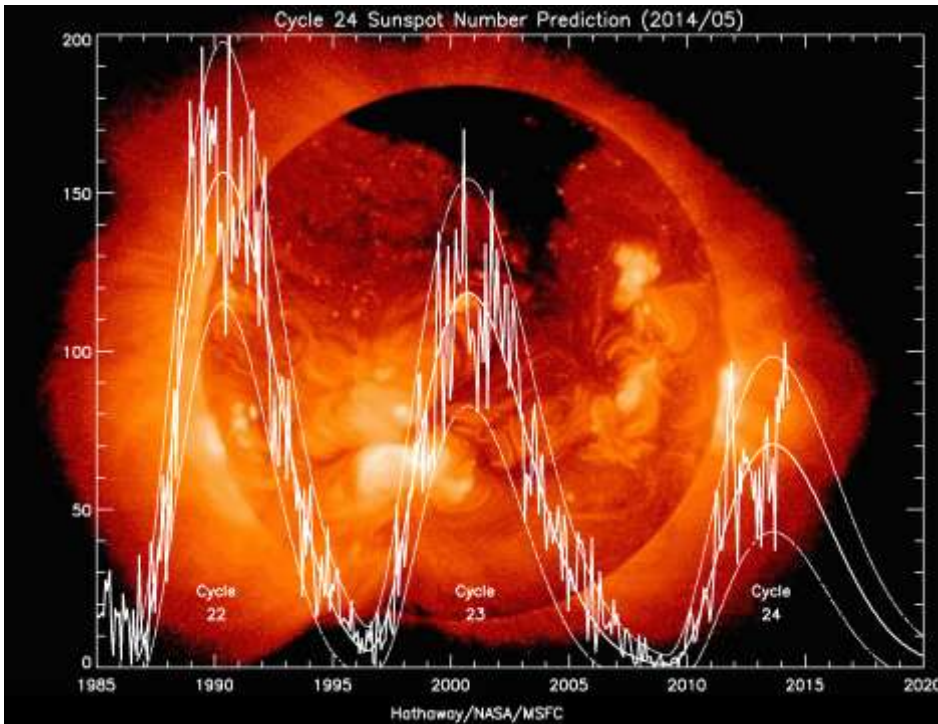


Solar Cycle Prediction

(Updated 2014/05/02)



<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>

The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 70 in the fall of 2013. The smoothed sunspot number reached 75.0 in October 2013) so the official maximum will be at least this high. The smoothed sunspot number has been rising again towards this second peak over the last five months and has now surpassed the level of the first peak (66.9 in February 2012). Many cycles are double peaked but this is the first in which the second peak in sunspot number was larger than the first. We are currently over five years into Cycle 24. The current predicted and observed size makes this the smallest sunspot cycle since Cycle 14 which had a maximum of 64.2 in February of 1906. (Read the full article on the web page listed above.) 73, Rick (Next peak Cycle 25 may be in 2025)

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The GM Nets meet daily Monday through Saturday on 7.277.5 MHz at 18:00Z and Tuesdays on 14.277 +/- QRM at 16:15Z

Would you like to help out
with Net Control Duties?
Contact our Net Manager
George, KB9VF
kb9vf@Comcast.net

Net Preamble & Closing



Net Control Stations:

George, KB9VF
Rick, WØPC
Verle, K8VW
Bill, WB9YUR
Denny, N8XLS
Bill, WD9AIH
Phil, W9MPA
Bob, K8MPV
George, N8NPW
David, ABØHU
Charlie, WD9IQV
Fred, WD8ADG
Chuck, WA8IHI
Wally, WB8M
Walter, DF4IZ
Ed, K8DSS (Alternate)

Net Preamble

This is (your call), today's net control. This net is composed of employees and retirees of the General Motors Corporation .

This net meets daily on this frequency for the purpose of getting better acquainted, expanding our knowledge, and improving our operating techniques. We promote friendship among participants in many locations who have many talents and have or have had a variety of work assignments. The General Motors nets are international in scope on some bands, and visitors are always welcome to check in. Please stay carefully tuned to net control at all times. This is (your call) (working for or retired from) (your) Division in (your city), (state). My home QTH is (where you live). My name is (your name) and we will now take check-ins, one at a time, please.

When running the net, pause after about 4 to 5 station during the roundtable and ask for check-ins to allow folks to get on the list.

Net Closing

Are there any late check-ins for the net? (pause for late check-ins). Is there any further business for the net? (pause for any further business) Having no further business, we will close the net at this time. This net is composed of General Motors employees, retirees, and visitors. We meet each day, Monday through Saturday, on or about this frequency, at (1700z or **1800z**). Thank you for your participation and please return often. This is (your call) now closing the net. 73 and Good Afternoon.

**Turn on the radio and tune us in. We are on 40-meters
Join us on or about 7.277.5 MHz at 18:00Z**

Net Control Schedule

June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 WD9IQV - Charlie	3 WD8ADG - Fred	4 WB8M - Wally	5 WØPC- Rick	6 KB9VF - Geo	7 WD9AIH - Bill
8	9 K8MPV - Bob	10 K8VW - Verle	11 WB9YUR - Bill	12 N8NPW - Geo	13 W9PMA - Phil	14 N8XLS - Denny
15	16 ABØHU - David	17 WD9IQV - Charlie	18 WD8ADG - Fred	19 WB8M - Wally	20 WØPC- Rick	21 KB9VF - Geo
22	23 WD9AIH - Bill	24 K8MPV - Bob	25 K8VW - Verle	26 WB9YUR - Bill	27 N8NPW - Geo	28 W9PMA - Phil
29	30 N8XLS - Denny	Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF4IZ resumes November 4th				



Ft. Myers 2014 Hamfest Gang
K8DSS, WB8M, ND8R

Ham Friend in Thailand (WØPC)

My son who lives in California, recently returned from Thailand. We have a ham friend, Greg who used to live just down the street from my son's house in Van Nuys. Right after my son returned from Bangkok the Military took over the government and threw out their constitution. My best way to communicate with our friend over there is via email since band conditions are unpredictable. Greg is a born American of Chinese heritage and his wife is from Thailand. Greg is a retired college professor. He and his wife sold everything and moved back to his wife's family home out in the country where he continues to teach in the local village. They own a farm and a truck dealership as well as a license bureau. I would hate to think how we would react if the same thing happened here in the USA. Here is Greg's latest email explaining what's going on there.

First and foremost....we are fine.

Geo-distancing (being 12 hours by express overnight bus from Bangkok helps) and having the great local goodwill/reputation in our area is a big plus.....along with being relatively "non-political" in our activities helps reduce our profile a lot.

One point that seems to ring true is the consistent one based on so many of our reasons for moving here and pushing for a bit of self-sufficiency: when crisis comes....be it via natural disaster, economic, energy, etc..... resilience is greatly improved by a) having little or no debt; b) having reliable, water, and energy supplies that renewable / sustainable.

The key things we see that are evident of the coup:

- 1) All TV news available on local TV is the same news from the military; no Thai news TV is available.
- 2) We don't get the mega-thousands of satellite TV offerings, but at one friend's home we flipped through channels and the only foreign news TV available was German, Spanish, Italiana, Russians. They had brief report of the Thai coup and showed people demonstrating against the coup and in violation of no crowds of more than 5 people.....BBC and CNN (or any US channels were conspicuously absent.)
- 3) Thai soaps, variety shows, and such were back on the air after about the second day of the Coup or so.
- 4) Soldiers are conspicuously present at various police check points. In our province, there are regular places where the police set up check points for vehicle registration, license, helmet checks during the day and night. They are not always checking, but now it seems ALL check points are staffed with both police and soldiers in various ratio mixes. At this time, the police are all under the orders of the military. In the provincial capital, the main road entering from the north just south of the airport has a key intersection police box. This was swarming with soldiers and there was an armored car (wheeled...not tracked) with HMG parked off to the side. At a much smaller police box on the south side of town, soldiers had set up a sandbagged bunker on the side of the road. We guess that might be the location of a new night check point.

It is obviously a difficult time for Thailand, but so far we are going about our daily life pretty much as normal. So far things have been pretty much labels, name calling, etc....and we hope things will remain at the shouting slogans and insults stage an not escalate to violence.

Best wishes and thanks for all of your thoughts and concerns. Greg, HSØZHM

Net Control Schedule

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:		1 ABØHU - David	2 WD9IQV - Charlie	3 WD8ADG - Fred	4 WB8M - Wally	5 WØPC- Rick
6	7 KB9VF - Geo	8 WD9AIH - Bill	9 K8MPV - Bob	10 K8VW - Verle	11 WB9YUR - Bill	12 N8NPW - Geo
13	14 W9PMA - Phil	15 N8XLS - Denny	16 ABØHU - David	17 WD9IQV - Charlie	18 WB8M - Wally	19 WD8ADG - Fred
20	21 WØPC- Rick	22 KB9VF - Geo	23 WD9AIH - Bill	24 K8MPV - Bob	25 K8VW - Verle	26 WB9YUR - Bill
27	28 N8NPW - Geo	29 W9PMA - Phil	30 N8XLS - Denny	31 ABØHU - David	Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF4IZ resumes November 4th	

New Antenna: I set this 1 meter diameter, mag loop antenna on a tripod about five feet above the driveway. I made a few nice Q's on 17 and 15M this afternoon, using the KX3 on my bench in the garage, running 5 watts. One QSO with W8SJ in MI went on for about 20 mins. He is a retired Detroit cop, worried about his pension since the city went bankrupt. Dick gave me a true 589 report, so I was pleased. This just proves once again that HF operation can take place anywhere, even using QRP!

Ed, K8DSS



DIY Mosquito Trap

That Season is Coming

Modern technology has brought us many benefits, including mosquito traps that cost hundreds of dollars, but sometimes we overlook simple solutions to difficult challenges such as mosquito control. When it comes to controlling pests, research tends to focus on chemicals or concepts that can be patented. Unless someone can make a profit from an idea, the public may never become aware of it.

HOMEMADE MOSQUITO TRAP.

Items needed:

200 ml water
50 grams of brown sugar
1 gram of yeast
2-liter plastic bottle

Or US conversion:

1 cup of water
1/4 cup of brown sugar



HOW:

1. Cut the plastic bottle in half.
2. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool. When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle.
3. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes.
4. Place the funnel part, upside down, into the other half of the bottle, taping them together if desired.
5. Wrap the bottle with something black, leaving the top uncovered, and place it outside in an area away from your normal gathering area. (Mosquitoes are also drawn to the color black.)

Change the solution every 2 weeks for continuous control.

Net Control Schedule

June 2014

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF4IZ resumes November 4th					1 WD9IQV - Charlie	2 WD8ADG - Fred
3	4 WB8M - Wally	5 WØPC- Rick	6 KB9VF - Geo	7 WD9AIH - Bill	8 K8MPV - Bob	9 K8VW - Verle
10	11 WB9YUR - Bill	12 N8NPW - Geo	13 W9PMA - Phil	14 N8XLS - Denny	15 ABØHU - David	16 WD9IQV - Charlie
17	18 WB8M - Wally	19 WD8ADG - Fred	20 WØPC- Rick	21 KB9VF - Geo	22 WD9AIH - Bill	23 K8MPV - Bob
24	25 K8VW - Verle	26 WB9YUR - Bill	27 N8NPW - Geo	28 W9PMA - Phil	29 N8XLS - Denny	30 ABØHU - David

Park Place: I went out to Twin Lakes Park this AM (April 5th) and worked some 15 and 10M CW, sitting in my camp chair. The SP contest was on and I worked a bunch of them. The new portable antenna is a 16 ft Stainless, collapsible whip from MFJ with two above ground, tuned radials. So it can be a fully resonant quarter wave on all the upper bands. Really efficient! **73, K8DSS**



National Corvette Museum

Bowling Green, KY

Headlines: Sinkhole Collapses at National Corvette Museum

<http://corvettemuseum.blogspot.com/2014/02/sinkhole-collapses-at-national-corvette.html>

At 5:44 am February 12th, the museum's security company was alerted by the motion detector alarms going off in the Skydome exhibit area of the Museum. They dispatched officers to the scene and found a sinkhole approximately 40 feet across and 25-30 feet deep had opened up in the middle swallowing up 8 Corvettes.

Well Buddy, That's News! The news hit the internet and the web cams were streaming live video of the disaster scene. What a mess, whole cars swallowed up. Thanks goodness they had insurance. Within hours there were Engineers, Insurance Adjusters, Construction Contractors, City Officials, and Scientists who study sinkholes onsite (I never knew that was such a thing).

Well, that's old news. We had a great time chatting on the 40-meter net about the progress in recovering the buried Corvettes. The Museum along with General Motor's help vowed to restore all the cars. Some of them were so mangled, I think the restoration will be cutting out serial numbers and welding them into a restorable cadavers. If you have some time, go to the web site and watch the videos of the extraction, it's unbelievable. All 8 Corvettes were



retrieved, a sad sight to see. Lots of tears were shed by the people who originally restored them and donated them to the Museum. They knew every nut and bolt and could see all the parts they replaced as the cars were being lifted out of that hole. Several of the donors had 2nd thoughts about letting their car go, but in the end knew they could always come back and see them on display. I know the feeling. I went through it when I sold my old '92 Corvette Convertible a few months ago. It was like putting your favorite old dog to sleep. You knew you had to do it. I know my old Corvette went to a good home but I still miss it. Helen says I can always buy another one if I miss it that much but I'll need a new house with a bigger garage to put it in first. Guess I'll just settle for the fond memories.

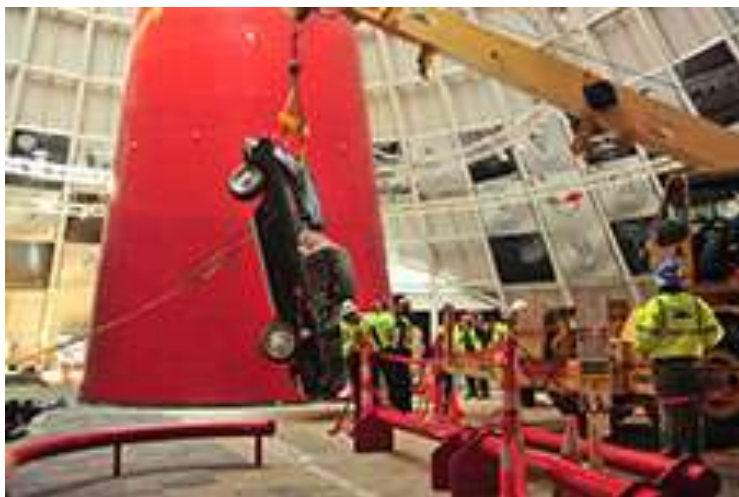
“Karst” What in the heck is a Karst? Well, that's what the scientists who were at the Museum specialize in... Sinkholes to us neophytes. On the web site there are tons of videos that stream one after another. There is a clip that talks about how common sinkholes are especially in Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida. As a matter of fact, the Scientists were in the City of Bowling Green meeting with city officials about sinkholes in their area when they got called to the museum. If you have time, watch the video. You may have potential sinkholes around you. Some of those rolling hills and valleys are clear signs of what's below. It seems a bit scary. Right here in St. Louis, a city park lost their lake in a matter of a few hours when the bottom blew out. The crazy part is the city built a big plug for the hole and refilled the lake.

I'm looking forward to going back to the National Corvette Museum sometime soon. With the 20th Anniversary celebration, Grand Opening of the NCM Motorsports Park, and the National Corvette Caravan coming August 27-30, the museum staff is planning on having the Skydome repaired and open for the event. (http://corvettemuseum.blogspot.com/2014_02_01_archive.html)

Net Control Schedule

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:	1 WD9IQV - Charlie	2 WD8ADG - Fred	3 WB8M - Wally	4 WØPC- Rick	5 KB9VF - Geo	6 WD9AIH - Bill
7	8 K8MPV - Bob	9 K8VW - Verle	10 WB9YUR - Bill	11 N8NPW - Geo	12 W9PMA - Phil	13 N8XLS - Denny
14	15 ABØHU - David	16 WD9IQV - Charlie	17 WD8ADG - Fred	18 WB8M - Wally	19 WØPC- Rick	20 KB9VF - Geo
21	22 WD9AIH - Bill	23 K8MPV - Bob	24 K8VW - Verle	25 WB9YUR - Bill	26 N8NPW - Geo	27 W9PMA - Phil
28	29 N8XLS - Denny	30 ABØHU - David	Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF4IZ resumes November 4th			



This was the 3rd Corvette lifted out of the sinkhole. It's Black 1962. What a mess to restore. If the fall wasn't enough, the extraction probably bent a few parts

Here is the 7th one removed. The farther down the worse they got. 2009 Corvette, 1.5 Millionth one built.





Amateur Radio Club

www.gmarc.org

GM Amateur Radio Club Membership Application

Membership in the GM Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio

New Member [] Renewal [] Heritage []

Present Call Sign _____ ARRL member yes/ no _____

Name _____

I would like to be called _____ (This will be used for the First Name on your ID Badge)

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Home Phone # _____

Cell phone # _____ Work Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

If you are/were a GM employee - Work location _____

Yearly dues are: January 1 -- December 31

[] \$20.00 Individual [] \$30.00 Family [] Heritage \$10 (first year free)

Please make checks payable to: **GM Amateur Radio Club or GMARC**

Note: Please enclose a passport photo (for your membership id)

Mail to: **GMARC**
Bobby Corr - N8CY
45601 Fox Ln w apt 106
Shelby Township, MI 48317-5054

Note from the Editor: Many of our old Firebird ARC have also joined the GMARC as "Heritage" members. Nets are on WW8GM/R (443.075 MHz) linked to Echolink via WW8GM-R Monday's @ 8 PM EST or 0:00 Z