

# Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

August 2004

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The sun came out of a very inactive period last week as several major sunspots rotated to the earthward side of the sun. We were blessed with two X-class flares and many more M-class flares that launched a few CMEs directly at our home planet. The  $K_p$  actually reached 8 yesterday, and auroras were sighted as far south as Wisconsin and Nebraska. Unfortunately, we had the usual cloud cover that accompanies auroras here in Illinois.

More geomagnetic storming is predicted for tomorrow so hopefully these clouds will clear out by then. We are on the downside of the solar cycle with two or three years to the bottom, but the sun is full of surprises, and they are much more welcome now that they are rarer. Shawn Korgan reported hearing S5 chorus in Colorado this morning.

I haven't done a lot of listening and this month's column is short as I have been fighting with the technology here at work. I've had E-Mail problems, voice mail problems and two major computer crashes. Seems like the equipment gets together at night and conspires when I am not here. But it appears that I am gaining on the problems and I hope to go out and do some listening and recording when the next CME impact hits in the next day or so.

**More Recording Ideas --** There was a discussion on the VLF\_Group this past week about recording devices for Natural Radio signals and it came to mind that if you have a laptop computer, you have a high quality portable recorder right there. This might not be the most compact way to go, but beats spending \$300. or more for a DAT or Minidisk machine. You can also edit and organize the files as you go.

**More Receiver Sources --** Here are some other sources for Natural Radio receivers and kits. The hobby must be growing in popularity!

Jorgen Mortensen, OZ1MAS, in Denmark is building and offering for sale several complete Natural Radio receivers and circuit boards. Check out his site at <http://www.oz1mas.bravepages.com/onlinestore.htm>. This may be especially appealing to our European members.

North Country Radio is also manufacturing an *Earth Receiver* Kit. This unit is available in total kit form or with a pre-assembled Circuit board for the less adventurous. Visit them at <http://www.northcountryradio.com/Kitpages/elfrcvr.htm>. North Country Radio also makes a VLF converter.

TENTEC at <http://www.tentec.com/Tk1252.htm> makes a *High-Sensitivity Amplifier* kit that may be used as a Natural Radio receiver. In addition to the kit assembly manual you get a fascinating project booklet based on experiments by USAF Engineer Calvin R. Graf as your guide to adventures with the sounds of energy.