



The **BANDSPREAD**

May 2020



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

The President Corner

As we all know, the coronavirus is top of the news and that the Club is closed until further notice. Out of an overabundance of caution and our care for your safety, all WVARA events are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

Check in on our nightly health and welfare net on the K9IKQ repeater at 7:00pm and let us know how you're doing. You may be isolated at this time but you are not alone.

We want to continue to draw your attention to The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) preventative measures to help ensure the health and safety of our members.

1. Avoid close contact with people who might be sick.
2. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
5. Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
6. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Thank you for your attention. Stay safe.

73, Steve, K9TA

Indiana QSO Party

The Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is this Saturday, **May 2nd, from 11 am EDT (1500 UTC) until 11pm EDT (0300 UTC).**

The purpose of the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is to encourage contact with Indiana amateur radio stations by other Indiana hams and hams worldwide. Stations outside of Indiana work Indiana stations only. Indiana stations work everybody, including other

With the current travel restrictions, there have been some revisions to the rules for this year – mainly there will be no mobile or portable operations.

This is an excellent time to get on the air. Not only is this weekend the INQP, it is also the 7th Call Area QSO Party (7QP), the New England QSO Party (NEQP), and the Delaware QSP Party (DEQP). So, there will be lots of stations on the air to work, a lot of them wanting to work stations in Indiana.

There is a club competition, so if you get on the air be sure to submit your log and list the WVARA as your club. We might win a nice plaque. For assistance in submitting your log so that it will count for the WVARA, you may contact Ray Andrews, K9DUR, at k9dur@arrl.net. For more information about the INQP visit: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

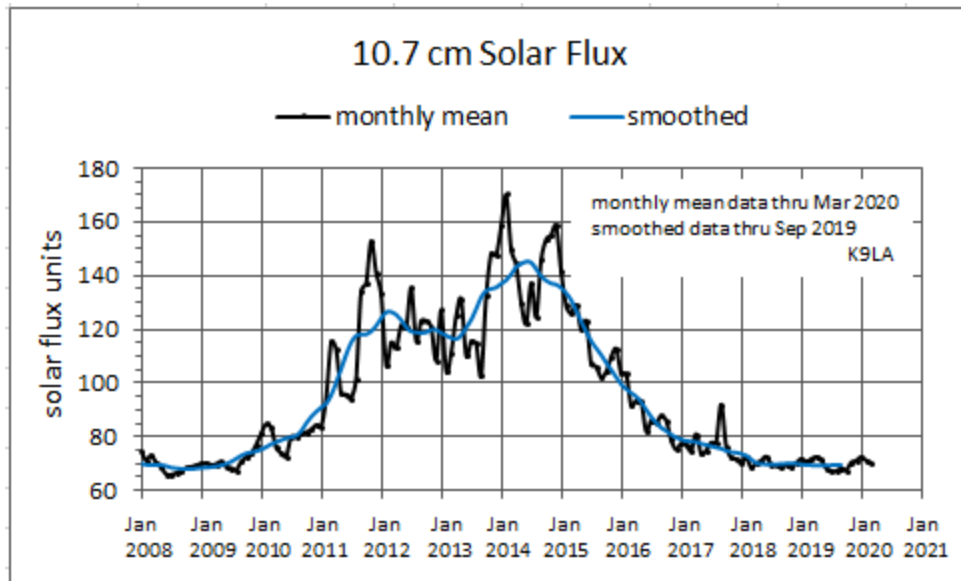
Worked All Indiana Award

The INQP is a great time to work on your Worked All Indiana Award (WAI). It only takes 60 confirmed counties to earn the initial certificate. Your INQP QSOs count as confirmed QSOs toward your WAI. Just indicate the INQP QSOs on your GCR, and we'll use your submitted log to confirm the QSOs. For more information about the WAI visit: <http://www.hdxcc.org/wai/index.html>

How Is Solar Cycle 24 Doing?

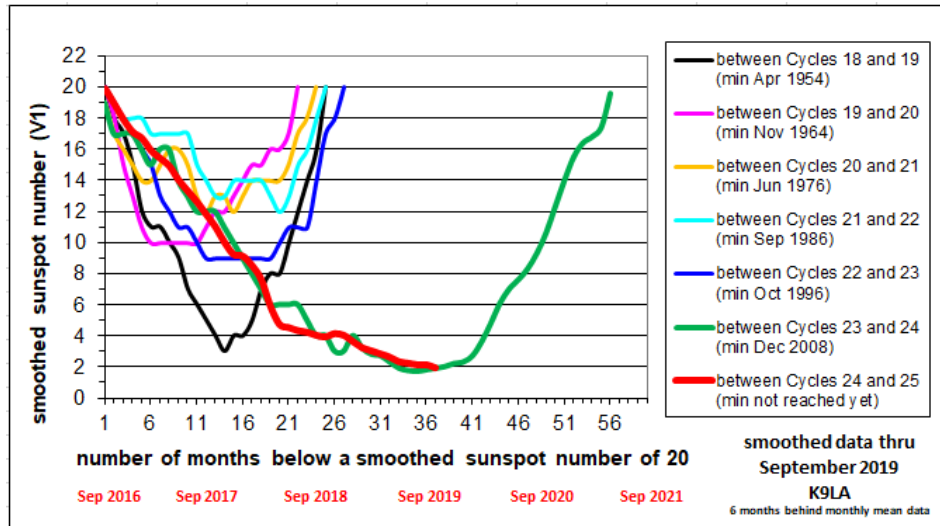
Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA April 2020

Solar Cycle 24 is doing fine – if you don't mind being very near solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25! If you're a low band enthusiast (160m, 80m and 40m), hopefully you've been taking advantage of the propagation on these bands (which are said to be best around solar minimum). Here's 10.7 cm solar flux data through March 2020 from www.swpc.noaa.gov/.



The spiky black curve is the monthly mean 10.7 cm solar flux data, whereas the smoother blue curve is the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux (it's heavily averaged to 'smooth out' the spiky monthly mean data – as a result, the smoothed data is six months behind the monthly mean data).

How long will this solar minimum last? That's an interesting question. Here's data for the past six solar minimum periods.



The solar minimum periods between Cycles 18/19 and through Cycles 22/23 only lasted about two years. We became very accustomed to short solar minimum periods. But then the solar minimum period between Cycles 23/24 (the thick green curve) lasted almost five years. And it looks like the current solar minimum period (the thick red curve) will be at least as long as the last solar minimum – in fact, it looks like we’re still headed downward per the latest data. The next several months will give us a better picture of what’s happening.

The NOAA/NASA Solar Cycle 25 International Panel predicts that we’ll reach solar minimum in April 2020 (+/- 6 months) and Cycle 25 will peak in July 2025 (+/- 8 months) at a maximum smoothed sunspot number of 115 (similar to Cycle 24). Hopefully this prediction will come true, and we’ll be enjoying high band propagation (15m, 12m and 10m) in several years. As a side note, we’ve already seen Cycle 25 sunspots – so Cycle 25 is alive!

But right now we’re still at solar minimum. Here’s what we can expect on the bands:

- 1) The low bands should be open worldwide at night – pay special attention to sunrise and sunset – but we’re seeing more QRN from thunderstorms as Spring develops
- 2) 20m (and 17m to a somewhat lesser extent) should be open worldwide during the day and early evening – watch for Spring-time openings over the North Pole
- 3) We’ll have occasional openings on 15m, 12m and 10m to the south (Caribbean, South America, Central America) and to VK/ZL thanks to the robust equatorial ionosphere
- 4) Expect 6m (and 10m) sporadic E to increase as we move towards Summer

- 5) Watch for possible short-term enhancements in propagation on the higher bands when the K index spikes up – these are not predicted by our propagation prediction programs
- 6) Get on the digital modes (especially FT8) to take advantage of the signal-to-noise ratio improvement – the digital modes will make this solar minimum period the most active in history on the higher bands

In summary, get radio-active! If you have any questions, you can e-mail me at k9la@arrl.net.

THE BANDSPREAD is the official publication of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Organized in 1927 as a nonprofit public service organization it was affiliated with the ARRL on April 5 1934.

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Dues
2020-2021
\$30.00
Please pay now

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and include it with your dues. You may return this application in person or mail to:

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 10081
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47801

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Birth (Mo/Dy/Yr) ____/____/____ Year first licensed _____ Year of last WVARA membership _____

New Member? [] ARRL member? [] ARES member? [] QCWA member? [] RACES member? []

This newsletter will come to you by e-mail in .pdf format unless you specifically request a paper copy below. We encourage you to choose the electronic version because: 1. It costs the Club less to produce and deliver it; and 2. In the electronic version, the pictures are in color and it arrives earlier! Of course, you can still make a paper copy of it on your printer, if you wish.

If you are applying for a family membership please list below the licensed family members [living at home] that you wish to include.

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____
ARRL? []

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____
ARRL? []

Please add \$7 per family member above to the Single rate below. To include ARRL membership, see a current QST for the amount.

Dues options: Single (\$30) Family (Single + \$7 per family member) Add ARRL membership?* Total pmt.
\$ _____

Note: 1. Payments made Sept. - Dec. apply to membership for the following year; 2. ARRL also has a family membership program as well. See QST.

*Club gets a rebate from the ARRL!

NOTICE: All members must submit to a criminal background check as a condition of membership.

Bulletin Board

WVARA VE Testing Postponed until further notice

(Walk-ins Welcome)

Terre Haute, Indiana

2nd Saturday of every month (except March)

9:30 A.M., Indiana time

Vigo County YMCA, 951 Dresser Drive, Terre Haute, IN (South end of Fairbanks Park)

For further info contact:

Ray Andrews, K9DUR: 812-236-6522

Terre Haute Radio Club

VE Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

Terre Haute, Indiana

2nd Thursday of every month

7:00 P.M., Indiana time

Storage Solutions South

5457 South State Road 63

(just south of the prison)

For further info contact Ginger Monastyrski, WB9ZHC at 812-243-9052 or WB9ZHC@yahoo.com