

Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

February 2006

Copyright © 2006 by Mark S. Karney

The holidays and a large crash project at work have pretty much done in my research and experimentation time this month, so this month's column will be brief. January set records for warmth here with balmy 50 degree weather on and off for the first couple of weeks, but that ended on Friday, the 20th with 14 inches of snow.

Check out the Spectrum lab sites mentioned below, the program might provide some interesting experimentation on these long winter evenings. Combined with a 96 kHz soundcard like the Creative Labs *Audigy 4* you have a complete receiver.

Also, we could really use some articles for *The Lowdown*. If you have made some interesting observations, done some research or a built a project, consider writing it up for publication. I'll include short articles and comments in the column. Most of us enjoy reading about other's experiences and experiments so think about writing something up occasionally.

Image Satellite Mission End – NASA's Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration (IMAGE) recently ended its very successful mission. Launched in March, 2000, it successfully completed its two year primary mission and continued to provide data until the satellite stopped responding to commands in December of 2005.

The data gathered by IMAGE enabled scientists to study the structure and dynamics of the inner magnetosphere of the earth as it reacted to the energy of the solar winds.

"Nearly six years of imagery by the pioneering cameras on IMAGE revolutionized our understanding of geospace and our knowledge of its space weather," said James Burch, IMAGE principal investigator at the Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio.

Even though IMAGE is no longer functional, an extensive archival database remains and is fertile ground for new discoveries. This data will support investigations by other spacecraft and ground-based research for a long time.

For more information about the IMAGE mission on the Internet, visit: <http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

New Yahoo Email List for SpectrumLab – Spectrum Lab, is a popular spectrum analysis program written by Wolf, DL4YHF. In fact many are using the program with a soundcard as a Natural Radio or VLF receiver. (A 96 kHz soundcard will let you see all the stations below about 44 kHz.) There is a built in hum filter that seems to work quite well in Natural Radio applications. For information or download of this free program, go to <http://people.freenet.de/dl4yhf/spectral1.html>.

Art, KY1K, has created a new mailing list for Spectrum Lab users. All are welcome to join. This is the place to go for support and to learn about how others are using this great program. Subscribe to this list at: <http://people.freenet.de/dl4yhf/spectral1.html>