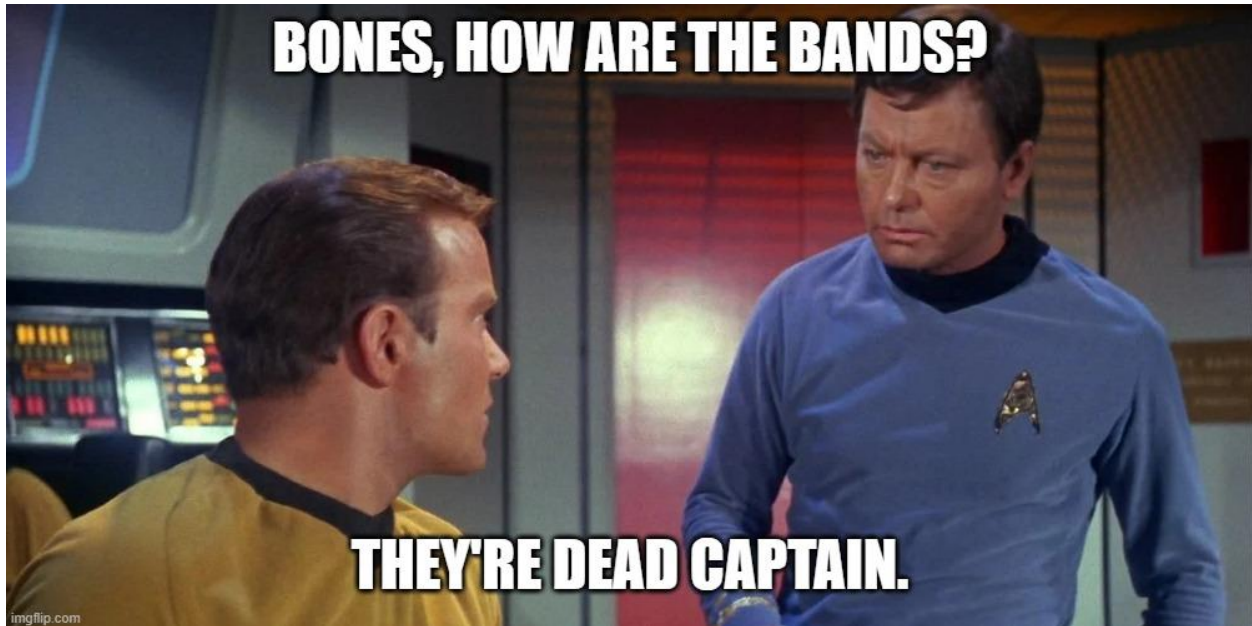


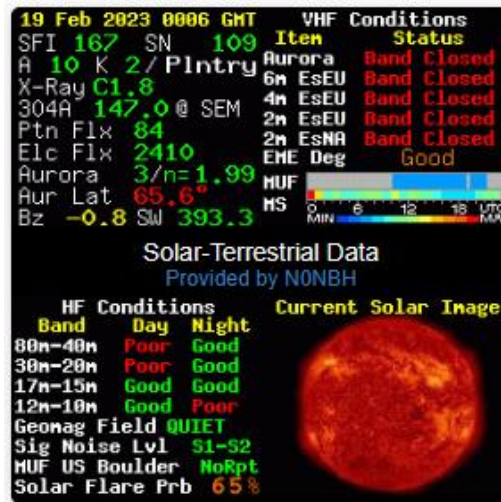
QSL Managers Message



I normally don't pay attention to folks when they tell me the bands are dead or the bands are open. What I usually do is turn on my radio and listen. If I can hear another station, I can usually contact them. To me the bands are never really dead. I'm able to make a contact somehow, some way, no matter what anyone says.

Like everything else in Amateur Radio what you want to do plays a role in this. Personally, I'll make contacts with anyone, on any band and using any mode...so I can always contact folks no matter what the band conditions are. If, on the other hand, you are only interested in contacting certain stations, on certain bands using only one mode, then the band conditions may be much more important to you.

You have probably seen this before...



What does it all mean? A very detailed explanation can be found at...

[HF Propagation and Solar-Terrestrial Data Website \(hamqsl.com\)](http://hamqsl.com)

Those of you that know me, know that I like simple.

A simple explanation is that the SFI and SN numbers are better when they are high. The A and K numbers are better when they are low.

The SFI, Solar Flux Index, goes from 0 - ?. A value of 160 or higher means you'll have reliable communications on all the bands.

A value below 35 means you'll have poor to fair conditions.

The SN, Sun Spot Number, goes from 0 - ? Larger numbers are better.

The A Index has a range of 0 -400. The A Index number is the average of 8, 3 hour K Index values. Lower numbers are better.

The K Index has a range of 0 – 9. Lower numbers are better.

So, for those of you that just love all the scientific stuff have fun studying HF Propagation and Solar-Terrestrial Data.

For those of you that are like me...just turn on your radio and see what you can hear.

Have fun!

73

Lee N5SLY