

## Hamfests

The Peoria Superfest has come and gone. The weather cooperated this year, with no rain during the whole event. Sunday's forecast, however, was for rain much of the day. This kept the attendance much smaller than the usual light crowd Sunday. The crowd was good on Saturday and there were more vendors in the flea market than the past couple of years. Sales were down for most vendors, even with a better crowd. KA9SZX and N9RIX won prizes in the final rapid-fire drawing on Sunday.

The Bedford, Indiana hamfest is this Sunday, Oct 8. The Decatur, Illinois hamfest is October 21. The date was moved from May to avoid conflicts. It is a one-day hamfest on Saturday.

The Fort Wayne, Indiana, hamfest is November 18-19. All indoors, this is a large hamfest in comfortable surroundings. As with most 2-day hamfests, Saturday is the best day to attend.

## Suitsat-1 Re-enters Earth's Atmosphere

From ARRL News

SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit turned satellite, which became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years, re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere Thursday, September 7, at 1600 UTC some 1400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Bauer expressed thanks to "all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched February 3 during a spacewalk from the ISS, SuitSat-1's 2-meter signal was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated.

Please note – this happened just after our September newsletter went out with the story that Suitsat was still in orbit.

## Radio Jammer Jack Gerritsen Gets Seven Years, Fines

From ARRL News

It was a day a lot of radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom.

Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency. The judge berated Gerritsen as a repeat offender and said he believed Gerritsen would continue to commit similar offenses. The sentence even exceeded US District Attorney Lamar Baker's recommended 46 months incarceration.

In addition to the prison time, Klausner fined Gerritsen \$225, payable immediately, and an additional \$15,000 to be paid through the Probation Department. Klausner tacked on two years' supervised probation and recommended Gerritsen remain in custody in Southern California during that period.

Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance abuse program at his own expense. He told Gerritsen he could not use any identification, including his previous Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO, other than his real name when identifying himself, and he told Gerritsen he could not own, possess or use any radio transmitting equipment.

The FCC had been investigating complaints of illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years. According to court documents, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen

transmitted both prerecorded messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often targeting local Amateur Radio repeater systems and precluding their use by licensed operators.

Following trial last December, Gerritsen was found guilty of causing malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States -- a felony. The court also found him guilty of two misdemeanor counts of willful or malicious interference with radio communications and three misdemeanor counts of transmitting radio signals without a license. Gerritsen has been in custody since his conviction.

The FCC has already levied \$52,000 in fines on Gerritsen for violating its rules and the Communications Act.

## Chip Margelli Moves from Yaesu to Heil Sound

From ARRL News

Well-known Amateur Radio industry personality Chip Margelli, K7JA, has joined Heil Sound Ltd as vice president of sales and marketing. Heil Sound President Bob Heil, K9EID, and his wife Sarah announced September 14 that Margelli will be responsible for all national and international Amateur Radio sales and marketing plans. Margelli, who for many years has been associated with the Yaesu Amateur Radio brand and regularly fronted that manufacturer's hamfest concessions all over the US, says he's "honored and excited" to be making the move to Heil Sound.

"Heil Sound is a dynamic, growing, and creative enterprise, and I look forward to being a part of their bright future," Margelli commented.

Calling it "an historic day for Amateur Radio," Heil said Margelli "brings his great passion and knowledge of Amateur Radio to this new post." He cited Margelli's more than 40 years of experience and expertise as a DXer,

DXpeditioner, contester and top-notch CW operator "along with his great knowledge of just about every radio in existence" as assets that will benefit Heil Sound's dealers and customers worldwide.

Licensed since 1963, Margelli is an ARRL Life Member. He also belongs to AMSAT and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). He and his wife Janet, KL7MF, live in Garden Grove, California.

Margelli has authored articles for QST, QCWA Journal, CQ and CQ VHF magazines. His most recent contribution for QST was "Field Day 2003 from Cuba," which appeared in the December 2003 issue. Margelli enjoys operating on all amateur bands from HF through UHF -- including "weak-signal" terrestrial and moonbounce work and satellite operation -- and has a special fondness for 6 meters. Beyond ham radio, Margelli enjoys photography, astronomy and running marathons.

Margelli holds both bachelor's and master's degrees (political science and business administration, respectively) from the University of Washington. He speaks fluent Japanese.

In May 2005, Margelli and partner Ken Miller, K6CTW, enjoyed their "15 minutes of Amateur Radio fame" with an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on NBC. Using Morse code, the two radio amateurs went head to head with US cell-phone text messaging champ Ben Cook and his partner to see which mode would get the message through in the shortest time. Margelli, Miller and Morse won hands down.

Outside of the realm of the Amateur Radio industry, Margelli and Heil are longtime friends. An industry personality in his own right, Heil was recognized by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in June on the basis of his pioneering sound work with a variety of rock bands, including The James Gang and The Eagles (see Bob Heil, K9EID: "It's all Because of Ham Radio!" in Oct 2006 QST, p 49). Another Heil friend, Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, plays in both bands.