
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

December 2000

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

President...N3OJN Stan Riffle
1.V.Pres.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
2.v.Pres.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs
Secretary...N3SVM Bob Reid
Treasurer...N3ALS Wes Morar

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

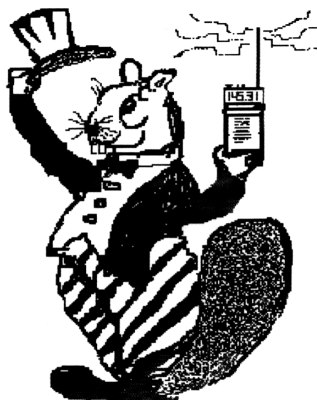
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
KC3OW.....John Gurgacz
KA3MJF.....Fred Miller
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim/Chief Engineer

Newsletter Editor

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

Newsletter Distribution

KB3EAQ....Debbie Mehutcs



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585

TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898

HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910

CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5

WPA PHONE & TCF....6:00 PM DAILY...3.983

ROOSTERS NET.....6:00 AM DAILY...3.990

E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255

COUNTY HUNTERS....10:00 AM DAILY..14.336

RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER..8:30 PM WED....145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER..9:30 PM WED...28.360

WPA TRAFFIC.....9:00 PM DAILY..146.88

QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: ke3ed@arrl.net, Packet: ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na, or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

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CLUB MEETING

The December B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held at our annual Christmas party on Friday the 22nd. More on that to follow. Hope to see you there.

2001 OFFICERS ELECTED

Our November meeting saw the election of our 2001 officers. They are as follows:

Stan Riffel N3OJN – President
 Debbie Mehutcs KB3EAQ - 1st Vice-President
 Joe Streit N3GZZ – 2nd Vice-President
 Wes Morar N3ALS – Treasurer
 Bob Reid N3SVM – Secretary

In addition to our elected officers two new trustees were appointed by our President. They are Al Belardia WA3GFM and Dave Heim KA3SMF.

Good luck in 2001.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This years B.V.A.R.A. Christmas party will be held at Hoss's Restaurant located on Beaver Grade Road in Moon Twp. On December 22 nd, 7:00 PM. Dress will be casual and dinner will consist of your choice of cuisine from their menu or buffet. A short meeting will be held afterwards to award the door prizes and this years "Ham of the Year" award. will be presented afterwards.

2001 DUES

If you haven't already done so please remember to send in your 2001 dues. Please use the application on the back page when you send in your membership. Thank you.

B.V.A.R.A. SPONSORED TEST SESSION

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday December 2nd, 2000 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building, 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

Testing will start promptly at 10:00 AM so please plan on arriving at least 15 - 30 minutes prior. Walk-ins are welcome. Talk-ins will be on the 145.310 (W3SGJ) repeater. Use minus offset and 100 hz pl tone.

All candidates wishing to take a test should bring the following:

1. Two (2) forms of identification.

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2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
3. Your original AND a photocopy of your current license (if any).
4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of \$6.65.

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will be multiple choice.

All Technician Plus operators licensed as such prior to March 21, 1987 should bring a copy and the original proof of this credit.

Candidates are welcome and encouraged to join us for breakfast at the Chippewa Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe at 8:00 AM.

For more information contact Tony KE3ED at the following:

Packet: ke3ed @ k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na
 Repeater: 145.310 (W3SGJ) minus offset & 100 hz pl tone.
 E-mail: ke3ed@bellatlantic.net
 Phone: (724) 774-4173

W3SGJ UHF REPEATER ON THE AIR

The tower is up, the controller works, and the shed is pretty well complete. Finally the 442.975 machine is on the air full time. After quite some time of experimentation and construction we can finally enjoy operating on our own 440 MHZ repeater. Be sure to try it out and let us know how it works for you. At this time you will notice that no pl tone is required. This will change once the pl deck is installed soon. At that time 100 HZ will be required to work the machine. To be sure you'll always be able to operate through it put the tone in memory now so the conversion will be transparent. Thanks to all who have helped in anyway with putting the machine on the air. Our deepest thanks to Clyde N3AK for hosting the machine and putting up with us, HI HI!!

B.V.A.R.A. NOW ONLINE

Dave KA3SMF has been busy these days constructing the clubs new web site located on the Internet at www.geocities.com/the_bvara. While still under construction the site already has quite a bit of information on it. If you have any club related pictures or articles for the site you can send them to our webmaster Dave at ka3smf@usaor.com. Also email for the B.V.A.R.A. can be sent to bvara22@hotmail.com.

B.V.A.R.A. BAKE SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!!

Last month Debbie KB3EAQ & Phyllis N3KUG did a great job when they set up a table at the Ellwood City Ames and sold the most mouth watering backed goods you've ever seen.

The result was over \$230 in sales with another sale planned for the spring!! What a great job ladies. Our deepest thanks go to you.

==>ALL-HAM CREW SETTLES IN ABOARD ISS

The all-ham crew of US astronaut and ISS Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, now is aboard the International Space Station. After blasting off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan October 31, the crew arrived at the ISS early November 2 aboard a Soyuz vehicle that will remain Docked with the space station.

"Give us a fast ship," Shepherd--a Navy captain--was quoted as saying before the launch. Shepherd, 51, is only the second US astronaut to go into space aboard a Russian launch vehicle. The Soyuz lifted off from the same launch pad where the space race began 43 years ago last month with the launch of the Sputnik 1 satellite.

Not long after arriving aboard the ISS, Shepherd asked for and was granted at least temporary permission to dub the new space outpost "Alpha."

In a NASA interview, Shepherd said the ISS will give humans "unique access to the space environment where we hope we can do very interesting and productive research." But he and the other Expedition 1 crew members also say they view the ISS as a stepping stone on the pathway to human habitation of space.

"If we don't have this progress with this space station, it means that humans in space are pretty much destined to stay close to the Earth, and I don't think that's what humans are about," Shepherd said.

The Expedition 1 crew's four-month stay in the station will begin the permanent human habitation of space. NASA said the crew's first tasks would be to activate the station's food warmer, set up the sleeping quarters and perform communications checks with flight controllers in the US and Russia.

"This is a huge, huge event," said US Astronaut Frank Culbertson, who directed the joint US-Russia program to put American astronauts aboard the Russian Mir space station in the 1990s. Culbertson is set to command a space station mission of his own next year. Yuri Semenov, who heads the Russian Energia company that built the Russian ISS modules, called it "a historical, remarkable day."

The crew has a busy schedule that primarily involves getting the ISS up and running for future research activities. Amateur Radio operation is not expected to commence until mid-month, although the crew is said to be enthusiastic about firing up the initial Amateur Radio on the International Space

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Station--or ARISS--gear. Once installed temporarily aboard the Zarya module, the equipment will provide FM voice and packet capability on 2 meters.

Tentative operating frequencies are: Worldwide downlink for voice and packet, 145.80 MHz; worldwide packet uplink, 145.99 MHz; Region 1 (Europe) voice uplink: 145.20 MHz; Region 2 and 3 voice uplink, 144.49 MHz. Crew members may use their personal call signs or one of the "club station" call signs issued for ISS use--NA1ISS, RZ3DZR, or DL0ISS.

The Keplerian elements bulletin from ARRL now includes data for the International Space Station.

Expedition 1 is scheduled to leave the station next February, when the three-member Expedition 2 crew arrives on STS-102. When it's completed in 2006, the ISS will be one of the brightest objects in the night sky and be as roomy as a jumbo jet.

For ARISS information and updates, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

==>SUPREME COURT ENDS KV4FZ RENEWAL SAGA

The US Supreme Court has put an end to the high-profile amateur license renewal case of Herbert Schoenbohm, KV4FZ, by denying his petition for certiorari. The petition was Schoenbohm's last avenue of legal appeal in the case, which stretches back to 1994.

Strictly speaking, Schoenbohm does not have to immediately stop transmitting on the ham bands. Legally, he may continue to operate until 12:01 AM on Monday, January 29, 2001. But Schoenbohm--who was on 160 meters during the CQ WW SSB Contest--has turned off his gear and appears disinclined to press the issue just yet.

"I haven't been on the air since Tuesday," Schoenbohm said this week from his home in the US Virgin Islands. "I would like to operate in the CQ WW CW and the ARRL contest on 160 meters, but I will need to check with the FCC to see if it is not frowned upon." The FCC Enforcement Bureau would not comment on whether or not it would prefer that Schoenbohm stay off the air.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear his case was "as expected," Schoenbohm said. "The saga has gone on for almost eight years and was worth the fight." The Supreme Court announced its latest list of orders October 30.

Schoenbohm's license renewal troubles date back to 1994, when the FCC put his renewal application up for hearing following his 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges. The Commission turned down his renewal application in 1998, and the US Appeals Court upheld the FCC's decision

earlier this year. Schoenbohm petitioned the high court in August to review his Appeals Court record.

The 1998 FCC Order includes a provision that authorizes Schoenbohm to continue to operate his station until the 91st day "following the release date of any order on reconsideration or the completion of judicial review, whichever is later."

Schoenbohm holds the call signs VP2VFZ, VP2MFZ, VP2EFZ, and PY1ZAI, but he may not use those call signs from US territory. This week he offered up his Virgin Islands station for use by DXpeditions and for contest operations. For now, Schoenbohm says he'll content himself with communicating with his friends via the Internet. "There is certainly less QRM," he said.

==>PHASE 3D GETS FIRM LAUNCH DATE

AMSAT News Service says the next-generation Phase 3D amateur radio satellite now has a firm launch date and time. ANS says it's been informed by "various sources" that the Ariane 507 carrying Phase 3D and other satellite payloads aloft will head into space Wednesday, November 15, at 0107 UTC from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French, Guiana.

The Radio Club of Kourou's FY5KE has announced plans to broadcast the Phase 3D launch on 14.315 MHz in French "and probably in English." The transmission will start at approximately 15 minutes prior to launch and will end about 45 minutes later when the satellite is put on orbit.

Also atop the Ariane 5 rocket will be the PanAmSat 1R communications satellite--the largest and primary payload--and two British Space Technology Research Vehicle minisats, STRV 1C and STRV 1D. If all goes as intended, the Ariane 5 will place all four satellites into geostationary transfer orbit.

The Ariane 5 will deploy its payloads sequentially during a sort of aerial ballet that involves a dozen or so critical positioning maneuvers for success. At the very top of the rocket, the PanAmSat 1R will be the first satellite ejected into space--after the protective cap is jettisoned and the launcher has been precisely aimed.

The launcher then must be accurately repositioned to deploy the STRV packages, which are fitted to the Ariane Structure for Auxiliary Payloads platform along with Phase 3D.

Finally, it will be Phase 3D's turn. The launcher will align itself for a final time, and, once in the exact position, will eject the amateur satellite package. Beyond that point, Phase 3D still must successfully negotiate several more steps on its way to its much-higher final elliptical orbit. That process, which involves firings of the onboard 400-Newton motor and arcjet (ATOS) engine eventually will result in an orbit that's some 2500 miles from Earth at the nearest point and almost

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30,000 miles away at the farthest and at a 63 degree inclination. Establishing the final orbital configuration could take up to one year.

Phase 3D, at more than 1400 pounds and nearly 20 feet across, will be the largest Amateur Radio payload ever put into space. In October, AMSAT-DL Executive Vice President Peter Gülow, DB2OS--who's heading up the Phase 3D launch campaign--pronounced the satellite "ready to fly" after it passed all of its pre-launch inspections, testing, and preparation.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org/>.

==>FORMER CALIFORNIA HAM AGREES TO JAIL FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

Former amateur Richard Allen Burton reportedly has agreed to serve three months in jail for Communications Act violations, pending pre-sentencing and medical reports. Burton, who has a long history of alleged unlicensed operation, was arrested August 5 after his indictment in May by a grand jury for the US District Court for the Central District of California. Sentencing will be in February.

Formerly WB6JAC, Burton faced six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934. The FCC says he operated without a license on repeaters in Southern California after his license was cancelled.

Burton's General ticket was revoked in 1981. The following year, he was convicted on four counts of transmitting without a license and two counts of transmitting "obscene, indecent or profane words, language or meaning." Burton initially was sentenced to serve six months of an eight year prison term, with the remainder suspended. Upon appeal, the US Ninth District Court of Appeals upheld the unlicensed operation conviction but threw out his obscenity conviction. The FCC says that Burton transmitted without a license while on probation in 1984 and again in 1990 and in 1992. After the second incident, he was fined \$2000 and received a year's probation; after the third, he was sentenced to seven months in jail and a year's probation.

In 1992, Burton attempted to get his Amateur Radio license back, but the FCC refused to reinstate him. He was briefly successful in getting a ham ticket in 1996, when he passed a Technician exam at a VE session. The FCC granted Burton a new license and the call sign KF6GKS, which was promptly set aside as soon as the Commission realized its error.

Burton has been free on \$20,000 bond. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. A trial was postponed while the plea agreement was being worked out.

==>ARRL CONTINUES CAUTIONARY TONE IN UWB REPLY COMMENTS

In reply comments in the FCC's ultra-wideband proceeding, the ARRL has reiterated its stance that the Commission should not act in the matter until more test data are in and analyzed. Initial test data in the proceeding were due October 30, but the ARRL is encouraging the FCC to consider additional testing.

Pointing out that the ITU and the ARRL have only just begun their own UWB studies, the ARRL characterized the rulemaking proceeding as "entirely premature."

The extensive record in the proceeding (Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 98-153), the League noted, "still lacks conclusive test results from ongoing testing efforts from various sources." The ARRL joined the US Department of Defense in urging the FCC to await the outcome of tests looking at the interference potential of UWB devices to amateur receivers before deciding on UWB operational and technical requirements. The Defense Department, with which the Amateur Service shares some spectrum, also has urged the FCC to await ongoing analyses and measurements before it acts in the proceeding.

The League said the FCC should "afford a reasonable period for review of subsequently submitted test data" plus a further comment period to address it. And the ARRL warned the FCC about making assumptions concerning UWB's interference potential without first insisting on objective technical tests.

"ARRL is convinced that the studies conducted to date cannot accurately reflect the diversity of the Amateur Radio Service," the League said in its reply comments, "and it urges that no sweeping rules changes be made until all available studies and data are available and analyzed."

The League recently arranged with the University of Southern California's UWB lab to test the interference potential of UWB devices to "typical Amateur Radio station configurations." The ARRL has provided lab staff members with 1.2 GHz multimode receiving equipment for field testing, and results are expected by year's end. The League said it anticipates participating in additional tests.

The League also has urged "most strongly" that any UWB devices be required to operate above 2450 MHz "to avoid interference to sensitive receivers, especially those used for amateur satellite reception."

The FCC last May proposed amending its Part 15 rules to permit the operation of ultra-wideband devices on an unlicensed basis, saying the technology could have enormous benefits for public safety, consumers and businesses. In its initial comments filed in September, the ARRL advised the

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FCC to put its UWB proceeding on hold until more evidence is available on the technology's interference impact.

All of the ARRL's comments in the UWB proceeding are available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-153/index.html>.

==>FCC INTERVENES IN ANOTHER POWER LINE INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has written a Wisconsin electric utility as a result of complaints of suspected power line interference filed by two Iowa amateurs. The FCC intervened after Alliant Energy of Madison indicated that it already considered itself to be in compliance with applicable state and federal laws. The FCC explained the utility's obligations under its Part 15 rules and gave the company 30 days to look into the situation and report back to the complainants.

The FCC's intervention October 27 stemmed from harmful interference complaints filed by James L. Spencer, W0SR, and Frederick M. Spinner, W0FMS, both of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The ARRL also has been in touch with Alliant Energy on behalf of the two ARRL members in an effort to resolve the matter.

In response to an inquiry from ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, Steven Baker, Alliant's general manager for customer operations, said his company "cannot financially justify making major system changes or investments to address problems, which are understood to be incidental radiators with no harmful interference as per FCC requirements." Baker said several of the RFI problems in Spencer's area were traced to "fish tank heaters, doorbell transformers and other devices" not under the utility's control.

"The nature of the RFI in Mr. Spencer's case is intermittent and at frequencies which have no effect on the public general broadcast frequencies," Baker said.

Spencer told the ARRL that he's been working for several years to resolve power line noise problems and has logged dozens of contacts with the utility. While he reported getting good customer service early on, he says the level of service has declined lately. Spinner, who contacted the utility more recently, said he's received no indication that Alliant intends to correct his problem and, in fact, suggested that he might have to live with it.

The ARRL has offered to assist all parties in reaching a satisfactory resolution. The FCC also suggested that Alliant contact the ARRL for additional guidance on dealing with RFI involving amateurs.

The FCC Consumer Information Bureau's Sharon Bowers told Alliant that even interference to a limited range of frequencies constitutes harmful interference to a licensed service. The FCC pointed out that the utility must not cause

harmful interference to licensed services, and, if it does, should locate and correct problems within a reasonable time. The Commission requested that Alliant advise the complainants within 30 days of the steps it is taking to correct the reported interference problems.

Last year, the FCC intervened in the wake of longstanding RFI complaints from several West Coast amateurs who claimed they were receiving harmful interference from Pacific Gas and Electric power lines or equipment.

The ARRL Technical Information Service offers more information at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html>

==>PHASE 3D LAUNCH INFORMATION NET SET

With the launch of the next-generation Phase 3D amateur satellite just days away, a launch information net is being established to provide information and commentary via several outlets, including amateur frequencies. Phase 3D is scheduled to be launched aboard an Ariane 5 rocket November 15 at 0107 UTC from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

Details are being worked out for the AMSAT Launch Information Net Service to run "live" during the launch. Houston AMSAT Coordinator Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says the net will provide launch information and commentary via several HF stations on various bands as well as on local repeaters.

The current schedule calls for the net to start about 15 minutes before launch and carry through separation of P3D. Paige says the plan is to monitor the Arianespace TV C-band satellite feed for real-time launch information, then communicate that information via a telephone bridge. "We are not re-transmitting the Arianespace audio to avoid possible problems with the FCC," he explained. The telephone linkup will include key AMSAT personnel who will add their own comments and details to the real-time announcements.

Participating commentators in addition to Paige include newly elected AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, as well as AMSAT-NA Vice President for Operations Keith Pugh, W5IU; Andy MacAllister, W5ACM; Pat Kilroy, N8PK at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; launch team second-in-command Chuck Green, N0ADI; North American Command Station Stacy Mills, W4SM; and IARU Satellite Coordinator Hans van den Groenendaal, ZS5AKV. Others may be added as the launch approaches.

Paige says the Houston AMSAT Net, <http://www.amsatnet.com>, will carry the launch information net telephone feed on its normal net connections--satellite, local repeater and Internet RealAudio.

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The Launch Information Net also will be carried by key HF stations, led by the Goddard Amateur Radio Club's WA3NAN (http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/www/retransmission/retrans_status.html). WA3NAN expects to be on the air an hour prior to launch and will re-transmit on its shuttle frequencies, 3.860, 7.185, 14.295, 21.395, and 147.45 MHz. W5RRR at the Johnson Space Center in Texas--or its alternates--will use 3.840, 7.279, and 14.282 MHz.

The Radio Club of Kourou's FY5KE also has announced plans to broadcast the Phase 3D launch on 14.315 MHz in French "and probably in English."

According to Paige, Bob Arnold, N2JEU, is planning to make the Arianespace audio available on the Internet. Details are available at <http://www.ralabs.com/livep3d>.

CQ Amateur Radio magazine has announced plans to offer continuously updated coverage of the Phase 3D launch via its Web site, <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, says Satellite Editor Phil Chien, KC4YER, will author a running "launch log" in which he'll post regular updates every few minutes. CQ also will provide links to sites featuring live launch video.

==>NEBRASKA CLUB TOPS FREQUENCY PROMOTION COMPETITION

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club of Omaha, Nebraska, has been chosen as the winner of the Frequency Amateur Radio promotion competition. The Nebraska club topped a list of six Amateur Radio organizations that were selected to receive prizes for their efforts in spreading the word about Amateur Radio in conjunction with the movie Frequency, which uses ham radio as a central plot device.

The top prize ICOM IC-746 HF-VHF transceiver donated by ICOM was among several prizes pledged by manufacturers for the clubs that did the best job of promoting Amateur Radio at a local theater screening Frequency. In addition, the ARRL donated the choice of a 2000 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs or Handbook CD-ROM to each of the 25 clubs that entered the competition.

The second place winner was the Bay Area Amateur Radio Club in Bay City, Michigan, which will receive an M2 17-30 LP 7 log periodic antenna. Taking third place was the Austin Amateur Radio Club in Austin, Texas, which won an ADI AR-147+ 2-meter mobile transceiver.

Winners were selected based on each club's written description of its promotional activities. Prize awards were determined by a panel of representatives of the manufacturers and suppliers who donated to the prize pool. The ARRL agreed to receive submittals for the competition.

Frequency's far-fetched plot involving communicating across time offered a unique opportunity to promote Amateur Radio

in communities across the country. Shortly before the movie's release last April, Amateur Radio industry representatives joined with the ARRL to sponsor the competition for clubs.

With an enthusiastic show of support from theater management, the top-ranked Ak-Sar-Ben club put up a first-rate, professional-quality display booth and wowed moviegoers at the 20 Grand Theater in Omaha. Complete with a Heathkit transceiver similar to the rig used in the movie, club members demonstrated a variety of modes and Amateur Radio technologies, letting moviegoers make HF contacts, track moving vehicles with APRS or see themselves on SSTV (reportedly a big hit with the younger crowd). After the event ended, theater management asked the club to leave behind as much of the display as it could--excluding the radios and the computers, of course--so more theater goers could learn about Amateur Radio.

Capitalizing on its Frequency PR effort, Ak-Sar-Ben club members set up a Technician license class shortly after the event. Club PR Chairman Bill Newman, K0NSA, says that everyone who turned out for the class did so as a result of having visited the theater display.

Other prizes were provided by Cable X-Perts, Heil Sound, Alpha Delta, International Antenna and Alinco.

Frequency was directed by Gregory Hoblit. In the movie, a long-dead father (played by Dennis Quaid) and his adult son (played by Jim Caviezel) meet up via ham radio during the mother of all sunspot cycles. Eventually, father and son conspire in efforts to change the past. For those who still have not had a chance to see the movie, Frequency now is out in home video.—Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY

==>VE3FRH IS NEW AMSAT-NA PRESIDENT

Canadian amateur and ARRL member Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has been elected president of AMSAT-NA. Haighton was elected without opposition at the AMSAT-NA Annual Meeting October 29 in Portland, Maine.

Haighton, 63, replaces Keith Baker, KB1SF, in AMSAT-NA's top slot. Prior to his election, he had served as AMSAT-NA's executive vice president.

An electrical engineer by profession, Haighton has been licensed since 1977. He previously held the call sign GD4INU. He's been a member of AMSAT since 1991, and, in 1997, he organized the AMSAT-NA annual meeting.

Haighton is one of two Canadian representatives to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project. He's been active in Canadian Amateur Radio affairs for many years, and is a life member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (formerly of the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation).

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Baker surprised the Amateur Radio community in September by announcing that he did not plan to seek another term. Baker remains an AMSAT-NA board member.

Ray Soifer, W2RS, has stepped back into the job of executive vice president vacated by Haighton. Soifer had served as international affairs VP for AMSAT-NA--RAC and AMSAT News Service

==>FCC SEEKS TECHNOLOGICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINEES

The FCC is seeking nominees to serve on its Technological Advisory Council. The Council--a diverse array of distinguished technologists that met for the first time only last year--is aimed at providing "cutting-edge" advice to the FCC. Nominations and applications will be accepted through November 22.

The FCC says it must stay abreast of future developments in communications and related technologies to fulfill its responsibilities under the Communications Act. The TAC has 25 members. The FCC intends to replace half of those. Members serve two-year terms.

Nominees and applicants for membership on the Council should have national, or international, reputations as leading technologists in their areas of expertise. Individuals may apply for, or nominate another individual for, membership on the Council.

Nominations and applications should be sent to Kent Nilsson, Network Technology Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, FCC, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554.

For further information, contact Kent Nilsson at knilsson@fcc.gov or 202-418-0845.--FCC Public Notice

==>IT'S ALIVE! PHASE 3D IS NOW AO-40

Alive and well and in orbit around Earth, the satellite known for the past decade as "Phase 3D" has a new name. AMSAT-NA Board Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO, this week announced that Phase 3D now will be known as AMSAT-OSCAR 40, or AO-40.

"We have been calling it Phase 3D for far too long," Tynan said. "Henceforth it will take its place in the long line of OSCARs, satellites built by the Amateur Radio community for the Amateur Radio community throughout the world."

Tynan said he got the official go-ahead from Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, to assign an OSCAR number. It's been 40 years since the first OSCAR satellite launched. AMSAT-OSCAR 40 was dedicated to the memory of one of its principal builders, Werner Haas, DJ5KQ, and

operates under the call sign DP0WH. Haas died earlier this year. A plaque aboard AO-40 is dedicated to his memory.

Tynan, whose tenure as AMSAT-NA President covered the early years of the Phase 3D project, was overjoyed to see the satellite finally in orbit. "Congratulations and thanks to all who participated in any way to this wonderful achievement," he said.

Following a one-day postponement, Phase 3D was successfully launched November 16 at 0107 UTC and placed into a geostationary transfer orbit, from which it will be nudged into its final high elliptical orbit. When the Ariane 5 launcher successfully deployed Phase 3D at 0153 UTC, cheers erupted from the AMSAT team monitoring the flight's progress in the Arianespace control room. The satellite is not expected to be ready for general use for about nine months.

"It was a textbook launch," said Phase 3D Mission Director and AMSAT-DL Executive Vice President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS. Guelzow, who's filling in for Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, said the satellite appears to be in excellent health. A "general beacon" was transmitting on approximately 435.450 MHz. The AO-40 PSK beacon has been monitored on or about 145.898 MHz--slightly different from the expected frequency.

This week's Phase 3D launch culminated a decade of planning, design, construction and testing as well as an ambitious fundraising campaign. The ARRL was among the major contributors to the Phase 3D project.

Newly elected AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, hailed the news of the launch. "It expands the capabilities of radio amateurs to work with higher frequencies and develop advanced communication techniques," he said. "Once more, Amateur Radio operators will be at the leading edge of experimentation in communications."

The satellite now is in orbit some 585 miles above Earth at the closest point. Phase 3D's final elliptical orbital configuration will put the satellite some 2500 miles away from Earth at its nearest point, and some 29,500 miles at its farthest.

At 630 kg (1380 lbs) and some 20 feet across when the solar panels are deployed, Phase 3D is the largest Amateur Radio satellite ever put into space. Three other satellites, the giant PanAmSat PAS-1R communications satellite and the smaller STRV-1C and 1D mini-satellites, joined AMSAT Phase 3D--now AO 40--for the ride.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org>.

==>FCC ORDER DECLINES TO INCLUDE CC&RS IN PRB-1

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The FCC has denied an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration calling on the Commission to declare that PRB-1 applies to amateurs living in areas governed by CC&Rs or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. The FCC Order also seeks to "amplify" the definition of the oft-cited "reasonable accommodation" phrase in PRB-1 with respect to local land use and zoning.

The FCC Order said the League failed to demonstrate any "significant change in the underlying rationale of the PRB-1 decision" that would necessitate revisiting the issue.

"The Order provides some additional clarification on the extent of PRB-1 preemption, but it falls short of providing the relief that ARRL was seeking," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Because Deputy Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Kathleen O'Brien Ham issued the November 13 Order under what's known as "delegated authority," the ARRL was mulling whether to submit an application for review by the full Commission.

Sumner said the ARRL believes the issue is "critically important." He said the League continues to gather additional information and to plan on how to present its arguments more persuasively before the FCC.

The FCC Order said that even if the Commission does have authority to address CC&Rs within the context of Amateur Radio facilities, "this alone does not necessarily warrant revisiting the exclusion of CC&Rs" from PRB-1. The ARRL has argued that the FCC has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The same principle, the ARRL asserts, applies to Amateur Radio.

The FCC Order says, however, that ham antennas are not like over-the-air reception device antennas, "which are very limited in size in residential areas." Regardless of the extent of the FCC's discretion with respect to CC&Rs generally, "we are not persuaded by ARRL's arguments that it is appropriate at this time to consider exercising such discretion with respect to amateur station antenna preemption," the Order said.

In its initial denial a year ago, the FCC strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to "follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio.

The FCC Order also took the opportunity to clarify by example what PRB-1 means by "reasonable accommodation" in terms of amateur antennas. The Order says the FCC does not believe that zoning that provides for extreme or excessive prohibition of amateur communications "could be deemed to be a reasonable accommodation." As an example, the Order said, "we believe that a regulation that would restrict amateur communications using small dish antennas, antennas that do

not present any safety or health hazard, or antennas that are similar to those normally permitted for viewing television" is not reasonable accommodation or minimum practicable regulation.

On the other hand, the Order said, communities wanting to "preserve residential areas as livable neighborhoods" would be free to adopt zoning that forbids antennas "commonly and universally associated with those that one finds in a factory area or an industrialized complex." The FCC conceded that while such rules could constrain amateur communications, "we do not view it as failing to provide reasonable accommodation to amateur communications."

The FCC Order also stuck to the earlier conclusion that the current standards for "reasonable accommodation and minimum practicable regulation" spelled out in PRB-1 "are sufficiently specific to cover any concerns related to unreasonable fees or onerous conditions."

The Order said the FCC continues to believe that it should "not specify precise height limitations below which a community may not regulate, given the varying circumstances that may occur."

The Order combined the FCC's response to the ARRL petition with its response to a similar filing from Barry N. Gorodetzer, N4IFE, and Kathy Conrad-Gorodetzer, KF4IDH, of Ft Lauderdale, Florida. The FCC Order is at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm8763.html>.

==>ISS CREW CHECKS OUT HAM GEAR

The International Space Station crew of US astronaut and ISS Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko checked out the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station initial station ham gear last weekend.

"With the successful execution of engineering test communications passes, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station project has passed a significant milestone," said ARISS team member Will Marchant, KC6ROL.

Two initial Amateur Radio test passes were conducted via R3K at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City near Moscow, with Russian ARISS delegate Sergej Samburov, RV3DR, at the controls. AMSAT Russia President Eugene Labutin, RA3APR, and Vladimir Zagainov, UA3DKR, also were on hand for the commissioning pass.

A subsequent test pass via NN1SS at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center was equally successful. The crew reiterated its interest and support for Amateur Radio activities on the ISS. School Amateur Radio contact schedules and

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casual QSOs are pending at this point, however, as the crew tackles a very busy work regime in space.

Shepherd reports that all equipment aboard the ISS appears to be operating well, although he and the other crew members have complained about the noisy air conditioner. The crew spent its first week installing an oxygen generator, a carbon-dioxide removal unit and other life-support systems.

Things will get busier when a Russian cargo ship filled with food, parts, trash bags and another air conditioner arrives November 17. The crew must unload the rocket, stow the gear, then fill the rocket with trash to jettison before the shuttle Endeavour lifts off at the end of the month with a new set of solar panels for the ISS.

The crew is not getting Thanksgiving off, and crew members did not request turkey and the trimmings be sent into space.

Students at the Burbank School in Burbank, Illinois, were tentatively scheduled to have the first Amateur Radio contact with the Expedition 1 crew next month. Another 18 schools are under consideration for ARISS school contacts.

Tentative operating frequencies are: Worldwide downlink for voice and packet, 145.80 MHz; worldwide packet uplink, 145.99 MHz; Region 1 (Europe/Africa) voice uplink: 145.20 MHz; Region 2 and 3 voice uplink, 144.49 MHz. Crew members may use their personal call signs or one of the "club station" call signs issued for ISS use--NA1SS, RZ3DZR, or DL0ISS. The Keplerian elements bulletin from ARRL now includes data for the ISS.

For more information, visit <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

==>FCC REAFFIRMS REDUCED FINE FOR FORMER AMATEUR

The FCC has denied a Petition for Reconsideration filed by a former Houston, Texas, amateur and has affirmed a \$4000 fine. Leonard D. Martin, formerly KC5WHN, had asked the FCC to reconsider its reduced fine for operating without a license and for refusing FCC requests to inspect his radio installation.

This past summer, the Commission substantially reduced the \$17,000 fine it had proposed. On July 12, the FCC issued a Forfeiture Order telling Martin to pay \$4000 for repeated unlicensed operation on 11 meters and for failing to allow equipment inspections on several occasions.

In responding to the initial Notice of Apparent Liability, the FCC said, Martin did not deny the violations but requested cancellation of the fine arguing that he was unable to pay it.

In his reconsideration petition, Martin still did not deny transmitting without authorization or refusing to allow an equipment inspection. But he contended the FCC failed to

comply with its own procedures by, among other things, not providing him with "proper notice to inspect" and by not giving him a chance to have an attorney present. Martin also claimed the FCC Forfeiture Order was based on "unsubstantiated allegations," that the fine was out of proportion to the violations, that the FCC exceeded its authority to regulate interstate communications, that his First Amendment rights were violated, and that he was denied due process.

The FCC categorically turned away Martin's arguments and concluded that he "has failed to provide a sufficient justification" for canceling or reducing the fine. The FCC ordered the fine paid within 30 days.

==>RUSSIA TO DUMP MIR

Russia now appears resigned to dump its Mir space station. After much waffling and after announced plans to commercialize Mir fell through, the Russian government voted this week to deorbit the aging space station that for more than a dozen years has been the pride of the Russian space program.

Current plans call for Russia to deorbit Mir in February. Yuri Koptev, the head of the Russian space agency, said the Russian government has agreed that Mir would be taken out of orbit and brought down into the Pacific Ocean in a predetermined area off Australia between February 26 and 28.

Mir has been the focus of Amateur Radio activity from space by cosmonauts and US astronauts--including several contacts with schools. Amateur Radio communication from US astronauts was able to fill in details of a nearly disastrous fire and after a collision with a Progress rocket nearly decompressed Mir.

Koptev said an unmanned cargo ship sent to Mir early next year will fire its rockets to push the space station quickly into the atmosphere. Koptev said Mir was in too poor a state of repair to remain in orbit much longer.

This week's decision signals the end of an era for Russia's cash-strapped space program, and defeat for the private MirCorp, which had tried to raise millions of dollars to keep Mir in operation. American businessman Dennis Tito, who had hoped to travel to Mir as a "space tourist" under a deal with MirCorp and has already spent \$1 million in training, will not be sent to the station, Koptev said.--from news reports

==> LIMITED AO-40 USE POSSIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says plans are in place to make AO-40 available for a limited period of general amateur use "possibly within a week or two." Launched November 16, the next-generation Amateur Radio

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satellite formerly known as Phase 3D remains for now in a geostationary transfer orbit while initial housekeeping and checkout procedures are under way. The satellite's final high elliptical orbit will not be established for another nine months.

Just when and how the "limited operation" will occur is up to the ground controllers, Haighton said. The provisional operation would involve "one or two bands at a time," he said. Since the satellite's solar panels will not be deployed until AO-40 is in its final orbit, full power will not be available.

Details of the limited test period will be announced via AMSAT bulletins and via the AO-40 telemetry beacon on 2 meters, which also is transmitting text messages. (For more information on receiving AO-40 telemetry, visit the AMSAT-NA "AO-40 Telemetry" page, <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/ao40/ao40-tlm.html>.)

In a bulletin released Monday, AMSAT stressed that the Phase 3D/AO-40 controllers were closely monitoring the power budget and the satellite's current orbital parameters. "These two areas will be among the most important factors that determine what happens with P3D in the near future," the AMSAT bulletin said.

From all indications, most AO-40 systems are working properly at this point, with the possible exception of the 70-cm transmitter. According to a status report from Phase 3D Project Manager Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, "a problem with the 70 cm transmitter" led controllers to shift the telemetry downlink from 70 cm to 2 meters (145.898 MHz). Meinzer said AO-40's two 2.4 GHz transmitters were operated and are okay.

Haighton said the most likely configurations for the limited test period would be Mode U/V (Mode B)--70 cm up and 2 meters down--and Mode L/S--1.2 GHz up and 2.4 GHz down, SSB and CW.

AMSAT says there's still a lot of work to do until AO-40 will be fully ready for general Amateur Radio use. AO-40's geostationary transfer orbit puts it some 500 km from Earth at its nearest point, and 35,000 km at the farthest.

AMSAT says that AO-40's attitude is being changed to prepare for the first motor burn. Meinzer's report says the 400-Newton motor will be used to put AO-40 into a 50,000 km apogee. The first orbital maneuver should be completed in a few days. Other orbital adjustments will follow over the next 270 days.

AO-40's solar panels will not be deployed until the satellite is in its final orbital configuration. Once that happens, the satellite should become available for full Amateur Radio use.

==>BOARD TO CONSIDER MORSE CODE POLICY REVIEW

The ARRL Board of Directors will review the League's position on the Morse code as an international licensing requirement when it gathers for its annual meeting in January. Because the issue is expected to come up at the IARU Region 2 Conference next October, the ARRL Executive Committee decided at its November 11 meeting in Irving, Texas, to place the issue on the Board's January agenda.

The ARRL's Morse policy was formalized by Board resolution in 1993. It supports the retention in the International Radio Regulations of the provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. Consistent with that policy, ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote earlier this year at the IARU Region 3 Conference in Australia on a motion calling for the eventual elimination of Morse as an ITU requirement for HF operation.

In January, the Board may decide to reaffirm this policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of members has supported the policy.

The Executive Committee also proposed that the Board determine a process for soliciting membership input on possible repartitioning of the HF bands in restructuring's wake. As part of its original restructuring package, the League had proposed "refarming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. The FCC has declined to take up any possible repartitioning, however, until it's had a chance to gauge the effects of restructuring. Amateur Radio license restructuring became effective last April 15.

In other action, Stafford and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported briefly on preparations for WRC-2003. Stafford is focusing on developing support for the Amateur Radio 7 MHz position within Region 2. The IARU seeks a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner has been named to the core IARU delegation to that conference.

The Executive Committee also heard a wide-ranging update of other FCC matters, including the League's efforts to gain primary amateur status at 2400 to 2402 MHz and at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

Sumner observed during the meeting that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills--HR 783 and S 2183--were not likely to be enacted during the "lame duck" session of Congress that's just ahead. Principal sponsors of both bills are returning to Congress in January and may be asked to reintroduce the legislation.

The Executive Committee also briefly discussed legislative restrictions on the use of cell phones that have been popping up in various localities. Hudson Division Director Frank

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Fallon, N2FF, noted that an effort is under way in New Jersey to exempt Amateur Radio operation from the effects of such legislation.

==>SHEPHERD MAKES FIRST CASUAL QSOs FROM ISS

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program has announced that Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, made the first casual Amateur Radio contacts from Space Station Alpha last week. Details were not available.

Shepherd reports that he was able to take a few minutes out of his busy schedule last Friday, November 17, to engage in contacts with a few lucky hams. Before then, the only Amateur Radio contacts involved engineering test passes between the ISS and Russian and US amateur facilities.

ARISS spokesman Will Marchant, KC6ROL, says that with the recent arrival at ISS of a Progress cargo craft, the crew will have to redouble its work pace. The space shuttle Endeavour STS-97 mission to the ISS will launch November 30, so the Expedition 1 crew will continue to put in some long hours preparing for its arrival. Endeavour is carrying a large new solar panel for the ISS that will permit the station to be fully powered for the first time.

More information about Amateur Radio on the International Space Station is available on the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.--ARISS news release

==>ARRL VEC ANTICIPATES \$10 TEST FEE FOR 2001

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC plans to set its test fee for calendar year 2001 at \$10. The current fee of \$6.65 is based on a provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a \$4 cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. More recent legislation removed this cap. An FCC announcement of changes in its rules, reflecting the change in the law, is expected toward the end of the year.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was envisioned at the time Congress set the original cap. "We're doing the data entry for all new and upgrade license applications that are handled by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners," Sumner explained. "Originally, we simply reviewed and organized the paperwork and the FCC staff did the data entry. The current system is better for the applicants because they get their licenses faster, but it's also more costly for us."

Jahnke said a \$10 ARRL VEC test fee will be formalized as soon as the FCC gives the word that it has made the necessary

adjustments to Part 97 to bring it in line with the updated Communications Act. As soon as that happens, the ARRL VEC will make a formal announcement to establish the new fee. Until then, ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants at the 2000 test fee rate of \$6.65.

==>SECTION MANAGERS ELECTED IN TEN ARRL SECTIONS

The ballots have been counted, and ARRL section managers have been elected in races in Eastern Massachusetts and South Carolina. Incumbent SMs were returned to office in eight other ARRL sections without opposition.

In the Eastern Massachusetts Section, Phillip E. Temples, K9HI, of Watertown outpolled Stan Laine, WA1ECF, 781 to 351. Temples replaces Joel Magid, WU1F, who did not seek re-election.

In the South Carolina Section, Patricia M. Hensley, N4ROS, of Richburg topped a field of three candidates. She received 301 votes, to 229 for James Boehner, N2ZZ, and 188 for Laurie Sansbury Jr, KV4C. Hensley was tapped earlier this year to take over the South Carolina SM job when former SM Les Shattuck, K4NK, was elevated to Roanoke Division Vice Director.

Candidates in eight other ARRL sections were unopposed. All were incumbents. Returning to office are Dale Bagley, K0KY, Missouri; Bill McCollum, KE0XQ, Nebraska; George Tranos, N2GA, New York City-Long Island; Thomas Dick, KF2GC, Northern New York; Jean Priestley, KA2YKN, Southern New Jersey; David Armbrust, AE4MR, West Central Florida; John Rodgers, N3MSE, Western Pennsylvania; and Bob DeVarney, WE1U, Vermont.

Ballots were counted November 21 at ARRL Headquarters. The terms of office for all successful candidates are two years, beginning January 1, 2001.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** FCC seeks Web site comments:** The FCC says it's evaluating its Web site (<http://www.fcc.gov/>) in an effort to make it easier and faster for users to retrieve information. In particular, the FCC says it wants to find out "what the public expects from the agency's Web site and whether the site is meeting those expectations." The FCC invites interested parties who use its Web site to submit comments--including suggestions for improvements that would make retrieval of information faster and easier. The FCC says its evaluation will not address any of its electronic filing systems but just the FCC Web site proper and its associated Web pages. The FCC would like to hear comments on--among other things--usability, navigability, format, content, interactivity and ease of contacting the Commission. Comments are due by November 10 to webeval@fcc.gov.--FCC

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*** Ham-astronaut says Mir should be jettisoned to make way for ISS:** One of the US astronauts who spent a duty tour aboard the Russian Mir space station says it's time to say good-bye to the aging spacecraft. Michael Foale, KB5UAC, who was aboard Mir in 1997 and now is the deputy head of NASA's Johnson Space Center, was quoted this week in a Reuters report. Foale says he'll be sorry to see Mir go but believes it's necessary if Russia is to go forward as a full partner in the International Space Station project. Russia has waffled on whether or not it will attempt to keep Mir up a bit longer, but it recently announced plans to bring Mir down early next year. "It is just like when you have an attachment to an old car but find it is just too expensive to keep on putting in new pieces," he told Reuters on the eve of the launch of the ISS Expedition 1 crew. "So there will have to be a transition to ISS and Mir will have to come down." Foale said the \$60 billion ISS would be the start of another era in space exploration, paving the way for new achievements. "This flight is the keystone to all future explorations from this planet--to the Moon, to Mars and asteroids," he said.

*** NWS/ARRL Special Event updates:** As announced, the National Weather Service and the ARRL will cosponsor The National Weather Service Special Event December 2 (UTC). A sort of mini-contest, the NWS Special Event is aimed at recognizing the contributions amateurs make to the Weather Service during threatening weather. The National Weather Service Special Event will award a certificate--with endorsements if certain goals are reached. Endorsements have been altered somewhat since the initial announcement. An up-to-date list of the endorsements and qualifying criteria may be found at the Special Event Web Site, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000/eventcertificates.htm>. To obtain a certificate, create a handwritten log of NWS stations worked and indicate the endorsements you are applying for. You may also link to the certificate endorsement log, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000/specialevent2000.pdf>. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, and mail both items to National Weather Service Special Event, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735.

*** US to recommend dropping Maritime-Mobile Service Morse references:** At the September 21 meeting of US Working Party 8B (maritime, aeronautical, radiodetermination), US and International WP 8B Chairman Richard Swanson announced that he will recommend to the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-2003 the suppression of all references to Morse code in the International Radio Regulations with respect to the Maritime-Mobile Service.

*** Keps bulletin now includes ISS data:** The Keplerian elements bulletin from ARRL now includes data for the International Space Station. Initial Amateur Radio operation from the ISS--as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, project, is expected by mid-November.

*** New North American 145 GHz record claimed:** A new North American claimed record at 145 GHz was set November 6 when Brian Justin, WA1ZMS/4, and Geep Howell, WA4RTS/4, established two-way contact over a path of 34 km. Justin reports that the CW signals were weak but able to be copied. The transmitter power on each end was around 5 mW. ICOM R-7000 receivers were used for IFs. WA1ZMS was on the Blue Ridge Parkway in FM07fm. WA4RTS was in Lynchburg, Virginia, in FM07ji. "No receive margin was to be had on the WA4RTS end, so we reached the limit of what we can do for now with the exception of weather conditions," Justin said.--Brian Justin, WA4ZMS/4

*** ARRL Ham Radio insurance to cover antennas, towers, rotators:** Seabury & Smith, the ARRL "All Risk" Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan administrator (formerly Albert H. Wohlers and Company) has announced that, effective immediately, the plan will insure antennas, towers and rotators. Coverage for antennas, towers and rotators may be written only as an endorsement—or rider—to an existing policy. As in the existing program, the policy is that all the equipment must be scheduled. Members may not insure antennas, tower, and rotators without also purchasing coverage for their other station equipment. The cost of coverage is \$1.50 for every \$100 of valuation—the same as that for station equipment. Amateurs with further questions can contact the Seabury & Smith Customer Service Department at 800-503-9230.

*** Ham radio relay brings helicopter help to ill hunter:** According to a report in the Eugene Register-Guard, a Coos Bay, Oregon, man who fell ill while hunting November 12 can thank Amateur Radio for his rescue. James Pichette, 58, was hunting east of Reedsport with his stepson, Matt Grigsby, KC7PZH, when Pichette experienced apparent heart problems. Grigsby called for help via ham radio. The call was picked up by an unidentified ham in Florence who relayed the message to one of Pichette's sons. The son called Reedsport police, who, in turn, contacted the Coos Bay Coast Guard office.

The Coast Guard transported Pichette to a Eugene hospital. Grigsby says his stepfather has been transferred out of intensive care and is doing fine.--thanks to Patrick Roberson, WA7PAT

*** ULS scheduled to be down:** The FCC Universal Licensing System and Antenna Structure Registration will be unavailable from noon (Eastern) Wednesday, November 22, until 8 AM (Eastern) Monday, November 27 and again from 5 PM (Eastern) Friday, December 1 until 8 AM (Eastern) Monday, December 4. Both outages are to accommodate the Land Mobile Phase 3 conversion. The task involves the conversion of more than 350,000 licenses and 5200 pending applications.

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*** Coast Guard to honor MARS operator:** An ARRL member will receive the Coast Guard's second highest civilian award later this month for his MARS service. Richard C. Johnson, W3BI/NNN0GKF, will receive the USCG's Meritorious Public Service Award in a ceremony November 28 in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. The award is in recognition of Johnson's 37 years of voluntary service as a Military Affiliate Radio System operator. The award, reserved for civilians not employed by the Coast Guard who make a significant contribution to the service, will be presented by Capt Wayne K. Gibson, Chief of Operations for the Coast Guard Atlantic Area command in Portsmouth, Virginia. Johnson is being honored for his participation in the Department of Defense-sponsored MARS program. MARS participants provide auxiliary or emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. Since 1963, Johnson has conducted thousands of ship-to-shore phone patches for deployed Coast Guard men and women. Last January, Johnson also volunteered to join the MARS High Frequency e-mail program supporting Atlantic Area Coast Guard cutters. Since then, he has processed 500 to 600 e-mails a day supporting crews aboard the Coast Guard cutters Mohawk, Decisive, Forward, Tampa, and Thetis. Department of Defense MARS coordinators say Johnson's efforts have recently inspired other MARS operators in Virginia, Georgia and Texas to join the HF e-mail program. The program allows Coast Guard personnel at sea aboard cutters to send and receive e-mail messages to and from family and friends. The Coast Guard says the program "greatly improves the quality of life for shipboard crews" and has been "a welcomed benefit for crews stationed aboard cutters operating in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Caribbean." Johnson is the only MARS operator participating in the e-mail program in the Atlantic Area and has operated nearly around-the-clock to meet the needs of Coast Guardsmen at sea.--USCG news release

*** DSP satellite transceiver project reflector open:** An e-mail reflector for those interested in designing a DSP-based satellite communications transceiver project has been established. To join the list, visit <http://www.qth.net>. The list name is dsp-radio. Technical skills are not a prerequisite for membership. The list is a discussion area for RF, software, and other system-related project discussion. For more information, contact Simon Lewis, GM4PLM, simon@creoch.freemove.co.uk. For starters, the list will collect information on previous and current work done on software-defined radios and DSP radios, then focus on a wish list of features and specifications.--Simon Lewis, GM4PLM, and Darrell Bellerive, VE7CLA, via SpaceNews

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