

Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

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All three of our sons decided to tie the knot within a single year and we have been preparing for the third and final wedding celebration in early April. Family events are always a good motivation to get some home projects done, and I had a couple of problem faucets to fix this weekend. The point that I am getting to is that this will be a short column because my writing time was replaced by plumbing time.

The bathroom faucet needed a new Moen cartridge, which I had, so that one was a relatively easy fix, despite having to clean a bit of lime buildup away from the inside of the faucet so I could get the old cartridge out and the new one in.

The kitchen faucet, however, was not as cooperative. It was also a Moen and I had ordered what I hoped were the right parts from the poor online diagram, but the faucet would not come apart. Long story short, I bought a new faucet and removed the remains of the old one, which was only about 5 or 6 years old, with a hacksaw.

The new faucet went in easily until I tried to connect the 3/8 flexible supply lines to my 1/2 water valves. Back in the car and off to the big box home store. Now, you would think that this would be a common need, but the Sunday night crew there is not too sharp and couldn't find any. I finally found a couple of toilet tank supply line kits that included adapters and bought those and headed back home. That quickly solved the problem, I tightened the connections and the faucet, turned on the water and finding no leaks was able to check one more item off my list.

Cycle 24 – The current sunspot cycle is turning out to be a double peaked cycle and an unusual one, as the second peak is larger than the first. According to NASA's Solar Physics Center at Marshall Space Flight Center, "The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 69 in the late summer of 2013."

The second peak is still rising, so we could have some more activity. Also, usually the falling edge of the sunspot cycle produces some of the most intense activity. But unless the activity increases greatly, this is likely to be the smallest sunspot cycle since Cycle 14, which peaked in 1906.

Website – Now that I will soon be out of wedding mode, I'm hoping to have a bit more time for hobby pursuits, and one item on the list is to update and expand the NaturalRadioLab.com website. I am open to suggestions for updating the material on the site, so email me if you have any ideas for things that should be included or expanded. I'd also be interested in hearing about any commercially built receivers or receiver kits, as beginners in Natural Radio listening often like to begin with a purchased receiver or kit.