



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

May 2018

President's Message

Hi everyone – Time sure is flying by! Here we are in May already and the Florida warm weather is mostly here. Field Day is right around the corner. I have to say a huge thank you to James Deuel, N0XIA and one of your club directors for stepping up to the plate and
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OARC MEETING

May 2, 2018 7:30pm
 Beardall Senior Center
 800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
 ARRL Testing: 5:30pm
 For information & Updates
 See www.oarc.org

OARC Board of Directors

President: John Knott, N4JTK
 Vice President: Michael Cauley, W4MCA
 Treasurer: Ana Groe, KM4JVE
 Secretary: Bob Nocero, W4KBW
 Directors:
 Bob Cumming, W2BZY
 Ralph Betts, W4ORL
 Tony Darnell, KK4VRP
 Val Jacyno, AK4MM
 Frank Tagliani, KD4EZW
 James Deuel, N0XIA

The Listening Post is the OARC newsletter for OARC members. The LP will be distributed electronically via E-mail and the OARC web site (www.oarc.org).

Co-Editors: Thomas Husband KM4MAL and Ed Thralls NE4H.

Comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Send to editors@oarc.org.

Contributing to this edition: John Knott N4JTK, Michael Cauley W4MCA

OARC REPEATERS

Call	Freq	Shift	PL
KB4UT	146.760*	-600	103.5
N4UMB	147.015	-600	103.5

* Fusion Repeater

D-Star

K1XC C	146.820	-600	
K1XC B	443.275	+5MHz	
K1XC A	1275.00	-12 MHz	Voice
K1XC A	1255.00	-12MHz	Digital
W4PLB C	145.160	+600	
W4PLB B	442.300	+5MHz	

All D-star repeaters are connected

President's Message *(Continued from Previous Page)*

leading Field Day for 2018. James will be providing info about Field Day and of course, he will need volunteers.

Currently while I'm writing this article, we are at the last Technician class until after the question pool changes July 1. We have 11 people in the class. Most are CERT members, and all are very enthusiastic! This is the reason I like being involved with these classes. We are always looking for more instructors. Please let me know if you are interested.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Ham Picnic. Great venue, great food, and most importantly, great friends!! One question that came up several times to us was, "Is the picnic only for HamCation volunteers?" No! The picnic is for all club members, but it is also for all HamCation volunteers! It is the club's way of saying Thank You for all your hard work during HamCation.

We've been working real hard to bring you good quality presentations for the remainder of the year. Our website has been updated to reflect these programs. Look for them on the front page of the website. It will update every month automatically at the beginning of the monthly meeting. May's meeting presentation will be by Kevin Bess, KK4BFN North Florida Section Manager Candidate.

Hope we see everyone on May 2nd, at the next meeting.

73
John Knott, N4JTK
President

BikeMS

Coming up on Saturday May 5th and Sunday May 6th, 2018 The BikeMS Citrus Tour will commence. This is a charity bicycle ride for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The event on Saturday begins very early at Fantasy of Flight in Polk County. There are multiple routes the all end at the Omni Resort in Champions Gate. There is a need for Rest Stop Operators, SAG units, ROVERS, GREENWAY Drivers, and more.

If you are interested in this event and would like to more information, contact John Knott or Michael Cauley.

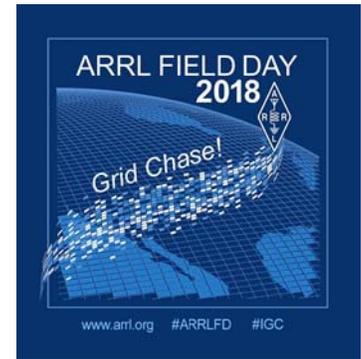
If you would like to go ahead and signup, go to: <http://www.citrustour.org/>



OARC FIELD DAY

June 23 & 24, 2018

(By James Deuel, N0XIA)



Field Day is not that far away and will be on June 23 & 24, 2018. I hope to have fellow hams participate running the stations that will be set up. Again, this year Field Day will be at the

Fairgrounds in the Lake Side Pavilion. We will again request the use of the equipment from the State Medical Response Team, like we did last year. We are not looking for a maximum number of stations, we want just enough that can be manned for 24 hours.

This is what I need to find out from you, do you have a HF station that you want to set up? If you do, please send me an email (jdeuel@oarc.org) with what you have. Please remember that this is late June in Florida and the cool weather will be in our distant memories.

We will need to start setting up on Friday afternoon and wrap it up by noon on Saturday. Have lunch and get tuned up for the start of Field Day at 1400hrs local. We'll run for 24 hours straight and wrap it up by 1400hrs on Sunday (Weather permitting, I hate lightening and rain!).

In my previous experience with OARC Field Days, a few members come out and try to put up a lot of antennas and equipment, which takes up a lot of time. It seems not all stations are operational by the time Field Day starts Saturday noon time. Everybody looks so tired and stations become unmanned as operations go into the night. This year, I would like to try a few things differently in hopes of a better experience for everyone.

Simplify setting up voice SSB stations

The plan is to put up three antennas for 10, 15, 20, 40 and 75 meters. With the SMART trailer that has a hydraulic-telescoping-vertical-lift mast (HTVL), a tri-band, 3-element beam can be mounted on top. The 10, 15 and 20 meter stations will operate off of this one antenna. OARC has purchased from DX Engineering, filter-triplexer equipment that will allow three radios to operate simultaneously on the beam. For 40 and 75 meters, two dipole type antennas can be strung from the top of the HTVL mast with the other ends attached to existing light poles, building structures, fences or to the ground as a sloper. Each voice SSB station will have a band specific filter in order to improve isolation among the stations.

The CERT team, headed by Jerry Porter, KF4ZRN, has volunteered to provide a radio and run the 15 meter voice station. This station will most likely not run over night, since the band will be dead at night. CERT will also handle a GOTA station, which will be on its' own independent antenna system.

Bob Nocero, W4KBW, will be providing a radio and run the 20 meter voice station. Additional volunteers are needed to help Bob run the station for 24 hours.

10 meters is still open for volunteers. This station will most likely not run over night, since the band will be dead at night.

40 and 75 meters will need volunteers. These bands will most likely run for the 24 hour event.

CW Station Operation

CW operations at OARC Field Days has always been unique in that there are so few operators (3 that I know of) that can do it, so I leave that to Bob, Cummings, W2BZY, to organize. If anyone wishes to help the CW group, please contact Bob, bcumming@oarc.org

Digital Operation

If anyone wishes to run a digital station, please let me know what you would like to put up, if you have a team or will need volunteers. I have no intention of setting one up unless someone or a group steps forward.

Logging Contacts

OARC Field Day uses Scott Davis's, N3FJP, logging software. Each station is going to need a Windows 10 computer to enter contacts as they are successfully made. Please bring a computer if you have one and please let us keep it at the station during the event. I am working on getting them networked so that contacts will be visible to everyone. This was done one time at a previous Field Day and I thought it was fascinating to watch contacts inputted live and appear on screen from any of the networked stations. If anyone wants to help build the network, contact me. I am not an IT person. I plan to have my Netgear wireless router, a few wireless remote access points (Still working on that concept) and 1,000 feet of LAN cable to make this work (I did say I'm not an IT guy). So far, I have two of my laptops working together in a network at home. You can read more about N3FJP Field Day logging software at <http://www.n3fjp.com>

Food

There will be food! OARC has always been good about this. You will not starve. Ana Groe, KM4JVE, is going to help make sure no one gets dehydrated or lose weight during the event. Barry Isabelle, N2DB, has once again offered to cook us a Sunday breakfast of waffles and scrambled eggs. He has also provided crispy beacon in the past. I can never remember that part (I'm a vegetarian).

Feel free to contact me concerning the OARC Field Day.

73,

James Deuel, N0XIA, jdeuel@oarc.org



HamCationSM Picnic

(Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

I hope everyone enjoyed the Picnic. I know I did. If you did not come you missed a great event this year. Everyone seemed to like the new location.

We had a bigger pavilion and more seating here. The BBQ grill was a lot better also we did not melt the racks this year.

We did have one of the largest turnouts that I can remember in recent years. We had 91 people here this year.

Hope everyone like the prizes. If you won one of the Diamond Antennas make sure you thank them next year at HamCationSM. They donated those just for the picnic to say thank you to all the volunteers that help put on our great show.

Again, thank you to all the great volunteers that helped during HamCationSM. Without you we could not be the 2nd Largest show.

Michael Cauley

2019 HamCationSM General Chairman

HamCationSM Chairman Column

(Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

First let me say welcome back to Jim Robarr, KB2CUX. He will be returning to the committee helping Andy Anderson out. They will be Co-Chairing swaps together. We just had our wrap up meeting. Got some good feedback both positive and things we need to improve on.

I am looking for some more Chairmen.

The first one will be a Volunteer Coordinator this position will entail Recruiting volunteers, assigning volunteers to chairman, Learning the chairman's needs for each area, work with the chairmen to learn what volunteer positions they need.

The next is a Programs and Publications Chairman. This position you will oversee creating publications for HamCation such as fliers, programs, fairgrounds Layout map, etc. This position will also work with our media chairman Bob Nocero to get items printed.

The Last position I need is a Co-Chair to work with David Virden in logistics. You will help with picking up our equipment and supplies and delivering them to each

Chairman at HamCationSM. Then during the show, moving equipment and supplies as needed. Then after the show loading everything back up and returning it to storage.

Lots of new thing are coming for HamCationSM 2019. Further details coming soon. Again, let me say thank you to everyone who volunteer without you we cannot have a great show like we do.

Michael Cauley
2018 HamCationSM General Chairman

HamCationSM International Relations

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

Peter and Lidy in Northern Holland in front of Tulips in full bloom! They have attended a show in Holland already representing HamCation with a booth. They are preparing their RV for the trip to Friedrichshafen, Germany for Ham Radio 2018, June 1 – 3. The HamCation booth in Friedrichshafen is just a couple booths away from the ARRL booth.



TOUR de Cure

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

On Sunday March 25, 2018 members of Orlando Amateur Radio Club, Orange County ARES, Seminole ARES, Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Association, and Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service assisted with day of event support for the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure Lake Nona.

Over 50 volunteers came together to help make sure that participants of the Tour de Cure had a safe and enjoyable ride. This year no serious injuries were reported. We did have many calls because of flat tires and other mechanical issues.

This year, with the help of Officer Wendall Reeves K4MC, we finally were able to have a representative of law enforcement with us in the command post. We also had new this year, the Orlando Fire Department on site. They brought with them 4 paramedics on bikes that helped cover the 5k route and the 10-mile route. OFD also had a rescue with them that responded to calls from the start finish line.

A huge thank you to all those who assisted to include the rest stop personnel, SAGS, ROVERS, Supply Truck operators, our own bike units, Dave Lancaster W4SAG of Bike SAG, and the 8 motorcyclist that assisted this year.

1,506 participants help raise over \$915k for diabetes research. That is an amazing achievement.

CONVERSATION

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for March 21, 2018)

Ethical Voices

It's not coincidence that the topics of integrity, ethics, and good behavior in contesting are regularly on contest conference agendas. Even though radio contesting isn't about winning big money, and contesting fame doesn't extend much beyond our radio contesting peer group, there are some people that don't follow the rules, or seek to gain unethical advantage over others.

Operating in a contest as a single operator is an unsupervised activity, with our "inner voice" providing the only sounding board for the many decisions we must make during a contest. Contest rules provide sharply drawn lines for only some decisions one might need to make during a contest, such as only using five Watts or less if claiming QRP. Others, such as techniques for finding a run frequency, controlling rise times on our CW signals, or the compression settings for phone, are left to 'Good Practice'. Sessions on ethics exist to provide guidance and backup for our inner voices, to help counter rationalizations to not operate in an ethical manner.

In multi-operator situations the dynamics can be different. Peer review (or pressure) can compel an operator to perform within the 'norms' of the team, and team members can observe and learn from one another. Back in 2016, I asked Craig,

K9CT, how he brings new operators at K9CT up to speed. He emphasized that he expects sportsmanlike conduct of all of his operators:

"We expect everyone to be even tempered and good natured. Aggressive pileup behavior is discouraged. Each operator represents the K9CT contest station and we want a good reputation. There is a lot of laughter in the shack as the team steadily works to get each QSO and multiplier in the log. Our operators get along with each other and other contest operators on the air. These are important criteria for being a member of the team."

In radio contesting, it's rare for an ethical decision to be in conflict with a specific contest rule. But when there are no explicit contest rules or guidance for a situation, we have to draw upon our ethics for the right course of action. Perhaps at the most basic, we should start with "Act the way that I would want others to act if they were in the same situation."

New ARRL CEO Comes Aboard Facing Challenges and Change

(Source: The ARRL Letter for April 12, 2018)

ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, moved one floor down at ARRL Headquarters earlier this year to assume leadership of the organization with an overarching goal of promoting the League's mission: "To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio." Shelley has spent much of his tenure at ARRL Headquarters toiling out of the limelight, so he's a bit of an unknown quantity within the greater Amateur Radio community. But he brings to his new position nearly 3 decades of experience as ARRL's Chief Financial Officer. Shelley intends to leverage that background in his role as CEO, enabling him to hit the ground running.

"I am familiar with the issues that matter to ARRL members and the Amateur Radio community at large," Shelley pointed out in his inaugural "Second Century" editorial, "Advancing Amateur Radio, Together," in the April issue of *QST*.

He acknowledged that with both ARRL and Amateur Radio undergoing "a great deal of change," not all League members will necessarily be on the same page, but he believes disagreement about the way forward "can be healthy, and bring new perspectives to light." At the same time, he encouraged individuals to "remain respectful and constructive" in discussing issues.

"In my opinion, fulfilling ARRL's mission means doing so for all Amateur Radio operators, regardless of their license class, level of technical ability, or particular interests within the wide range of activities that Amateur Radio has to offer," Shelley allowed. Increasing the number of younger radio amateurs will benefit both the avocation and ARRL, he said. And, Shelley added, that



despite any generational rift -- perceived or otherwise -- between older and younger hams, "There's more to enjoy than ever before -- Amateur Radio in 2018 looks and sounds different than it did in 1968 or even in 1988 -- and licensing numbers indicate that people are still interested in exploring Amateur Radio."

Blazing the trail for Amateur Radio's future should involve all hams, Shelley believes, and he urged hams to be there for each other.

The ARRL Board elected Shelley as CEO in January, to succeed Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, who retired. As Shelley nears his own retirement over the next 18 months, the League continues to advertise for applicants to fill the CEO position on a long-term basis.

LoTW Support for *CQ* Worked All Zones (WAZ) Award Goes Live

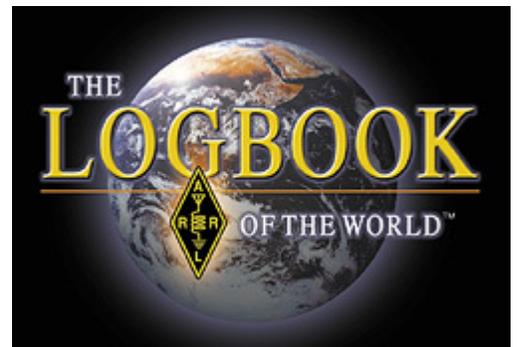
(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 22, 2018)

ARRL and *CQ* magazine have announced the launch of Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) support for *CQ*'s Worked All Zones ([WAZ](#)) Award program, effective immediately. The goal of the project, under way since last year, has been to create the proper technical support system so that radio amateurs can submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit, and that has been accomplished, *CQ* and ARRL said in a joint statement.

LoTW -- ARRL's electronic confirmation system for Amateur Radio contacts -- provides contact confirmation when both stations upload their logs to the system, and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has already supported the *CQ* [WPX Award](#) program since 2012.

"We are very pleased that participants in *CQ*'s WAZ award program will now be able to use their LoTW confirmations for award credit," *CQ* Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, said. "*CQ* WPX Award participants have found it very helpful, and we are sure it will be equally helpful for those pursuing WAZ and its many variations."

ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, concurred. "Users of LoTW have been telling us for some time that they would like to use QSLs from LoTW to apply for the WAZ award," he said. "They will now be able to select confirmations to be used for WAZ credit."



More than 30,000 New Ham Licensees and 7,000 Amateur Radio Exam Sessions in 2017

(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 22, 2018)

For the fourth year in a row, more than 30,000 new licensees joined the Amateur Radio ranks, and ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions, serving some 35,350 candidates for a new or upgraded license. At the end of December 2017, the US Amateur Radio population stood at 748,136.

At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice, which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop.

"I'm hopeful that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. "I would love to see this trend continue!"

Despite the optimistic influx of 32,196 newcomers last year, the net growth of 5,349 - - about 0.72% over December 2016 -- reflects some 27,000 expired or cancelled licenses in the FCC database over the past year. In making the case for changes to the entry-level license, the ARRL Board's Entry-Level License Committee referred to "the large number of Baby Boomers (roughly born 1945 - 65) [who] will soon be aging off the licensee rolls." The committee predicted the likelihood of "a significant decline in the number of hams, unless we take steps to reverse it."

School's Ham Contact with Space Station Raises Amateur Radio Visibility in Alabama

(Source: The ARRL Letter for April 19, 2018)

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) school contact with crew member Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, was a huge success on more than one level. Fifteen students at Pinson Valley High School in Alabama had the opportunity to [chat via ham radio](#) on April 10 in a direct contact with Arnold, who was at the helm of NA1SS for his inaugural ARISS contact. Witnessing the event in the packed school auditorium was an audience of 650 invited guests and students, while the remaining 1,150 members of the student body watched from their classrooms. The event was livestreamed to all 57 schools in the district.

"The ISS contact was a very valuable experience for the student body and the 15 select students that formulated and asked the questions, and great exposure for Amateur Radio!" said Alabaman and ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK.



The event attracted considerable media attention from TV news crews and a print reporter. The radio contact was then followed by a motivational speech from a US Navy Seal team member, after which four Navy Seals and Pinson Valley's vice principal parachuted onto the school's football field, Sarratt recounted.

English teacher Jennifer Moore, KF4INA, who served as the spark plug for the ARISS event, praised the support of Huntsville Amateur Radio Club members, who had help from the Birmingham and Blount County Amateur Radio clubs.

Three TV stations posted stories on the ARISS event, WVTM, WBRC, and CBS42. A story in the Trussville Tribune included a comment from Pinson City Council

member and radio amateur Robbie Roberts, WB4WUI, who attended Pinson Valley High and went on to get an engineering degree. "I think it's great exposure for these kids," he told the reporter.

Roberts later told ARRL, "I thought the event was excellent and was a welcome bright spot for our community." He said his grandfather worked for NASA for many years and was significantly involved in work on SkyLab in the 1970s, "so the combination of ham radio and the ISS was of great interest."



ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, commended the cooperation of Alabama Power, which resolved a RF interference issue that would have affected the contact. The utility went to the extent of shutting down a substation to quiet the radio noise so that the contact could go forward.

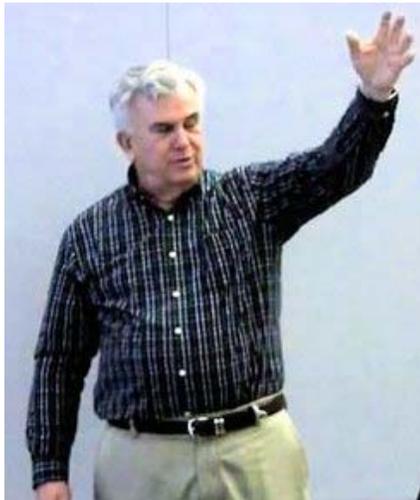
More-Frequent Spotless Days Signal Start of Lengthy, Deep Solar Minimum Phase

(Source: The ARRL Letter for April 15, 2018)

The sunspot numbers have not been good, and it does not seem they'll be getting much better anytime soon. According to the April 12 "K7RA Solar Update," no sunspots were seen over the April 5 - 11 reporting week. Solar flux has been sitting in the 60s lately and is forecast to remain at that level for the next 45 days. We're not at solar minimum yet, though; better days lie ahead -- eventually.

Top contester Frank Donovan, W3LPL, asserts that solar precursors like spotless days, which correlate physical solar phenomena with future solar activity levels, are much better indicators of progress toward a solar minimum-- a broad phase of the solar

cycle -- than of a specific event, such as the bottom of a broad solar minimum. Not only that, these and other solar precursors are useful in predicting the likely strength of Solar Cycle 25, although accurate predictions of the strength and timeframe of the Cycle 25 solar maximum aren't possible until the new sunspot cycle is under way.



Frank Donovan, W3LPL, during a 2017 presentation on propagation at the Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club.

"We entered the Cycle 24 solar minimum with the onset of 8 spotless days in June 2016," Donovan pointed out. "We had only 32 spotless days in 2016. We had 15 spotless days in a row in March 2017, followed by relatively infrequent spotless days for the next 7 months."

The frequency of spotless days accelerated in early November 2017, with 13 spotless days in a row. That was followed by many more spotless days over the next 5 months. In all, 2017 experienced 104 spotless days.

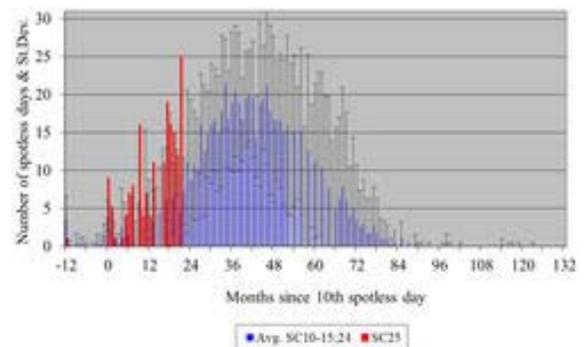
"The frequency of spotless days accelerated again last month, when we had 25 spotless days," Donovan noted. "We've already had 54 spotless days during the first quarter of 2018. This data and comparisons to frequent spotless days during the last solar minimum suggests that we may have just begun a period of very frequent spotless days for approximately the next 2 years, similar to the period of September 2007 through January 2009."

Donovan said the next solar precursor is frequent extended periods of spotless days. For example, 2016 saw 14 spotless days in a row, March 2017 had 15, November 2017 saw 13, and early March experienced 14.

"Long periods of spotless days will become even more frequent as we go deeper into solar minimum," Donovan predicted. Once extended periods of spotless days become more frequent, another solar precursor will become important, he said.

"New high-latitude, opposite-polarity Cycle 25 sunspots will then begin to appear more frequently, perhaps by late next year," Donovan said. "More frequent Cycle 25 sunspots will signal that we're approaching the bottom of the [Cycle 24] solar minimum phase."

An ongoing solar precursor that could herald the future strength of Cycle 25 is the intensity of the solar polar magnetic fields *prior* to the Cycle 24 solar minimum, Donovan said. "The good news is that the solar polar magnetic field strength is already slightly stronger



This [chart](#) shows the number of spotless days -- in red -- since the 10th spotless day of the onset of solar minimum in July 2016. In blue are the average numbers of spotless days during sunspot minimums following weak sunspot cycles similar to Solar Cycle 24.

than it was prior to the last solar minimum," he said. "This suggests that Cycle 25 will be somewhat stronger than Cycle 24."

Donovan said if the long periods of spotless days end in about 1 year, that will be a precursor of a stronger Cycle 25. If they take more than 2 years to end, however, it will portend a weaker Cycle 25.

OARC Meetings and Events 2018

May 2, Wednesday	Meeting
May 5-6, Sat – Sun	Bike MS
June 6, Wednesday	Meeting
June 23-24, Sat – Sun	Field Day 2018
July – No Meeting	No Meeting (1st Wednesday is National Holiday)
August 1, Wednesday	Meeting
September 5, Wednesday	Meeting
October 3, Wednesday	Meeting
November 7, Wednesday	Meeting
December , Saturday	Christmas Party *** Date TBD
December 5, Wednesday	No Meeting but Exams will be administered at 5:30pm at the Beardall Center

