



## PROPAGATION NOTES

Due to other material, the next installment of K2JF's propagation series will not appear this month. However, since the bands have been very active, complete with flares, super conditions, and wipe-outs, the latest ARRL Propagation Bulletin (Number 15 - April 11, 1988) is reproduced below.

"Through the first ten days of April the solar flux was running six to 22 points higher than on the same days of the previous solar rotation about four weeks ago. The effects of fast rising solar activity are not all beneficial, however. New outbreaks are likely to be followed a day or so later by geomagnetic disturbances and high absorption of signal energy on our DX frequencies, especially on high latitude communication circuits. The good side of the story is that transequatorial propagation is often enhanced during or immediately after such disturbances. Ten meter beacons in Australia, New Zealand, and the Antarctic have been exceptionally strong in Florida recently, while those in Europe have been heard only when the WWV K index is two or lower for extended periods.

Auroral propagation on the VHF bands is showing up again after being rare in the years of lowest solar activity. This mode is at its best in the higher latitudes and with antennas aimed at the auroral region rather than along the direct route. Severe distortion is common in the VHF auroral work, making CW far more effective than voice, especially on the higher VHF and UHF bands. There may be auroral conditions this week, April 12 to 14. Strong auroral effects of April 4 to 7 may recur around May 1 to 4. April 23 to 28 should also be watched.

Poor high latitude propagation on 28 MHz and lower frequencies may be due to geomagnetic disturbances. The Loss of the European path this

past week provided outstanding examples, notably April 3 to 4, and 6 to 7. The best high latitude propagation this month is likely to come April 16 to 21."

## PACKET CLUSTER NEWS

On page three, you will see a new service of your CDXA newsletter. I call it "HIGH DENSITY DX NEWS". It is a list of 430 DX stations called out on the Packet network during the last half of March and early April. See what you're missing !!!!! The following excerpt is from the **LONGPATH**, the bulletin of the North Alabama DX CLUB:

"The packetCluster network continues to grow -- every month turns up its share of surprises in terms of the new people who sign in. The big news this month is that we have added not only several new local users, but that the Carolina DX Association in Charlotte now has its own node up and running, and has put up a digipeater in order to join our network! This now adds a fourth city to the network -- linking Charlotte, Atlanta, Huntsville and Nashville DXers into one large, cohesive DX alert network. It also adds a whole new dimension to the network in terms of the information we get, as the Charlotte users, being a good bit further east, quite often hear things before we do, especially on the low bands. By feeding this info into the network, we get a good preview of what we will be able to hear within the following few minutes.

Up to this point, the Charlotte group has sometimes had as many as 7 or 8 users, and, on a good night, we sometimes have upwards of 30 DXers in all 4 cities logged into the net at a given time.....!"

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It's great to hear the group in Alabama welcomes our joining the group - and believe me, we also are benefiting from the good DX they are calling out - Thanks, fellows!

### PRESIDENTS NOTE

Since many CDXA members are also ARRL members, the following meeting notice is being included in this issue of the PILEUP:

LEAGUE PLANNING MEETING IN CHARLOTTE  
MAY 14-15.

The annual Roanoke Division League Planning Meeting will be held at THE REGISTRY HOTEL, 321 Woodlawn Road, in Charlotte on Saturday and Sunday, May 14/15, sponsored by the Mecklenburg ARC and spearheaded by Bob Darke, W4MHF, and Gary Dixon, K4MQG.

The theme is "ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION & SERVICES". Rosalie White, WA1STO, of ARRL Headquarters will be the guest.

There will be a registration fee of \$7.00 per person, which will include dinner (a barbecue cookout around the hotel pool). The registration fee should be sent to Bob Darke before April 29.

### ODDS AND ENDS

GREAT CIRCLE MAP SOURCE: (Thanks to the Frankford Radio Club Newsletter for this): ...Computer generated Azimuthal Equidistant (Great Circle) Maps are available from Bill Johnson, N5KR, 1808 Pomona Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001. The cost is \$12.95 each. You should specify your callsign and your location by latitude and longitude. The maps are drawn on 11 by 14 inch paper using a high quality pen and ink plotter. A real handy addition to any DXer or Contestor's shack!

### I TOLD YOU SO

If you didn't get this newsletter, it means that you did not send in your 1988 dues. If you hear someone complain that they missed the newsletter, let them know that we are now mailing only to paid-up 1988 members.

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks!

73 K2SD

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