

Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

March 2009

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It will be a short column this month as it seems that keeping a business alive in this economy requires an increasing amount of time and effort, but challenges are always good and the downturn can't last forever. If you have time, check out the discussions on the VLF_Group at Yahoo. There has been a lot of activity trying to find any VLF signatures that meteors might be making and Paul Nicholson and others did some great work calculating the exact time of passage of a fireball over Northern Europe last month. It is very interesting reading and the methods used might have other applications in VLF listening.

Tidbit From the Past – I recently acquired a reprint of an 1899 book, [A History of Wireless Telegraphy, 1838-1899](#) by J. J. Fahie, and found this interesting excerpt from an old presentation. W. H. Preece, an early pioneer in wireless telegraphy and at that time engineer-in-chief of the postal telegraphs in Britain, made these comments at a Society of Arts meeting on February 23, 1894, exactly 115 years ago, today.

“Although this short paper is confined to a description of a simple practical system of communicating across terrestrial space, one cannot help speculating as to what may occur through planetary space. Strange mysterious sounds are heard on all long telephone lines when the earth is used as a return, especially in the calm stillness of night. Earth-currents are found in telegraph circuits and the aurora borealis lights up our northern sky when the sun's photosphere is disturbed by spots. The sun's surface must at such times be violently disturbed by electrical storms, and if oscillations are set up and radiated through space, in sympathy with those that affect telephones, it is not a wild dream to say that we may hear on this earth a thunderstorm in the sun.”

Web Updates – The discussion group that I moderate on Yahoo Groups, VLF_Group, passed the milestone of 1000 members this week. If you haven't visited this group, please do as it is very active and there are usually several interesting discussions going on. This group was started by Shawn Korgan in 2001 and I assumed ownership in 2002. Shawn still jumps in to help with the moderating duties.

I did some updating on my Natural Radio Website, www.naturalradiolab.com, this month. The major addition was the uploading of the rest of my Natural Radio columns from The Lowdown through 2007. They are available in the .pdf format. I made a couple other minor fixes and changes, and added an Amazon bookstore with Natural Radio related books and other items.

My next major project is to move the site from my aging Linux server to a commercial hosting site. This isn't a big deal to do, but at the same time I want to convert the site to a Wordpress based site rather than Drupal, which is what the site is built in currently. I am finding that Drupal is fairly cumbersome and doesn't allow me the freedom in formatting that I need for this type of site. The trick here is learning Wordpress and finding a plug-in to handle the FAQ data.

Also, I'd appreciate any comments on the site, and especially would welcome any ideas for new material that you think would be useful. I'd also appreciate links to the site if you find it beneficial.