



The Solar Eclipse QSO Party: Ionospheric Sounding Using Ham Radio QSOs

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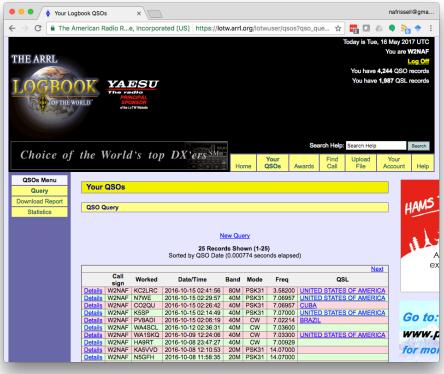




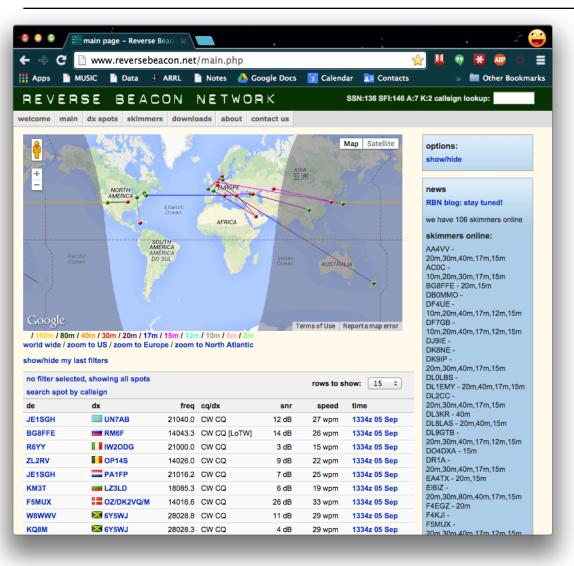
We love to operate!



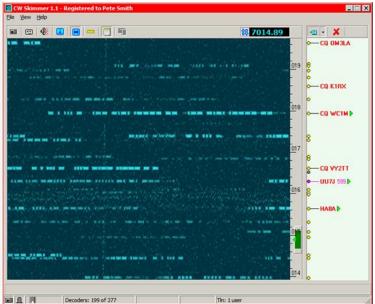




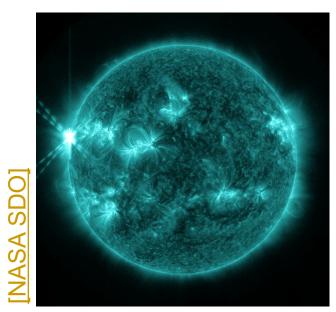
Reverse Beacon Network

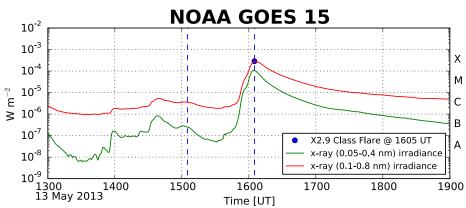


- Volunteer Network
- ~130 Nodes
- Data back to 2009



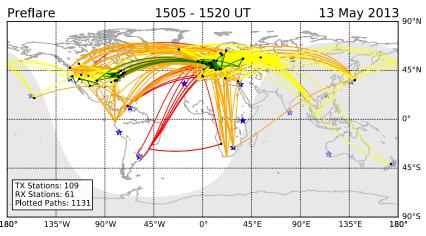
RBN & a Solar Flare

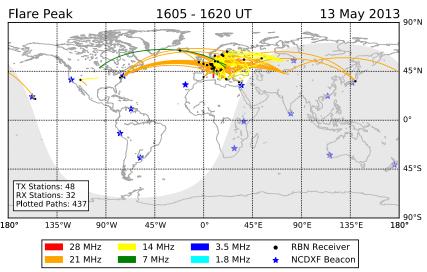




[Frissell et al., 2014, Space Weather]

Reverse Beacon Network Solar Flare HF Communication Paths





Big Data – Other Ham Networks

| Network | Start Year | # Spots | DB Size |
|-------------|------------|---------------|---------|
| WSPRNet | 2008 | 535,000,000 | 44 GB |
| RBN | 2009 | 578,000,000 | 36 GB |
| PSKReporter | 2013 | 1,000,000,000 | 100 GB |

- •There is A LOT of data.
- This is not a "traditional" experiment.
- •We are currently looking at ways to improve existing techniques and develop ones.





Solar Eclipse Ionospheric Effects?

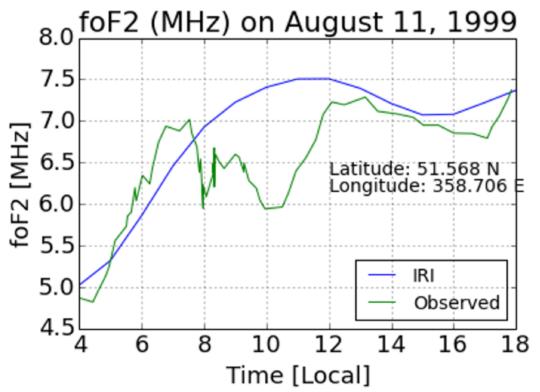
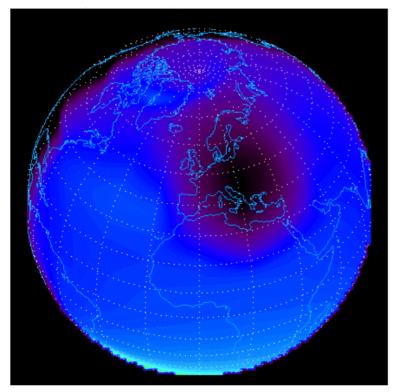


Figure: M. Moses after *Afraimovich et al.*, 2002



Model Electron Density at ~280 km alt. during 1999 Eclipse M. Harris from *Bamford* 2000.

SEQP Objectives

Let's flood the HF airways with signals!!!

By generating lots of QSOs, we should be able to "image" ionospheric changes.





Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP)

•August 21, 2017 from 1400 - 2200 UT

Contest-like

- 2 Points CW or Digital
- 1 Point for Phone
- Multiply Score by # of Grids

Exchange

Real RST + 6 Character Grid Square

Data sources

- Reverse Beacon Network
- PSKReporter
- WSPRNet
- Participant-submitted logs





http://hamsci.org/seqp





Bonus Points

- •Operate during totality 100 pts
- •Operate outdoors (so you can see the eclipse) -100 pts
- •Operate at a public venue –100 pts
- •Provide detailed station operation info 50 pts each:
 - Antenna design characteristics
 - HFTA terrain profile.
 - Estimated Ground conductivity
 - Station Effective Radiated Power relative to a Dipole (ERPD) on each band.
- Operate a wideband RBN, PSKReporter, or WSPRNet node during the contest – Varying Pt Values
- Bonus points for being spotted by RBN, PSKReporter, and Spotting Network.



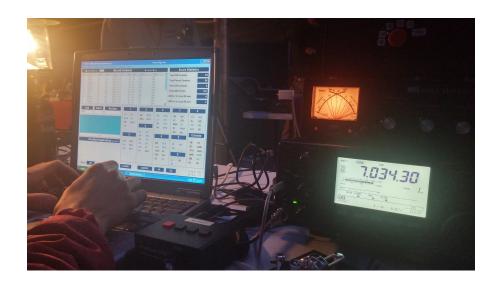
Logging & Certificates

- •We expect an N1MM+ module to be available for the SEQP.
- Any logging software that supports the ARRL VHF contest exchange format can also be used.
- Follow instructions at hamsci.org/seqp for uploading logs.
- Downloadable participation certificate will be available.
- •Final scores (with bonuses) will be posted on hamsci.org.



Closure

- The data from these efforts will help both science and ham radio.
- I hope everyone will have a chance to participate the in Solar Eclipse and the SEQP.
- The SEQP is just one way to help out! Stop by the HamSCI booth or visit hamsci.org/eclipse to learn more.
- We have a great opportunity to enjoy our ham radio hobby, experience the beauty of nature, and contribute to science!



Thank you!