

# LARA Newsletter

## Congratulations to our New Officers

Volume 3 - Issue 5 May 8th, 2018



Editor: Ron Bath



### Breakfast & Club Members Meetings - May, 2018

#### Breakfast

- 5 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
- 12 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

#### Business

- 19 - Saturday @ 8AM Site B.

#### Breakfast

- 26 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

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Our new feature "FREE STUFF" is only one of the great offerings featured on "LARA-bay", our websites on-line "For Sale" & "Wanted" equipment and now "Free Stuff" posting page.

**Key:**  
**Site A.** - Main St. Cafe, 321 E. Main St., Lewisville, TX

**Site B.** - Lewisville Central Fire Station Training Room  
 188 N. Valley Parkway

**Association Contact Information:**  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 292282  
 Lewisville, TX. 75029  
 Email Address:  
 W5LVC.Club@gmail.com

**Check us out:**  
 Facebook: facebook.com/w5lvc/  
 Twitter@W5LVCCLUB



**Special Report**  
 by Dale Chatham Pg. 10

**Attention All Club Members!**  
 Field Day Volunteers Urgently Needed for Set Up and Operation.

June 23 and 24 is ARRL Field Day. It runs from 1300 to 1300.

Field Day is a major event of the year. We really need your help in volunteering to make Field Day the success



How about a free antenna tower? Find one posted under the new "Free Stuff" page on LARA-bay.

At the present, LARA-bay might just be the best kept secret of our website w5lvc.org.

The view this and other equipment treasures go to:  
<https://w5lvc.org/for-sale>

May 2018

Visit L.A.R.A. Website: [w5lvc.org](http://w5lvc.org)



## From The President's Shack

On May 1 the newly elected officers assumed their roles for the 2018-2019 club year. Everyone should have received an email announcing the results of the election so I'll not repeat it here. A heartfelt thanks to Jim, K5VZ, for serving as Vice President since the club was formed and for serving as the interim President for the last several months. A very special thanks to Tim, WZ5TM, for serving as Secretary for the past year. Again, thanks to both of you for your service to the club. I hope that both of you will remain active in the association.

Also, thanks to Lee, K5WXR, and Jay, KE5BCP, for serving as the nominating/elections committee. This activity can be a challenge but they made it look pretty easy. It appears that the entire process went off without a hitch even while learning the new club management system to conduct the election. Thanks again gentlemen.

On Saturday, April 14, Lewisville hosted Colorpalooza in Old Town adjacent to City Hall. Ron, KG5VIS, Jim, WB8YWA, Ron, KG5VIV, and Jim, K5VZ set up and staffed an information booth for amateur radio and LARA. Many thanks to those who stuck out the cold windy weather to talk about our hobby.

You should have received a survey in email asking for input concerning programs, activities and events that you would like to see the club participate in over this next year. I hope you took a few minutes to complete this brief survey so we can have everyone's input. This is **YOUR** club and your input **AND** participation is very important to its success.

Speaking of participation, LARA has two nets on the 145.170 repeater each week. On Wednesday evenings at 1900 hrs. Jim, WB8YWA, hosts the Information and Training Net. Each week Jim has a topic of discussion where all participants have an opportunity to provide input. In addition, this is a great place to ask questions concerning any facet of amateur radio that you might be interested in. The other net is the General and Extra Study Net hosted by Tim, WZ5TM, on Saturday evenings at 1930 hrs. On this net, Tim throws out questions alternating between the General and Extra question pools and accepts answers from participants. Both of these nets are open to anyone who would like to join in. I realize that the times for these nets may not be convenient for everyone but encourage all of our members to join in when they can.

The first officer meeting for this club year will be held Tuesday, May 15 at 1730 hrs. at the Korner Café in Lewisville. It will be a Dutch treat dinner affair for those that are interested in eating. Officer meetings are open to the entire membership and I encourage all members that are interested to attend.

I know that many of you have heard about the G5RV antenna but, I venture to say you don't know about the background of the name. Check out QRZ.com and enter G5RV in the "Query callsign" field. There is a lot of great information about Louis Varney and the club that now carries his call sign, not to mention the G5RV antenna.

Our recent attempt to conduct Technician and General licensing sessions were not very successful. Two of our members have come forth and offered their services as mentors to anyone who would like to obtain their first license or upgrade an existing license. Contact Rich, WA5ED or Jim, WB8YWA if you are looking for a mentor.

(Continued)

## The President's Shack (Continued)

ARRL Field Day is right around the corner. Dale, WA5WNI, and his committee have been hard at work planning the event and getting ready to launch some great press releases. Dale could use some more help so please contact him and offer up your services. Plans are to have several HF stations in operation during the 24 hour period from 1300 June 23 to 1300 June 24 so check your calendar and social director and sign up to operate when Dale releases the sign-up sheet. Even if you are a Technician or not licensed at all this is your opportunity to operate on HF. We'll have a Get On The Air (GOTA) station which is intended for individuals to experience amateur radio for the first time. We'll always have at least one Extra Class operator on site so EVERYONE make sure you sign up to operate. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the event.

Finally, but certainly not least, congratulations to Clark, K5LGX, for placing first in Region 5 during the recent Rookie Roundup on SSB.

I promise not to be so long-winded in upcoming newsletters but had a lot of exciting things I wanted to say.

73

Ron KF5OMH

# April Meeting Minutes



Sorry... meeting minutes were not available at time of publication.

Editor

### LARA Treasurer's Report - April 2018

#### Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$2,934.78

#### Income

Dues \$25.00

Donations \$0.00

ARRL \$49.00

Stickers \$1.00

Shirts \$25.00

Equip. Sales \$300.00

Total Income \$400.00

#### Expenses

Fees \$0.00

ARRL \$47.00

JOTA \$100.00

Miscellaneous \$50.15

Total Expenses \$197.15

Ending Balance \$3,137.63

#### Savings Account

Beginning Balance \$38.02

Deposits \$0.00

Withdrawals \$0.00

Ending Balance \$38.02

#### CLUB ASSETS

For Sale \$670.00

Stock (Not for Sale) \$1,235.00

Loaner Equipment \$1,780.00

\$3,685.00

**LARA NET VALUE** \$6,860.65

# Information and Tips - 11 Year Sun Spot Cycle and what it means to you as a Ham Radio Operator.

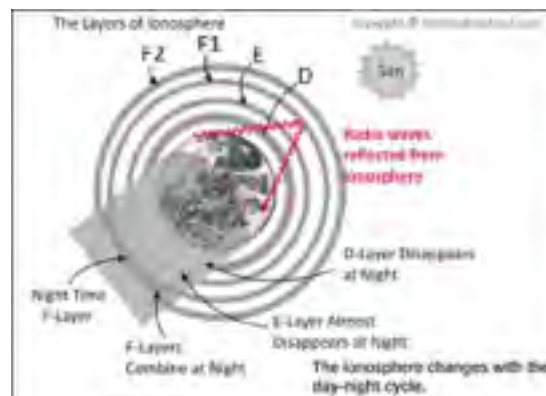
By Jim Horton WB8YWA



What does this cycle mean to us. Not much if your operations is using VHF and UHF since these bands use mostly line of sight. Meaning your transmitting antenna see the receiver's antenna and vice visa.

HF signals also use line of sight but mostly use our ionosphere (E, F1, F2 and D layers) to reflect our transmitter signal to other ham station.

**The Ionosphere:** The earth's ionosphere is responsible for the over-the-horizon radio signal propagation that we enjoy with HF and occasionally with VHF. The ionosphere is comprised of layers of the atmosphere in which electrically charged particles are created that collectively have a bending effect on RF signals, directing them back toward the earth from high in the atmosphere. Referred to as *skip* propagation, multiple skips of RF between the ionosphere and the earth can allow weak signal propagation around the globe. (See [HamRadioSchool.com](http://HamRadioSchool.com).)



The higher you go in the high frequency the more the sun spot cycle effects our signal. When the sunspots are high the more band openings there are in the 20 meter bands and higher. The Lower sunspot number means no or less openings. Each band is different. For example 20 will most likely be open to certain areas during daylight hours, but closes fast right at dusk or first darkness. 18 meters less, as with 15, 12 and 10 meters.

Information and Tips - 11 Year Sun Spot Cycle and what it means to you as a Ham Radio Operator.

By Jim Horton WB8YWA

(Continued)

During high sunspot numbers 20 can be open all night and all the bands above have large periods of being open.

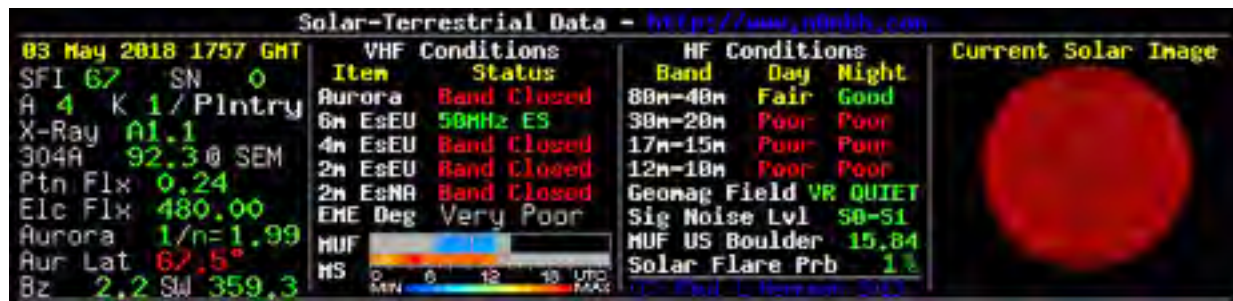
The Ham Bands of 160, 80, 60, 30 & 40 are also affected by the cycle but mostly are considered to be useful during the dark hours of the day and remain open. They work best too during the winter season due to lower sun activity. I like to use this example of the low HF Bands. When listening to the AM radio in your car (or home) during the day you only get local close by stations thus line of sight. At night you hear stations from far away. This is how our 160 through 40 meter bands work. Notice chart above with F-Layer being only layer. This is way they are night time bands.

It is a continuing change that is affective by the 11 year sunspot cycle, the season of the year, daylight and darkness and even weather.

The science of Propagation is a very interesting study. Below is a web sites that generates charts, graphs and predicts propagations for all of our ham bands.

<http://www.hamqsl.com/solar.html>

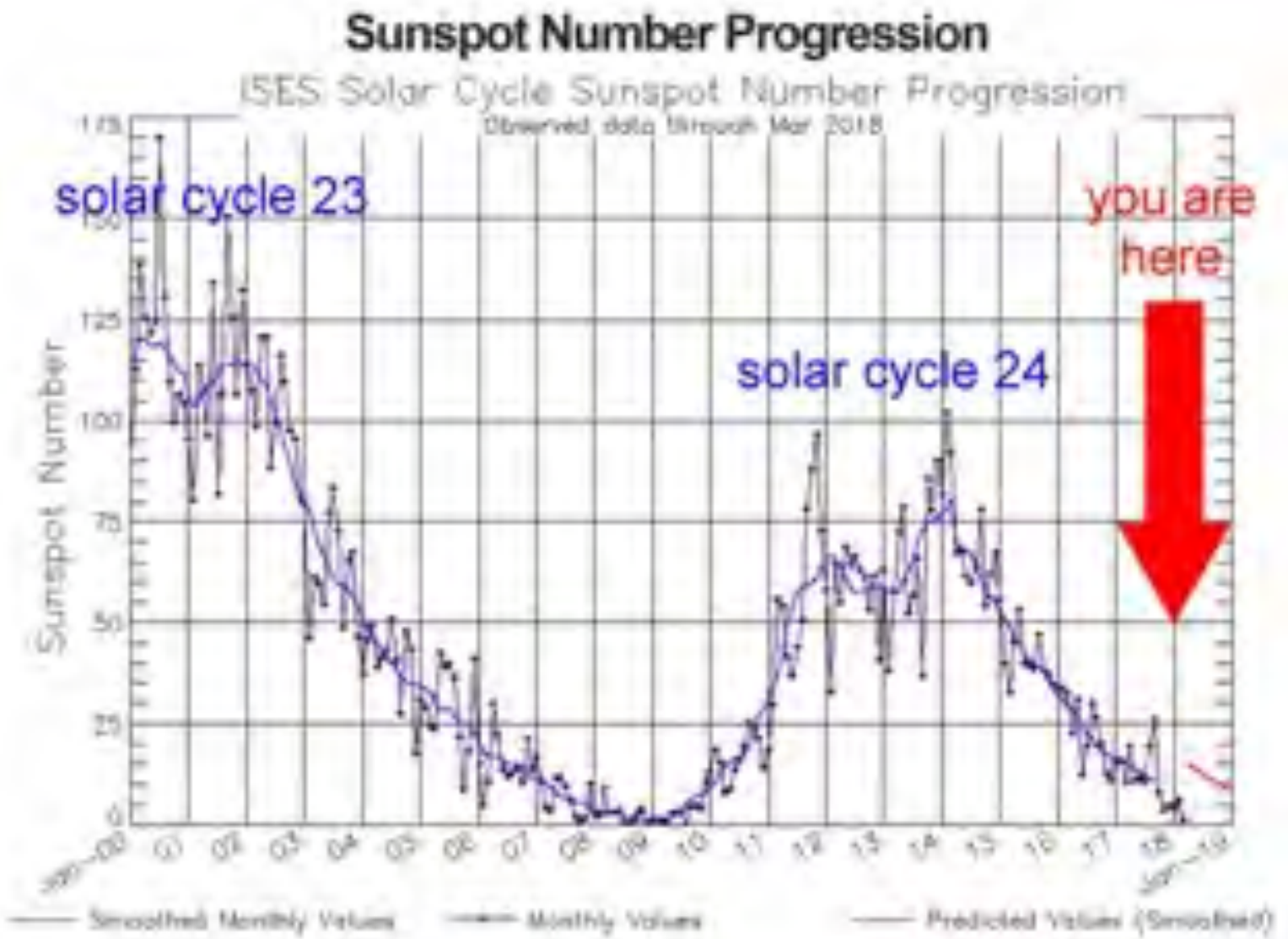
This graph was copied from [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)



Please note that the best way to find out what is going on is to turn on the radio and listen, but having certain knowledge of the above helps by letting you know what band to turn on.

# Sunspot Chart Provided by Steve Kline - W5JK

Note(s): Text May Appear Unclear Due to Enlargement From Internet Source  
Credit: Also Featured in Jim Horton's Article







A Special Thank You from Eric Ford, Ron Ford's Grandson



Published with Permission from Ron Ford  
Photo by Ron Bath

Dear Radio Club,  
Thank you for purchasing tickets to the pancake breakfast, it really helped in sending me to summer camp in Colorado.

Eric Ford

**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
Let the Operations  
Director handle it**

Fellow club members and hams:

It's field day time again.

This year, June 23 and 24 is ARRL Field Day. It runs from 1300 to 1300.

We will have at least three HF stations set up as well as an Arrow handheld antenna for satellite use and a Get On The Air (GOTA) station for "first timers" and long inactive amateurs.

Ideally, we need two people at each station, one ham to operate the radios and one ham or non ham for logging. We can get away with one. Volunteer hours are in one hour blocks.

We will be setting up our equipment at the Lewisville Fire Department Central Fire Station. We could use help setting things up.

Field Day is an annual contest sponsored by the ARRL in order to practice emergency communication skills. It is also a day to attract public attention not only to amateur radio, but to the many great things we do.

So, please contact the Field Day committee with your preferred hours to operate/log. Please let us know how many hours you can participate as well as alternatives.

Participation is not restricted to club members, so feel free to invite friends, neighbors, strangers..

Thank you,

Dale  
WA5WNI

# Special Recognition

**President Ron Ford** - We wish to thank Ron for his important role as liason to the Lewisville Fire Department for his support to our coming Field Day. Through Ron's diligence and persistence, the Fire Station has been secured as our home base for Field day this year.

**Jim Horton, Technical Director** - For his mentoring of our future General Class candidates in preparing them for the next test in their amateur radio adventure.

**Clark Highsmith** - Clark Highsmith won first place in the April 15th Sunday Rookie Roundup for his call area.



## HAM Humor

### What Happens in the shack... Stays in the Shack!

The following humorous stories are submitted with good humor and dedicated to all amateur radio operators. Can you relate?

#### Funny now but not then – What not to do when you are soldering

When I first got into this hobby and so much was new to me. In the fact I was living in an area without anyone to mentor or Elmer me. No Internet or YouTube videos to use, I learn by trial and error. Mostly error it seems.

I would go to ham feast and purchase older used equipment, come back home and see if it worked, most times not as it should. I would work sometimes hours learning and fixing it the best I could.

Now before I get into the not to do of soldering, let me explain that I learned very early on what bad solder joints looks like. I did have the ARRL Ham Radio Handbooks that explain good and bad soldering and also had Heathkit manuals that did an awesome job of teaching you to solder correctly. So I took great pride in my soldering, most equipment I purchased was old Heath Kits and they had lots of poor solder joints. It was at this time I picked up a new habit when I was soldering and needed a third hand. I would hold the solder in my lips, the soldering iron in my right and would have my left hand to hold the wire or device I was soldering. This worked great and I got away with this new found trick.

Then one morning after returning from a ham feast over the weekend where I purchased a Heathkit HO10 Monitor scope I was going to use in my RTTY Teletype line up. Like a lot of my purchases the scope did not work and upon testing voltages I found that the -1300 volts DC was not getting to the display tube as it was suppose to be by the schematic. I un-pluged the scope from the 110 VAC and starting tracing from beginning to end on this missing voltages. Soon found a poor solder joint on the filter capacitor. The wire that left the solder joint was cut a little shorter then I would have liked, being excited, I found the simple problem I got right to fixing it. I needed that third hand to hold it. So with solder in lips, iron in right hand, and wire in left I went to solder it. Few minutes later I came to with very sore lips and a dazed feeling that lasted longer than it should have. You see I later discovered that there was not a bleed off resistor on the capacitor and it was fully charge to the -1300 volts that went up the solder into my lips and only God knows where it left my body. I was wearing wire rim glasses and did not find them for a laong time, they ending up behind the washer and dryer that were in my shop / radio room at the time some 13 feet away. This hurt so bad that for a long time I stopped the habit of holding solder in my lips. Even to this day (40 plus years later) I check and think it over to make sure there is no voltage where I am going to solder.

So remember to check for voltage twice before you solder, and if you do need a third hand, ask a friend to help you out.

73 – Jim WB8YWA

Submissions: Please email us your humorous stories about funny events in your life that were part of the amateur radio “Mad Inventor” experience to: [aro.kg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:aro.kg5vis@gmail.com)

# 2018 L.A.R.A. Officers

President.....Ron Ford - KF5OMH - [rfavcon@verizon.net](mailto:rfavcon@verizon.net)  
Vice President.....Mike Reitz - W5EVT - [w5evt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w5evt@sbcglobal.net)  
Secretary.....Ron Swain - KG5VIV - [Ironswain@gmail.com](mailto:Ironswain@gmail.com)  
Treasurer.....Clark Highsmith - K5LGX - [alacrity@bennoah.net](mailto:alacrity@bennoah.net)  
Operations Director...Dale Chatham - WA5WNA - [dale.chatham@gmail.com](mailto:dale.chatham@gmail.com)  
Technical Director.....Jim Horton - WB8YWA - [wb8ywa@arrl.net](mailto:wb8ywa@arrl.net)

## Appointees

VE Voordinator.....Steve Kline - W5JK - [skline4@verizon.net](mailto:skline4@verizon.net)  
Public Information Officer...Ron Bath - KG5VIS - [ronbathactor@gmail.com](mailto:ronbathactor@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor.....“  
Webmaster.....“



You may address any comments or suggestions to the editor at:  
[aro.kg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:aro.kg5vis@gmail.com)