B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ **January 2002**

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL **447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL**

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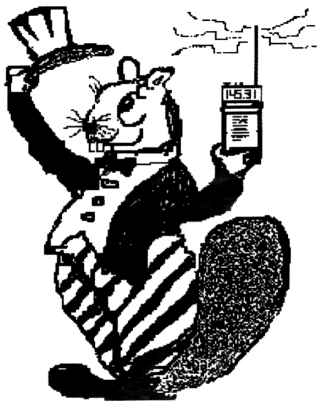

THE NET LIST

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

PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM…3.610

E-CARS.....……..8:00 AM DAILY...7.255

EAN NET..……2:30 PM DAILY..7.243

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.....…….8:00 PM DAILY..146.88

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

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

www.qsl.net/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.

Inside This Issue

==**CLUB NEWS**==

CLUB MEETING

The January 2002 B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center as usual, 7:30 PM on Thursday January 10th. Location of the center is 250 East End Avenue, Beaver PA. Be sure to bring a friend as we can always use help in finishing off the coffee and donuts, HI!

***REMINDER* 2002 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DUE**

Keep in mind that 2002 membership dues are due. Please forward a completed membership application, found on the back of this newsletter, along with your check or money order to our Treasurer Wes N3ALS at the club address. Although yearly dues do not cover our budgeted expenditures they do go a long way towards that. Thanks for your continued support.

REPEATER CODES TO CHANGE 2-01-02

Repeater autopatch codes will be changed as of February 1, 2002 and will only be supplied to 2002 members. Current members wishing to retain uninterrupted access to the repeater autopatch and their autodial slot must get their dues in to the club Treasurer no later than 1-31-02.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party was again held at Hoss's Restaurant in Moon Twp., and again all who attended enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Door prizes were presented by our Christmas party Committee, Phyllis N3KUG and Debbie KB3EAQ, who labored long and hard to show us a great time. Wes N3ALS had the honor of presenting the 2001 "Ham of the Year" award to Al WA3GFM for his contributions to the club this past year. Congratulations Al!

RESERVATIONS FOR FIELD DAY

Scheduling the shelter at Brady's Run Park will be on Tuesday January 8th.. Debbie KB3EAQ is making plans to reserve the shelter for us and asks for any "moral support" from anyone wishing to sit with her. Please contact her at home, 724-758-4074 or on the W3SGJ 145.31 repeater. Thanks.

BVARA VE TEST SCHEDULE FOR 2002

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will be holding VE Exams at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Sciences Building, located at the Beaver County Airport, on the following dates:

February 2nd
April 6th
June 1st
August 3rd
October 5th
December 7th

If you have any questions regarding the testing schedule or procedures please contact Tony KE3ED.

2002 ARRL VEC TEST FEE REMAINS $10 FOR 2002

Starting January 1, 2002, ARRL VEC VE teams will charge $10 for exams conducted during 2002 (the same fee charged during 2001).

2002 ARRL-SPONSORED NATIONAL EXAM DAY WEEKENDS

Spring National Exam Day Weekend—April 27-28, 2002.
Fall National Exam Day Weekend—September 28-29,2002

==>COMMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 12 IN "BAND THREAT" PROCEEDING

Comments are due February 12, 2002, in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order, ET Docket 01-278, that ARRL has targeted as a potential band threat. Reply comments are due on March 12, 2002. The proceeding deals in part with a potential threat to the popular 70-cm band from Part 15 RF identification devices proposed for deployment between 425 and 435 MHz.

SAVI Technology, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, told the FCC it needs the rules changes to satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities. The FCC has proposed to allow operation of RFIDs as unlicensed Part 15 devices in the 425-435 MHz band with transmissions of up to two minutes at field strengths now only permitted for extremely short-duration, intermittent control signals.

The ARRL has argued that under the Communications Act of 1934 the FCC lacks authority to permit unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential and that such devices must be licensed. The League also is looking into the interference potential posed to 20 meters by a proposal to increase the maximum emission levels permitted by Part 15 devices operating at 13.56 MHz, as well as the maximum level of out-of-band emissions.

Commenters are advised to read paragraphs 20-27 of the NPRM&O, available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/10/19/1/290a11.html >. Interested parties may file comments using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System, <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html> (search using "01-278"). Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address, and applicable docket or rule making number--in this case ET 01-278.

It's also possible to e-mail comments via the ECFS. To obtain e-mail filing instructions, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the body of the message. A sample form and directions will be sent by reply e-mail.

==>AO-40 TRANSPONDER HIATUS LOOMS

Necessary adjustments to AO-40's attitude to compensate for unfavorable sun angles over the next several months will silence the satellite's transponders for a while. Recent reports indicate that AO-40 continues to operate well, providing coverage between many parts of the world.

Command station team member Stacey Mills, W4SM, says, however, that he's puzzled and disappointed by the relatively low numbers of users on AO-40 during the last month or so. "I'm not sure why," he told ARRL this week. "This is prime time, and we won't have such good conditions much longer until the three-month 'bad angle' cycle passes."

A scheduled attitude shift to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth until next spring and lead to a transponder shutdown period that could start as soon as late December. The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee--its point closest to Earth. AO-40 relies on solar panels for its power.

Mills said that testing and development continue on AO-40's three-axis control system, but three-axis control would not be ready in time to avoid the unfavorable solar-angle season. AO-40 will remain in spin mode for at least a few more months, he said.

Mills estimated that ground controllers may need to start shifting the satellite's attitude starting sometime just before Christmas. He didn't expect a favorable sun angle that would again allow pointing AO-40 directly toward Earth (ALON/ALAT 0/0) until mid-April. "It's possible that we can leave the transponders on during the first part of the move and turn them back on slightly before April 15 as we start back toward 0/0," Mills said, "but you can figure that things will be sub-optimal from about Christmas until April 15."

Mills said earlier this month that ground controllers now assume that AO-40's S1 transmitter is beyond recovery. The S1 transmitter quit abruptly in August, but before going down, it had produced excellent results. Ground controllers also have done additional testing on the 2-meter (V band) transmitter, which, Mills conceded, also appears lost.

The next-generation AO-40 satellite marked its first year in orbit during November. The former "Phase 3D" satellite was launched November 16, 2000, aboard an Ariane 5 launcher from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Transponder operation began May 5, 2001. AO-40 is the largest Amateur Radio satellite ever put into space.

The current AO-40 transponder operating schedule and more information are available via the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org>.

==>MARS AGAIN LETTING US TROOPS "PHONE HOME"

US Army Special Forces on duty in Islamabad, Pakistan, and in other undisclosed locations have begun keeping in touch with home via Military Affiliate Radio System--MARS--phone patches. Army Military Affiliate Radio System Headquarters here said that MARS members in all three services--Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps--are gearing up for greatly expanded phone-patch operations as the holidays approach.

MARS phone patches make it possible for deployed troops to call their families in the US from areas where commercial connections are not available. Specially trained Amateur Radio operators enrolled in MARS provide the connection between military shortwave stations deployed overseas and the telephone system back home. During the Vietnam War, phone patches were a major source of comfort to families and service members alike. MARS responded again during Operation Desert Storm.

Phone-patching has taken on new life over the last several years as Special Forces members were deployed on peacekeeping missions to Kosovo, Macedonia, West Africa and other areas that lack regular or affordable phone service.

"Most of our contacts lasted less than 15 minutes and were to the wives," said a communications sergeant recently returned from a three-month Special Forces mission in Africa. "All the guys wanted to make sure everything was running smoothly in their absence."

Successfully completing a patch gives a big lift to the MARS amateur in the middle, too. "You never know who you will meet on these [high] frequencies," said one East Coast MARS member, who called it "a privilege" to serve as an Army MARS phone-patch operator.

These days, calls from overseas might originate from battery-powered backpack transceivers with a power of 20 W or less, but hams on the US end of the circuit using ordinary Amateur Radio gear and antennas are usually able to make a workable connection. Even the more sophisticated military base stations can experience problems, however. One overseas communicator reported that turning on a linear amplifier tripped the circuit breakers on the local power system.

Amateurs interested in joining MARS should contact their state MARS director or visit the Army MARS <http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/>, the Air Force MARS <http://public.afca.scott.af.mil/public/mars1.htm> or the Navy-Marine Corps MARS <http://navymars.org/> Web site.--thanks to Army MARS and Bill Sexton, N1IN

==>TAKE A NUMBER: FRN NOW MANDATORY

Anyone filing an Amateur Radio application now will be asked to supply a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) issued by the FCC's new Commission Registration System, or CORES. The requirement applies to FCC applications filed on-line or on paper. The FCC also has supplanted Universal Licensing System (ULS) registration with "CORES/Call Sign" registration, so applicants no longer need to register separately in both systems.

Most, if not all, hams who registered previously with the ULS already have an FRN, although they may not know it yet. The FCC just completed another cross-registration to include those already on the ULS books within the CORES "entity registration" database, and another is scheduled. Amateurs can learn their FRNs by doing a license search on the FCC's Universal Licensing System page <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. FRNs also are displayed via the ARRL call sign server on ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org>.

The FCC has updated its ULS page <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> to reflect the new reality and to make the page a bit less confusing. Amateurs not yet registered in CORES who click "CORES/Call Sign" registration will be redirected to the CORES site to complete that process. Amateurs who click "Online Filing" are advised to proceed to CORES to register if they do not already have an FRN, then return to ULS for filing.

Those filing on-line applications now are asked to supply either an FRN or a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN--a Social Security Number for an individual) plus a password, typically the same for both CORES and ULS.

The process is a bit more daunting for new club station applicants, who now will be asked to register in CORES as business entities. Such applicants also may file with a Club Station Call Sign Administrator using Form NCVEC 605 and simply leave the FRN field blank. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says that in those cases, the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), such as ARRL, will register the club station entity in CORES on the applicant's behalf.

The FCC also now only accept FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) dated February 2000 or later, which requires providing an FRN. A copy of the acceptable version is available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/fees>. At the left side of the page, click on "Form 159".

For more information about the Commission Registration System or on obtaining an FRN, contact the CORES Help Desk, 877-480-3201, cores@fcc.gov.

==>HAM RADIO CONNECTS SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA YOUNGSTERS WITH SPACE STATION

Youngsters visiting the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia and attending the Atlanta New Century School in Georgia recently spoke via ham radio with the International Space Station. The contacts were the latest in a string of successful radio conversations between school-age youngsters and Expedition 3 Crew Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ. They were arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

On Friday, November 30, 13 youngsters in grades 4 through 11 visiting the South Carolina State Museum quizzed Culbertson, who operated as NA1SS from aboard the ISS. Culbertson generated some news during the contact when he revealed that NASA had scheduled a space walk by two of the crew members to clear up a Progress rocket docking problem. The faulty docking had been holding up the launch of the Expedition 4 crew on the space shuttle.

Some 100 youngsters were on hand at "Earth Station South Carolina" for the occasion. One fifth grader wanted to know whether Culbertson had ever seen life in space. "Just the guys I live with up here," Culbertson quipped. "I haven't seen any other kind of life outside the space station." His remark drew laughter from the earthbound audience. "Who knows whether there is or not," he continued in a more serious vein. "If there is, it's a pretty big deal and would be very important. If there's not, then it makes our place in the universe even more important and gives us more responsibility to take care of what we have."

Culbertson told the youngsters that he was floating "halfway between the ceiling and the floor" as he was talking to them. "Zero G is fun," he said, referring to the weightless environment, "however, there are hazards." Although there's no artificial gravity aboard the space station, Culbertson said he sometimes he wished there were.

Culbertson spoke Wednesday, December 5, with youngsters at the Atlanta New Century School. First up was a first grader who wanted to know how "the fire makes the ship fly." Culbertson explained that the "fire" was really a mixture of exhaust gases forcefully exiting the rocket "really, really fast" and that the reaction to that force made the rocket move in the opposite direction. He told the next questioner that liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen were the primary shuttle fuels--a half million gallons in all.

Another student prompted guffaws from his classmates when he asked how much Culbertson earned. The pay scale for his job as an astronaut is the same as for an average aerospace engineer, Culbertson told the youngster--from about $50,000 to more than $90,000 a year.

About a dozen questions were asked and answered during contact with Atlanta New Century School. Culbertson's sister, Amy, was among those in the audience at Atlanta. "Tell my sister Amy hello for me," Culbertson said, but the two did not converse.

Nancy Richeleau, WH6PN, and Dick Flagg, AH6NM, operating from The Sacred Hearts Academy club station in Honolulu, served as the control operators for the South Carolina contact. Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, in South Australia handled Earth station duties for the Atlanta contact. Two-way audio was handled by WorldCom teleconferencing facilities.

Culbertson, who's logged nearly two dozen ARISS school contacts during his ISS stay, is looking forward to returning to Earth in time to join his family for the holidays. The current crew has been aboard the ISS since August. The shuttle Endeavour carrying the Expedition 4 crew of Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Flight Engineers Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE, blasted into space December 5. The shuttle also is carrying some new ham radio antennas for the ISS.

==>FCC CHASTISES FEUDING 75-METER OCCUPANTS

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau recently stepped in to halt feuding over the use of some 75-meter frequencies. The dispute had pitted the Alabama Traffic Net, the Alabama SKYWARN Net and the Country Cousins Net against an informal group of amateurs. All wanted to operate between 3.965 and 3.970 MHz. In the end, the FCC declined to take any enforcement action in the situation, but Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth took all sides to task for bringing their charges and countercharges to the FCC in the first place.

"This dispute appears to be largely a 'who's on first' dispute, involving issues of proper operating procedures, and not appropriate for enforcement action," Hollingsworth told the parties involved.

In a two-page response sent to Jeremy Jackson, K9CNI, Henry Willmon, WA4GQS, Sal Viglione, W4SAL, and Alabama ARRL Section Manager Bill Cleveland, KR4TZ, Hollingsworth recounted allegations of deliberate and retaliatory interference, verbal harassment, frequency hogging, obscenity and profanity and even a charge that one individual was selling illegal linear amplifiers.

Hollingsworth pointed out that nets--regardless of their longevity, membership numbers or public service benefit--are not specifically regulated by FCC rules and have no greater rights to any frequency than any other licensee. On the other hand, the informal group, Hollingsworth said, needs to consider whether it's good amateur practice to deliberately start communications on a frequency widely known to be used by a long-established net.

Hollingsworth put those involved on notice that anyone violating the rules was risking FCC enforcement action and possible fines. "We cannot, however, mandate courtesy, good and fair operating practices or even common sense," he added.

Hollingsworth says the informal group has told him it would find another frequency to meet on 75 meters.

==>NEW AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee has released a revised and expanded Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2002, and must be used to generate all Extra class written examinations administered on or after that date. It replaces the Extra class question pool released April 15, 2000--the day Amateur Radio "restructuring" became effective.

The new Element 4 pool expands the number of questions by more than 20 percent--806 questions--as opposed to 665 in the current Extra class pool, and it contains more technical material. More than half of the questions cover electrical principles, circuits, signals and emissions.

The 50 questions in an Extra class examination are drawn from the question pool consistent with FCC rules and according to a formula that specifies the number of questions to be asked from each of nine topic areas. Applicants must correctly answer at least 37 questions to pass.

The new Element 4 question pool is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>. The just-released Extra class question pool remains valid through June 30, 2005.

The Question Pool Committee now will turn its attention to developing an outline for the Technician class (Element 2)

question pool. A draft Element 2 syllabus is scheduled for public release and comment next spring. The QPC invites suggestions for the Element 2 syllabus and question pool revision.

Questions and comments about the QPC's work can be directed to, Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, w4ww@arrl.net; ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, vec@arrl.org; Fred Maia, W5YI, w5yi@w5yi.org; and John Johnston, W3BE, johnston.john1@worldnet.att.net

==>FCC STILL SINGING THE POSTAL BLUES

E-mail it or fax it, but--at least for now--if you've got something to send to the FCC, don't put it in the mail if you expect the FCC to receive it anytime soon. The FCC said this week that, because of the mail situation, it still is not processing Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications—even those filed electronically--because hard copy and electronic vanity applications get equal processing priority.

In the aftermath of the recent anthrax incidents involving the mails, the FCC began diverting mail destined for Gettysburg and for its Washington, DC, Headquarters to special-handling facilities. The Commission likely will not resume vanity processing until the mail situation is untangled.

The FCC has processed vanity applications received through October 14. Vanity applications received after that still are on hold, but vanity fees paid by credit card for electronic filings are being charged to holders' accounts.

FCC staff members in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania--the office that handles vanity processing and issues all Amateur Radio licenses--say they're working on a two-week mail backlog. In mid-November, the Gettysburg office began diverting mail addressed to its 1270 Fairfield Road location to another site in town for special handling. But, staffers say, some earlier mail to Gettysburg was diverted to FCC Headquarters for decontamination with other federal mail and is yet to be returned.

Since October 19, the FCC has been urging all of its customers to avoid using the mails to conduct business with the agency and to use electronic means to file comments or applications. The FCC has been acting on amateur renewals and administrative updates filed on-line via the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. As of December 3, all applicants must include an FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing.

Mail sent to FCC Headquarters has been diverted to a warehouse facility in Capitol Heights, Maryland, since late October. The FCC has indicated that it continues to track the date of receipt for each piece of mail.

An FCC spokesperson in Washington has assured that no mail has been destroyed and that the Commission probably would permit additional time to include any comments filed on paper in a proceeding that might be caught in the special-handling and decontamination process. The FCC staff member invited those who had filed paper comments in a proceeding to file their comments again electronically, using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

The FCC said the US Postal Service will continue to accept and will divert all mail addressed to 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg--the office's physical location--to the off-site mailroom. The Gettysburg office now only accepts hand and courier deliveries at the rear entrance of 35 York Street, Gettysburg.

==>"HOLLINGSWORTH ERA" OF AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT ENTERS FOURTH YEAR

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, this week praised the overall level of Amateur Radio compliance with FCC rules as "outstanding." His assessment came as the current era of Amateur Radio enforcement under his guidance and direction enters its fourth year.

"The vast majority of operators are proud of the service and want to contribute to it and want to pass on the great legacy that it has become," Hollingsworth said in a statement marking the occasion. "May it last a thousand years!"

An amateur for 41 years, Hollingsworth also declared his pride in the Amateur Service. "I saw the energy and compassion and excellent operating of amateurs at the Pentagon and World Trade Center after September 11," he said. "I've seen and heard it at the National Hurricane Center in Miami--home of W4EHW--and in countless meetings with individual amateurs and at amateur events all over the United States."

Hollingsworth said US hams "have a lot to be proud of," and he urged them to "participate in Amateur Radio with enthusiasm, celebrate it, enjoy it and share it, because you have made it an incredible national resource and the only truly fail-safe communication service on the planet Earth."

Hollingsworth again reminded amateurs to be acutely aware of the image they present to anyone who might be listening. "I hear far too many operators who don't realize what a bad reflection they are on American amateur operators," he said.

Now nationally recognized and respected within the amateur community, Hollingsworth was relatively unknown outside the FCC bureaucracy when he volunteered to take on the challenge of amateur enforcement in 1998. For several years prior, the FCC had all but abandoned amateur enforcement. Hollingsworth noted that it was not until another plea went

out from the ARRL to the FCC in the summer of 1998 that the FCC responded. The agency transferred Amateur Service enforcement from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to what was then called the Compliance and Information Bureau. The FCC subsequently created the Enforcement Bureau to handle agency-wide enforcement activities.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, lauded Hollingsworth as "a great gift" to the amateur community and expressed appreciation on behalf of the League for what he's been able to accomplish during his tenure. "Over the past three years, Mr. Hollingsworth has breathed new validity and vitality into the enforcement of Amateur Radio," Haynie said. "His strong support for the amateur community as a whole and the ARRL's initiatives, has been unwavering."

Haynie said that Hollingsworth--guided by his passions for Amateur Radio and for the law--"has given hams across the nation reason to pause, think, promote and yes, even laugh about ourselves."

Hollingsworth's statement is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/12/12/1/>.

==>NEWFOUNDLAND STUDENTS HONOR MARCONI ANNIVERSARY WITH ISS CONTACT

One hundred years ago in Newfoundland, Guglielmo Marconi used a kite to hoist his receiving antenna aloft to hear the first radio signal to ever span the Atlantic--the simple Morse letter "S." Marconi likely would have been blown away with astonishment if he could have seen youngsters--on the centennial of his epochal accomplishment--sitting where he once sat and carrying on a radio conversation with someone in an orbiting space vehicle.

The successful December 12 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact between special event station VO1S on Signal Hill, Newfoundland, and astronaut Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, operating NA1SS in space was just one of the events to celebrate Marconi's transatlantic reception in 1901. During the contact, 10 students got to quiz Culbertson about life in space. The ninth-graders were winners of a crystal-set building competition associated with the centennial observance. Looking on were another 125 students and 40 adults, including members of the media.

"The question that seemed to get the most response from the audience was from Chris Mong, age 13, who asked 'If you sneeze on the space station, does the force of the sneeze propel you backwards?'," said ARISS mentor Charlie Sufana, AJ9N. "Frank said 'it can'."

Fourteen-year-old Ashley Evans, wanted to know how the crew members brush their teeth in space. "The only difference between brushing your teeth in space and on the ground is that most people end up swallowing the toothpaste, since we don't have a sink with running water to get rid of it in," Culbertson said.

Melissa Doody, age 15, was curious if the crew could see Newfoundland from the ISS. "Absolutely, we can certainly see you, and I've seen you many times since I've been up here," Culbertson replied. "Unfortunately, the ham radio is not located near a window, so I can't see you right now, but it's a beautiful part of the country."

The ARISS contact--only the third to involve Canadian students--was arranged with the assistance of Memorial University of Newfoundland, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs. The commemorative event marked the first time an ARISS school contact was scheduled while a shuttle was docked with the ISS. The ground team reported later that the signal from NA1SS was "very weak and marginal," and contact between the ISS and the ground held up only for about six minutes, compared to the typical ten. There was speculation that the shuttle Endeavour may have blocked signals and led to the shorter-than-usual contact window.

Graham Dillabough, VE6KJ/VO1DZA, served as control op. Sufana congratulated Dillabough and his teammates for battling high winds--gusting at 110 km (68 miles) per hour--and even some snow to erect the antennas necessary for the contact. The high winds kept the visitors from atop Signal Hill itself; gear for the ARISS contact was set up in the visitors' center instead.

Culbertson, who's completing a four-month tour of duty aboard the ISS, turns over the reins this week to Expedition 4 crew commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO. The other Expedition 4 crew members are fight engineers Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE. The Expedition 3 crew has been aboard the ISS since August.

==>AMATEURS RESTORE CITY'S POLICE, FIRE DISPATCHING

Volunteers from the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club helped to restore police and fire dispatching service in Collinsville, Oklahoma, after flames destroyed the city's radio gear and disrupted 911 service December 1. The early-morning fire badly damaged the 88-year-old Collinsville City Hall, which housed the community's police and fire departments and other offices.

"The city's communication system was functioning, but 911 calls were re-routed to a nearby city, because all the dispatch equipment was lost in the fire," said Oklahoma ARRL Public Information Coordinator Mark Conklin, N7XYO. Even the antenna was lost. As a result, the city had to find a temporary home for police and fire dispatch.

Collinsville, a community of some 4000 people, is located about 12 miles north of Tulsa.

Conklin says Collinsville arranged to set up its dispatching center in the Collinsville Rural fire station.

Area amateurs alerted to the devastating fire quickly responded to help, and Tim Diehl, KB5ZVC, notified ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager Charlie Calhoun, 5TTT. TARC Public Service Liaison Dan Lamoreaux, WG5Z, rounded up Gregg onderly, W5GGW, Dave Smith, KD5OIJ, and Tom Roininen, KB5HMZ, as additional volunteers. The volunteers brought the club's portable repeater system, which had been built using commercial radio equipment converted for amateur use.

Conklin says the amateurs reprogrammed the repeater for the police and fire departments to use as an emergency dispatch radio. "By 9 o'clock that evening all systems were totally operational and police and fire dispatching was being handled though the club's loaned radio equipment," Conklin said.

Established in 1924, the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club is the state's oldest ham radio club. It operates the W5IAS linked repeater system and its members are active in public service.--Mark Conklin, N7XYO/TARC

==>ARRL STUDY PANEL RECOMMENDS ELIMINATING NOVICE BANDS

On the basis of nearly 5000 survey responses, the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the Novice CW subbands and allow Novice and Technician with Element 1 credit licensees to operate CW on the General 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The committee's complete report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration during its annual meeting in January. The committee's determinations were based on opinions expressed by 4744 respondents to an ARRL Novice Spectrum Study survey launched in June. Those expressing their opinions included ARRL members and nonmembers. Nearly 61% of those responding were Extra class licensees.

The committee, chaired by ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has been studying the status and usage of the Novice/Technician Plus HF bands with an eye toward determining what changes to usage of that spectrum might be needed now that the FCC no longer issues new Novice licenses.

The survey offered possible refarming options for each of the bands involved--including no change at all. Generally speaking, the predefined options proposed retaining Extra class CW subbands on the affected bands, setting aside expanded CW reserves for all license classes except Technicians lacking Element 1 credit, and dividing the remaining spectrum into expanded phone segments for General, Advanced and Extra class operators. A guiding principle was that no class of licensees would lose any privileges as a result of refarming.

The committee recommended expanding the phone bands in accordance with the most popular of the survey choices offered--three for 80, 40 and 15 meters and two for 10 meters. Here's a summary:

* On 80 meters, nearly 40% of those responding opted for a plan that would extend the US phone allocation to 3700 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire subband, and with Advanced and General class subbands starting at 3725 and 3800 kHz respectively.

* On 40 meters, nearly half of the respondents picked the plan to extend the primary US phone allocation to 7125 kHz, with Extra and Advanced licensees allowed on the entire segment and Generals from 7175 kHz and up. (The committee's report suggested no changes to the special allocations for amateurs on certain Pacific or Caribbean islands and in Alaska.)

* On 15 meters, again, nearly half of those responding wanted the US phone allocation extended to 21,175 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire allocation, and Advanced and General subbands beginning at 21,200 and 21,250 kHz respectively.

* On 10 meters--where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already may operate CW, RTTY and data from 28,100 to 28,300 kHz, nearly 55% of the respondents favored a plan to retain the US phone allocation from 28,300 to 29,700 kHz and to extend CW access to Novice/Tech Plus operators to 28,000 kHz—an additional 100 kHz. The current Tech Plus 28,300 to 28,500 kHz phone segment would be retained.

The committee's report says that if the ARRL Board adopts the plan, the League should include any request to the FCC to implement the changes within an omnibus filing encompassing other issues, rather than as a separate petition. Consideration of any necessary ARRL Band Plan changes would follow ultimate FCC approval.

==>ALL-HAM CREW SETTLING IN ABOARD ISS; SCHOOL CONTACTS SCHEDULED

For the first time, there's an all-ham crew aboard the International Space Station. The Expedition 4 crew of Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and flight engineers Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE, is settling into the ISS quarters that will be its home for the next six months. Amateur Radio on the International Space

Station school contacts already are tentatively set for January and February.

Expedition 3 crew members Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, Mikhail Tyurin and Vladimir Dezhurov returned to Earth December 17 under heavy security aboard the shuttle Endeavour. Culbertson and his crewmates returned to a planet that's still trying to comprehend and adjust to the changes wrought by the September 11 terrorist attacks, which occurred while the crew was in space. The Expedition 3 crew had been aboard the ISS since August. Operating as NA1SS from aboard the ISS, Culbertson completed nearly two dozen successful ARISS school and educational contacts.

Now it will be the Expedition 4 crew's turn. Penciled in on the ARISS schedule for the new crew are contacts with St Clare School in Waveland, Mississippi, during the week of January 7, and with Harrogate Ladies College (GB2HC) in Harrogate, England, the following week. Depending on the crew's work activities, an effort will be made to schedule one ARISS school or educational contact during a typical week.

New Amateur Radio antennas carried into space for the ISS have been stowed for the time being. Current plans call for them to be installed around the perimeter of the Service Module by the Expedition 6 crew. The new antennas will allow future operation from HF to microwave frequencies, once additional ham gear is brought aboard the ISS.

==>FCC AMENDS PART 15 RULES TO ALLOW HIGHER-POWER DEVICES AT 24 GHZ

Despite objections from the ARRL, the FCC has announced plans to amend its Part 15 rules to allow fixed point-to-point transmitters in the 24.05 to 24.25 GHz band to operate at field strengths of up to 2500 mV per meter. That's 10 times the level currently permitted. Among other interference safeguards, the FCC will require devices operating at these higher field strengths to use highly directional antennas. Amateur Radio is primary at 24.0 to 24.05 GHz and secondary on the rest of the band. The AO-40 satellite includes beacon, digital and analog transmitters in the vicinity of 24.048 GHz.

"This band has accommodated unlicensed transmissions, government radar and amateur facilities with no major conflicts," the FCC said. "By allowing a greater variety of systems to occupy the band, we will provide the opportunity for innovative products and services to be made available to the American public as quickly as demand dictates."

The FCC first proposed permitting the Part 15 devices at the elevated field strengths in 1998, in response to a Petition for Rule Making from Sierra Digital Communications Inc. Sierra had requested that its proposal be authorized to include a portion of the 24.0 to 24.05 MHz segment, but ARRL had argued that such a move would adversely affect amateur operations there, and the FCC agreed. The FCC finally acted in the three-year-old proceeding, ET Docket 98-156, on December 11 in a Report and Order that closely mimics its earlier Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Noting that Part 15 devices operate in a non-interference basis to licensed services and must accept interference from licensed services, the FCC said it was requiring directional antennas with gains of at least 33 dBi to minimize interference potential. For the same reason, the FCC also imposed more stringent frequency stability and spurious emissions requirements than initially proposed.

The FCC said it disagreed with ARRL that permitting Part 15 devices at the higher field strengths would increase the risk of interference to amateur operations in the 24.05 to 24.25 GHz segment. The Commission said that Part 15 field disturbance sensors have been operating for years in the band at 2500 mV/m field strengths with no adverse affects to other users.

The FCC took issue with ARRL's assertion that the FCC should acknowledge that Part 15 devices are only allowed under the Communications Act when they pose no interference potential to licensed services. The FCC called ARRL's interpretation "overly conservative."

The FCC Order in ET Docket 98-156 is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-357A1.doc>.

==>ARRL STANDARDIZES CLUB NAMES FOR ELECTRONIC CONTEST SUBMITTALS

The ARRL Contest Branch has released a list of standardized club designators to enable the ARRL contest robot to properly count electronically submitted contest scores toward a club's ARRL Affiliated Club Competition point total. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says a list of clubs that have participated in various ARRL operating events in recent years is posted on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/club-list.html>.

ARRL-affiliated club members submitting contest scores for club credit should use their club's name as it appears on the list as a standard designator. In most cases, this means typing the name into the "club" field on the logging program used. Henderson says that clubs must be ARRL-affiliated to participate in the various ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions associated with the ARRL's contest program. Members of clubs that are not ARRL-affiliated should leave that field blank when submitting ARRL contest entries.

"We can adjust the full club names when necessary," Henderson said. "We can edit the list to add new clubs." A standardized list of club abbreviations has not been developed at this point, Henderson explained, because some clubs might share an abbreviation.

"While we realize it isn't the perfect solution to the problem or the solution some would have chosen, it is a system that works within the framework of the database programs we use at the Contest Branch," Henderson said. He invited questions, comments and suggestions. Contact Dan Henderson, n1nd@arrl.org; 860-594-0232.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** Amateur Radio Trader calls it quits:** Amateur Radio Trader magazine is ceasing publication with its second November issue, which went out to subscribers November 20. "This was a difficult but necessary decision, due to the combined effects of the Internet on our print edition (the primary source of our Web content), and the economic climate," said the magazine's editor Barbara Patterson, KF4MVV, in a statement on the Amateur Radio Trader Web site <http://www.amradiotrader.com>. "ART is no longer a viable product for us. We are redirecting the company's resources into other areas." Patterson told ARRL that the Amateur Radio Trader Web site also would be discontinued and that subscribers would be reimbursed for any outstanding issues. She said TAP Publishing Company, which owns the twice-monthly listing of classified ads, had decided to put its energies into other areas. Patterson apologized for any inconvenience and said the second November issue of ART would remain posted on the ART Web site through December 9.

*** ARRL approves Afghanistan operation for DXCC:** The ARRL DXCC Desk reports it has received acceptable documentation for YA5T in Afghanistan and has approved it for DXCC credit. Afghanistan is among the top 10 "most wanted" countries. The license, which authorizes operation on all bands--including 6 meters--was issued by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government that's still recognized by the United Nations. YA5T will be operated by Peter Casier, ON6TT, as well as by Mats Persson, SM7PKK, Robert Kasca, S53R, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW. All work for the UN World Food Program. YA5T will be on the air as their schedules permit. The DXCC documentation is for contacts made on or after November 20, 2001. No other call signs or operations have been approved. For more information, visit the YA5T Web site managed by Bruce Richards, WD4NGB <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t/>.

*** FCC says ULS now compatible with Internet Explorer and Netscape:** The FCC has announced that its Universal Licensing System (ULS) now can be accessed using either Internet Explorer 5.5-6.0 or Netscape Navigator 4.5, 4.51, 4.61, 4.7 and 4.75. Until now, the ULS has supported only Netscape. The FCC says applicants may now use Internet Explorer to file applications and for all other ULS purposes. For more information, contact ULS <ulscomm@fcc.gov>. For questions concerning computer access to ULS, CORES registration and FCC Registration Number, TIN/Call Sign issues, or submitting attachments in ULS, contact the Technical Support Hotline, 202-414-1250, available weekdays 7 AM-10 PM, Saturdays, 8 AM-7 PM and Sundays from noon-6 PM Eastern Time. The Public Notice outlining this change is available on the FCC's Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-01-2729A1.doc>.

*** Starshine 3 is now SO 43:** AMSAT-NA Board Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that the recently launched Starshine 3 satellite has met all the requirements for an OSCAR number and has been designated Starshine OSCAR 43 (SO-43). Starshine 3 is a mirror ball with AX.25 9600-baud telemetry on 145.825 MHz. The satellite is visible to the eye and will provide students the opportunity to participate in its primary mission of satellite tracking. More information about the Starshine project can be found on the Starshine Web site <http://www.azinet.com/starshine>.--AMSAT News Service

*** "DX window" remains for ARRL 160 Meter Contest:** Although the "DX window" no longer is a part of the ARRL 160-meter band plan, there will be a DX window for the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, which runs December 7-9. The contest's rules <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-160m.html> still require that the segment 1.830 to 1.835 MHz be used only for intercontinental QSOs. The contest is a CW-only event. The revised band plan, which is considered an operating guideline, recommends that SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes stay at or above 1.843 MHz. It also establishes a QRP calling frequency is 1.810. In doing away with the DX window last July, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of the ad hoc 160 Meter Committee, which said the DX window concept was not followed and was impractical. The change left it up to contest sponsors to establish DX windows as necessary during their events.

*** FCC offers Internet Explorer fix for on-line filing problems:** The FCC announced recently that it now supports Microsoft Internet Explorer as well as most later versions of Netscape for filing applications via the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS). Some amateurs using Internet Explorer have reported problems filing on-line, however, and the FCC says those users may need to run a Java Applet IE plug-in to correct the problem. It's available from the FCC at <https://wtbjag1w.fcc.gov/ieplugin/j2re-1_3_0_02-win.exe> When a "File Download" dialog box appears, click on "Run" or "Open" (depending on your version of IE), and the plug-in will download and install automatically. If a "Security Warning" box appears, click "Yes." Amateurs also must now supply a 10-digit Commission Registration System-issued FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing FCC applications on-line or on paper. For help initiating an on-line filing using Internet Explorer, contact FCC Tech Support, weekdays, for assistance, ulscomm@fcc.gov or 202-414-1250.

*** Historic coast radio station to celebrate Marconi event:** Stations KPH and K6KPH will be on the air December 12,

2001, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first wireless signal to cross the Atlantic, received by Guglielmo Marconi on December 12, 1901, at Saint John's, Newfoundland. Both stations will use the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of KPH, a former RCA coast station. K6KPH, the Maritime Radio Historical Society club station, will be active on amateur frequencies 3545, 7050 and 14,050 kHz. K6KPH will begin operation at 1700 UTC. KPH will be active on commercial frequencies 500 and 426 kHz. KPH will begin operations at 0000 (December 13) UTC. "Commercial practices and procedures will be used on all frequencies to give amateurs the experience of working a real coast station," said K6KPH Chief Operator Dick Dillman, W6AWO. Reception reports or QSLs go to Dick Dillman, W6AWO, 435 Utah St No. 4, San Francisco, CA 94110. KPH reception reports go to Tom Horsfall, WA6OPE, 1862 Tulare Ave, Richmond, CA 94805. More information is available on the Maritime Radio Historical Society Web site <http://www.radiomarine.org>.

*** Newfoundland special event to mark centenary of transatlantic reception:** The Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs will operate special event station VO1S during the month of December. The special event will mark the 100th anniversary of the reception of the first transatlantic radio signal--the Morse code letter "s"--received by Marconi at Signal Hill in Newfoundland on December 12, 1901. Marconi used a kite-supported antenna to hear the signal, which was transmitted from his station in Poldhu, Cornwall, England. QSL VO1S via the bureau or direct (before March 1, 2002), to SONRA, PO Box 23099, St John's, NF A1B 479, Canada.

*** Special event station W1AA/CC to commemorate Marconi's transatlantic feat:** The Marconi Radio Club and The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's December 12, 1901, one-way transatlantic radio transmission with a special event station--W1AA/CC—from December 11-16. Operation will be on 80 through 6 meters, SSB and CW. The public is invited December 12, from 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time, when—weather permitting--W1AA will fly a kite antenna and attempt to communicate from Coast Guard Beach, Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to clubs at the historic Marconi stations in Poldhu, England and Saint John's, Newfoundland. Marconi used a kite antenna at his 1901 receiving site in Newfoundland. W1AA will transmit on 14.052 MHz. Amateurs at these locations also will attempt to fly kite antennas. QSL via the bureau or to W1AA, Box 1193, Lakeville, MA 02347 and include an SASE. For more information on this and other commemorative events, contact Marconi Radio Club President Whitey Doherty, K1VV, k1vv@tmlp.com, or visit the W1AA Web site <http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/> or The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association Web site <http://www.falara.org/OpEvents/Marconi/fara- arconi.html>.

*** Anthrax scare impacting outgoing DX QSL volume:** With one month to go in 2001, ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that his bureau has handled 1,716,940 cards from January 1 through November 30 of this year. That's 54,960 cards ahead of the same date last year. "However, the volume of cards coming in for processing has slowed drastically since the recent anthrax scare," Cook said. "I was hoping to make the 2 million mark this year, but it's not looking good. We will be lucky to beat last year's total." The more than 1.7 million figure so far in 2001 includes cards going to US incoming QSL bureaus and cards sorted and mailed by contractor. The Outgoing QSL Service handled 1,868,895 cards during 2000.

*** Tune up the radio and turn on the kids:** Are you ready? Here comes Kid's Day! On Saturday, January 5, sit down at your radio, tune it up, then share it with the younger generation. Let them talk about Pokemon, school, games, Harry Potter, computers, friends and other kid stuff, while you manage the technical aspects and just watch and listen for a change. Kid's Day is always lots of fun for all ages, and it's a terrific opportunity for parents, clubs and individual amateurs to show youngsters what great fun ham radio can be. For more information about Kid's Day, visit the Kid's Day Rules page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/ead/kd-rules.html>.

*** ARRL reminds FCC of "legacy" amateur microwave allocation:** The ARRL has reminded the FCC that the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services have primary access to the 75.5 to 76.0 GHz band--a so-called "legacy" allocation--until 2006. Loea Communications Corporation filed a Petition for Rule Making in September seeking to establish Part 101 licensing and service rules for fixed, point-to-point operation in that part of the spectrum using narrow beamwidth antennas. In reply comments in the proceeding (RM-10288), ARRL noted that neither the petitioner nor any commenters had mentioned the amateur allocation, due to phase out as a result of a shift in amateur allocations at WRC-2000. Part 97 Amateur Service rules include full access to the band 75.5 to 76 GHz and 77 to 81 GHz, conditioned on protecting, and the absence of interference protection from, government and non-government radiolocation. The ARRL said it had no objection to Loea's petition but wanted the FCC to note in any rules it adopts that the Amateur Service is entitled to operate at 75.5 to 76 GHz on a primary basis until 2006.

*** DXCC credit granted for XU7AAR operation:** The ARRL DXCC Desk reports that it has received supporting documentation for the 1999 XU7AAR (Cambodia) operation and has now accepted XU7AAR for DXCC credit. Those who submitted XU7AAR previously and were denied credit may contact DXCC <dxcc@arrl.org> and have their records updated without having to resubmit cards.--DXCC Desk