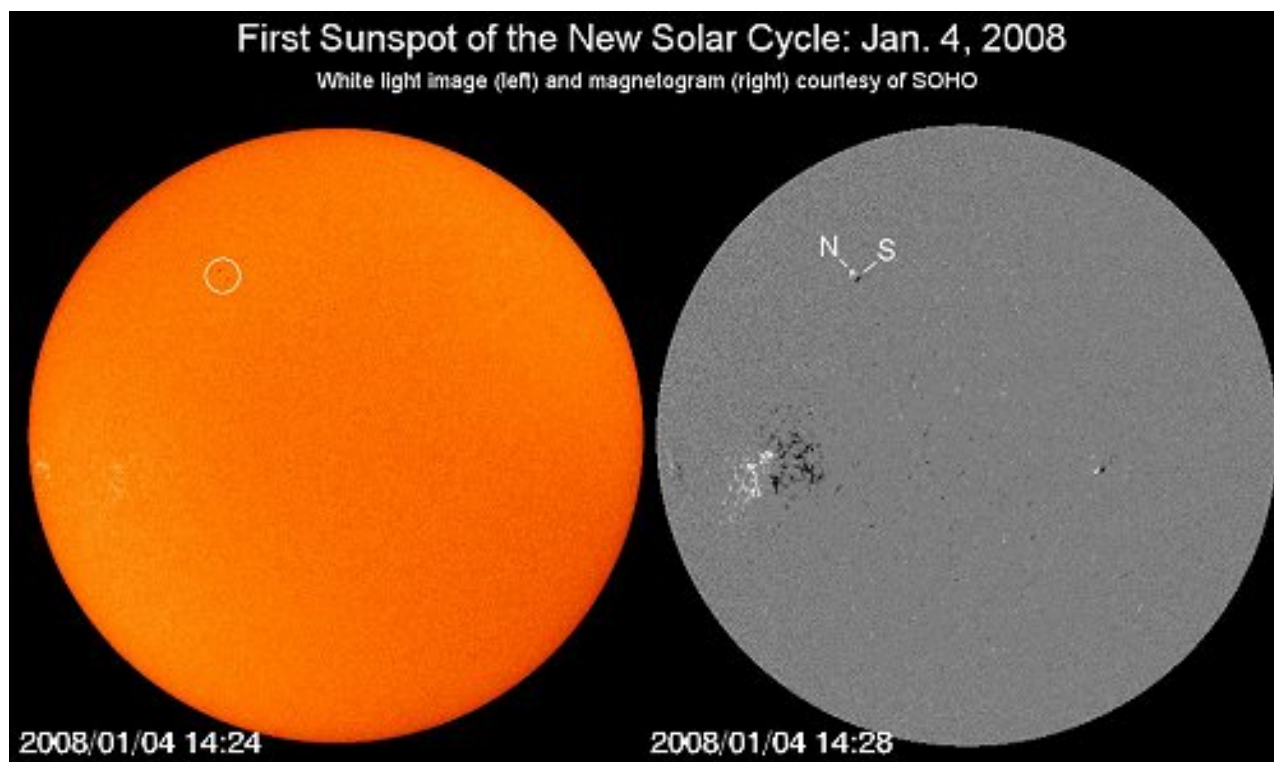


# THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

February 2008 – Editor & Rumor Monger: Fred Roberts, w6tkv@aceweb.com



*Images of the first sunspot of Solar Cycle 24 taken by the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory.*

## SOLAR CYCLE 24 HAS BEGUN

"On January 4, 2008, a reversed-polarity sunspot appeared—and this signals the start of Solar Cycle 24," says David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Solar activity waxes and wanes in 11-year cycles. Lately, we've been experiencing the low ebb, "very few flares, sunspots, or activity of any kind," says Hathaway. "Solar minimum is upon us."

The previous solar cycle, Solar Cycle 23, peaked in 2000-2002 with many furious solar storms. That cycle decayed as usual to the present quiet leaving solar physicists little to do other than wonder, when would the next cycle begin? The answer is now.

"New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot," explains Hathaway. "Reversed polarity" means a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. "High-latitude" refers to the sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old cycle spots congregate near the sun's equator. New cycle

spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude.

The sunspot that appeared on January 4th fits both these criteria. It was high latitude (30 degrees N) and magnetically reversed. NOAA nicknamed it "sunspot 981".

Sunspot 981 was small – only about as wide as Earth, which counts as small on the grand scale of the sun – and it has already faded away. But its three day appearance on January 4th-6th was enough to convince most solar physicists that Solar Cycle 24 is underway.

Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado, likens sunspot 981 "to the first robin of spring. There's still snow on the ground, but the seasons are changing."

Much of this is still years away. "Intense solar activity won't begin immediately," notes Hathaway. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max, expected in 2011 or 2012."

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

While Solar Cycle 24 has begun, Solar Cycle 23 has not ended. Both cycles will coexist for a period of time, perhaps a year or more, as one dies down and the other comes to life.

## THE NEXT T-HUNT

Our first T-Hunt IN 2008 will take place on Saturday, February 2nd at 10:00AM at St. John's Church. Mr. Fox will be our last winner, Norm-KN6CV.

We have 4 regulars - KN6CV, AE6GQ, W6TKV and KO6XB. If any new club members want to ride along with one of the hunters, you are most welcome to join in the fun. Lunch follows the hunt at Norco's Best on Hamner Avenue near 5th Street in Norco. And, best of all you will get a ride back to your own car about 1:00PM. How can you beat that?

## MEETING PROGRAMS

Having a program every month means we need two things. 1- Someone to suggest an interesting and informative program, or request a program of interest to themselves. 2- Finding a person to present that program. An e-mail with your thoughts will be appreciated.

Members interested in presenting a program pass it along to committee member Fred-W6TKV – and don't be shy.

## THE CNARC STORY

Our repeater – 147.060/- MHz, PL-162.2 Hz  
WebSite – <http://www.qsl.net/w6pwt/>

Our next regular meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 4th at the Norco Firehouse.

## DUES – LAST CALL

Just a reminder, your 2008 dues must be paid no later than February 29th or you will no longer be a CNARC member. Although February has just 28 days, we made special effort and added a 29th day this year.

## REMEMBER

It's not whether you win or lose that counts, but how you place the blame.

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Ninety-nine percent of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.

## EOC ORIENTATION

Jim Avina, ECO Coordinator advised there will be an orientation drill held on Monday, February 11th, 9:00-10:00AM. The purpose is to familiarize everyone who is involved in the EOC – and that includes CNARC members.

This is a first step in getting prepared for any disaster affecting Norco, as well as the upcoming earthquake drill in November. The plan is to take small steps and build slowly to a fully functional, practiced and effective EOC – and a solid disaster plan.

This orientation drill will take about an hour, include a Power Point presentation, and a tour of the EOC, Management Room, message center, and radio room.

We would appreciate each CNARC member advising the committee (KN6CV, KI6DCG and W6TKV) via e-mail with a Yes or No (and if No, why – eg. "work", "health", "travel". Reporting is something club members will need to do in response to an emergency call-up, so let's just start practicing now.

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Our program will be a *GETTING TO KNOW YOU* session. This means each attending member and guest will address the following questions:

- 1) What first interested you in Ham Radio and how old were you?
- 2) When were you first licensed – and what took you so long?
- 3) What license grades have you held?
- 4) What call signs have you held?
- 5) What did your first station look like?
- 6) Was anything different about Ham Radio than you expected?
- 7) What great moments have you had due to Ham Radio?
- 8) What aspects of Ham Radio do you look forward to exploring?
- 9) What would you like our club to do to make itself of more interest to you?

This session will start with the most recently licensed ham and work its way back in time by the year in which each member or guest was first licensed. It might help you to make a few notes before the meeting.