
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

January 2003

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

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1.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
2.V.PRES.....N3OJN Stan Riffle
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

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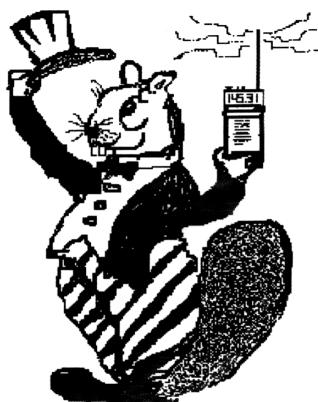
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Reid



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 & TFC NET...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...9:00 PM WED...28.370
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

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CLUB MEETING

The January 2003 Club meeting will be held Thursday the 9th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. Plans for the new year will be discussed over coffee and donuts. Plan on attending.

B.V.A.R.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Debbie KB3EAQ and Phyllis N3KUG want to thank all who attended our recent Christmas party. "Every one had a great time and it was good sharing the holidays with all our friends" says Debbie. A hearty thanks to Debbie and Phyllis for a great Christmas party!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Debbie KB3EAQ for being awarded The B.V.A.R.A.'s 2002 "Ham of the Year". Wes N3ALS had the honor of presenting the award to Debbie whose hard work over the years have been a benefit to our club and we thank you.

**2003 DUES NOW DUE**

!!! REMINDER!!! B.V.A.R.A. Club dues are now due. Please be advised that the repeater autopatch codes will change on February 1st so please be sure to renew your membership by January 31st. You will find an application on the back of this newsletter or on our web page. Please use this application when sending in your dues to aid our Treasurer in keeping his records straight. Thank you.

B.V.A.R.A. Members E-mail Addresses

Callsign	Name	E-mail Address
N3ALS	Wes Morar	wesmor@tsil.net
KA3TYK	Gary Hutchinson	g.hutchinson@attworldnet.att
KA3SMF	David Heim	ka3smf@usaor.net

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==>CHANGES IN WPA. SECTION STAFF

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New year.

Effective immediately the following changes in the section staff are being implemented as part of the restructuring,

Jeff Leach N3YEA will move from his position as DEC of W. Pa. To assistant section manager as my chief assistant for operations. Jeff will assist me at hamfests and will also be available to speak at club meetings. Jeff will continue to conduct the Emergency communications courses and will work to further the training and promotion of these programs.

Sally Cripe N3MYZ will serve as assistant section manager in administrative areas. She will help with solving member and club problems. She will also be helping at hamfests and in the preparation of section meetings.

Tony Petruccielli KE3ED will now be responsible for digital and data modes. He will assist individuals and groups in the promotion of such things as packet, sstv, psk31, aprs, etc. Tony will also work to promote the use of these and other digital and data modes.

Bruce Watson AA3LX continues as the assistant section manager for youth and education. Bruce will work with young people and school groups to form clubs. Bruce will also develop and prepare various training programs for use in the section. Ideas for topics may be sent to aa3lx@arrl.net. Several programs have already been developed such as NTS handling, Boy scout merit badge and a refresher course for the EMComm 1 program.

Rich Beaver remains as the Section emergency coordinator. Rich will be the leader of the ARES program. Rich will be responsible for the ARES operation in the section. He will be responsible for the appointments in the DEC, EC and OES positions. The DEC's for S-1, S-2, N-1, N-1 and rapid response will report directly to Rich. Rich will make all appointments in this capacity. He will also be responsible to insure that all EC's and DEC's make monthly reports no later than the 8th of the month to him so that he can forward his report to Hq and the section manager by the 10th or 12th of each month. Rich will also work with the STM to bring the ARES and

NTS groups into a close working relationship. With the STM they will plan the yearly simulated emergency test.

Bob Livrone N3WAV will continue in his capacity as Section traffic manager. Bob will coordinate the various groups in the National Traffic System in the section. Bob will be responsible for the appointment of net managers and official relay stations. He will also collect and forward monthly reports to HQ and section manager of station activity, public service honor role and net reports. Bob will also work with the SEC to bring the ARES and NTS groups into a close working relationship. With the SEC they will plan the yearly simulated emergency test.

Tony Zona WB3KGT will replace Norma Vanderhoff as the Public Information Coordinator. Tony will handle media interaction as well as any PR issues that may affect a wide area of the section. Tony brings with him years of experience in ARES operations and also in the news and publication field.

My thanks to Norma for her service and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

Ralph Ofchinick remains as the official observer coordinator. He is responsible for the management of the FCC amateur auxiliary in the section.

Jim Salter will also continue in his role as Technical coordinator. Jim will be responsible for assisting in technical matters in the section.

Dave Kleber KB3FXI will be taking on the position of Bulletin and information manager. This will be developed through the use of various electronic media to quickly disseminate information of use to the members of the section. Dave is currently the owner-manager of the pa sit-rep web site and will be making several services available for information.

73 and again a Happy Holiday to all.

John Rodgers N3MSE - W. Pa. Section

==>FIRST AMATEUR TRANSATLANTIC HF DIGITAL VOICE QSO REPORTED

Radio communication pioneers Ten-Tec and Thales have announced that they've used an Amateur Radio linkup to span the Atlantic on HF digital voice for the first time. Ten-Tec's Doug Smith, KF6DX, and Thales' Didier Chulot, F5MJN, successfully transmitted and received HF digital speech signals November 22 between Paris, France, and Ten-Tec's Sevierville, Tennessee, headquarters.

"We view this as a significant accomplishment," said Smith. "Amateur Radio has long been at the forefront of technological development. It's nice to be able to show that

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our legacy is alive and well." Tests are being conducted under the auspices of ARRL's Digital Voice Working Group, which Smith chairs. A written report on the tests is due in January.

Calling it "a major breakthrough," a Ten-Tec news release said the two amateur stations "demonstrated the advantages of digital audio during the conversation, including noise-free, FM-like reception and the potential for simultaneous voice and data." The feat was accomplished on 15 meters using Ten-Tec transceivers and Thales Communications Skywave 2000 digital audio software. Operating as F8KGG, Chulot spoke with Smith for several minutes over the HF digital link, operating within a 3-kHz bandwidth.

Smith said he and F5MJN used unmodified Ten-Tec transceivers in upper-sideband mode, although AM or FM mode also would work. No additional hardware was required beyond the cables connecting the transceiver and the microphone to the PC sound card. Smith said audio quality was roughly the same as a conventional telephone circuit. An Amateur Radio version of the Thales system is expected to appear on the market early next year. "At this stage, the system is experimental-only for ham radio, but it looks like it's going to take off," Smith predicted.

In terms of Amateur Radio, Alinco was the first manufacturer to come out with a digital voice option for some of its transceivers. ICOM debuted its D-Star digital "concept radio" system last May at the Dayton Hamvention--where Smith chaired the Digital Voice Forum--and demonstrated it at the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September. The unit, which operates on 1.2 GHz, was scheduled to hit the ham radio market this fall.

Technical details of the Thales system will appear in an article "International Digital Audio Broadcasting Standards: Voice Coding and Amateur Radio Applications" in the January/February issue of QEX, which he edits. The article is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/x0301049.pdf>>. He also has authored two articles on digital voice in QST: "Digital Voice: The Next New Mode?" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0201028.pdf>> in the January 2002 issue, and "Digital Voice: An Update and Forecast" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0202038.pdf>> in the February 2002 issue.

Additional images and background are available on the TAPR Web site <<http://www.tapr.org>>. Look for the Digital Voice Forum page and the presentation by Cédric Demeure.-- Ten-Tec news release; Doug Smith, KF6DX

==>ALL-HAM, ALL-MALE CREW SETTLES IN ONBOARD INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

With this week's departure of the space shuttle Endeavour from the International Space Station, one all-ham crew has replaced another onboard the ISS. This time around,

however, no female voices will grace the amateur airwaves between the space outpost and Earth. The new crew is entirely male. The crew change also marks the first time since Expedition 3 that a US astronaut will serve as crew commander.

The Expedition 6 crew--Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP; Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT--lifted off November 23 on its four-month scientific mission. The team replaces the all-amateur Expedition 5 crew of Commander Valery Korzun, RK3FZ; Sergei Treshev, RK3FU, and Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD. The Expedition 6 team is the third all-ham crew to serve aboard the ISS.

In space since June 5, Whitson, Korzun and Treshev ended up staying in space a bit longer than they'd expected. The launch of the Endeavour and the new ISS crew was delayed--first by an onboard oxygen leak and later by weather problems in possible emergency landing zones. Subsequently, inclement weather on Earth frustrated the Endeavour's efforts to return home. By week's end it appeared they might not be back home until December 6 or 7. The shuttle launch was the last one for the year 2002. In addition to the replacement crew, it also carried a truss segment for the ISS.

The next scheduled Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact is December 16 with students at Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago. A light ARISS school contact schedule is planned over the next three weeks or so, however, as the crew settles in and takes care of initial duties, including a spacewalk this month by Bowersox and Budarin.

ARISS <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>> is an international project with US participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.

==>NORTH KOREA ASKS P5/4L4FN TO QRT

The only Amateur Radio station active from North Korea has been ordered off the air. Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, had been operating for the past year as P5/4L4FN from Pyongyang. The ARRL subsequently accredited SSB and RTTY operation of P5/4L4FN for DXCC.

"This really hits the ham community hard," QSL manager Bruce Paige, KK5DO, said in a news release. "I, for one, was looking forward to a satellite contact on AO-40. I know that many of you were still awaiting your first QSO."

Paige said that on Friday, November 22, Giorgadze was called into a meeting with the "Radio Regulation Board" without any explanation, and he was politely asked to quit all transmissions and pack all his radio equipment. "Saturday, he spent all day on the roof disassembling his antennas and packing boxes." Paige said North Korean government officials later came by and sealed all of the boxes. When Giorgadze leaves North Korea on December 10 for two weeks

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of vacation, "he is to take everything with him out of the country," Paige indicated.

Giorgadze had tried for more than two years to obtain permission to operate Amateur Radio in North Korea and finally was given the okay in 2001 to bring an ICOM IC-706MkIIG into the country. In the intervening months, he's been slowly upgrading his antenna system. He's made more than 16,000 contacts during his stint in North Korea, and earlier this year attained the first DXCC ever from that country.

Paige said the P5/4L4FN logs should be 100% complete on his Web site <<http://www.amsatnet.com/>> (click on "P5 North Korea").

Giorgadze, who's from of the Republic of Georgia, had been operating on the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, but ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the League was satisfied on the basis of written information submitted that the P5/4L4FN operation conformed with DXCC rules and cards would continue be accepted for credit.

==>HERB SCHOENBOHM RETURNS TO HAM RADIO

After nearly two years off the air, Herb Schoenbohm, ex-KV4FZ, of Kingshill, Virgin Islands, has made good on his promise to one day return to the Amateur Radio ranks. The FCC on December 4 issued Schoenbohm a new call sign, NP2MJ, as a General-class licensee, and it acted December 5 on his subsequently filed Amateur Extra-class application.

In 1994, the FCC put Schoenbohm's renewal application for KV4FZ up for hearing following his 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges. The Commission finally turned down his renewal application in 1998, the US Appeals Court upheld the FCC's decision in 2000, and the US Supreme Court declined to hear the case later that same year. After losing his renewal bid, Schoenbohm applied for a new license in 2001, first passing the General and then the Extra exams. The FCC subsequently designated Schoenbohm's General application for hearing on the basis of character issues stemming from his 1992 conviction as well as his alleged lack of candor during subsequent FCC hearings on the matter.

Following a hearing last spring, Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg in October cleared the way for Schoenbohm's return to ham radio by declaring that Schoenbohm appeared rehabilitated and qualified to again become a Commission licensee. Schoenbohm plans to apply for KV4FZ as a vanity call sign.

Schoenbohm was dubious about getting on the air for the ARRL 160-Meter Contest December 7-8. "I will try to get on, but the station is still dismantled," he told ARRL. "I don't have any antennas up either except for the 70-foot tower,

which needs the beam on top to work properly on 160." His amp also is on the fritz, so if he does manage some Top Band operation during the contest, it will be at the 100-W level. "Since my license has been granted, I have not even made one contact on 2 meters!" Schoenbohm added.

==>NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Technician class (Element 2) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2003, and must be used to generate all Technician written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The newly revised pool released this week by the QPC includes significant efforts to present the pool in a more friendly and understandable fashion for beginners while maintaining appropriate emphasis on safety, rules and operating procedures," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "The Technician syllabus was completely revised during 2002 to allow for the revamping of the new question pool."

The new Element 2 question pool contains 511 questions--up from 385 in the April 2000 release that occurred around the time of Amateur Radio restructuring.

The new question pool, available on the Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>, includes all questions and answers as well as graphics related to the questions for Element 2.

The FCC rules (§97.523) require each question pool to contain at least 10 times the number of questions required to appear on any examination drawn from that pool. QPC Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, says the QPC has attempted to apply that same "10 times" principle to each subelement.

Neustadter said "insignificant changes" to the Element 2 syllabus were made as they became obvious, although they were not specifically highlighted in this week's release.

VECs have a certain amount of flexibility with the format of their examinations. Outside of the fact that questions, answers, distracters and related graphics must appear as they do in the question pool itself, "the manner of presentation is not interpreted to be of impact to Amateur Radio as long as clarity of presentation is preserved," Neustadter said.

On behalf of the QPC, he also thanked all amateurs who assisted in the effort to revise Element 2. In addition to Neustadter and Jahnke, members of the Question Pool Committee are Fred Maia, W5YI, and John Johnston, W3BE.

The Question Pool Committee now will turn its attention to developing an outline for the General class (Element 3) question pool, which will be revised during the fall of 2003. The QPC has put out a call for input by January 31, 2003, to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool. Commenters may address specific Element 2 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail qpc@arrl.org.

==>ROCK STAR GIVES MAJOR DONATION TO "THE BIG PROJECT"

Hoping that his donation will spur others to contribute to "The Big Project," veteran rock star and well-known amateur Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, has given in a major way to ARRL's Education and Technology Fund. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, says the "significant gift" through the Joseph F. Walsh Foundation will fund an additional eight pilot schools in the ARRL Education and Technology Program.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his gratitude for Walsh's dedication and support to The Big Project's goals and aims. "I am particularly pleased with Joe's donation, as it emphasizes his belief in our school project and more importantly, investing in the future of Amateur Radio," Haynie said. "The additional schools that will be brought into the program as a result of this donation represent a big step in increasing the number of students participating in the ARRL Science and Technology program."

Walsh, best-known as a guitarist, vocalist and songwriter with The Eagles and The James Gang, has been an active Amateur Radio operator for more than 37 years. He's also an avid collector of Collins Radio gear. The amount of his donation was not made public.

The Big Project--as the program is popularly known--highlights Amateur Radio as a significant resource for teachers in classrooms as well as for enrichment and after-school programs. The 40 pilot schools now in the program receive a complete Amateur Radio station, technical library and a curriculum that makes technology fun and relevant for the participating students.

Walsh's contribution was one of 3500 made by ARRL members, who--together--have raised more \$225,000 to fund the Education & Technology Program in 2003.

==>CURRICULUM REVIEW IS NEXT ON "THE BIG PROJECT" AGENDA

With the addition of 14 new schools--13 pilot schools and one progress grant school--in December, the ARRL Education and Technology Program--"The Big Project"--is up to a total of 41 participating schools. That's more than double the

number of schools involved since the program's launch in February.

Early in 2003, the 13 pilot schools will be receiving complete Amateur Radio station equipment, a curriculum and a technical library, said ARRL Education and Technology Program coordinator Jerry Hill, KH6HU. The 14th school, which already uses Amateur Radio in the classroom, will receive a \$500 progress grant.

More than new schools is being added to the Education and Technology Program. Hill said that as the program nears its first full year in existence, an evaluation of the curriculum is now under way.

"We have a new draft of the curriculum, and we'll be testing it in all of the schools, asking them to add their lessons and activities and report back in June," Hill said. "Then we'll get a new one out for September and post it on the Web. The new curriculum will be out there for anyone to use." Hill says he does not expect Web posting until late next year, however.

Hill said that The Big Project will update the curriculum yearly, so the program can offer teachers and students a continually improved program. One of the first major efforts will be to split the text of the curriculum into two parts--elementary and secondary. That way, Hill said, the program can offer developmentally appropriate levels of instruction while still teaching similar concepts to all participants.

The program's first pilot school was DeGolyer Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. DeGolyer, which tested the program beginning in 2001, got major-market media exposure December 9 when its activities were featured in a Dallas Morning News article. Under the direction of teacher Sanlyn Kent, KD5LXO--who was not a ham when she began working with the youngsters at DeGolyer--the program has turned out 30 new young hams in fewer than two years.

==>FCC FOLLOWS UP ON ARRL VEC EXAM SESSION INQUIRIES

The FCC has completed its review of ARRL VEC Amateur Radio examination sessions held in 1999 and 2000 in Cookeville, Tennessee, and in Trumbull, Connecticut in 2001.

The Cookeville case involved exam sessions on December 14, 1999, and on March 11, 2000. In a November 18 letter to ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth recommended that the ARRL VEC no longer accept the volunteer examiner services of five amateurs involved with the sessions. He named James N. Keaton, W4SOH; Maria C. Droke, KC4FLW; George S. Droke, W5SD; Bobby A. Raymer, N2BR; and Steven G. Hunter, KF4FAV.

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Hollingsworth said the FCC's decision was based on the fact that members of the VE team participated in the examination of applicants they knew—or should have known—to be related to certain VEs, contrary to §97.509(d) of the FCC rules. He further noted that the actual examination location and date of one of the tests—for a disabled person--were concealed and represented to be at a different location and date.

"Please emphasize to your VEs that every participating or administering VE shares responsibility for the administration, oversight and integrity of the test session," Hollingsworth told Jahnke, whom he also thanked for his cooperation in the matter. The FCC launched its probe after the ARRL VEC called apparent discrepancies at the Cookeville sessions to the Commission's attention.

In a separate letter November 20 to Gary E. Hunter, KG4FRN, the brother of former VE Stephen G. Hunter, KF4FAV, the FCC downgraded Gary Hunter's license from Amateur Extra to Technician--his previous license class prior to the Cookeville session administered in part by his brother. The wife of Bobby Raymer, Kathy J. Raymer, ex-KG4FWO, also had been credited with having passed exam elements at the session. Kathy Raymer agreed earlier this year to forfeit her Technician license.

FCC rule §97.509(d) prohibits a VE from administering an examination to a close relative. The list includes spouses, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, siblings and stepsiblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Regarding the Trumbull, Connecticut, review, Hollingsworth wrote Jahnke on November 14 that 9 of the 10 VEs administering the May 10, 2001, session "followed proper testing procedures" and that the FCC has no objection to their being reinstated as VEs. All 10 volunteer examiners had been suspended from the ARRL VEC program in 2001 for the duration of the FCC probe--standard procedure in such instances.

Jahnke says the nine VEs Hollingsworth named in his letter have been returned to the active list. Those reinstated were ARRL VEC VEs Kevin W. Cellini, N1GKM; Glenn J. Krieger, N1HAW; Allen H. Silberstein, N1RWE; Andres A. Rosado, KB1FKJ; Robert E. Moreland, KA1ZMF; Peter J. Keyes, N1GOJ; Donald W. Stowe, N1VNM; Arthur L. Cartier, III, N1VGT; and Kenneth A. Frissora, N1JKA.

A 10th VE, Freddy Martin, W1BIQ (ex-KB1FKI), continues to be suspended from the roster of active ARRL VEC VEs, per his June 28, 2001, letter initiating the inquiry. Hollingsworth said he anticipates no further action in the case.

Hollingsworth initially cited Trumbull session documents that he'd said "reflect several alarming discrepancies in testing procedures." The ARRL VEC had referred the test documents

to the FCC. The probe had focused on discrepancies in documents submitted on behalf of one applicant—Elvis Mendez, KB1GPY—who had attempted to upgrade to Extra at the May 10 session. It was believed that the candidate may have had access to the answer key used by VEs for grading Morse code examinations or that his answer sheet may have been completed prior to the examination. Mendez' Extra exam was invalidated as a result of the discrepancies.

==>ARISS TEAM TALKS ABOUT FUTURE HAM-RADIO-IN-SPACE PROJECTS

Members of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Team met December 5-8 at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Delegates represented partner countries, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-societies and AMSAT organizations in Europe, Japan, Canada, Russia and the US.

"I was extremely impressed with the quality of the discussions at our meeting and the camaraderie of the international team," said ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. "The ARISS Team really has come together to be a cohesive international team since we first met in 1996." Bauer also represented AMSAT-NA during the session, which was moderated by Roy Neal, K6DUE, a long-time advocate of Amateur Radio in space. ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, attended on behalf of the ARRL. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, was on hand as a delegate for Canada.

The delegates heard progress reports on various ARISS equipment proposals, including timing for certification and future delivery. The ARISS Team will begin a review of new project proposals to determine their feasibility as well as their benefits to NASA and to ham radio operators. The ARISS Team must evaluate the work involved in bringing a particular project proposal to fruition and, perhaps equally important, determine if the developers have the required funding.

Among the more unusual Amateur Radio experiments the team plans to consider further are a plasma cloud experiment and another that would compare the performance of different solar arrays. Details were unavailable. ARISS Team members also expressed concerns about hardware proposals that had been initiated without ARISS knowledge or support, since NASA requires coordination of all ham radio activity via the ARISS Team.

Previously approved hardware projects are now being completed to make the most of the four Amateur Radio antennas now installed outside of the ISS Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. Operations on 70 cm could commence as early as next spring, and SSTV (SpaceCam) hardware could be launched later in 2003. Once it's in place, students will be able to see the astronauts via

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SSTV while in QSO with them. Future add-ons under consideration include enhanced digital 10-meter crossband operation using PSK-31 or full-duplex voice repeater operation.

Delegates re-elected Bauer as ARISS chairman, White as ARISS secretary-treasurer, and Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, as ARISS vice chairman. All will serve two-year terms.

ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

==>FCC INITIATES REVIEW OF GEORGIA ARRL VEC EXAM SESSION

The FCC has initiated a review of a June 2000 ARRL VEC examination session in Pelham, Georgia. At that session, an examinee who had unsuccessfully attempted to pass Element 2 (Technician) seven times at other exam sessions got a perfect score on Element 2 and also passed the Element 3 (General) exam.

The applicant in question, Arthur Lee Clark, of Oxford, Georgia, subsequently was granted a General ticket as KG4IJV. It's not clear when or how Clark obtained credit for the Element 1 (Morse code) examination. The FCC called Clark in for retesting last spring and cancelled his license after he failed to appear.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote volunteer examiners William K. Ferguson, W9UNH, Alice Childs, AF4HB, and Walter J. Childs, KQ4SF, on November 12 asking them to provide further information on the examination session at which Clark had qualified for General. In a separate letter November 12 to ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, Hollingsworth requested that the ARRL VEC not accept the services of the three VEs involved in the Pelham session at least until the FCC concludes its investigation. Suspension of volunteer examiners is standard procedure during such inquiries.

Among other things, Hollingsworth asked Ferguson and the Childses to describe any conversations they might have had with Clark as well as any documents or materials Clark may have had before, during or after the examination session. Hollingsworth also wanted the three VEs to tell where and how the test session was administered, "including the location of VEs during the examination and the names and addresses of anyone else present before and during the examination."

Records indicate that from January 1999 until March 2000, Clark took the Technician exam seven times under another VEC and never answered more than approximately half the questions correctly. At the ARRL VEC session on June 20, 2000, however, he was credited with obtaining a perfect score, then passing his General with only one wrong answer.

==>HAMS AID MARITIME RESCUE

Amateur Radio operators on a 40-meter net that's aimed at helping stations obtain the Worked All States award are getting at least partial credit for helping to save a ham-sailor and two companions whose boat was caught up in rough weather off the West Coast December 14. Steve Letendre, KE6FQ, said that during a late 40-meter session of the 3905 Century Club Net <<http://www.3905ccn.com>> on 7.233.5 MHz, an emergency break came on frequency.

"The man's boat was in high seas and taking water approximately 350 miles south of San Diego near Cedros Island," Letendre said. "High winds and waves mostly kept him from spending too much time giving us info." Letendre says he later learned from the Coast Guard that the boat was being exposed to 12-15 foot waves and 60 MPH winds.

Net Control Station John Milner, W6BUM, requested a hold on the net while Letendre and Joe Seibert, AL1F, in Alaska attempted to communicate with the vessel's skipper--whom Letendre identified as Walter Jorgenson, W6ULT. "I was on the phone with San Diego Coast Guard, while Joe copied info as the questions came from them," Letendre said. "We were unable to get too much other info due to the boat getting slapped around pretty good. I'm sure the skipper had his hands full holding the wheel and a mic at the same time."

Somewhere in the excitement, Letendre said, the skipper fired a flare and a Mexican Naval vessel appeared and launched a raft. The passengers were taken aboard the naval vessel and the boat towed to safety. Letendre is modest about his net's role in the effort. "By the time we had good relays set up, he was rescued," he said.

The incident did provide an opportunity for Letendre to acquaint the US Coast Guard in his area with the net's existence. "The Coast Guard officer also thanked us and requested info on our group, so I gave him the home page," he explained.

==>FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMATEUR RADIO-RELATED PETITIONS

The FCC is inviting comments on two Amateur Radio-related petitions for rule making. Both have been put on public notice and are available for public review and comment. In his petition, designated RM-10620, Dale Reich, K8AD, has asked the Commission to automatically upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich has said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records.

Among other proposed changes in his "merit and service upgrade" schedule, Reich asks that Novice phone privileges in the 2-meter band--rescinded in the 1970s--be reinstated for those still holding that license. In his petition, Reich asserts

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that Amateur Radio the proposed changes could augment public service abilities on the part of the affected licensees.

In another amateur-related petition, designated RM-10621, AMSAT-NA has asked the FCC to drop its presently required 27-month pre-space notification to the FCC's international branch for Amateur Satellite launches and substitute a pre-space notification within 30 days of a launch commitment.

The comment deadline for both petitions is January 17, 2003. Interested parties may view the Reich and AMSAT petitions and file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address and the applicable rulemaking number--RM-10620 or RM-10621.

==>K7IJ REPEATER SYSTEM ATTRACTS RENEWED FCC ATTENTION

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to the owner of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system in California's San Francisco Bay area citing "numerous rule violations" on the machine since last April. In a November 26 letter, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth reminded repeater owner Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ, of his responsibility to ensure proper control of his repeater. Almost four years ago, the FCC shut down the Grizzly Peak repeater after it determined the system was out of control of the licensee and his designated control operator.

"Since the repeater bears your call sign, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for its proper operation," Hollingsworth told Wachtell, whose residence is in Carson City, Nevada. "The decision to operate a repeater is a totally voluntary one. Repeaters are a convenience in the Amateur Radio Service, not a necessity." Hollingsworth said repeater control operators "must ensure immediate proper operation" of the system, regardless of the type of station control. If Wachtell cannot regain control of his repeater, then he must shut it down, Hollingsworth concluded.

Violations cited included failure of users to identify--or to identify correctly, intentional interference from "certain users," use of the repeater by unlicensed operators and "lengthy carriers and key-ups."

Hollingsworth told Wachtell that it's his responsibility to prevent recurring and deliberate violations. "If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on your K7IJ repeater, then your operator and station licenses will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission," warned Hollingsworth, who raised the specter of fines, suspension and license revocation.

In an unrelated repeater case, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice December 4 to Wayne Curley, WA6NRB, who operates a repeater in the Los Angeles area. Hollingsworth cited monitoring information that the repeater has been used

by an unlicensed individual, Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC. Burton spent three months in a federal jail last year after being convicted of unlicensed operation. Hollingsworth also reminded Curley that a repeater licensee is responsible for recurring violations and that enforcement action--fines, suspension or revocation--could result if he is unable to prevent violations on his repeater.

==>SPECIAL EVENT, SPACE CONTACT TO MARK MARCONI TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi--using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system--transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via land line and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, are working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore to organize the celebration. The special event will take place at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, which is near the original Marconi site. Operation will include several amateur modes, including SSB, CW, FM, digital and satellite.

Marconi Radio Club President Robert J. "Whitey" Doherty, K1VV, says operators will be on the air 24 hours a day from January 11 through January 19. "We have a half dozen operators who will live at the station for the full period," he said. The special event station will open to the public from 9 AM until 5 PM EST (1400-2200 UTC).

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact--the first of the new year with US students--is to be scheduled during the weeklong celebration. Doherty says that selected students from three Cape Cod high schools will speak via KM1CC with a member of the new Expedition 6 ISS crew.

Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, is scheduled to attend the a reenactment of the groundbreaking wireless transmission on January 18, when KM1CC will transmit the text of Roosevelt's original message to King Edward VII.

KM1CC QSL card requests from US amateurs (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) go via Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. DX stations are invited to QSL via the W1 QSL Bureau.

Additional details are on the Marconi Radio Club Web site

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<<http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>>.

==>KID'S DAY IS JANUARY 4!

The next Kid's Day is Saturday, January 4, 2003, from 1800-2400 UTC. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, is a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, Amateur Radio event. Now entering its ninth year, Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants for each running.

Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people--licensed or not--to enjoy Amateur Radio. It gives youngsters on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It's also intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

Activity for Kid's Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>> takes place on 20, 15 and 10 meters--and perhaps on local 2-meter repeaters. It's an opportunity to introduce youngsters to the magic of ham radio and perhaps spark a lifelong love for the hobby.

The suggested exchange for Kid's Day is first name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Suggested frequencies are 14,270 to 14,300, 21,380 to 21,400 and 28,350 to 28,400 kHz, and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation and assistance of the BARC.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration:** Registration for the ARRL Level II Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-002) and Antenna Modeling (EC-004) courses opens Monday, December 9, 4 PM EST (2100 UTC). Registration will remain open through Sunday, December 15. Classes begin Monday, December 16. Registration for the CNCS grant-funded ARRL Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-001) remains open through Sunday, December 15, or until all seats are taken. A new service now allows those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future to receive notification via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. Send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org, and include the course name or number (eg,

EC-004) on the subject line. Include your name, call sign, and the month you want to start the course in the message body. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, hrobins@arrl.org.

*** Radio Club of America makes donation to "The Big Project":** The Radio Club of America <<http://www.radio-club-of-america.org/>> has announced that it will give at least \$6500 this year to the ARRL Education and Technology Program--"The Big Project." The club said it hopes to give even more next year. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, who attended the club's 93rd annual banquet November 22 in New York City, said she was thrilled with the gift. "This means that we'll be able to add three more schools to the project, serving up to 100 more children," she said. The Radio Club of America, officially founded in 1909 in New York City as "the world's first radio communications society," was involved with some of the earliest defenses of Amateur Radio before Congress. One of its early members, Paul Godley, was involved with the ARRL's 1921 Transatlantic Tests. The RCA's most famous member may have been Edwin H. Armstrong, the father of the regenerative circuit and frequency modulation. The ARRL Education and Technology Program is aimed at putting Amateur Radio in classrooms, enrichment programs and after-school activities. More information on "The Big Project" is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>>.

*** Dave Hassler, K7CCC, joins ARRL Headquarters staff:** Dave Hassler, K7CCC, has joined the ARRL Headquarters staff as an assistant news editor. Hassler, 36, came aboard November 18. A native of Portland, Oregon, Hassler will edit a new QST column, "ARRL in Action" as well as handle routine news and feature stories for the ARRL Web site and The ARRL Letter. Hassler has been licensed for two years and holds a General ticket. He has a long interest in all things scientific. "Both of my grandfathers were engineers (one was W7GER, SK), and they encouraged me to explore and helped me build things," he said. Sidetracked by high school activities, educational pursuits and careers as a guitar player, volleyball coach and sportswriter, Hassler took advantage of his recuperation from knee surgery a couple of years ago to study for his Amateur Radio license. Hassler holds a bachelor's in English and an associate's degree in journalism. He also has completed some graduate courses. Most recently, he served as editor-in-chief of The Chronicle in St Helens, Oregon. Hassler enjoys AM and SSB ragchewing and building simple radios and station accessories. He's also getting his feet wet with digital modes. Welcome aboard, Dave!

*** 2003 Spectrum Defense Fund well under way:** ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, says the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund has generated \$190,000 in contributions from more than 4100 ARRL members. "If you

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have already sent your contribution, thank you," Hobart said. "But if you've not yet contributed to this vital ARRL program, please consider a generous contribution before December 31." The goal is to raise \$500,000 to support ARRL's work to protect the frequencies amateurs use every day. Financial support from the amateur community funds representation in Washington and the work of the ARRL Lab to support advocacy efforts as well as representation for Amateur Radio at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 next summer. Contributions can be mailed to ARRL Headquarters or made via the secure ARRL 2003 Spectrum Defense Fund Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/defense>>.

*** FCC seeks public comments on Spectrum Policy Task Force report:** Public comments are due January 9, 2003, on the recently released report of the Spectrum Policy Task Force (ET Docket 02-135) <see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/11/07/103/>>. Reply comments are due February 10. The Task Force released its report to the FCC on November 15. The FCC notes that the Spectrum Policy Task Force Report was drafted by FCC staff and was neither voted upon nor approved by the Commission. "Accordingly, neither the Report nor any of the recommendations contained therein necessarily reflect the views of the Commission," the FCC added. The text of the Report and other Task Force documents are available on the Task Force Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/sptf/>>. Parties are encouraged to file comments using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address, and the docket number, ET Docket 02-135.

*** RS-20 is newest Russian Amateur Radio satellite payload:** On November 28, the Russian Space Agency launched the Algerian AlSat-1 satellite along with a new Russian bird known as Mozhayets--a navigational and scientific satellite. One of its experimental payloads is an Amateur Radio telemetry beacon that has been christened RS-20. Mozhayets orbits at an altitude of 720 km, completing a turn around Earth every 99 minutes. The Keplerian elements for RS-20 are: 1 27560U 02054B 02332.86497891 - .00019965 00000-0 -47472-2 0 37; 2 27560 98.2411 217.5728 0044302 75.5447 285.0613 14.53325574 86. RS-20 is transmitting CW telemetry on 145.818 and 435.319 MHz. According to information provided by Alexander Zaitzev, RW3DZ, each telemetry frame begins and ends with the beacon call sign, RS-20. E-mail reports are welcomed at plis@kaluga.ru.

*** ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration:** Registration for the ARRL Level III Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-003) and HF Digital Communications (EC-005) courses opens Monday, December 16, 4 PM EST (2100 UTC). Registration will remain open through Sunday, December 22. Classes begin Monday, December 23. Registration for the ARRL Level II Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-002) and Antenna Modeling (EC-004) courses remains open through Sunday,

December 15. A new service now allows those who may be interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. Send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org, and include the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) on the subject line as well as your name, call sign, and the month you want to start the course in the body. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, hrobins@arrl.org. [C-CE logo]

*** Hamvention 2003 to celebrate "Year of the Young":** Dayton Hamvention—the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering and trade show--celebrates its 51st year and its 52nd show, Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18, 2003. The focus in 2003 will be on the younger hams and attracting 12-to-18 year olds to Amateur Radio. Held at the Dayton, Ohio, Hara Arena complex, Hamvention includes forums; 500 inside exhibit spaces; and a 2500-plus space outdoor vendor area (a-k-a "the flea market"). Dayton Hamvention has become an Amateur Radio tradition for the 25,000 or so amateurs and visitors who attend each spring. More information is available on the Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>.

*** ARRL VEC praises retiring veteran FCC employee:** On behalf of the League, ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, has lauded the work of a veteran FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau employee involved in Amateur Radio licensing. Darlene Reeder, who retired this month after some 40 years of service, was an industry analyst in WTB's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Technical Analysis Section. "Seldom have I ever come across someone with the dedication and caring that Darlene has shown in serving the needs of the hundreds of thousands of Amateur Radio licensees in the Amateur Service," Jahnke said in remarks prepared for Reeder's retirement luncheon December 10. "My staff and I will deeply miss working with Darlene. We wish her the very best in her retirement." More than 150 attended Reeder's retirement fete in Gettysburg. Representatives of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators presented Reeder with a gift certificate in appreciation for her years of service.

*** German Amateur Radio payload reaches orbit:** Oliver Amend, DG6BCE, and the German Amateur Radio Association report that the RUBIN-2 scientific satellite carrying the SAFIR-M Amateur Radio payload was successfully launched December 20 (1700 UTC) from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. As of December 22, he had not yet established contact with the satellite. The call sign, DP0AIS, stands for "Amateur Radio in Schools." Designed as a store-and-forward system for APRS-based messages, SAFIR-M is a project of the Working Group for Amateur Radio and Telecommunications in Schools <<http://www.aatis.de>> and developed in cooperation with the

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University of Applied Sciences in Pforzheim, Germany. "The main purpose of the satellite is to give students easy access to space communications," Amend says. He notes the satellite will be operational only when RUBIN-2 is in sunlight, so usable passes over Europe will be during the early morning hours and only for up to about five minutes with very low antenna elevations. Now in an approximately 650-km orbit at 65 degree inclination, SAFIR-M has a 1200-baud packet uplink at 437.275 MHz and a 9600-baud packet downlink on 145.825 MHz. There's also an optional voice message beacon on 2 meters. Amend welcomes reports with date and time (UTC) and position (WGS-84 or grid square) via e-mail <dg6bce@aatis.de>. The correct NORAD identifier for two-line Keplerian elements appears to be 27607. More information is available in German on the SAFIR-M Web site <<http://amend.gmxhome.de>>.

*** Nine-year-old makes Extra:** Elizabeth Harper of Vinemont, Alabama, became one of the nation's youngest Amateur Extra-class licensees during the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club hamfest examination session November 9. Accompanying the nine-year-old on her upgrade journey were her parents, Anthony, NO2M, and Sondra Harper, KA4EIC. There was a lot of excitement as the volunteer examiners from the Montgomery CAVC group graded her Element 4 answer sheet, then rechecked it twice more. A General licensee at the time of the session, Elizabeth also might hold the distinction of being the only youngster her age now working on her third ham radio call sign. When she sat for the Extra, she was KG4NAU. The FCC issued her a new sequential call sign, AG4WP, which she held for about three weeks until the FCC granted her vanity application. Elizabeth now is AK3H.—Steve Padgett, K4NM

*** World Scout Jamboree to include Amateur Radio activity:** The 20th World Scout Jamboree <<http://www.worldscoutjamboree20.org>> in Thailand from December 28, 2002, to January 7, 2003, will include Amateur Radio operation from E20AJ at the Jamboree site. E20AJ will use World Scout frequencies <<http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/frequencies.htm>>. The station will be operational for the duration of the Jamboree, 24 hours a day, on SSB, CW, SSTV and packet on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 2 meters. Three HF stations will be in operation. QSL E20AJ via HB9AOF or via the Thailand QSL bureau. GB2COS will be a special Scout station on the air from Chester, England, January 4-5. Activity will be on most HF bands, and GB2COS operators will attempt to contact E20AJ at the World Jamboree in Thailand. QSL GB2COS via G7BQY.--some info from The Daily DX

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