

# telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

MARCH 2011

VOL 44 Issue 7

## ERUPTIVE SPACE WEATHER EVENT IS JUST THE BEGINNING

A solar flare occurred just before 8 p.m. EST on Monday February 14, prompting a rerouting of air traffic and causing disruptions to high frequency communications. The event also served as harbinger of more space weather events to follow in the coming days, as we enter the early phase of the new Solar Cycle 24.

The event was rated as an [R3 \(Strong\) Radio Blackout](#) and was the largest solar flare since December 2006, according to the NWS Space Weather Prediction Center, in Boulder, Colo. The same active region on the sun had also produced an [R2 \(Moderate\) Radio Blackout](#) solar flare midday Sunday the 13th. Both solar flares were accompanied by earth-directed coronal mass ejections, or CMEs.

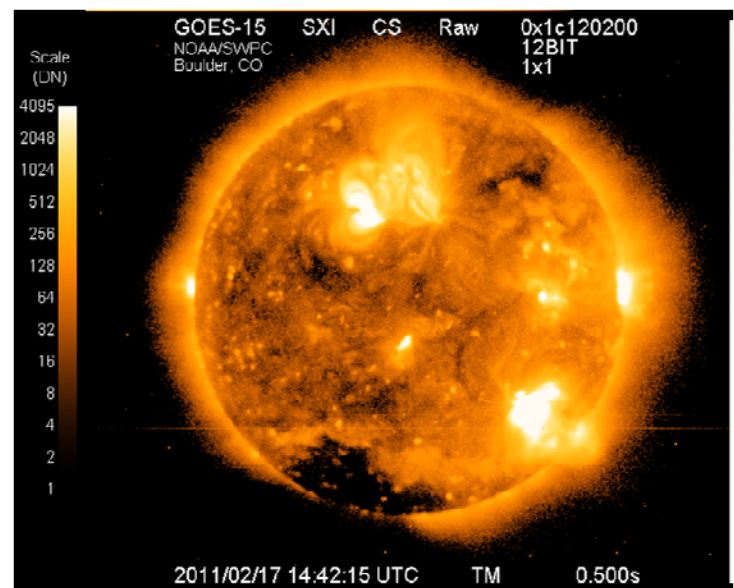
The National Space Weather Prediction Center is describing said three earth-directed CMEs were emitted from the sun. Impacts from this space weather event included a major airline re-routing its aircraft away from the most northerly polar routes, in anticipation of disturbed space weather that may hamper vital communications. Dayside high frequency disruptions (occurring on the side of the Earth facing the sun) were also been reported. The U.S. Coast Guard in Juneau, Alaska, issued a notice to mariners concerning the predicted geomagnetic storm, cautioning operations that depend on high frequency communications and/or GPS navigation of potential system degradation. In addition, an increase in [auroral activity](#) was noted even though there was a full moon.

Current space weather [conditions](#), [forecasts](#), [alerts](#) and [bulletins](#) are available from the NWS at [www.swpc.noaa.gov](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov).

## MARCH MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday March 3 at the NIKE Base Clubhouse. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Hope to see you there!



A GOES Solar X-ray Image taken 1442 UTC (9:42 a.m. EST) February 17, 2011. The Solar X-ray Imager monitors the sun's x-rays for the early detection of solar flares, coronal mass ejections, and other phenomena that impact the geospace environment.

Photo and story from NOAA

## 2011 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Wayne Carpus W2ZDP  
 Vice President: Scott Barto KB2KOL  
 Treasurer: Don Niles K2PMC  
 Secretary: Keith Patterson KC2DGC  
 Financial Secretary: Judy Levan N2TEZ  
 Director: Ken Pokigo KC2AYK  
 Director: Jon Hall KC2QKB

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 Clubhouse Chair: Don Niles K2PMC  
 Telstar Editor: Judy Levan N2TEZ  
 Webmaster: Marc Fruth N2UBT

## CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM at either the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) or the NIKE Base Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome. Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:30PM and are open to all club members.

## CLUB NETS

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.

STARS Sunday morning RagChew Net at 9:30AM on 28.380 Mhz.

STARS 2m Sunday morning Net at 10:30AM on the STARS Repeater 147.090



STARS has been designated a Special Service Club by the ARRL.

## WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU MISSED THE LAST STARS MEETING: *from the meeting minutes...*

### OFFICER REPORTS:

**President** Wayne Carpus W2ZDP:

- Reviewed aspects of our ARRL equipment and liability insurance
- Reviewed the status of the Town of Hamburg legal documents and the recommendations from club member and Attorney Ed Taublieb KB2KVA
- Reminded members we are seeking a 2011 Field Day chairman and to consider approaching area communities who would be will to host the event
- Called upon the membership to consider participating, at the Nike Base club station, in some of the annual contesting events

**Vice President** Scott Barto KB2KOL

- Reviewed data gathered by our Data Monkey web survey and encouraged those who have not participated to do so
- Commented on STARS participation as a group at the Nike Base during contesting events and suggested scheduling the coming up CQ 160 meter SSB contest

**Director** Ken Pokigo KC2AYK:

- Expressed gratitude to Scott Barto KB2KOL for his efforts in creating the Data Monkey survey
- Called upon members to send him ideas for content and changes to our WB2ELW web site

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ed Patton N2ING gave a progress report on the Seneca Nation project announcing the remaining participants have received their technician licenses and he will be hosting mentoring sessions to get their equipment evaluated and operational to support their emergency preparedness needs

### GOOD OF THE CLUB:

The evening program was demonstrating how PC software programs are used to program base, mobile, and handheld transceivers

## VE SESSIONS

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday March 19th. The session will be held at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Aves.)



All candidates should arrive by 9AM. Walk-ins will be allowed, but pre-registering will help speed up the processing the day of the test.

Bring the following to the test session:

1. An original photo ID or two other original forms of ID, plus a photocopy of the ID(s) to be turned in to the examiners for their records.
2. Your current amateur radio license (if any) plus a photocopy of it.
3. The original copies of any applicable Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) plus a photocopy of each.
4. A test fee of \$15.00 (Note price increase)
5. Your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN). Your application for a new or upgraded amateur radio license will be rejected by the FCC if you do not provide one of these numbers.

For more information, or to register for the test, contact John Crawford KB2VWC 649-5933.

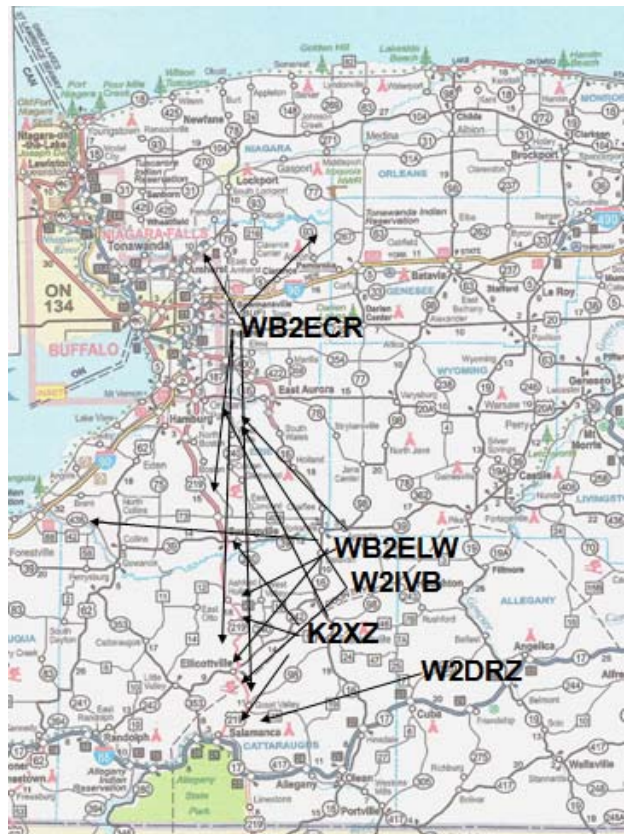
LARC will be holding a VE session at the Buffalo Hamfest on Saturday March 12th.

ARATS holds test sessions on the first Saturday of the month starting promptly at 10AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman Street. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration is highly recommended. For information on or to pre-register for ARATS exams, call Bill Klepser WB2AIV at 839-3525 or email wb2aiv@arrl.net.

PROS holds test sessions as needed at 585 North Star Road, East Aurora. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178

## REPEATERS FOR THE SENECA INDIAN RESERVATION

Thanks to Bob KA2WYE (and his wife who drove the car!) who started researching usable repeaters for the Seneca Nation project. Basic Amateur Radio Repeater Coverage of the Southern Area Western New York



US219 South... Best Coverage was with the K2XZ 145.390 Repeater including Orchard Park/Ashford Hollow/Great Valley/Parts of Ellicottville and into the Salamanca SNI Health Center off of RT17 US-I86

Other Repeaters that were able to be keyed in places with a 5 Watt HT Include:

WB2ELW 147.090 Good into Springville and Ashford Hollow/Ellicottville

W2IVB 145.310 Good into Springville and parts of Ellicottville/parts of Salamanca

W2DRZ 146.790 parts of Ellicottville and very good at Salamanca SNI Health Ctr.

Most Test's done with a FT-90 R running ~20Watts on February 21, 2011

## NASA'S GLORY MISSION DELAYED

The *Glory* mission, designed to improve NASA's understanding of the sun and Earth's climate system was scheduled to be launched on February 23rd aboard a Taurus XL launch vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), Ca.

However, preparations for the launch have been suspended temporarily. Engineers continue to troubleshoot a malfunction in ground support equipment associated with the Taurus XL rocket. On Feb. 23, a false indication was received about the rocket's status after commands were sent approximately 15 minutes before launch to activate the Taurus.

The commands originated from the Vehicle Interface Control Console in the mobile launch support van stationed a few miles from the launch pad. The problem has not yet been isolated, and troubleshooting continues. Managers are evaluating possible *Glory* launch opportunities in early to mid-March, associated with the Taurus XL rocket.

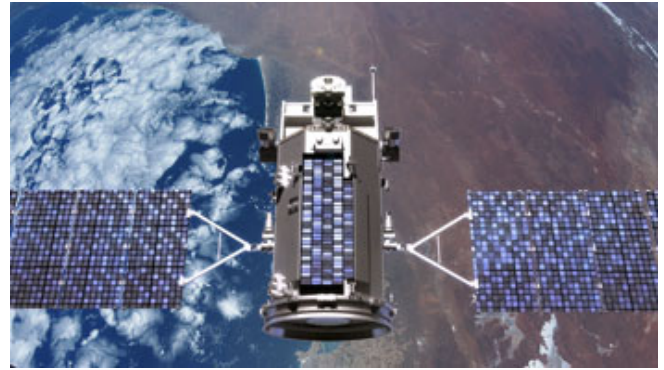
### **Total Solar Irradiance: The Sun Also Changes**

Researchers once erroneously referred to the amount of energy arriving from the sun as the "solar constant". In reality, they have discovered that the sun's luminosity can change over long time scales.

Since 1978, satellite instruments have allowed solar scientists to make extraordinarily precise TSI measurements to check just how "constant" the solar constant actually is. The instruments have measured with such accuracy that scientists have been able to detect tiny variations in TSI that occur with the solar cycle.

During periods of intense solar activity—characterized by peaks in sunspots, flares, and hotspots called faculae—TSI increases by approximately a tenth of a percent. Overall, TSI varies by approximately 0.1 percent—or about 2 watts per square meter between the most and least active part of an 11-year solar cycle.

Today, scientists who study the links between solar activity and climate are confident that the small



variations in TSI associated with the eleven-year solar cycle cannot explain the intensity and speed of warming trends seen on Earth during the last century. The 0.1 percent shift in TSI simply isn't enough to have a strong influence, and there's no convincing evidence that suggests TSI has trended upward enough over the last century to affect climate.

However, it's possible—probable, in fact—that the sun experiences sizable shifts in TSI over much longer time scales that could impact climate. For example, a 70-year period called the Maunder Minimum, which featured exceptionally low numbers of sunspots, is thought to be connected to a period of especially low TSI that helped drive Europe's Little Ice Age. On a much longer time scale, it's also known that the sun has increased its luminosity significantly—by about 30 percent—over its 4.55 billion year lifespan.

### **What does *Glory* measure?**

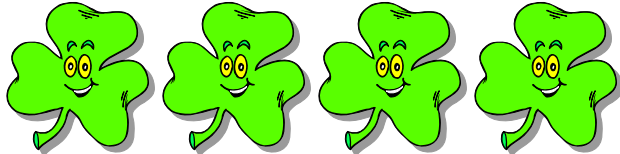
*Glory* has two distinct science instruments. One is focused on the sun and the other on Earth's atmosphere. *Glory*'s Total Irradiance Monitor (TIM) measures variations in the sun's Total Solar Irradiance (TSI), the amount of solar energy that strikes the top of the atmosphere. Meanwhile, *Glory*'s Aerosol Polarimetry Sensor (APS) observes small droplets and particles in the atmosphere that can affect the climate called aerosols.

### **Does the amount of radiation emitted by the sun change over time?**

Yes, during periods of high solar activity, increases in the number of sunspots (cool dark blotches on the sun's surface) and faculae (hot bright spots adjacent to sunspots) cause the sun's TSI to increase slightly. Overall, TSI varies by approximately 0.1 percent between the most and least active parts of 11-year solar cycles.

# STARS 2011 ROSTERS AVAILABLE

2011 STARS rosters will be available at the March meeting. Come on out and get your copy!



# HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

KB2KOL Scott Barto  
KB2KVA Ed Taublieb  
KB2TDU Richard Feist  
KC2QKB Jon Hall  
W2ZDP Wayne Carpus



## Greater Buffalo Hamfest

**Saturday March 12, 2011**

**Reserve Vendor Tables ..NOW & SAVE!**

**Tables Only \$ 7 ea. Includes one FREE admission !**

Call NOW to Reserve your tables- 716-825-7097 or Email: [kc2blh@aol.com](mailto:kc2blh@aol.com)

**FAST EASY Reservations !**

Sell your unwanted gear

Admission Only \$7 Ham radio vendors - and electronic equipment - Buy / Sell Indoor flea market - VE Exam



**Ismailia Shrine Center**

1600 Southwestern Blvd RT 20 W Seneca, NY [directions](#)



## MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

### DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL IOTA NA-213

Feb 7-Mar 7, 1600Z-2300Z, W1AFV/W4, Dauphin Island, AL. Estey Family Amateur Radio Club. 18.140 21.355 14.255. QSL. Carl Estey, 10021 Drew Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55431. [wa0cqq@arrl.net](mailto:wa0cqq@arrl.net)

### SIEGE DAYS AT THE ALAMO

Feb 23-Mar 6, 0001Z-2359Z, WA5DTK, San Antonio, TX. Central Texas Contest Group. 14.250 14.050 7.240 7.040. QSL. Barry Brewer, 601 Wagon Wheel Tr, Pflugerville, TX 78660. Please note, see URL for updated times of operation. [www.ctdxcc.org](http://www.ctdxcc.org)

### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FESTIVAL OF STATES

Feb 25-Mar 7, 0000Z-2359Z, W4F/K4O/ N4S, Saint Petersburg, FL. St Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. 28.450 14.250 7.080 3.050 . Certificate & QSL. St Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2217, Saint Petersburg, FL 33731. [www.sparc-club.org](http://www.sparc-club.org)

### PEACE CORPS 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mar 1-Mar 5, 1600Z-2100Z, KA9NLX, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps ARC and returned PC volunteers throughout the US. 21.375 14.325 7.283 10.133 Olivia possible 2 m . Certificate & QSL. John Paskevicz, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Honoring all Peace Corps Volunteers. [ka9nlx@arrl.net](mailto:ka9nlx@arrl.net)

### 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mar 3-Mar 5, 1600Z-2300Z, W9SSB, Centralia, IL. Joe McNelly. 145.520 14.250 14.050 7.200. QSL. Joe McNelly, 529 S Sycamore, Centralia, IL 62801. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889 and the President in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931

### 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINSTON CHURCHILL'S "IRON CURTAIN" SPEECH AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, FULTON, MO

Mar 4-Mar 8, 0001Z-0600Z, W0C, Fulton, MO. Callaway Amateur Radio League LLC. 14.275 14.040. Certificate & QSL. Richard White, 826 Evergreen Dr, Fulton, MO 65251. [dmueller55@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmueller55@sbcglobal.net)

### AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Mar 11-Mar 12, 1700Z-2300Z, W8NVY, Muskegon, MI.

American Red Cross Serving Muskegon Oceana and Newaygo Counties. 14.260 7.245 147.420 Simplex EchoLink: W8NVY, Node # 349350. Certificate & QSL. Karen Strait, KD8DHJ, 1479 Sullivan Rd, Ravenna, MI 49451. Times are daily. [www.arcmon.org](http://www.arcmon.org)

### NAVY SEABEES BIRTHDAY, GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOUNDED 1912, CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

Mar 12, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Radio Operations Room. SSB 14.320 7.250 PSK31 14.070 D-STAR 012C and 2 m/70 cm SOCAL rpters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [kk6fz@arrl.net](mailto:kk6fz@arrl.net)

### USS WISCONSIN IN THE WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

Mar 12-Mar 13, 1500Z-2130Z, N4WIS, Virginia Beach, VA. USS Wisconsin Radio Club. 14.264. QSL. N4WIS-USS Wisconsin Radio Club, PO Box 6682, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. [www.n4wis.org](http://www.n4wis.org)

### CELEBRATING THE START OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM AND THE 108TH BIRTHDAY OF PELICAN ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mar 19, 1400Z-2100Z, W4OT, Vero Beach, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club. 28.450 21.350 14.240 7.255. Certificate. VBARC, PO Box 2082, Vero Beach, FL 32961. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first. [www.vbarc.net](http://www.vbarc.net)

### 29TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Mar 19, 1400Z-2000Z, W4BKM, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club. 14.240 7.225 145.37. Certificate. MARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208. [www.members.cox.net/w4bkm](http://www.members.cox.net/w4bkm)

### BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH MARATHON

Mar 27, 1000Z-2300Z, K5B, Las Cruces, NM. Mesilla Valley Radio Club. 21.337 14.330 7.225 3.893. QSL. Special Events Station K5B, c/o Mesilla Valley Radio Club, PO Box 1443, Las Cruces, NM 88004. [www.n5bl.org/bataan](http://www.n5bl.org/bataan)

### CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE M1911 PISTOL

Mar 29-Mar 30, 1500Z-0000Z, K7GST, Prescott, AZ. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. 21.335 14.250 14.055 7.250. QSL. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 11994, Prescott, AZ 86304. Operating from Gunsite Academy. [www.w7yrc.org](http://www.w7yrc.org)

## MARCH CONTESTS

<a href="#"><u>+ AGCW YL-CW Party</u></a>	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 1
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 2
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 4
<a href="#"><u>+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</u></a>	0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6
<a href="#"><u>+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint</u></a>	0600Z-0629Z, 0630Z-0659Z, 0700Z-0729Z, 0730Z-0800Z Mar 5
<a href="#"><u>+ DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest</u></a>	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 6
<a href="#"><u>+ SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest</u></a>	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 6
<a href="#"><u>+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</u></a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 7
<a href="#"><u>+ ARS Spartan Sprint</u></a>	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 8
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 9
<a href="#"><u>+ CWops Mini-CWT Test</u></a>	1100Z-1200Z and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 9 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 10
<a href="#"><u>+ AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest</u></a>	2300Z, Mar 9 to 2300Z, Mar 10 and 2300Z, Mar 12 to 2300Z, Mar 13
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 11
<a href="#"><u>+ AGCW QRP Contest</u></a>	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12
<a href="#"><u>+ ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint</u></a>	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 12
<a href="#"><u>+ EA PSK31 Contest</u></a>	1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14
<a href="#"><u>+ Idaho QSO Party</u></a>	1900Z, Mar 12 to 1900Z, Mar 13
<a href="#"><u>+ North American Sprint, RTTY</u></a>	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 13
<a href="#"><u>+ SKCC Weekend Sprint</u></a>	0000Z-2400Z, Mar 13
<a href="#"><u>+ UBA Spring Contest, CW</u></a>	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 13
<a href="#"><u>+ Wisconsin QSO Party</u></a>	1800Z, Mar 13 to 0100Z, Mar 14
<a href="#"><u>+ NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint</u></a>	1800Z-2000Z, Mar 14
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 16
<a href="#"><u>+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</u></a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 16
<a href="#"><u>+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</u></a>	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 17
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Fox Hunt</u></a>	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 18
<a href="#"><u>+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest</u></a>	1600Z, Mar 18 to 1000Z, Mar 20
<a href="#"><u>+ 10-10 Int. Mobile Contest</u></a>	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 19
<a href="#"><u>+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest</u></a>	0200Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 21
<a href="#"><u>+ Feld Hell Sprint</u></a>	1200-1400 local, Mar 19
<a href="#"><u>+ Russian DX Contest</u></a>	1200Z, Mar 19 to 1200Z, Mar 20
<a href="#"><u>+ Oklahoma QSO Party</u></a>	1300Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 20 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 20
<a href="#"><u>+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest</u></a>	1400Z-1659Z, Mar 19 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Mar 19 (432)
<a href="#"><u>+ Virginia QSO Party</u></a>	1800Z, Mar 19 to 0100Z, Mar 21
<a href="#"><u>+ North Dakota QSO Party</u></a>	1800Z, Mar 19 to 1800Z, Mar 20
<a href="#"><u>+ UBA Spring Contest, 6m</u></a>	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 20
<a href="#"><u>+ SKCC Sprint</u></a>	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 23
<a href="#"><u>+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB</u></a>	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 24
<a href="#"><u>+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</u></a>	0000Z, Mar 26 to 2400Z, Mar 27
<a href="#"><u>+ UBA Spring Contest, 2m</u></a>	0600Z-1000Z, Mar 27
<a href="#"><u>+ QRP Homebrewer Sprint</u></a>	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 28

If you're viewing the newsletter online—blue, underscored type is an active web link!