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# B.V.A.R.A. QRM

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W3SGJ

December 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

## B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....N3OJN Stan Riffle  
1.V.PRES.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs  
2.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit  
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid  
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

## TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

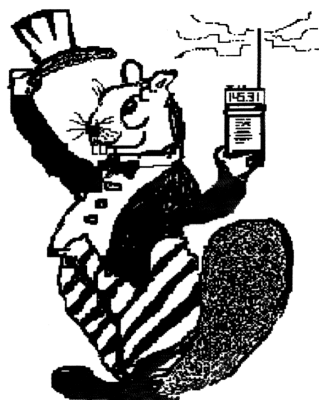
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle  
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs  
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit  
N3ALS.....Wes Morar  
N3SVM.....Bob Reid  
WA3GFM...Al Belardia  
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim  
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Mehutcs



## THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585  
TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898  
HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910  
CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5  
WPA PHONE & TCF.....6:00 PM DAILY...3.983  
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](http://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](mailto:ke3ed@arrl.net), Packet: [ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na](mailto:ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na), or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

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**CLUB MEETING**

The December B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held briefly during the annual Christmas Party on Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> at Hoss's Restaurant in Moon Twp.

**2002 OFFICERS**

Congratulations to the following members who have agreed to fill the following offices for year 2002. The B.V.A.R.A. wishes you the best of luck in the coming year.

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

A Trustee is still to be selected by the incoming president.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS**

Plans are all set for the B.V.A.R.A.'s annual Christmas Party to be held on Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 PM at Hoss's Restaurant in Moon Twp. Hoss's location is on Beaver Grade Road adjacent to the Moon Twp. Municipal Building. Door prizes will be presented as well as the the coveted "Ham of the Year" award.

**2002 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DUE**

Please note that 2002 membership dues are now 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 and thank you for your continued support.

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building located at 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

Testing will start promptly at 10:00 AM so please plan on arriving at least 15 - 30 minutes prior. Walk-ins are welcome. Talk-ins will be on the 145.310 (W3SGJ) repeater. Use minus offset and 100 hz pl tone. Also you can see our exact location via APRS on 144.39 Mhz. Look for W3SGJ.

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

1. Two (2) forms of identification.

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2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
  3. Your original AND a photocopy of your current license (if any).
  4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
  5. The test fee of \$10.00.
- All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will **NO LONGER** be multiple choice.

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

Candidates are welcome and encouraged to join us for breakfast at the Chippewa Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Tony KE3ED at the following:

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

**==>ONLINE FILING CHANGES**

The following information was provided by our VEC Manager, Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, to help Clubs gain a better understanding of filing changes online with the FCC. Please share this information with your Club members. '73 Margie, KB1DCO

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Renewing your Amateur Service FCC license, or changing your license address, call sign or name, or requesting a duplicate license.

Amateurs have several options for renewals or filing changes. They include:

\* As a free service to ARRL Members, ARRL Members may complete and sign an NCVEC Form 605 (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/ncvec605-3.pdf>) and return it to

ARRL HQ. ARRL HQ staff will in turn file the application data electronically with the FCC. The processing time will take only a few days or less once the application reaches ARRL HQ. Send such applications to:

ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 USA.

Non members are welcome to first sign up for membership and then use this service. For membership info, including an on-line membership application, see <http://www.arrl.org/join.html>. For NCVEC Form 605 see <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>. If preferred, non

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members can mail a check (or the credit card charge info) for the applicable current membership rate for themselves in the same envelope with a completed NCVEC Form 605 and ARRL

HQ will immediately process the membership request and shortly thereafter the NCVEC Form 605 FCC license renewal/update request. Vanity requests must still be handled separately by mail or on line directly with the FCC (or via someone serving as a filing agent, such as the W5YI Group).

\* All Amateurs can apply by mail with FCC. To place your request by mail obtain an "FCC" Form 605, complete it and then mail it to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325. This is a free FCC service.

FCC Form 605 can be obtained via <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or via fax to FCC's Fax-On-Demand system at 202-418-0177 (request form number 000605).

\* All Amateurs can apply via the internet. The FCC accepts submissions electronically via their Universal Licensing Service (ULS) system. You may file requests via: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. To use the on-line ULS system, you must first be sure you are using a web browser which FCC indicates is fully functional for ULS use (FCC indicates that at present only recent versions of Netscape {vers. 4.7x work well} are fully tested and functional); you must then be registered in ULS, which involves supplying your Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) which is your Social Security Number to FCC. To do so choose the "REGISTER, TIN/Call Sign" link and then complete your registration information (ignore the contact person, and SGIN references). On the next page enter your call sign and lastly print out the final page for your records (that last page shows your TIN/SSN, Licensee ID Number, Password and Personal Identifier for any necessary future reference). Once registered, you must then choose the "FILE, ULS Filing" link to perform your on-line transaction with FCC. During the filing process the FCC system will download to your PC special software to automatically run a JAVA security applet (this will take a few minutes depending on your connection speed) which will update files within Netscape to cause a smoother flow of data between your computer and the FCC ULS server. Any on-line filing technical problems can be directed to FCC Tech Support weekdays at 202-414-1250. If you are unable to complete a successful on-line filing session in ULS, consider mailing a hardcopy "FCC" Form 605 to FCC (or apply through the ARRL per above). Be sure to print a copy of your on-line renewal request for your records.

Processing time can vary depending on the FCC's workload. If you file your request electronically, the FCC may take only a day or two to modify your license or process your request. If you file by mail, the FCC might take a few weeks to process your request. If you have not received your updated or duplicate license within 12 weeks, you may contact the FCC

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for guidance on how to proceed. The FCC may be reached by telephone 1-888-225-5322 or by fax to 717-338-2696, or by writing to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245.

Be sure to keep a copy of your as filed "FCC" Form 605 request for your records.

FCC Form 605 Step-by-Step Guidance (these are the usual responses to the items requested on FCC Form 605):

Item 1 - Enter the code "HA" if you do not have a Vanity call sign. If you now have a Vanity call (a call sign you obtained in 1996 or after for which you paid a Vanity fee) sign enter "HV".

Item 2 - For Renewals Only enter "RO", for Renewal with Address/Call/Name change enter "RM", for Administrative Updates of Address and/or Name change enter "AU", for Modifications/Changes including a Call Sign Change enter "MD", for Duplicate license requests enter "DU".

Item 3 - N/A

Item 4 - Ignore

Item 5 - Enter your present call sign

Item 6 - Ignore

Item 7 - No

Item 8 - No

Item 9a - Enter your Social Security Number.

Item 9b - Ignore

Item 9c - Enter your CORES FRN number if you have one - else ignore

Item 10 - Enter - I - Individual

Item 11-18 complete as appropriate (ignoring 12 and 13)

Item 19 - Ignore

Items 20-22 are optional

Item 23 - No (we are not exempt, it's just that our fee is presently set to zero)

Item 24 - No (we are not exempt, it's just that our fee is presently set to zero)

Item 25 Print your name

Ignore title

Item 26 - sign your name

Item 27 - enter the date

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Unless you are applying with this application to receive a  
Vanity call sign, ignore Schedule D

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If completing Schedule D:

Item 1 - No

Item 2 - Check the application category

Item 3 - If you checked category E or F in Item 2, enter from  
one up to 25 choices in your order of preference in this  
section.

Note: Vanity requests take 18 days from the date FCC  
receives the application.

Don't forget to include the appropriate Vanity fee and FCC  
Form 159 when filing a request for a Vanity call sign. For  
more Vanity information see  
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>

Margie Bourgoin, KB1DCO  
ARRL Club & Educational Correspondent  
Phone: 860-594-0267  
FAX: 860-594-0259  
e-mail: [mbourgoin@arrl.org](mailto:mbourgoin@arrl.org)

## **==>THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCONI'S HISTORIC TRANS-ATLANTIC RADIO TRANSMISSION**

December 11 - 16, 2001

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA and The Falmouth Amateur  
Radio Association Amateur Radio operators are making plans  
to celebrate a Marconi world historical event. December 12,  
2001 will mark the 100th anniversary of the first Trans-  
Atlantic radio transmission by Guglielmo Marconi. That  
signal was a series of " S S S " transmitted on CW across the  
Atlantic from Poldhu, Cornwall England to St John's,  
Newfoundland.

The Marconi Radio Club will be using the call sign  
W1AA/CC and will be operating from Cape Cod,  
Massachusetts, U.S.A. the location of Marconi's 1903 Trans-  
Atlantic radio station. Marconi's 1903 call sign was " C C "

See this link for times, frequencies and modes of operation for  
W1AA/CC.

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<http://www.qrz.com/database?callsign=w1aa>

Bob Doherty K1VV

Pres. Marconi Radio Club W1AA  
<http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>

## **==>SHARING SPECTRUM WITH OTHER SERVICES A HAM RADIO REALITY**

Amateur Radio operators can get mighty territorial when they  
perceive that some other radio service is intruding upon  
"their" turf. What many hams often don't understand,  
however, is that Amateur Radio is a secondary service in the  
US on several popular bands or subbands. As such, it's subject  
to interference from primary radio service occupants and, by  
law, must avoid interfering with them. And, of course, ham  
bands are not all the same everywhere in the world.

Hams share most of their spectrum--especially the UHF and  
microwave allocations--with other users, typically the US  
Government and Fixed and Mobile services. The popular 70-  
cm band, 420-450 MHz, is a good case in point, says ARRL  
Field and Regulatory Correspondent Brennan Price, N4QX.

"Amateur use of the 70-cm band is secondary to government  
radiolocation services in the US, so hams must tolerate  
interference from the primary service and may not QRM it,"  
Price explained. No operation in the 420-430 MHz band is  
permitted in some parts of the US (in the vicinity of the Great  
Lakes), while 50-W output power limits apply to operations  
centered near certain US military installations.

Price notes, however, that military use of the band is not  
confined to these areas, and the band is utilized aboard  
aircraft. "We occasionally receive inquiries from amateurs  
who complain of 70-cm disruptions when military planes fly  
overhead," said Price, who also serves as the ARRL  
Monitoring System coordinator. "We have every reason to  
believe that the current spate of widely heard disruptions is  
due to high-altitude airborne operations by the band's legal,  
primary occupant--the US Government." The 420-430 MHz  
segment is allocated on a primary basis worldwide to the  
Fixed and Mobile (except Aeronautical Mobile) services.

Two meters--144 to 148 MHz--is an exclusive allocation in  
ITU Region 2, which includes North and South America. US  
hams who have taken along an H-T while vacationing in  
Europe or elsewhere in Region 1, however, know that the 2-  
meter band in that part of the world is 144-146 MHz. In  
Region 3, hams have exclusive access to 144-146 MHz and  
share 146-148 MHz on a co-primary basis with Fixed and  
Mobile Service stations.

Six meters--50 to 54 MHz--is an exclusive ham allocation in  
Regions 2 and 3, but the band is allocated exclusively for  
broadcasting in Region 1--although certain countries do  
allow limited 6-meter operation.

The sharing news is much better on the higher HF bands. The 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10-meter bands are allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis worldwide--with a few minor exceptions for the high end of 20. On other HF bands, some sharing occurs.

On 30 meters--10.1 to 10.15 MHz--hams are secondary to non-US Fixed Service stations throughout. Amateurs must avoid harmful interference to these stations.

The 40-meter band is currently the focus of an effort supported by the International Amateur Radio Union and ARRL to obtain a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive allocation. Most of the world does not have access to the 300 kHz-wide swath from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz that US hams enjoy. In the rest of the world, the upper two-thirds of 40 is dominated by broadcasters. This issue is on the agenda for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/WRC-03/>>. One suggested remedy would shift the allocation downward to create a 300-kHz worldwide band at 6.9 to 7.2 MHz.

The 80/75-meter band--3.5 to 4.0 MHz--is exclusive to the Amateur Service in the US. Elsewhere in Region 2 hams have exclusive status from 3.500 to 3.750 MHz and share the rest of the band with foreign Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis. Amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 share parts of the band with Fixed and Mobile. There is no amateur operation allowed above 3.8 MHz in Region 1, which includes Europe.

The 1.8 to 1.9 MHz segment of 160 meters is exclusive to US amateurs. Hams in the US are secondary on 1.9 to 2.0 MHz to the primary Radiolocation Service (government and non-government).

A table of US Amateur Radio allocations is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/USbands.pdf>>. The "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide" details band plans for Amateur Radio <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/conop.html>>.

#### **==>"BAND THREAT" PROCEEDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR E-COMMENTS**

The FCC conceded this week that it had failed to properly post the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 on its Web site. As a result, those hoping to voice their opinions in the proceeding--which poses a potential threat to Amateur Radio--were unable to find the document to add their electronic comments. An FCC spokesperson blamed human error.

The ARRL contacted the FCC earlier this week in an effort to rectify the problem. The NPRM&O now is available on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. When searching, enter "01-278" in the "Proceeding" box in the "Search for Filed Comments" window.

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The ET 01-278 proceeding deals in part with a potential band threat to the popular 70-cm band from a Part 15 RF identification device proposed for deployment by SAVI Technology (see the Threats to our Amateur Bands page <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/>> for details). The ARRL has argued that the FCC lacks authority under the Communications Act of 1934 to permit unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential and that such devices must be licensed.

The ARRL also is looking into the interference potential posed to 20 meters by a proposal to increase the maximum emission levels permitted in the 13.56 MHz Industrial, Scientific and Medical band as well as the maximum level of out-of-band emissions.

Commenters are advised to read paragraphs 20-27 of the NPRM&O (also available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/10/19/1/290a11.html>> before commenting.

The proceeding incorporates two earlier rule making petitions, RM-9375, and RM-10051, which had existing document lists for the addition of comments. The FCC told ARRL that those wishing to file comments need only reference ET Docket 01-278, however. Comments need not be copied to the existing RM-9375 and RM-10051 lists.

Members of the Amateur Radio community may file comments using the ECFS <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include their full name, US Postal Service mailing address, and the 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](mailto: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.

#### **==>TEXAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS ENJOY ARISS ADVENTURE**

Fifteen youngsters in grades three, four and five used ham radio to interview International Space Station Expedition 3 Crew Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, from the McWhirter Elementary School in Webster, Texas--not far from Johnson Space Center. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, contact October 23 was handled via a teleconferencing linkup with ZS6BTD in South Africa.

Operating as NA1SS, Culbertson recognized some of the youngsters and asked them to convey his regards to their families. The contact occurred shortly after the Soyuz "taxi" crew had arrived at the ISS, bringing aboard three additional crew members.

In answering the dozen or so questions posed, Culbertson pointed out that the ISS includes protection to break up small meteors. The ISS can be maneuvered from the ground to avoid large objects spotted in advance by radar, he explained.

To a question about how his two dogs would fare aboard the ISS, Culbertson replied that he thought dogs would have a difficult time in space because they don't have hands to hold onto the handrails. "They'd have a hard time staying in one place and would probably get disoriented and would probably try to run in the middle of the module," he said. "So I don't think they would enjoy it very much unless they had some way of staying on the floor, like a lot of Velcro on their feet."

Another student asked about the September 11 attacks. Culbertson said he and his two Russian crewmates were able to see the result of the attacks from the ISS and were very troubled. "It seems strange to me that people would want to attack our country when we do so much good for the rest of the world," he said, "and we're trying to do good things with other countries up here and I hope that sets a good example for the future."

"I think all the kids had a great time. This was a great learning experience for each of us," said McWhirter Elementary Principal Cindy Stamps. Gene Chapline, K5YFL, was the ARISS mentor for the contact.

On Tuesday, October 30, Kolling Elementary in Schererville, Indiana, had a successful ARISS contact with Culbertson, operating NA1SS on the ISS. The control op was John Gianotti, W9WY. Seventeen students had their questions answered.

More information on the ARISS program is available on the ARISS Web site, <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>>.

### **==>GEORGIA TO HOST 2002 USA ARDF/RADIO-ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, has announced that the Georgia Orienteering Club will host the second USA ARDF/Radio-Orienteering Championships. The event will take place April 19-21, 2002, at F. D. Roosevelt State Park near Pine Mountain.

The USA ARDF/Radio-Orienteering Championships are open to all, from beginners to experts from the US and elsewhere, and no Amateur Radio license is needed to compete. The 2002 competition will feature 2-meter and 80-meter ARDF events. Participants will compete in age/gender categories with awards given for first, second and third-place finishes in each. Awards will be presented in two divisions, Overall and USA-Only.

Details, including rules and registration forms, are on the Georgia Orienteering Web site,

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<<http://www.mindspring.com/~sam.smith/gaoc>>. Click on the "Radio-O Champs" link (under Special Events). The GAOC site includes information on lodging options.

The next ARDF World Championships in fall 2002 will be held in Slovakia, and positions on Team USA for that event will be determined by individual performances at Pine Mountain and at the USA Championships in Albuquerque that were held this past August (see "The 2001 USA ARDF Championships are a Winner!" <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2001/08/24/1/?>>).

For additional information on Amateur Radio direction finding, visit Joe Moell's Homing In Web site, <<http://www.homingin.com/>>.--Joe Moell, K0OV

### **==>HAM-SAILOR SETS SAIL FOR HOME**

Ham radio's senior sailor David Clark, KB6TAM, set sail this week from Trinidad to complete the final leg of the adventure of his lifetime. Clark, who is 77, is attempting to become the oldest person to sail solo around the globe. He plans to arrive back in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, on December 7. Clark has been using Amateur Radio aboard his vessel to keep in touch with his family and friends.

His immediate goal is St Croix in the US Virgin Islands, said his wife, Lynda, but if the weather cooperates and everything goes well he may proceed directly to Great Inagua in the Bahamas. "This is technically the completion of the goal, since his outgoing and incoming paths will cross again—where he checked out and will check in again," Lynda Clark said. "However, we will feel he has finished the goal when he reaches Ft Lauderdale where we all said good-bye to him two years ago."

Accompanied by his dog, Mickey, Clark departed South Florida in December 1999 in the 44-foot steel-hulled sloop, the Mollie Milar--named for his mother. Mickey was lost and Clark himself nearly died after the vessel sank last February off the coast of South Africa. Not one to give up that easily, Clark was able to purchase another sailboat--a smaller one that he named Mickey--and resumed his quest in April. He's been sitting out the Atlantic hurricane season in Trinidad, where he arrived in July.

Clark was expected to be checking in on the 20-meter Seafarer's Net on 14.313 MHz. The final leg from Trinidad to Fort Lauderdale is approximately 1500 miles.

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

### **==>HAMS UNDERTAKE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS IN FLORIDA**

It had very little if anything to do with ham radio Saturday, September 21, when the Dade County Amateur Radio Public

Service Corps organized a group of active hams in Southern Florida to spruce up the Flight 592 Memorial. Many of the hams involved had helped provide communication in the aftermath of the 1996 ValuJet crash in the Everglades.

The amateur volunteers put in some 40 work hours pulling weeds and grubbing out their roots, killing ant colonies, applying herbicides, cutting grass, sweeping, refilling missing sand, re-leveling brick walkways and piling up the debris--mostly natural overgrowth. About a dozen hams participated in the effort.

"These folks do this kind of thing without request, but because there is a need to care," said ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR. "This group of amateurs are very special people with hearts as big as the whole world."

Family members of Flight 592 victims also expressed their appreciation for the effort. This comment was typical of several posted on the Flight 592 Memorial Web site <<http://www.flight592.com/>>: "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did. It was a wonderfully selfless act and greatly appreciated. Those of us who live too far away and are unable to see to the care of the memorial are greatly touched by the generosity of strangers. Thank you again and God bless you."

Additional information and photographs are available on the South Florida FM Association Web Page <<http://sffma.net/cleanup.htm>>. Said Ray Vaughan, KD4BBM "To everyone who helped, we did make a difference. Let's do it again."

## **==>AMATEURS ACTIVATE FOLLOWING NEW YORK AIR CRASH**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service promptly activated in the wake of this week's disastrous plane crash in New York City. Hams responded to support Salvation Army and American Red Cross relief operations after an American Airlines flight went down November 12 in a residential area of the Borough of Queens, near JFK International Airport.

Officials say 265 people died in the air disaster, which came two months and one day after the World Trade Center terrorist attacks in New York City. Investigators say the crash appears to have been related to mechanical failure.

Queens District Emergency Coordinator Mark Phillips, KC2ENI, said that ARES had been planning on up to three days of Amateur Radio support at the request of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network--SATERN. Conventional communication systems returned to service the evening of the crash, however, and ham radio support operations were able to stand down.

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The American Red Cross Emergency Communications Service in Queens also activated immediately after the crash. ARC ECS President George Sau, WB2ZTH, reports that members were dispatched with Red Cross disaster action teams to the crash site.

SATERN Amateur Radio Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, said telephone cables had been destroyed by the crash, cell phone communication "was spotty at best, the Nextels were not working most of the time, and power was cut off to the entire area." SATERN supplied several radio operators plus a net control station. The Rockaway Emergency Coastal Weather Alert also supported the activation.

Schneller contacted the ARES DEC and SATERN members and notified the Electchester VHF and Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society of the intended operation. Both groups volunteered had their repeaters during the World Trade Center disaster and did so again November 12. SATERN responders were able to put their "field packs"--used recently for the World Trade Center disaster--into use for the plane crash support operation.

Sau said his ARC Emergency Communications Service was able to immediately provide emergency communication via a UHF repeater as well as on simplex. As a result Red Cross support personnel at the crash site, the temporary disaster Family Information Center at the JFK Ramada Inn, the established Red Cross shelter at Public School 114 in the Rockaways, and the Queens Red Cross chapter operations base were able to remain in contact.

Most of the victims on the plane were bound for the Dominican Republic. Sau said some group members were able to use their fluency in Spanish to support the disaster action team translators at the Family Information Center. Sau said the ARC ECS stood down at around 8 PM.

As he did following SATERN's World Trade Center activation, Schneller advised all amateurs to get involved in ARES or SATERN and to take the emergency communications courses offered by the ARRL <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>>.

## **==>ISS COMMANDER BUOYS SPIRITS AT NYC "GROUND ZERO" SCHOOL**

International Space Station crew commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, has fielded questions from students at seven schools since the end of November. These included a morale-boosting contact with New York City's Public School 234, whose students are in temporary quarters after the September 11 World Trade Center attacks.

Ten students in Francine Cornelius's computer class posed 20 questions during the 10-minute contact November 7. Student Renee Otto asked Culbertson how New York City looked

from space on September 11. Culbertson described the smoke from the site as it looked from space. "It's sad that you've had to move from school to school, but we're proud that you're continuing to work and take your education seriously," Culbertson told the students. PS 234's normal campus is only two blocks from "Ground Zero."

The nearly 700 students and faculty had to be evacuated on September 11. Principal Anna Switzer said the students were grateful for the opportunity to chat with Culbertson, who operated at NA1SS.

The previous week, on October 29, 17 fifth graders at Protzman and Kolling elementary schools in St John, Indiana, spoke with Culbertson, who told one student that sunrise "is gorgeous from outer space." John Gianotti, W9WY, acted as control operator for the direct QSO.

On November 1, Culbertson spoke with 10 mostly teenaged students at Sanilac Career Center in Peck, Michigan. Electronics teacher Ted Davis, KF8ZO, pulled double duty as radio operator for the direct contact.

Students at Carmel, Indiana's, Woodbrook Elementary School, including Culbertson's nephew, Tom, were up November 2. Culbertson told Woodbrook students that while he will miss the International Space Station when he leaves in December, he is looking forward to being reunited with his family.

On November 6, students at Kenosha, Wisconsin's Tremper High School enjoyed their 10 minutes with Culbertson, who later praised the students' intelligent questions and thanked ARISS relay Tony Hutchinson, VK5ZAI, in Australia, who facilitated the contact.

Students at Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, interviewed Culbertson November 9. Seventh grade science teacher Barbara Pedersen, KE4JZM, operated the station for her students. "It brings the kids so much closer to the space program" Pedersen said. "It makes it so much more real. The kids were so excited."

All of the ham radio contacts were arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--program.

### **==>DAVID CLARK, KB6TAM, OFFICIALLY COMPLETES GLOBAL SAIL**

Ham radio's senior sailor David Clark, KB6TAM, this week officially completed his solo round-the-world sail--becoming the oldest person to do so. But Clark does not plan to celebrate his accomplishment until he returns to his starting point in December.

Clark, who's 77, arrived in Great Inagua, the Bahamas, earlier this week, technically completing the

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circumnavigation that began in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in December 1999. He had spent much of the Atlantic hurricane season in Trinidad. Clark is due back in Fort Lauderdale on December 7 for a gala celebration. He was scheduled to depart Great Inagua November 15 on his way to Nassau. Earlier in the month, he managed to avoid a confrontation with Hurricane Michelle, which raked Cuba and parts of the Bahamas.

Clark has been using ham radio while under way. He's kept in touch with Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, whom he got to know in Trinidad. Clark's wife, Lynda, reports that Fred Moore, W3ZU, has been able to patch calls via ham radio to her a couple of times.

Among those greeting Clark when he arrived in St Croix last week was ARRL Virgin Islands Section Manager John Ellis, NP2B. Ellis, who says Clark "gets around like someone who is 37," had dinner with the ham-sailor during his St Croix stopover and introduced him to the amateur community there. Once in Nassau, Clark plans to again play clarinet for his friend Eloy Roldan at the Poop Deck restaurant until it's time for him to leave for Gun Key or Bimini--a scant 12 hours from Fort Lauderdale.

"It's getting really exciting!!" Lynda Clark enthused in an e-mail dispatch this week.

Clark's sailing companion--his dog Mickey--was lost and Clark himself nearly died after his first sailing vessel, the Mollie Milar, sank last February off South Africa. Clark bought another sailboat that he named Mickey and resumed his quest in April.

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

### **==>MAIL DISRUPTIONS LEAD TO VANITY PROCESSING SUSPENSION**

Recently announced changes in how the FCC's Gettysburg office is receiving and handling mail have effectively halted processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. The ARRL has learned that the FCC has processed vanity applications received through October 14 and that vanity applications received after that date remain on hold for the time being.

"We understand that mail directed to the FCC Gettysburg office beginning October 15 was being held pending the start of special handling precautions to address any biohazard contamination concerns," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. On a positive note, Jahnke said, the FCC is tracking the receipt date for each piece of mail.

Because the FCC gives equal priority to paper and electronic vanity applications, Jahnke explained, all vanity processing was being suspended until the mail situation is resolved.



Citing a need for heightened security measures, the FCC announced November 14 that it had moved the Gettysburg office's mailroom offsite, to the rear entrance of 35 York St, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC did not announce, however, that mail received at Gettysburg starting October 15 had not yet been opened, pending arrangements to handle it without the possibility of endangering personnel. Jahnke said vanity processing should resume once the FCC begins to open its mail backlog. Just when that might happen is not yet known. Vanity processing typically takes 18 days.

The Gettysburg office is where the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau processes Amateur Radio applications and issues licenses. It's also where Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has his office.

Jahnke said the mailroom situation also could affect some Amateur Radio renewals. He said amateurs who filed timely renewal applications may continue to operate beyond a license's expiration date, if the mail delays cause the license to lapse before the renewal occurs. "For persons filing for renewal near the end of their two-year grace period, their applications will be accepted for processing if they arrive at FCC before the grace period expires."

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. Until November 30, the FCC itself will divert overnight courier deliveries for 1270 Fairfield Road to the off-site mailroom.

#### **==>DUCIE ISLAND DXPEDITION IS CANCELED EN ROUTE**

High seas this week forced the Ducie Island DXpedition team to abandon its already-delayed effort to reach the newest DXCC entity, located in the South Pacific. Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, announced November 19 that the DXpedition was cancelled and that the team--aboard the tri-hull sailing vessel Temarama and at that point some 80 nautical miles from its destination--was turning around and heading back to Pitcairn Island.

"This obviously is a big letdown for the team and DXers around the globe," said The Daily DX and QST "How's DX" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, "however the Ducie Island operators were concerned for their safety." McClenny called on DXers around the world to support the Ducie team's decision to turn back in the interest of safety.

Ducie pilot station Bill "Dr Bill" Avery, K6GNX, said JA1BK and the Ducie team were scheduled to leave Pitcairn November 22 to return to the Gambier Islands for their flights home. But before they left, Mike McGirr, K9AJ, an

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emergency room doctor, and Vince Thompson, K5VT, a surgeon, fielded medical questions from island residents. There is no doctor on Pitcairn. Avery said that JA1BK has donated the team's antennas and masts and two generators to the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association for use by a future DXpedition.

Forecasts at the time of the decision to turn back called for at seas of at least 3 meters (approximately 10 feet) around the newest DXCC entity. Avery said that, between the rough seas and having to shut down the diesel engines to clean the fuel filter every few hours, it was just too risky to attempt a landing. Earlier, poor weather and a container ship in the Pitcairn harbor had delayed efforts to load passengers and equipment aboard the vessel. The team had hoped to arrive on Ducie in time to begin operation last weekend, using the call sign VP6DI.

Ducie Island became the 335th DXCC entity last week. Ducie contacts made on or after November 16, 2001, will be eligible for DXCC credit as a result of a favorable vote to accept the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association as an International Amateur Radio Union member-society <<http://www.iaru.org/rel011116.html>>. Ducie Island has been activated previously for the Islands On The Air program (it's IOTA OC-182), but those earlier contacts will not count for DXCC.

#### **==>FCC LETS DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE WARNING NOTICE STAND**

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth will let stand a Warning Notice sent to a Pennsylvania licensee following accusations of deliberate interference. The complaint--which arose in part from split-frequency contest operation--alleged that K3NM failed to shift frequency after being notified that the station's signal was interfering with an ongoing contact.

The FCC Warning Notice and its routine publication by ARRL and other media ruffled some feathers within the contesting community. Some worried that "both sides of the story" were not being told; others complained about the public airing of unproven allegations.

John King, K5PGW, of Louisiana complained to the FCC after the September 9 incident, which occurred while K3NM was operating split mode on 40-meter SSB during the Worked All Europe Contest. Following up, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice September 12 to K3NM licensee Joseph Brue Jr.

King--an attorney--asserted that he was operating mobile and in QSO with Roy Ezell, K9ROY, in Kentucky when K3NM came on frequency without asking if it were in use and began calling "CQ contest." King told the FCC that he and K9ROY attempted to alert the K3NM operator--Matt Vanni,

LU9AY/W1--but were unable to do so, because K3NM was listening on 7.083 MHz, outside the US phone band.

King said that Ezell twice telephoned Brue, letting him know his station was interfering and asking him to move. King maintained that the interference continued, even after the second telephone call.

Vanni subsequently told the FCC that he could not hear K5PGW or K9ROY, even after the telephone calls, so he continued operating. Vanni told the FCC that K3NM's two-element beam at 112 feet was on the opposite heading from the complainant's location. He also said that he always uses the transceiver's "dualwatch" feature to monitor his transmitting frequency when working split on 40 SSB.

Brue also wrote the FCC, confirming Vanni's version of events to the FCC and adding that Vanni had asked several times if the frequency--7.210 MHz--was in use before transmitting. Brue also verified receiving the two phone calls from the complainants.

After deliberating over the various assertions, Hollingsworth said in an October 30 letter to Brue that he was standing behind his Warning Notice and said it would remain in the licensee's file.

"You could not be expected to protect communications you could not hear, and it may be normal that with such an efficient antenna system you may not have heard certain stations from the back of the beam antenna," Hollingsworth allowed. "The fact remains, however, that both you and Vanni had notice, directly from the complainant operator in two separate telephone calls, that your station was indeed interfering with specific ongoing communications."

Hollingsworth said that, given the two telephone calls, "it was not good Amateur practice to merely ignore the protests of the complainant and continue operating the station without a good faith attempt at compromise or corrective action."

#### **==>KD5OPQ DOES FIRST SPACE WALK; NEW ISS CREW IN THE WINGS**

International Space Station Expedition 3 Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, and Pilot Vladimir Dezhurov conducted a five-hour space walk, or extra-vehicular activity (EVA), as NASA calls it, on November 12. The EVA--Culbertson's first, but the last for the current crew--completed the external outfitting of the PIRS docking compartment on the ISS. Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin monitored the activities from inside the ISS and operated the robotic arm, providing television views for flight controllers in Houston and Moscow.

The ISS Expedition 4 crew of Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Flight Engineers Dan Bursch, KC5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE, launches aboard the shuttle Endeavour November

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29. In addition to a new crew, new Amateur Radio antennas are manifested aboard the shuttle for transport to the ISS. The new antennas will be installed around the perimeter of the Service Module, allowing future operation from HF to microwave frequencies. The HF antenna is made up of a flexible tape that will work on 10-meters--and possibly 15 and 20 meters.

The ISS is on orbit at an average altitude of 247 statute miles above Earth. For more information about the ISS, visit NASA's Human Space Flight Web site, <<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/>>.--NASA, ARISS, via AMSAT News Service

#### **==>IN BRIEF:**

**\* ARISS establishes European QSL service:** The ARISS Europe QSL service now is prepared to handle European requests for NA1SS QSL cards. Requests for ARISS QSL cards go to ARISS-Europe QSL Bureau, AMSAT-France, 16 rue de la Vallée, 91360 Epinay Sur Orge, FRANCE. Requestors should include a self-addressed envelope and two International Reply Coupons (IRCs) to cover the handling cost.

**\* Morse Code to be featured on upcoming X-Files episode:** Rob Ginkowski, WA6CW, of Hollywood, California, served as a technical adviser to The X-Files star Robert Patrick for an upcoming episode. Patrick's character, John Doggett, was in a hospital bed, paralyzed, and was required to send a Morse code message by tapping his index finger. WA6CW (who also works as an actor) taught Patrick how to tap out the message at about 5 WPM. "He was a fast learner," Ginkowski commented. No word on what the message was, but it might be, "The truth is out there." The episode, entitled "4-D," is scheduled to air Sunday, December 9, on the Fox TV Network.

**\* North Korea (P5) is on the air:** North Korea, the DXCC entity that tops everyone's most-wanted list, was activated this month by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, of the Republic of Georgia. The operation has not yet been approved for DXCC credit, however. On the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, Giorgadze has been operating as P5/4L4FN since early this month. Bruce Paige, KK5DO, reports that 4L4FN now is awaiting written permission from the North Korean government--something that's required for ARRL DXCC credit. As a result, it's possible the recent contacts will not count for DXCC. Paige is posting P5/4L4FN operating news on his Web site <<http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html>> and to other DX news sites.

**\* Florida amateurs to participate in meteor shower test:** Amateur Radio operators in Florida will cooperate with their state's Division of Emergency Management to test communication systems during the Leonid meteor shower. The tests will be conducted during a 12-hour period centered around the expected peak of the meteor shower, 9 PM on

Saturday, November 17. The Leonid meteor shower this weekend is expected to be even more intense than last year's, and some experts believe the potential exists for it to disrupt communication systems—including terrestrial and satellite. Additional details are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

**\* Amateur Radio shines during NPR broadcast:** Amateur Radio was in the national spotlight during the November 13 "Tech Tuesday" segment of National Public Radio's "Public Interest" program. The show originates from WAMU-FM in Washington, DC, and is carried by some three dozen US public radio stations. Two well-known hams were the featured guests of program host Kojo Nnandi--Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Automatic Position Reporting System guru Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. Both men are involved in technical professions, and both credited Amateur Radio with inspiring their career choices. During the program, Bauer and Bruninga covered a wide swath of common Amateur Radio activities, including digital modes. The lively, informative segment was complemented by a series of callers--most of them also Amateur Radio licensees--who offered additional insights into ham radio or who wanted to share a story. The program segment remains available on the WAMU Web site <<http://www.wamu.org>>. Click on "Public Interest" in the program directory.

**\* FCC announces mail changes for Gettysburg office:** Effective immediately, the FCC is diverting mail, courier and hand deliveries for its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office to rear entrance, 35 York St, Gettysburg, PA 17325. the FCC said the US Postal Service will continue to accept mail addressed to 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg--the building's physical location. The FCC said the changes were necessary to protect the health and safety of its employees.--FCC

**\* Reminder: Be sure to identify properly when operating digital modes:** The ARRL reminds operators who are active on the digital modes, including RTTY, PSK31, packet, PACTOR and AMTOR, to identify properly in accordance with FCC Part 97 rules (Section 97.119). The rules require a station (except space or telecommand stations) to transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting frequency at the end of each communication and at least every 10 minutes during a communication. Part 97 also states: "No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign any call sign not authorized to the station." Amateurs monitoring unidentified or otherwise suspicious digital transmissions should report details to FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, <[rholling@fcc.gov](mailto:rholling@fcc.gov)>. Recordings of such transmissions also are invited.

**\* New microwave column to debut in January QST:** QST is proud to present the debut of a new bimonthly column, "Microwavelengths," starting in the January 2002 issue. The column editor is Tom Williams, WA1MBA. Williams holds a

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graduate degree in computer science and directs the development of imaging, software and millimeter-wave technologies as a consultant. His ham radio interests are primarily VHF, UHF and microwaves, and he is active on all bands from 144 MHz to 10 GHz from his home in Shutesbury, Massachusetts. He has done some pioneering work in the EHF bands of 120 and 145 GHz. Originally licensed as K1URO at the age of 15, Williams says he finds great satisfaction in getting on a new band and making a tough microwave contact.

**\* ARRL test fee to remain at \$10:** The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Amateur Radio test fee will remain at \$10 for 2002. The 2002 National Exam Day dates are (spring) April 27-28 and (fall) September 28-29, 2002—the last full weekends in April and September each year.

**\* W1AW schedules transatlantic, OSCAR celebrations in December:** Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air December 3-7 to honor the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1921 transatlantic tests. Listen for W1AW/80 on many HF, VHF and UHF bands (including satellites). W1AW also will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Amateur Radio satellite--OSCAR I--launched into orbit on December 12, 1961. W1AW will be on the air as W1AW/40 December 10-14 on as many of the active satellites as possible. A special QSL will be available for contacts or SWL reports on both events. QSL requests for W1AW/80 and W1AW/40, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (or appropriate number of IRCs) with each request.

**\* FCC announces Homeland Security Policy Council:** The FCC has announced the creation of a Homeland Security Policy Council. The Council's missions are to assist the Commission in evaluating and strengthening measures for protecting US communications services; to assist the Commission in ensuring rapid restoration of communications services and facilities that have been disrupted as the result of threats to, or actions against, our Nation's homeland security; and to ensure that public safety, health and other emergency and defense personnel have effective communications available to them to assist the public as needed. The Homeland Security Policy Council will consist of senior staff from each of the Commission's bureaus and will be directed by FCC Chief of Staff Marsha MacBride. Deputy directors will be Linda Blair and Brad Berry, both deputy chiefs in the Enforcement Bureau. Peter Tenhula, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell, will serve as Special Counsel.

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