
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

May 2001

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.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs
2.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

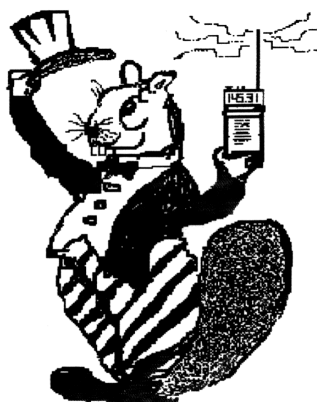
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

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

VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A.'s WEBSITE AT:

www.geocities.com/the_bvara

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 May B.V.A.R.A. Club meeting will be held on Thursday May 10th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. Come on down and have a cup of coffee and a doughnut with us. A demonstration of a computer link for Field day is planned.

FIELD DAY

Time is drawing near for this years Field Day operation. Again we will be setting up at Bradys Run Park, Shelter 10. Be sure to mark your calendar for the weekend of June 22nd, 23rd, & 24th. Our Field Day Chairman Al Belardia WA3GFM is busy making plans for our operation. There is still plenty of work to be done and Al would sure appreciate the help. Please contact him and let him know how you can help. Stations need to be planned, equipment arranged, food to buy, etc...

FIELD DAY PARTICIPATION PINS

For operators working the Field Day weekend, the ARRL is issuing a commemorative Pin. It measures 3/4" x 1" and is very colorful. The cost of the Pins are \$5.00 each. and have to be ordered in advanced. If interested please call AL,WA3GFM @ 724-495-2652 ASAP or E-mail @ ----- wa3gfm@bellatlantic.net

BVARA CLASSES

Word from our instructors is that the Monday night license classes are going well. The candidates are "very inquisitive" according to Stan N3OJN. We all wish them well on their upcoming examination. As you may recall introductory license classes are being administered by The BVARA at the Beaver County Emergency Center each Monday night at 7:00 PM

==>HOLLINGSWORTH HEAPS PRAISE ON OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth this week offered high praise for the work of the volunteer ARRL Amateur Auxiliary's corps of Official Observers. Long a strong supporter of the OOs, Hollingsworth's most recent burst of appreciation was inspired by investigative footwork done by an OO team that's assisting the FCC in an enforcement inquiry.

"It makes me realize that if it weren't for the OOs over the past 10 years, Amateur Radio would probably have imploded long ago and disintegrated from its own chaos," Hollingsworth said. "We really thank them very much for their work here."

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The Amateur Auxiliary is composed of approximately 700 ARRL Official Observer volunteer appointees across the US. The program was developed as a result of a formal agreement between the FCC and the ARRL.

OOs function as helpers and advisors, not enforcers. They monitor the bands and notify amateurs of technical and operating discrepancies as a service. In cases involving serious rule violations such as malicious interference, however, they are trained and certified to gather and forward evidence that can be used by the FCC in enforcement actions. All OOs must pass a comprehensive examination before they can be certified as members of the Amateur Auxiliary.

In recent months, Hollingsworth's office has been attempting to make greater use of the Amateur Auxiliary in tackling enforcement issues. He says the Official Observer program offers a way for amateurs to solve their own problems internally, without bringing in the FCC, but he notes that Oos often can provide valuable local perspective during enforcement inquiries.

"It's this type of devotion of personal time to Amateur Radio and to helping us that gives me enough adrenaline to last for months," Hollingsworth said.

The bottom line, according to Hollingsworth, is protecting the future of Amateur Radio for those who enjoy it. "Radio spectrum has extremely high visibility, and every time an operator gets on and degrades the bands, that operator is not only making Amateur Radio less enjoyable but endangering it as well."

For more information on the Amateur Auxiliary program, visit the ARRL Website, http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/am_aux.html.

==>ARISS DECLARES ISS SPECIAL EVENT DAY APRIL 12

Casual Amateur Radio contacts with the hams aboard the International Space Station have been few and far between. That could change next month when a special event day for ham radio has been declared.

"The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, team has received permission from the ISS controllers to declare April 12 Cosmonautics Day--a special event day for ham radio on the International Space Station," ARISS spokesperson Will Marchant, KC6ROL, announced today.

The ARISS international team is asking the ISS Expedition 2 crew--on a voluntary basis--to run general QSOs over Earth's major land masses to help celebrate Cosmonautics Day, Marchant said. Given the interest expressed by earthbound hams in making a contact with the ISS, the ARISS team also is hoping the crew will be enthusiastic about the idea.

Cosmonautics Day will mark the 40th anniversary of the first human space flight by USSR cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the 30th anniversary of Salyut 1—the first space station, and the 20th anniversary of the initial launch of the first reusable space vehicle—the space shuttle.

Marchant said the crew will be involved with stowage activities on April 12, "so they should have a fair amount of flexibility in adjusting their schedule." Two hams now are aboard the International Space Station—Expedition 2 Crew Commander Yury Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ. Helms already has made a few casual contacts and this week participated in a scheduled ARISS contact with a California elementary school using the station's NAISS call sign. It's not known if Usachev has been active on the air while over Russia.

The following frequencies have been announced for ARISS general QSOs: Voice and packet downlink: 145.80 (worldwide); voice uplink: 144.49 for Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific); voice uplink: 145.20 for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa); packet uplink: 145.99 (worldwide). The ISS Amateur Radio packet system still is not operational, but Marchant said ARISS has been working with the crew and hopes it will be up and running by then.

Marchant said that specific operating times and modes for Cosmonautics Day, as well as additional details, will be announced on the ARISS Web page, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

==>TRINIDAD HAM PROVIDES NEW DETAILS OF PIRATE SHOOTING

A Swedish sailboat skipper, shot when pirates accosted his vessel March 20 off the coast of Venezuela, remains hospitalized in Trinidad. The victim has been identified as Bo Altheden, SM7XBX, of Bjärred, Sweden. Hams on the Maritime Mobile Service Net assisted Altheden and his wife, ViVi-Maj Miren, after Miren put out a call for help on 20 meters.

One of the hams who assisted in coordinating the rescue, Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, of Trinidad, met late last week with Miren aboard the couple's vessel in Trinidad and was able to learn additional details about what happened. According to what Miren told Mackie, the couple was en route to Trinidad and Tobago and having lunch around 12:30 PM Atlantic Standard Time when their 44-foot-ketch Lorna was approached by six men in a fishing boat. "The vessel approached from behind, pulled alongside and Bo went out on deck to see what they wanted," Mackie related. "They asked for cigarettes, and Bo said they did not smoke."

Sensing trouble, Altheden started back toward the helm with the intention of pulling away from the other vessel—a fishing boat. But as he turned away, the intruders shot him once in the back. Miren told Mackie that the bullet wound caused

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considerable internal damage and bleeding. At that point, the pirates boarded the Lorna and helped themselves to what was on board.

According to Mackie, the pirates' booty amounted to less than \$20 in cash and a few miscellaneous items. Before leaving, the pirates destroyed two VHF radios but missed the HF radio—an SGC SG-2020. Miren fired up the transceiver and found her way to 20 meters, where she located the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14.300 MHz. Her calls for help eventually were heard, although some on frequency later said they'd worried that her pleas might be overlooked. Mackie and others broke in to alert the Net to her calls—made nearly three hours after the shooting.

Mackie also was able to contact the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, which came on frequency to speak with the Lorna directly, he said. As it worked out, vessels from the Venezuelan Navy and the Trinidadian Coast Guard arrived on scene at approximately the same time. While a medical team from Trinidad was able to board the Lorna, it was decided to wait until the vessel was in calmer waters before attempting to transfer Altheden to the Coast Guard vessel. Altheden remains in critical, but stable, condition at St Clair Medical Center, a private hospital set up to deal with trauma cases.

The shooting was an eerie reminder of a similar pirate attack one year ago in the Caribbean. In that incident, March 28, 2000, armed marauders shot young Willem van Tuijl from The Netherlands, who was sailing with his parents at the time.

==>FCC PROPOSES LOWER AMATEUR RADIO VANITY FEE

The FCC is proposing to lower the fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14 to \$12. The new fee, if approved, likely would go into effect sometime in September.

The proposed lower fee was contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2001 (MD Docket No. 01-76), released March 29. The FCC said it estimates 8000 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in the current fiscal year.

Applicants for Amateur Radio vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14 fee for the 10-year license term until the FY 2001 fee schedule becomes effective. The effective date for the new FCC fee schedule will be announced later this year in a Report and Order or by a Public Notice published in the Federal Register.

Comments in the fee proceeding are due by April 27; reply comments must be received by May 7, 2001. Comments filed through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System can be sent via the FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/e->

file/ecfs.html. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed.

==>FCC ISSUES \$17,000 FINE FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION ON HAM BANDS

The FCC has proposed levying a \$17,000 fine on an East Palo Alto, California, man for transmitting without a license on amateur frequencies and for transmitting a false distress signal. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture March 19 in the case of Joshie Yasin Nakamura Sr, who also is known as "Mervyn Ehambrave" and sometimes as "Marvin E. Barnes."

As Ehambrave, Nakamura was among those receiving an FCC Warning Notice in March 1999 for allegedly operating without a license on the K7IJ repeater system in the San Francisco Bay area. At the time, the FCC shut down the repeater system for more than two months, saying that the repeater's owner and control operator did not have proper control of the system and that the control operator was permitting unlicensed individuals to transmit via the machines.

Following up on amateur community and Official Observer complaints that an unlicensed station was causing intentional interference and playing music, agents from the FCC's San Francisco Field Office on two occasions last year tracked the signals to Nakamura's residence. Signals were heard on both 2 meters and 70 cm. On one occasion, FCC officials monitored the international "SOS" distress signal being transmitted in Morse code. Station inspections revealed that Nakamura was operating without authorization, and he was presented with a Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation, the FCC said.

The FCC determined that its guidelines call for a \$10,000 fine for unlicensed operation and another \$7000 forfeiture for causing malicious interference. The FCC gave Nakamura 30 days to pay up or to seek reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.

==>FCC TURNS AWAY RESTRUCTURING PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The FCC has declined to make any significant changes to the way it implemented Amateur Radio "restructuring" last April. The Commission has turned down several requests for changes in the Amateur Service rules contained in five petitions for partial reconsideration of its Report and Order WT Docket 98-143, released December 30, 1999. The ARRL was among the petitioners.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released April 6, the FCC by and large denied all petitions for changes to its restructuring Order--although it did claim to grant one ARRL

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request--and it made some minor housekeeping changes to the amateur rules.

Among the issues was a request from the ARRL and other petitioners that the FCC continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. The FCC noted that its current Universal Licensing System software was modified to display a "P" (for Plus) in the field that indicates former license class when a Technician Plus class license is renewed. "This capability results in the amateur service database being able to provide a de facto Technician Plus licensee database," the FCC asserted in its MO&O. The FCC did not address how its database will distinguish current Technician licensees who subsequently earn Morse code (Element 1) credit. Those licensees have only a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), which will never be reflected in the database, even upon license renewal.

The FCC also decided to not extend Element 1 credit to all past licensees who had ever earned it--something else the ARRL had asked for. Under current rules, the holder of an expired Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician license can get Element 1 credit. The FCC said that "most examinees" who ever held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra ticket also once held a Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician ticket that grants Element 1 credit.

Left out in the cold by the FCC's decision is anyone who went directly to Conditional or General class without ever holding a Novice ticket. The FCC also declined to extend permanent credit to Element 1 CSCEs held by Technicians to obtain HF privileges. These CSCEs are good for 365 days for upgrading purposes but confer only additional operating privileges for Technicians beyond that time.

The FCC refused to reinstate the 20 WPM Morse code exam for Extra. The FCC said that since restructuring went into effect nearly a year ago, "there does not appear to be any decline in the proper operation of amateur stations." The FCC also declined to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session simply by paying a second fee to the VE team. And the Commission did not go along with requests to set the total number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Amateur Extra test.

The FCC also declined to make any changes--at least for now--in the arrangement of mode-related Amateur Radio subbands, as some petitioners had requested. The FCC said it believed it should let the amateur community "reach a consensus regarding a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges for all licensees" before making any changes.

Also denied were requests to: institute a new entry-level Communicator license class in the Amateur Service; elevate

former "Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra, instead of leaving them at Advanced class; give Element 4 exam credit to examinees who'd held a Conditional, General or Advanced ticket before November 22, 1968--when "incentive licensing" became effective.

The FCC MO&O is available at
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143-recon.pdf>

==>ARRL REPORTS "OVERWHELMING" RESPONSE TO INTRUDER SURVEY

The response to ARRL's call last fall for reports of apparent unlicensed operation on 10 and 12 meters has been "overwhelming," according to Brennan Price, N4QX, administrator of the ARRL Monitoring System. The survey last

October 1-14 was initiated in response to an increasing number of complaints from the amateur community.

Price said that more than 400 separate reports, nearly all from United States amateurs, detailed more than 1000 separate instances of apparent unlicensed operation. An analysis suggests that nearly half of the transmissions originated in the US. Of the remaining reports, most appeared to document transmissions originating in Latin America.

"The variety of languages, dialects and beam headings relating to these transmissions clearly indicates that this is a worldwide problem" Price said. Surveys by monitoring-system administrators in other IARU Region 2 countries confirm this conclusion, he said.

ARRL has shared its data with the FCC. Price points out that before the Commission can take any action, an offending transmission must be documented and its source found. "Given the changeable nature of 10 and 12-meter propagation, especially at the top of the sunspot cycle, this is not an easy task," Price said. He said the FCC cannot make its sophisticated HF direction-finding facility available for routine intruder-signal searches.

Price said the FCC relies on the Amateur Service to be self-policing and has indicated that it is most likely to act in suspected unlicensed operator situations when amateurs themselves document the cases.

"It is not easy or quick work, but it has been successfully done in the past," he said.

Price said active use of the bands by licensees is the best way to discourage unlicensed operation.

==>FCC ADVISES SEVERAL HAMS ABOUT TRANSMIT-FREQUENCY QRM WHILE OPERATING SPLIT

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The FCC recently sent advisory notices to several hams who may have caused QRM on their transmitting frequencies while operating split to work SSB DX on 40 meters. The complaints stemmed from operations during February.

"While this may not have been malicious interference, please be advised that amateurs must operate in accordance with Section 97.101 of the Commission's rules, which sets out the general standards for operation of an Amateur Radio station and specifically covers frequency sharing and interference," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote.

Since most of the rest of the world only has access to 7.000 to 7.100 MHz--still in the US CW subband--US stations working 40-meter SSB must listen for DX stations in the US CW band while transmitting "up" within the US 'phone allocation.

==>HOPEFUL SPACE TOURIST TITO IS NOW KG6FZX

Wealthy US businessman Dennis Tito, who hopes to be the first space tourist aboard the International Space Station, now is an Amateur Radio operator. Tito, 60, has been in Russia training to go into space.

Last weekend a volunteer examination session was set up for Tito in Russia and he passed the Technician exam. The FCC issued Tito the call sign KG6FZX April 11. It's not clear at this point how Tito plans to use Amateur Radio aboard the ISS.

Press accounts say Russia has given Tito the go ahead to visit the ISS as part of a three-man team that will blast off April 28 on a 10-day mission. Tito reportedly is paying the cash-strapped Russian space program some \$20 million for the privilege of being the first space tourist. Accompanying Tito into space will be Talgat Musabayev as team commander, and Yuri Baturin as onboard engineer. Tito reportedly will handle communications systems during the flight.

Tito, the founder of a California investment firm, studied aerospace engineering in college and later worked for five years at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. He told a news conference that he's excited about the prospect of going into space and he's looking forward to the experience. Tito had hoped to visit the Russian Mir space station, but those plans had to be scrapped when the Russians decided that it was time to deorbit the aged spacecraft.

The prospect of Tito's visit aboard the ISS has generated some tension between the US and Russian space agencies. NASA chief Dan Goldin has suggested that Tito's planned visit this month would be a disruption to the Expedition 2 crew during a complex mission. Russia's space agency director general Yuri Koptev said the mission will go forward. He said Russia

does not need permission from its international partners to fly specific individuals to the space station.

==>HAM RADIO NUMBERS SHOW POST-RESTRUCTURING GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. FCC licensing statistics as of the end of March—the most recent complete figures available—show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect. Prior to that, the number of amateurs had remained relatively stable since 1998.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring—including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams—is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community. "For the first quarter of 2001, ARRL VEC test session statistics show that new and upgrading amateurs continue to earn licenses at a rate stronger than that of first quarter 1999 and first quarter 2000," he said. "This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months."

As of the end of March, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, the FCC showed 684,359 current licensees on its books, although the number of active amateurs is believed to be far smaller. Speroni's figures show that more than 20,000 new amateurs entered the hobby over the past year, while attrition was on the order of 13,600.

Overall, statistics show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined.

Jahnke says comparing the ARRL VEC's first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. "Extraordinarily, interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!" he said.

With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That's not proving to be the case this year—at least at ARRL VEC-sponsored sessions, where the Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999. Technician and General pass rates this year have been up on the order of 10% to 12% from pre-restructuring rates, however, at ARRL VEC sessions.

Licensee numbers compiled by Speroni show that the FCC issued nearly 5400 new licenses in the first quarter of this year—more than 2230 in the month of March alone. That compares with around 3730 new hams in the same quarter last year. As would be expected, the vast majority of the newcomers entered

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the hobby as Technician licensees. March was one of only three months in the past year where the number of new licensees exceeded 2000. For more information, visit Speroni's Amateur Radio Education Web Site, <http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>.

==>MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA YOUNGSTERS ENJOY ARISS SPACE CHATS

Youngsters at schools in Mississippi and Alabama have had a chance to chat via Amateur Radio with the two US crew members of International Space Station. The contacts were arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS—program. Astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, spoke last week with Vicksburg (Mississippi) High School students, while her astronaut colleague Jim Voss took a turn at the NA1SS mike this week during a contact with youngsters at Admiral Moorer Middle School in his home state of Alabama.

After a couple of false starts, nine Vicksburg High School students finally got to meet Helms on the air on April 11. "The contact was near perfect," said Bill Ford, W5WAF, a member of the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club committee that helped set up the equipment for the contact. Two previous QSO opportunities had to be scrubbed because of the ISS crew workload.

Initially anticipating a direct contact with NA1SS, the Vicksburg ARC had installed antennas and equipment at the high school. As things turned out, the contact ended up being telebridged through the Sacred Hearts Academy station in Honolulu, Hawaii. Audio was handled via special telephone circuits.

The students fired off 18 questions, ranging from the salary of an astronaut to the sensation of riding the shuttle to orbit. One student who happens to be 6 feet 3 inches tall asked about the height requirements for astronauts. Helms told senior Christopher Withrow that the height restriction is 6 feet 4 inches. Withrow said he's still growing.

Vicksburg ARC President Eddie Pettis, N5JGK, called the contact a very successful community-wide effort. The event also got excellent media coverage.

On April 16, youngsters at Admiral Moorer Middle School in Eufaula, Alabama, worked the ISS through a telebridge with ground station NN1SS at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Youngsters managed to complete their entire list of two dozen questions, several focusing on the health effects of being in space.

One youngster asked what Voss would do if he got sick during his stay aboard the ISS. He explained that he and Helms were the medical team during the Expedition 2 crew mission and that if one became ill, the other would provide

treatment. Voss said the crew can talk with a physician on Earth if they need help.

Voss also told the students in Alabama that the body adjusts to the lack of gravity by using visual cues rather than the inner-ear to determine balance. Voss also said that he considered research in the field of radiation monitoring very important to opening the way for colonizing space.

ARISS mentor Randy Becnel, W5UE, worked with both the Vicksburg and Moorer ARISS teams.

The Moorer school QSO was scheduled at Voss's request. Helms and Voss have participated in several ARISS school contacts since coming aboard the ISS in March. The Expedition 2 Commander is Russian cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, UA9AD. The next tentatively scheduled ARISS contact is with Parkway Central High School in Chesterfield, Missouri, later this month.--thanks to Bill Ford, W5WAF, Allen White, WB4MIO, Will Marchant, KC6ROL; The Vicksburg Post, and MSNBC

==>DAVID CLARK, KB6TAM, IS BACK ON THE HIGH SEAS

Call him persistent, even stubborn, but don't call him a quitter, and don't count him out. Rebounding from the February 7 disaster that sank his first sailboat, the Mollie Milar, David Clark, KB6TAM, again set sail April 11 from Cape Town, South Africa, in a new boat. His goal is to become the oldest person to sail solo around the world. Clark will turn 77 on May 17.

The February maritime disaster in which his sailboat sank also claimed the life of his beloved canine companion, Mickey, who was lost at sea during the rescue. Clark has named his new vessel Mickey in the dog's memory. The new boat is a 34-foot fiberglass hull vessel.

Now some 800 miles out of Cape Town, Clark has been keeping a daily ham radio schedule with the Pacific Seafarer's Net on 20 meters, according to Bob Reed, N6HGG. The net has been running phone patches so that Clark can speak with his wife. Clark's next port of call is St Helena, where he will take on water and supplies. He expects to reach there in about 10 days. Reed says Clark has been keeping a daily schedule on 14.245 MHz at around 1400 UTC. He's also keeping in touch with South African hams at 1500 UTC on 14.195 MHz.

Clark says he expects to be back in Ft Lauderdale, Florida--where his journey began in December 1999--sometime between the middle of June and the first of July. While Clark has some corporate sponsors, he's been funding his trip largely out of his Social Security income and his occasional clarinet gigs.

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For more information on David Clark's journey, visit <http://www.dclark.com> and <http://www.captainclark.com>.

==>AO-40 TRANSPONDER OPERATION POSSIBLE THIS SUMMER

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, this week raised the possibility that AO-40 could inaugurate transponder operation this summer, if tests and orbital maneuvers between now and then go as planned.

"We are learning how to fly this thing," Haighton said. "But I still think we're going to end up with a darned good satellite."

The most likely initial transponder configurations, Haighton said, would be Mode L/S--1.2 GHz up and 2.4 GHz down, Mode U/S--435 MHz up and 2.4 GHz down, and possibly Mode V/S--145 MHz up and 2.4 GHz down.

Recent data suggest that the mid-December incident that silenced AO-40 for two weeks and rendered some systems unusable also might have blown a hole on the 400-newton motor side of the spacecraft. "Speculation is there could be damage, and sunlight is getting right in," Haighton said. He noted that ground controllers have detected a distinct rise in temperature when sunlight strikes that side of the satellite. The speculated opening was not causing any major problems, he said, but it could explain why efforts to adjust AO-40's attitude via magnetorquing have been unpredictable.

As the AO-40 recovery effort continues, Haighton said, ground controllers plan to raise the height of the perigee in the very near future. That process, using the onboard arc-jet motor, could take up to several weeks. The AO-40 team hopes the maneuver will minimize or eliminate possible effects on the satellite's orbit caused by atmospheric expansion at the peak of the solar cycle.

AO-40 currently is approximately 320 km--almost 200 miles--above Earth at perigee--its closest point--and some 51,000 km--some 31,600 miles--at apogee. Plans call for raising the orbit at perigee to around 520 km, or some 320 miles. The maneuver would "hardly affect" the satellite's apogee, Haighton said. The arc-jet would be operated without electrically igniting it, using the pressure of the ammonia fuel alone.

Once the orbit has been adjusted, ground controllers would orient the spacecraft's attitude and check out the various onboard transmitter and receiver systems to see what works and what does not. "We're still pretty confident that the 2 meter and 70 cm transmitters are not there," Haighton said, "but we're equally confident that the receivers for those bands still are."

The satellite has been transmitting telemetry on the 2.4 GHz (S-2) beacon, and signals reportedly have continued to

improve--although the beacon has been out from time to time as needed to conserve power during eclipse periods.

==>ISS PARTNERS GRANT FLIGHT EXEMPTION FOR DENNIS TITO, KG6FZX

The International Space Station Partnership has granted an exemption for the flight of American businessman Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, to the ISS aboard a Russian Soyuz 2 taxi mission. Russia already had given Tito the go ahead to visit the ISS as part of a three-man team on the 10-day Soyuz mission, scheduled to begin April 28. NASA has extended the shuttle Endeavour visit to the ISS by at least a day as the space station crew resolves computer problems and recommended that Russia postpone the Soyuz mission.

A NASA statement said that following "intense and extensive consultations" among all space station partners, the Multilateral Coordination Board "achieved consensus on the proposed Tito flight." A former Jet Propulsion Lab engineer, Tito, 61, reportedly has agreed to pay the Russian space program \$20 million for the privilege of becoming the first "space tourist."

The public relations value of Tito's imminent visit was not lost on the Board. "It is understood that Mr. Tito will contribute to the formation of positive public opinion about the ISS program and the ISS partnership," its meeting report concluded.

There are conditions to Tito's visit. He reportedly has agreed that neither he nor his heirs will hold NASA liable for anything that might happen to him on board and that he will pay for anything he might damage. A NASA task force has recommended that Tito have an astronaut escort to visit the US sectors of the ISS and that he sleep near the Soyuz escape vehicle in case an emergency arises.

During Tito's visit, the crew of Russian Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Jim Voss, is expected to adopt a minimal work routine and maintenance schedule.

Initially, NASA had vigorously opposed allowing Tito to fly to the ISS at this time and had suggested putting the mission off until later this year. NASA said the Board agreed that no ISS partner would propose to fly another "non-professional crewmember" until the ISS partnership had finalized and adopted detailed crew criteria. Those criteria are to be in place by June.

Tito has been in Russia training to go into space. He took and passed the Technician exam earlier this month.

NASA sources have said that Tito will have access to the ARISS amateur gear on a "non-interference basis"--meaning that he must not interfere with the crew's work or sleep schedules. At this point, the ham gear is installed in the

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module that doubles as sleeping quarters for some of the crew. Tito is not scheduled to be involved in any ARISS school contacts--such QSOs normally are not scheduled during docked operations anyway, because the crew is too busy--but it's expected that he may use ham radio to keep in touch with his family. He's also indicated a preference for packet over FM voice.

==>MISSIONARY-HAM, INFANT, DIE WHEN PLANE IS DOWNED IN PERU

A missionary from Michigan, killed after the plane in which she was a passenger was shot down last week in Peru, was an Amateur Radio operator. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, identified the dead as Veronica "Roni" Bowers, 35, and her infant daughter, Charity, seven months. Roni Bowers was KD4CKM, a Tech Plus licensee.

The Cessna 185 float plane ditched in the Amazon River after being fired upon. Bowers' husband, Jim, and their son, Cory, 6, were not seriously injured in the incident. Jim Bowers is KD4CKN, a General licensee. Pilot Kevin Donaldson was shot in the leg in the incident but survived.

The Bowerses, from Muskegon, Michigan, had been serving in Peru since July 1993. News accounts say the Peruvian Air Force shot down the plane carrying the missionaries in the Amazon jungle April 20. The Peruvian military said it opened fire after the pilot ignored warnings to land, but that claim is disputed.

A communiqué from the Peruvian Ministry of Defense said that the Peruvian Air Force "deeply regrets the loss of human life." It said its actions were part of its anti-drug operations procedures. Reports say a US military aircraft associated with anti-drug trafficking operations first spotted the Cessna but told the Peruvians the plane might be legitimate.

An investigation continues. Funeral services for the mother and infant were set for April 27 in Michigan.

==>ASTRONAUT MAKING CASUAL QSOS FROM NA1SS

Astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, recently put smiles on the faces of a number of US hams. Reports from several amateurs indicate that she's made several casual voice contacts from her perch aboard the International Space Station.

Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, was one of the stations who made contact with Helms on April 20. He reports she had a great signal. Also reporting contacts were Tom Blubaugh, N7HXP, Samuel Danner, N3MPE (who worked NA1SS for the second time), and Stan Vandiver, W4SV (who posted audio from his QSO on his Web site, <http://stan.vandiver.com>). Helms also was active on April 23. Several stations have managed to connect with the ISS packet system, still operating as "NO

CALL". Bruce Paige, KK5DO, reports he worked a male operator at the NA1SS mike on April 25.

As of April 27, the ARRL had received QSL card requests for two Expedition One FM voice contacts and four Expedition Two FM voice contacts (along with several dozen SWL reports for both missions), plus eight "NO CALL" packet encounters.

With the STS-100 mission under way, four of the five space agencies involved in building the space station are now represented on board. Endeavour's crew includes Italian Umberto Guidoni of the European Space Agency, Russian Yuri Lonchakov--who's been granted the call sign RS1ISS--and Canadian Chris Hadfield as well as US astronauts Kent Rominger, Jeffrey Ashby, John Phillips and Scott Parazynski, who's KC5RSY.

Endeavour docked with the ISS April 21. It's return flight was delayed at least a day and possibly two because of the ISS computer difficulties. It's not known if either of the hams from Endeavour planned to do voice QSOs while aboard the ISS. There is no amateur gear installed aboard the shuttle.

Here are the QSL routes for W/VE stations working NA1SS: US stations QSL to Margie Bourgoon, KB1DCO, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Canadian stations QSL to Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Rd-- Suite 217, Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required to get a QSL in return.--ANS; news reports

==>IN BRIEF:

*** Spectrum Protection Act bill attracting cosponsors:** The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 has begun attracting cosponsors in the US House and Senate on both sides of the aisle. ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, reports that the House bill, H.R. 817, already has six cosponsors, including Reps John Baldacci of Maine; Dan Burton of Indiana; Johnny Isakson of Georgia; Walter B. Jones Jr and Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, and Patrick J. Tiberi of Ohio. The identical Senate bill, S. 549, now has three cosponsors--Sens Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, Susan Collins of Maine, and Jesse Helms of North Carolina. If approved by both chambers and signed by Pres George W. Bush, the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum should it ever reallocate primary Amateur Radio spectrum to another service. The same requirement would apply if the FCC acted to diminish any secondary amateur allocations or made additional allocations in ham bands that diminish their utility.

*** Burrowing owl monitors needed:** Hams are needed again this spring to monitor and track the 172-MHz burrowing owl tags. ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says many radio amateurs and scanner

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enthusiasts joined the effort to listen for radio tags on endangered Canadian burrowing owls during the fall 2000 southward migration and continued to monitor through the winter. Transmitters have been placed on wintering owls in southeastern Texas, and researchers want to know if these Texas owls go to Canada in the spring or if they stay somewhere in the US. The owls have begun leaving the Texas study site and will probably be on the move at least until mid-April. In the meantime, Canadian burrowing owls should be returning from Texas and Mexico at about the same time. For exact frequencies and more information, visit Moell's "Homing In" site, <http://www.homingin.com> --Joe Moell, K0OV*

* Classroom version of Emergency Communications

Course opens: The "classroom version" of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course--Level I--now is available. Effective Monday, April 9, qualified Certification Instructors and Certification Examiners ONLY will have the opportunity to offer the classroom version of the ARRL Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course and/or the Certification Examinations in their local areas. Those wishing to take the course should contact their ARRL Section Manager and/or Section Emergency Coordinator. Those wishing to present the class and/or the examination session must meet the requirements stated at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/admin-criteria.html> and fill out the Activity Application at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/activity.html>. Applications will be accepted starting April 9. Classroom course registration fee is \$50 for non-ARRL members, and \$20 for ARRL members. Those wishing to take only the Certification Examinations (on the basis of their experience, rather than taking the course) will pay an exam administration fee of \$5. Course manuals are \$10. Manuals must be ordered in advance and are currently not available except through the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program. New courses are expected to be offered later this year. Address questions to cce@arrl.org.

* Haynie, Hollingsworth headline Maryland State

Convention: By all accounts, the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and ARRL Maryland State Convention March 30-April 1 in Timonium was an outstanding success. Despite occasional rain, the flea market was crowded with both vendors and buyers. Unofficial attendance estimates range from 7000 to 10,000. At the ARRL forum, President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, described "The Big Project"--ARRL's education initiative--to a receptive audience. He also emphasized how the responsibility for promoting Amateur Radio rests with each individual ham. At the FCC forum, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, fielded questions concerning various amateur enforcement issues. Of particular interest was the FCC's position regarding the increasing interference on 10 meters. The FCC recently sent out enforcement letters regarding suspected illegal operation on that band. Among other members of the ARRL family present at the convention were ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P; ARRL

Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF; ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN; ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR; Delaware Section Manager Randall Carlson, WB0JJX; ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Ford hosted a well-attended PSK31 forum on Saturday afternoon

*** NA1SS QSL routes:** Here are the QSL routes for W/VE stations working NA1SS aboard the International Space Station: US stations QSL to Margie Bourgoon, KB1DCO, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Canadian stations QSL to Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Rd--Suite 217, Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required to get a QSL in return. The ARISS international group has not yet finalized a QSL card design, so it could be a few months before cards become available.--ARRISS

*** VE, UK amateurs to receive Transatlantic Challenge plaques:** [This corrects and clarifies an earlier news item on this topic.--Ed] For their efforts in completing two-way Amateur Radio low-frequency contacts between the UK and Canada, several UK and Canadian amateurs will receive a special Transatlantic Challenge plaque. The plaque is dedicated to the memory of LF pioneer Peter Bobek, DJ8WL, and sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, the Radio Society of Great Britain and AMRAD. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, on February 19 completed a two week-long QSO on 136 kHz using very slow-speed CW--called QRSS--and spectral software for receiving. At approximately the same time, Peter Dodd, G3LDO, Jack Leahy, VE1ZZ, and John Currie, VE1ZJ, took part in a joint effort February 12 in which Dodd and Leahy both transmitted around 136 kHz and Currie received Dodd's QRSS signal using spectral software and relayed it to Leahy via HF. A earlier Transatlantic Challenge plaque went to Currie and Dave Bowman, G0MRF, for completing a crossband HF/LF QSO last September.

*** ARISS packet system working, sort of:** ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station packet system is operational, but because of a failed RAM backup battery, the system at present has no call sign. "We have been waiting for the crews to connect a laptop to the packet module to check out the packet system and re-install the packet parameters," he said. Some tests were run to see if the system worked with only PROM parameters. "We have determined from our ground tests that one can connect to the packet system using 'nocall' and digi through it." Bauer said he recently ran tests on two passes to validate that the packet system was still operational, but with a dead battery. He was able to successfully connect to "nocall" on one pass and digipeat on a second pass. Bauer says the ARISS team will continue to work with the Expedition 2 crew to get the packet parameters installed, so that the packet system fully configured.--ARRISS

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*** Ham radio to be represented at NAB convention:** Amateur Radio will once again have a presence at the National Association of Broadcasters' convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 21-26. NAB donates booth space to ARRL, and local hams volunteer for booth duty. This year's "booth coordinator" will be Ed Terrell, KB5FNX. The ARRL booth attracts broadcast professionals who are hams, as well as other visitors with technical backgrounds and interests. The annual and very popular Amateur Radio reception will be held April 25 at 6 PM at the Las Vegas Hilton. NAB Vice President for Science and Technology John Marino, KR1O, will host. ARRL donates selected publications for door prizes. Approximately 1000 amateurs are expected to attend. ARRL Southwestern Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, and Pacific Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, plan to be among them.

*** QRP pedestrian-to-pedestrian record trumped:** Amateurs in Greece and New Zealand have raised the bar for the longest low-power pedestrian-to-pedestrian contact. On February 28, Max Pompe, ZL1BK, worked Demetre Valaris, SV1UY, over a distance of more than 17,500 miles long-path. Both operators carried compact, portable low-power transceivers and portable antennas. Valaris credited the sun with providing good propagation conditions. When contact was established February 28 at 0625 UTC on 20-meter CW and later on SSB, ZL1BK was hiking in a park near his home in Auckland, New Zealand, while Valaris was hiking on Mt Ymittos in Greece. Both were running Yaesu FT-817s at 5 W. SV1UY used a 2-meter-tall center-loaded whip, while ZL1BK used a hand-held 5-meter long center-loaded dipole. Both operators are members of a group of backpack radio enthusiasts called "HFpack." For more information on HFpack, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hfpack/>. Visit SV1UY's Web site, <http://www.athnet.ampr.org/~sv1uy> --Demetre Valaris, SV1UY

*** KPH coastal station gear to be on air for International Marconi Day:** Amateur Radio station K6KPH will be on the air for International Marconi Day from the original transmitting and receiving stations of ex-RCA coast station KPH. Operation is set to start at 0700 UTC Saturday, April 21. The frequencies of operation will be 7050 and 14,050 kHz. KPH traces its history back to the days of Marconi operation at the Bolinas transmitting site. K6KPH will be operated using the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of KPH. The operators will be at the Point Reyes receiving station, remotely keying the transmitters in Bolinas, just as was done when the station was in commercial operation. Members of the Maritime Radio Historical Society--which include several original KPH operators--will be at the key. Details about International Marconi Day are available on the Cornish Radio Club Web sit, <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~straff/>. Visit the Maritime Radio Historical Society Web site, <http://www.radiomarine.org> --Dick Dillman, W6AWO

*** N1IN, named to MARS PR post:** Retired journalist Bill Sexton, N1IN, of Richmond, Massachusetts, has been named

as public awareness coordinator for the Military Affiliate Radio System, or MARS. Sexton succeeds Lori Matthew, N4ZCF, whose public relations coordinator title was retired after her death last September. In the volunteer position, Sexton reports to Army MARS Chief Bob Sutton, N7UZY, and is responsible for disseminating information about MARS member activities. "MARS may be among the most active sectors of amateur radio but it's also among the least known," Sexton said. "The fact that we operate on frequencies outside the ham bands accounts in good part for the lack of public familiarity." Sexton explains that in all three branches--Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS--the primary mission is maintaining readiness for emergency communications support to the Defense Department and other government agencies. "Training is constant and demanding," he said, and has overtaken the traditional MARS function of handling health-and-welfare traffic between service members and their families. A former newspaper and wire service journalist, Sexton joined MARS in 1992. Write him at William C. Sexton, N1IN, PO Box 428 Richmond, MA 01254-0428; e-mail sextonw@juno.com.

*** First Tuna Tin 2 WAS claimed:** When the Tuna Tin 2 low-power transmitter article appeared in QST in 1976 (<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/7605014.pdf>), its author Doug DeMaw, W1CER (later W1FB), envisioned it as a weekend project that could be used for short-range contacts. Now, a quarter of a century later, a Canadian amateur has claimed the first Tuna Tin 2 Worked All States Award! Steve McDonald, VE7SL, got caught up in "Tuna Tin 2 Mania" and bought one of the popular TT2 kits. After working about 30 states with the little rig, WAS suddenly seemed plausible. McDonald realized his dream several months later when he turned in his cards for WAS. All contacts for the award had been completed while he was running about 400 mW from a Tuna Tin 2. As far as the ARRL awards folks know, this marked the first time WAS was achieved with a Tuna Tin 2--although there is no special endorsement for having done so. "Doug DeMaw knew in his heart that the rig would be useful and popular, but I don't think he ever envisioned that this little transmitter would still be working its QRP magic over 25 years after it first appeared in the pages of QST," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI--himself a QRP and TT2 aficionado who has promoted the Tuna Tin 2 Revival and was McDonald's Connecticut contact for WAS. Congratulations to VE7SL on a tremendous operating accomplishment.--Ed Hare, W1RFI

*** Ham helps his "Elmer" in health emergency:** Kansas Section Emergency Coordinator Joseph Plankinton, WD0DMV, reports that a new ham in his section recently got to return a favor for the amateur who'd helped him get his license--his "Elmer." On April 5 Conrad Lauck, KC0JUV, of Topeka was enjoying a QSO on a local repeater with his old friend Wayne Peterson, KB0AMY, 55 miles away in Horton. Both hams are blind, and Peterson is a diabetic. During the contact, Peterson mentioned that he was not feeling well, and, as the conversation progressed, his speech began to slur.

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Finally, Lauck heard Peterson key his microphone but not speak, and he knew his friend was in trouble. He contacted authorities in Horton to check on Peterson, who apparently had suffered a health emergency. An ambulance was called, and the crisis was averted.

*** Hosstraders has moved!** The popular Hosstraders event--considered the premier hamfest in New England--has moved again. Originally held in Deerfield, New Hampshire, the Hosstraders event shifted venue to Rochester, New Hampshire, several years ago. Starting with the May 4-5 event, the Hosstraders will move to the Hopkinton State Fairgrounds, located off I-89 (Exit 7), in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. "We are excited about this big step forward," says organizer Joe DeMaso, K1RQG. "Those of you who miss the old days at Deerfield will be especially happy with the look of our new home." The Hosstraders location change to Rochester led many hams to dub the event "Deerchester." Now, some are starting to call it "Deerkinton" as a result of the latest move. More information is available on the Hosstraders 2001 Web site, <http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg>.

*** Submarines on the air:** The Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association will sponsor its fifth annual Submarine Memorial Radio Reactivation Day April 28-29 in honor of the 101st anniversary of the US Navy Submarine Service. More than 50 subs were on the air around the world for last year's event. Submarines on the Air will run from April 28 at 0600 UTC until April 29 at 2359 UTC. Among subs which will be "radio-active" are the Cobia in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, with the ManCoRad Radio Club, Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, operating, the German U-505 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and the WA3KEY/2 operation from the conning tower of the nuclear guided missile submarine USS Growler (SSG-577) in New York's Hudson River. Suggested operating frequencies: AM/SSB, 3.943, 7.243, 14.243, 21.313, and 28.343 MHz; CW up 43 kHz from the lower band edge. For a Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association certificate, send copies of at least four QSLs from participating subs to Jim Flanders, W0OOG, 1539 California Trail, Plano, TX 75023-4300; e-mail jaf@sprintmail.com. Visit Jim Flanders' Tubes Forward Web site, <http://w0oog.50megs.com/>.

*** Smithsonian "Space Day" to include ham satellites:** Amateur Radio satellites will be on display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the museum's "Space Day" activities on May 3. Young people who attend The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's (AMSAT) display, can take a crack at building their own MicroSats as they learn more about Amateur Radio and amateur satellites. "Our goal is to interest students in entering careers in the technical fields," says AMSAT Vice President Perry Klein, W3PK. The AMSAT display will be located in the Air and Space Museum's Space Race Gallery 114 and will run from 11 AM until 3 PM.