etc. K4DLI had just jumped into his new hybrid to close the windows and moon roof, and K1ZZI had parked his truck under the tree. The stroke managed to fry Ralph's OnStar and some other electronics in the truck. We did gather our wits and got back on the air pretty quickly, turning in a creditable effort. We believe the data cables connecting our various tents and passing near the struck tree were the culprits that brought the lightning into our equipment. I sure am glad no one was in the PortaPotty at the time of the strike.



Are you about to roll down the road on vacation? Nothing like putting an HF rig in the car to use on the trip. We will hear about neat ways of making a temporary installation from this month's speaker, Jeff Clarke, KU8E, and hear as well about mobile DXing, county hunting and contests.

Next month will feature Hal Kennedy in a presentation about a homebrew K9AY receiving loop installation. This is just the project to jump on in preparation for the upcoming 160m/80m/40m DXing season.

Though a few details remain to be worked out, it seems Wes will be presenting an enhanced DX101 presentation at the Huntsville Hamfest and Dave Johnson, K4SSU, will be presenting DX102, a session about installing a tower and beam antenna. Huntsville is always on the third full weekend in August, this year August 16 and 17th. See <http://www.hamfest.org/> for details.

73  
Bob W2WG

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Treasurer's Report for May 31, 2008:

Financial position as of month-end June:

SEDXC Treasury:	\$5,577.21
Packet Fund:	<u>20.15</u>
Total Balance:	\$5,597.36

Webmaster and QSL co-maven Chaz reports a tidy balance in the PayPal account that has accumulated in connection with the group QSL order. That venture is expected to be a break-even proposition, so we're not transferring the funds into the treasury until we see what's left after paying for the printing (via PayPal).

Speaking of QSL cards, you can still order yours. Check out the website for details.

I will have IRC's at club meetings at a cost of \$2.00. That's a savings of fifteen cents compared to the post office (if you can find them).

73 es DX  
Mike, ND4V

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There were no Activities Report or Secretary Report received this month.

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VS6DO Silent Key

I am sure that many of you have noted the sad news of the untimely passing of Paul Richard Bailey, VS6DO, on the 22nd of June, 2008. This has been reported on Top Band and several other reflectors. I am sure numerous club members have worked Paul on many bands. I have worked him on several but the most remembered contact is the one I got on 160-Meters from Paul. This was in my early days of 160 operation and I am still amazed that I got through. Ham Radio has lost a great operator.

Jim K4DLI  
Editor

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In his report Bob, W2WG, mentioned the report on the sun spots. Here is the article from the NASA site. For some reason I was not able to copy the images from the web site. Bob had most of them in his report. I just couldn't get the one of the spotless sun.

**What's Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)**

July 11, 2008: Stop the presses! The sun is behaving normally.

So says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "There have been some reports lately that Solar Minimum is lasting longer than it should. That's not true. The ongoing

**lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle."**

**This report, that there's nothing to report, is newsworthy because of a growing buzz in lay and academic circles that something is wrong with the sun. Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots declared one recent press release. A careful look at the data, however, suggests otherwise.**

**But first, a status report: "The sun is now near the low point of its 11-year activity cycle," says Hathaway. "We call this 'Solar Minimum.' It is the period of quiet that separates one Solar Max from another."**

**During Solar Max, huge sunspots and intense solar flares are a daily occurrence. Auroras appear in Florida. Radiation storms knock out satellites. Radio blackouts frustrate hams. The last such episode took place in the years around 2000-2001.**

**During Solar Minimum, the opposite occurs. Solar flares are almost non-existent while whole weeks go by without a single, tiny sunspot to break the monotony of the blank sun. This is what we are experiencing now.**

**Although minima are a normal aspect of the solar cycle, some observers are questioning the length of the ongoing minimum, now slogging through its 3rd year.**

**"It does seem like it's taking a long time," allows Hathaway, "but I think we're just forgetting how long a solar minimum can last." In the early 20th century there were periods of quiet lasting almost twice as long as the current spell. (See the end notes for an example.) Most researchers weren't even born then.**

**Hathaway has studied international sunspot counts stretching all the way back to 1749 and he offers these statistics: "The average period of a solar cycle is 131 months with a standard deviation of 14 months. Decaying solar cycle 23 (the one we are experiencing now) has so far lasted 142 months--well within the first standard deviation and thus**

**not at all abnormal. The last available 13-month smoothed sunspot number was 5.70. This is bigger than 12 of the last 23 solar minimum values."**

**In summary, "the current minimum is not abnormally low or long."**

**The longest minimum on record, the Maunder Minimum of 1645-1715, lasted an incredible 70 years. Sunspots were rarely observed and the solar cycle seemed to have broken down completely. The period of quiet coincided with the Little Ice Age, a series of extraordinarily bitter winters in Earth's northern hemisphere. Many researchers are convinced that low solar activity, acting in concert with increased volcanism and possible changes in ocean current patterns, played a role in that 17th century cooling.**

**or reasons no one understands, the sunspot cycle revived itself in the early 18th century and has carried on since with the familiar 11-year period. Because solar physicists do not understand what triggered the Maunder Minimum or exactly how it influenced Earth's climate, they are always on the look-out for signs that it might be happening again.**

**The quiet of 2008 is not the second coming of the Maunder Minimum, believes Hathaway. "We have already observed a few sunspots from the next solar cycle," he says. (See Solar Cycle 24 Begins.) "This suggests the solar cycle is progressing normally."**

**What's next? Hathaway anticipates more spotless days<sup>1</sup>, maybe even hundreds, followed by a return to Solar Max conditions in the years around 2012.**

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**Well--- There had been plans for a biography of one of our members this month but---it didn't come in so MAYBE next month.**

**Everyone going to Huntsville have a good time and a safe trip over and back.**

**See you all Wednesday Night.**

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**The SEDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southeastern DX Club . All opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, officers, or club. We welcome your opinion.**

**DX PACKET FREQ. (Corrections, 1/2/04)**

**N4XMX off line(2400) 144.91 (direct, Vinings),**

**off line(2400) 145.65 (direct or ATLDX)**

**Note: ATLDX is down right now, direct OK.**

**KS4Q (2400) 144.97 MHz; 'c saw3'**

**(2400) 145.63 MHz; 'c saw4'**

**(1200) 145.69 MHz; 'c saw5'**

**Once you get a connect on any of the three**

**above frequencies, enter 'c saw1'. Once**

**you get a connect to saw1, enter 'c ks4q'**

**or simply 'dx'. or telnet dx.ks4q.net**

**NI4X (9600) 144.93, 145.71, 440.75**

**K4UGA (Athens)(2400) 145.67 (SE Megaclst)**

**(telnet 128.192.52.40 599, must put in port 599)**

**DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.**

**Simplex 147.54**

**K4JPD Repeater (tone 85.4 Hz) 147.195+**

**SEDXC WEBPAGE**

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