
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

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October 2002

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

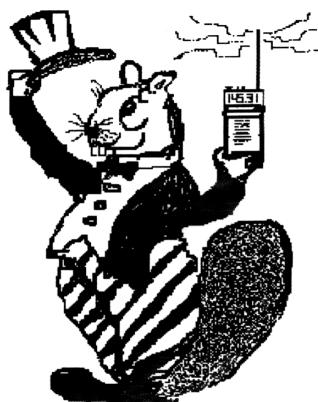
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie 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 & 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.

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CLUB MEETING

The October club meeting will be held on Thursday the 10th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. We will be going over plans for the upcoming PA QSO Party, elections, and our annual Christmas Party. Oh, we'll also need help with the coffee and donuts, HI!

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday October 5th, 2002 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.
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

B.V.A.R.A. QRM**PA QSO PARTY**

Here it is October again and with that comes the annual PA QSO Party. This year it will be held on the weekend of the 12th and 13th. Al Belardia WA3GFM will head our entry this year which will be held, as in years past, at the home of Ron & Ellie Paine K3OIW/KA3OSC, 3780 Ridge Road, (Independence Twp.) Aliquippa, PA. At this time 2 stations are planned for the contest and operators will be needed.

Logging will be done on linked computers so this is an excellent opportunity to see that in action. If you would like to participate please let Al know.

UPCOMING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our nominating committee (Al WA3GFM, Wes N3ALS & Phyllis N3KUG) has informed us that all of the 2002 officers have agreed to continue on in their current positions. However if you would like to nominate someone or you would like to hold a position yourself you may do so at this coming meeting. Nominations will be closed at this month's meeting and formal elections are to take place at our November meeting. If there are no opponents for all of the offices no elections will be necessary. Nominated parties will then assume that position for the 2003 term.

Proposed nominations are as follows:

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

HAM OF THE YEAR

Speaking of elections, it soon will be time to start thinking of who you believe was the outstanding "Ham" this year. A ballot will appear in next month's QRM. Of course the award will be presented at our annual Christmas party, to be announced in the future. Hmmm.... who will it be???

==>ARRL DIRECTOR, VICE DIRECTOR RACES SET IN FOUR DIVISIONS

ARRL members in the Atlantic and Great Lakes divisions will cast ballots this fall in contests to pick directors, while members in the Delta and Midwest divisions will have a choice of candidates for vice director. Six other incumbents--including both the Director and Vice Director in the Dakota Division--avoided challenges in the current election cycle to choose directors and vice directors for the 2003-2005 term.

Two directors face opposition. In the Atlantic Division, incumbent Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, of Saegertown, Pennsylvania, will face Anthony Gargano, N2SS, of Sewell, New Jersey. Vice Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, is among

those facing no opposition. In the Great Lakes Division, Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky, is in a three-way race with Paul Daley, WT8S, of Canal Winchester, Ohio, and Jim Weaver, K8JE, of Mason, Ohio. Johnston only recently took over the top spot from George Race, WB8BGY, who, in a surprise move, resigned during the July Board of Directors' meeting. Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT--who was Michigan Section Manager before his appointment in the wake of Johnston's accession--is unopposed for election.

Incumbent vice directors in two divisions will compete for their seats. In the Delta Division, incumbent Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q, of Memphis, Tennessee, faces a challenge from Nicholas R. Smith, W4GKM, of Crossville, Tennessee. Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, has no opposition. In the Midwest Division, incumbent Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, of Colby, Kansas, has competition from Bill Wheeler, K0DEW, of Lebanon, Missouri. Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, is unopposed.

Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Twila Greenheck, N0JPH, also face no opposition in their bids for re-election.

In the divisions where there is competition for director or vice director, ballots will go out to all ARRL members on record in the division as of September 10, 2002. Ballots will be mailed by October 1 and must be received back at ARRL Headquarters (via the ARRL's auditor) by noon on November 15, when they will be counted and the successful candidates announced. Candidates running unopposed are declared elected. New terms of office begin January 1, 2003.

==>FLORIDA MAN IMPRISONED, FINED FOR DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE

Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo will spend a total of 15 months in federal prison--including two months already served--and pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. He'll also spend a year on supervised probation following his release, during which he cannot own radio gear or firearms. Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on eight misdemeanor counts. The sentence is believed to be a record for convictions of this type.

"It's sent a shock wave across the Amateur Radio and CB communities in South Florida," said Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, who was among the amateurs targeted by Flippo and who testified at his trial. "The CB guys are running for cover. You can buy an illegal CB amplifier pretty cheap right now," he quipped. Hams were surprised by the severity of the sentence.

Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley imposed the sentence August 29 on Flippo, of Jupiter. He had been found guilty June 19 of four counts of operating without a license

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and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. Flippo has remained in custody since the guilty verdict and underwent a psychiatric evaluation prior to sentencing. The judge also said he wants a full financial disclosure from Flippo, who may face other legal actions unrelated to his radio operation convictions.

At the sentencing, Flippo reportedly wept, said he'd turned over a new leaf and claimed he was sole support for his wife and two daughters. None of his family members was in the courtroom for the sentencing, however.

The judge was not persuaded, telling Flippo, 60, that he was old enough to have considered the consequences of his actions. Hurley also alleged numerous incidents of perjury during the course of Flippo's testimony during his June trial, which ran six-and-one-half days. The jury took about a half hour to determine that he was guilty on all counts.

According to trial testimony, Flippo primarily had targeted members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.

Flippo had faced a maximum of eight years in prison--one year on each count--and up to \$80,000 in fines. Available opinions were mixed on whether the sentence Hurley imposed was appropriate. Petzolt, who assisted the FCC in gathering evidence and, at one point, had his car rammed by Flippo's vehicle, said he felt Flippo should have received at least three years.

"I thought it was a slap on the wrist," said Petzolt, the 1999 ARRL International Humanitarian Award winner who also testified at the trial. John Criteser Jr, KC4JLY, agreed. "I think he should have gotten more--at least five years," Criteser said outside the courthouse. Other amateurs who attended the sentencing session, including Jupiter-Tequesta club member Bert Moreschi, AG4BV, were satisfied with the penalty, however.

Last year, Flippo was convicted in state court of criminal mischief--also a misdemeanor--after ramming Petzolt's vehicle. He was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered him to dispose of his radio equipment. A ban on possessing radio gear also was a condition of his federal bond, which Hurley revoked during the trial.

Federal authorities arrested Flippo in July 2000. The criminal charges of which he now stands convicted covered violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. The defendant already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to

Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment.

Hurley ordered Flippo immediately back into custody to start serving his sentence. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

==>POP STAR LANCE BASS PASSES TECHNICIAN TEST AS PART OF HIS QUEST FOR SPACE

Lance Bass of the pop singing group 'N Sync is still hoping to travel to the International Space Station in late October through Russia's "space tourist" program. Bass passed his Technician license examination August 30 at an ARRL-VEC test session, and, if all arrangements can be worked out, ham radio could be a part of his space visit. He has not yet been issued a call sign.

In the US this week for training with NASA, Bass worked with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) volunteer team, which included Nick Lance, KC5KBO, ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Carolyn Conley, KD5JSO--the Amateur Radio integration manager at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston.

"I will be staying in contact the whole time I'm up there," Bass said during a NASA-hosted Web chat with students across the US August 29. "I'm getting my ham license this week--that's one of my goals this week--so I can talk to different schools around the world via ham radio. That'll be a lot of fun." An audience of youngsters ranging in age from 9 to 12 from Pearl Hall Elementary School, Pasadena, Texas, also joined Bass in the Johnson Space Center studio to ask questions face-to-face.

Bauer said Bass knows the rules and regulations and that the ARISS team also supplied training on the ARISS hardware and operations from space. "We gave him some sessions where he could listen to typical QSOs on orbit and school group contacts from the ground; he is now well versed on what to expect." Bass also received training with the ham radio hardware during his Russian training stay.

At this point, however, nothing is finalized to ensure that Bass will get on the air from the NA1SS/RS0ISS ham station on the ISS. Daily discussions continue between members of the ARISS team and Celebrity Mission LLC--the group handling Bass's affairs. If all goes well, the stage may be set for Bass to communicate with the Amateur Radio community from space this fall. Bass would be part of a three-person Soyuz "taxi crew" that will blast off from Kazakhstan on October 28.

At 23, Bass would be the youngest person ever to travel into space. A remaining potential roadblock still appears to be completion of financial arrangements with Russia, which has claimed that it had not received a promised payment from Bass's organization. At one point, Russia even halted Bass's

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training, but he was subsequently permitted to resume. The round-trip ticket price has been generally estimated to be in the vicinity of \$20 million, but all sides are keeping mum about the exact cost.

For more information about the International Space Station, the Expedition 5 crew and the taxi crew of which Bass will be a member, visit the NASA Human Spaceflight Web site <<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>>.

==>FINAL TWO HAM ANTENNAS INSTALLED ABOARD SPACE STATION

The last two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas were installed this week during a space walk. The installation wraps up work that began last January when the first two of the four Italian-designed antennas were attached to the ISS exterior. During the second of two space walks this month, two members of the Expedition 5 crew attached essentially identical VHF-UHF flexible-tape antennas to the ISS Service Module on August 26. The space walk--or EVA (extra-vehicular activity)--had been postponed from August 23.

Expedition 5 Flight Engineer Sergei Treschev, RZ3FU, joined Crew Commander Valery Korzun, RZ3FK, during the nearly 10-hour-long space walk. In addition to installing the new ham radio antennas, the pair prepared the station for upcoming space walks and worked with Russian and Japanese experiments on the station's exterior.

Installation of the new ARISS antennas on the Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters--makes possible two separate ham stations aboard the orbiting outpost--one for VHF operation, the other for UHF (70 cm). Similar flexible-tape antennas for VHF-UHF and for HF were installed during January space walks by the Expedition 4 crew, although there is not yet any HF gear aboard the ISS.

The newest two VHF-UHF flexible tape antennas--designated WA1 and WA2--were installed along the perimeter of the aft end of the Zvezda Service Module, near the Soyuz docking port.

ARISS is an international project sponsored jointly by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT. A paper entitled "2001: an Amateur Radio Space Odyssey on the International Space Station," which details the development of ARISS and discusses the four new ARISS antennas, is available via the ARISS Web site <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>>.

==>NTIA HEAVES POTENTIAL MONKEY WRENCH INTO 5-MHZ BAND PROPOSAL

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only, secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. The NTIA regulates

radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. The last-minute recommendation followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from organizations--including the ARRL--and from individuals.

In an August 21 letter, the NTIA's Fredrick R. Wentland said federal agencies are making extensive use of HF for emergency services, including communications support for the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and Department of Justice law enforcement activities. "NTIA believes the Commission's current proposal does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations primary in the band," said Wentland, who is NTIA's acting associate administrator for spectrum management.

In its recent comments, the ARRL called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Wentland's letter arrived at the FCC beyond the cut-off date for reply comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 02-98.

Wentland said that without a more complete understanding of the interference potential to federal operations, the NTIA believes the secondary amateur allocation would be "premature." But he said that NTIA would work with the federal agencies, the FCC and the amateur community to determine whether "some future accommodation" for amateurs at 5 MHz would be possible. That could include limitations on power or emission types, a reduction in the size of the proposed band, the use of discrete frequencies or geographical restrictions, he suggested.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that while he and the ARRL Board of Directors have been long aware of the concerns registered by the US Coast Guard and the US Department of Justice with the NTIA's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), he was surprised by the tone of the NTIA letter.

"This is a lot worse than we were told to expect," he said, noting that the FCC had cancelled a meeting to discuss issues expressed by the NTIA several months ago and went forward with its proposal despite the NTIA's concerns.

"We don't know how seriously the FCC will take NTIA's comments," Imlay added. "We're in the process of expediting coordination arrangements and other means to identify and satisfy NTIA's legitimate concerns."

On May 2, the FCC proposed granting the ARRL's requests for new amateur allocations at 5250 to 5400 kHz and 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and to elevate the Amateur Radio allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary and to create a primary Amateur-Satellite allocation there. Imlay said the 5250 to 5400 kHz segment was proposed because it appeared to have the fewest US government assignments.

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Ironically, the ARRL's own timely filed comments and reply comments in late July and mid-August noted that the eagerly anticipated 5-MHz allocation request was "essentially uncontested" and enjoyed "extensive support" within the amateur community."

The FCC went along with ARRL's proposal to permit amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes or to break the band down into mode-specific subbands. In its comments, the ARRL said that the band should be open to General and Extra class licensees and that band planning was sufficient to maintain order among modes.

Two non-amateur organizations commented negatively. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance (HPPA), while not opposing the allocation, suggested that its Part 15 home wiring telecommunication devices operating in the 5 MHz range be presumed to not cause interference to amateur operations and not have to cease operation if interference is alleged. The ARRL called HPPA's request "absurd."

The Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) said the FCC should not grant the 5-MHz band request because amateurs could interfere with its planned deployment of Part 15 broadband devices operating in the same region. "No Part 15 device manufacturer is entitled to oppose an allocation to a licensed radio service based on future deployment of an unlicensed device, period," the League said in its reply comments.

Many more negative comments were received regarding the proposed 136-kHz low-frequency allocation, most of them from utilities that employ unlicensed Part 15 power line communication (PLC) systems. The ARRL reiterated its request for 200 W PEP power-output limitation but in no case greater than 2 W equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) on 136 kHz. The League also asked the FCC to reconsider granting an amateur allocation at 160 to 190 kHz as it had requested in its initial petition.

The League also took a dim view of a suggestion by the IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee that Part 15 devices operating in the 2.4 GHz region enjoy a "safe harbor" of operation. The ARRL reminded the FCC that such Part 15 devices have "no allocation status at all."

The ARRL's comments and reply comments urged the FCC to immediately implement the three proposals. "The Commission cannot make allocation decisions based on non-technical assertions of Part 15 users or user groups or manufacturers of such devices," the ARRL said. "ARRL contends that compatibility between amateur uses in the subject bands and those of incumbents is not a substantial concern in any of the three cases."

==>BASS BOOTED?

A cargo container appears destined to replace "space tourist" hopeful Lance Bass, KG4UYY, on an October mission to the International Space Station. Associated Press, CNN and Reuters reported that the pop singer--part of the group 'N Sync--will not be going into space after all. It's still not clear, however, that this is the final word on the on again/off again relationship between Bass and the Russian space program.

Last week, Bass passed his Technician Amateur Radio license test in preparation for doing some Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contacts during his planned ISS tour. The FCC granted the new call sign to the Orlando, Florida, resident on September 5. News accounts this week reported, however, that Bass has been removed from the roster of the Soyuz taxi mission crew and has left the Star City, Russia, cosmonaut training center--although he's still said to be in the Moscow area.

Still on the Soyuz flight schedule are Russian commander Sergei Zalyotin and Belgian flight engineer Frank De Winne, ON1DWN. Russian Space Agency officials said this week that the commercial consortium backing the Bass adventure still has not come up with any of the estimated \$20 million payment, despite several deadline extensions. Bass who's relying on the corporate sponsors to pay for his fare as a space tourist, began his training in July at Star City and had just returned to Russia after a week at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Bass's handlers are blaming the nonpayment on paperwork problems and say the latest setback is temporary and negotiations are continuing. The Russians are standing firm that Bass is out of the program. They have said they'll now send a container of additional equipment instead of the pop star. The 23-year-old Bass has been hoping to become the youngest person ever to journey into space.

During his Amateur Radio training at Johnson Space Center in Texas, Nick Lance, KC5SWM--who instructed Bass in getting his ticket--also exposed him to a simulation of what he might expect to hear in space while making casual QSOs. "Frank Bauer [KA3HDO, the ARISS Board chairman] and I felt it was important for him to experience what it would be like responding to thousands of calls simultaneously, so I arranged for pileup training for Lance with my students acting as the ground stations," Lance said.

With his wife Renee, KC5VMA, serving as control operator for the training event, a couple of dozen students called while Bass tried to copy and respond to each one. "Lance was initially overcome by all the call signs, then settled down after making several contacts and did well himself," Lance said.

Bass later stopped by to say hello to the students who had just helped train him. "Everyone was thrilled," Lance said. "Then we went back to our studies and Lance Bass took the exam and passed.

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==>INDIANA YOUNGSTERS ENJOY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOST FROM ARISS

Students at the Stanley Clark School in South Bend, Indiana, started out their school year on a high note on September 4. As an audience of about 200 fellow students and 50 adults looked on, 13 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students at the school spoke via Amateur Radio for about 10 minutes with US astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, operating NA1SS aboard the International Space Station. Whitson had visited the school in 1999. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact was the first with a US school since last spring.

"The Earth is incredibly beautiful, but I think the most interesting thing is seeing how thin the atmosphere is," Whitson told the youngsters in response to one question. "It looks very fragile and like something we should take care of." Whitson said there are several windows in the ISS Service Module so the crew can observe Earth from there.

Replying to a question about the debris shields on the ISS, Whitson said that at a speed of 17,000 MPH, any debris is a threat. "We see damage by things as small as paint chips," she explained.

Students always seem to be interested in the food aboard the ISS, and the South Bend youngsters were no exception. "I think the food on the ISS is pretty good, but I tell ya what, after several months up here, I am a little bored with it." Her favorites are the rehydrated strawberries and cookies, she said.

So far, she told the Stanley Clark students, she has not experienced cabin fever, "maybe because I got to go on a space walk." She didn't think her two Russian crewmates were having problems with cabin fever either.

Whitson, an Iowa native, said that when she was very young, she saw the first astronauts on TV when they walked on the moon, "and I think that had a big effect on me," she said.

Students spoke with NA1SS via W9AB, with Mary Nimtz, N9YHI, at the controls. W9AB is the club station call sign of the Michiana Amateur Radio Club in South Bend. The contact was marred at points by QRM from a local paging system, but 15 questions were asked and answered.

Crews from two South Bend TV stations were on hand to provide media coverage. Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, was the ARISS mentor for the Stanley Clark School contact.

Earlier this month, Whitson spoke with youngsters in Israel, where 2002 has been declared "Space Year" in honor of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who will be aboard shuttle mission STS 107. Youngsters from several Israeli schools gathered September 2 in the Givatayim Observatory for the QSO. Using an earth station set up by AMSAT-Israel

President Shlomo Menuhin, 4X1AS, 15 students got to put 20 questions to Whitson as the ISS passed overhead. The participating students--ranging from 10 to 15 years old--were selected for their high scores in space-related activities and study projects.

On August 29, Whitson also spoke with students at Kursk High School No. 55 in Russia got to chat with the ISS during two passes. In all, 10 questions were asked. "Now we have experience, so we are ready anytime for new radio communications with the ISS," said Valery Pikkiev, RW3WW. Students used the school's RK3WXZ club station call sign.

ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.--thanks to Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, Gene Chapline, K5YFL, and Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

==>AMATEURS CONVERGE TO HELP TORNADO-STRICKEN TOWN

An Amateur Radio Emergency Service team is on the scene in the northwestern Wisconsin community of Ladysmith, which was devastated by a tornado on Labor Day. ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, reports that the first wave of ARES volunteers arrived in the Rusk County town of nearly 4000 inhabitants at 10 PM Monday, within hours of the tornado.

Reports indicated that the tornado arrived with little or no warning. "We were lucky that this hit on a holiday, when the business district was closed," Michalski remarked. The Ladysmith tornado was one of four that touched down in the Badger State on Labor Day, but it was by far the most damaging. Gov Scott McCallum has declared a state of emergency in Rusk County. Gov McCallum toured Ladysmith on September 3.

Jim Staatz, KG9RA, reports that members of the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club and the Tri County Repeater Association have been providing communication support for the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. In addition, Paul Brooten, KB9TYC, of the Tri County Repeater Association reports that the Barron County American Red Cross Amateur Radio Club and the NORWESCO ARES/RACES team from Washburn County also have been involved in assisting the relief organizations. Eau Claire County Emergency Coordinator Rob Indrebo, KB9SDF, also has been among those assisting. The Red Cross and The Salvation Army opened a shelter at a high school in Bruce. A toll-free number for people inquiring about family members has been set up. It's 800-837-6313.

The Salvation Army reports that its emergency disaster relief personnel immediately went into action following the tornado that also left hundreds without shelter and thousands without electricity. "Two Salvation Army canteens have been roving the area offering aid, including meals and crisis counseling,

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to residents and relief workers," a Salvation Army news release stated. The Salvation Army said it also was providing residents with vouchers to replace prescriptions, clothing and other necessary items lost in the tornado.

The severe weather that moved across Wisconsin also spawned two tornadoes in Marathon County--one in Brokaw, near Wausau, and one near Athens--as well as in the Fond du Lac County town of Brandon. Wind damage was reported in several other communities.

Wisconsin Emergency Management reports that the tornado that hit Ladysmith cut a swath some 14 to 16 blocks long and 2 to 4 blocks wide, destroying numerous businesses and homes. There were no reports of fatalities, but some 60 people were injured. Most were treated and released. Search and rescue operations continued throughout the evening of Labor Day. Crews this week worked to restore power, and all roads were reported open.

==>ARRL ANNOUNCES NEW GEAR FOR ARES VOLUNTEERS

ARRL has announced that new gear for Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers is now available. The initiative to offer stylized ARES gear to volunteers arose during the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting last January--in the wake of Amateur Radio's deep involvement in responding to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Board asked ARRL staff to look into the possibility of developing distinctive garments for use by ARES team members that would be similar to jackets and vests worn by other public service volunteers.

A questionnaire circulated among ARRL field volunteers indicated overwhelming interest in the idea. Results of the survey plus additional feedback from ARES volunteers led to arrangements to make available ARES vests, windbreakers and equipment bags.

The ARES vest is a reflective-style garment similar to those worn by law enforcement officers or joggers. This orange "bib" can be worn over a shirt or jacket. Constructed of neon mesh with large front and back reflector panels, the vest is imprinted with the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" on one side.

The vest is lightweight and easily folded and stored in your immediate-response kit. It features adjustable side straps, and one size fits most. The ARES vest retails for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.

The brightly colored, royal blue windbreaker jacket features an embroidered ARES logo on the front and the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" in white lettering on the back. The jacket is 100% Nylon and has a snap front and a polyester lining. There's a bottom drawstring

to keep out drafts, plus side slash pockets and elasticized cuffs.

ARES members may personalize their windbreakers with FIRST NAME and CALL SIGN (optional) for an additional \$4. Sizes are medium (M), large (L) and extra-large (XL). The windbreaker retails for \$30.95 (sizes 2X are \$34.95 and 3X are \$38.95), plus shipping and handling.

The ARES equipment bag is the perfect immediate-response kit! It offers lots of places to store hand-held radios, spare batteries, paperwork and manuals, portable rigs, coaxial cable, clothing, and more.

The ARES equipment bag comes in black only. It's embroidered with an attractive three-color ARES logo. It includes both hand and shoulder straps, heavy-duty zippers, Velcro and quick-snaps. It's great for travelers or as an airplane carry-on too. The bag measures 20 inches long by 11 inches tall and 10 inches wide. It retails for \$24.95, plus shipping and handling.

All orders must be placed through ARRL's authorized agent—Barker Specialty Company <<http://www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl>>. ARRL Headquarters cannot handle orders. Barker Specialty also carries other official ARRL sportswear and supply items.

ARES stickers, decals, patches and other public service supply items are available directly from ARRL's online store <<http://www.arrl.org/shop>>.

==>ARRL OFFICIALS UPBEAT ABOUT REACHING 5-MHZ COMPROMISE

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, say they're optimistic about reaching a resolution to issues that could otherwise block plans for a new 5 MHz band. Until surprise opposition surfaced from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the FCC appeared to have put ARRL's request for a new, domestic-only, secondary amateur allocation at 60 meters on the fast track.

In an eleventh-hour move a month ago, the NTIA recommended in a letter to the FCC--sent after the comment deadline--that the Commission not go forward with a proposal for an Amateur Radio allocation at 5250 to 5400 kHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government.

"We are working together with the Federal agencies involved toward a solution of the impasse raised by the NTIA letter," Imlay said after he and Haynie attended a series of meetings September 19 in Washington, DC.

Acting NTIA Associate Administrator for Spectrum Management Fredrick R. Wentland had said in an August 21

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letter that critical federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the US Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, were making extensive use of 5 MHz frequencies. He worried that the 5 MHz proposal the FCC put forth last May at the ARRL's request "does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations."

After initially huddling this week with NTIA and FCC officials and staff members, Haynie and Imlay met face-to-face with representatives of the agencies involved to share mutual concerns.

"They are willing to work with us," Haynie said. "Chris and I left feeling a whole lot better." Haynie said hammering out some differences will involve some further meetings--including one with the US Navy--but that he and Imlay were feeling much more positive about the situation.

"I feel confident we'll get something," Haynie said. "I don't think we'll get everything we want, but it's certainly a start, and it's a lot better than what it was this time last week."

One difficulty in the negotiations is that some of the information on the government's use of the 5-MHz frequencies involved is classified. "We were given some hints about the sensitivity and the seriousness of some of the activity that's going on," Haynie said, "and we fully appreciate that now--more so than before--because we just didn't, and couldn't, know. The important thing is that we have established a good working relationship with the Justice Department and the Coast Guard."

Imlay said the discussions tended to center on power restrictions and frequencies but emphasized that no decisions were reached. The ARRL proposal called for a 150-kHz wide band and the full legal power limit. Imlay hinted, however, that perhaps a smaller band than the one requested coupled with some power output limitations, was a real possibility.

The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and has asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Until the latest snafu, the FCC had been expected by early next year to issue a Report and Order on proposals for the 5-MHz band, a new low-frequency allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz and primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

==>HURRICANE WATCH NET, W4EHW ACTIVATE FOR ISIDORE

The Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org>> activated this week for the first time in the current hurricane season as a nascent hurricane threatened Cuba and possibly parts of the Gulf of Mexico. HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, said the net activated at midday on September 19 on 14.325 MHz while Isidore was still a tropical storm. The storm continued

to gain strength, however, and by the next day was a Category 2 hurricane packing winds of 100 MPH, with higher gusts.

Members of the Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org>> were continuing to keep their eyes on the storm, which, at week's end, was closing in on Western Cuba. As of September 20, tropical storm warnings and hurricane watches were been posted for portions of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula--including the island of Cozumel. The National Hurricane Center was predicting that Isidore would make landfall over Western Cuba. A hurricane warning remained in effect for several provinces.

Well-known Cuban amateur and International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Area C Emergency Coordinator Arnie Coro, CO2KK, said it appeared that the main impact of the storm was poised to strike the Isle of Youth (Isla de la Juventud) and the western part of Pinar del Rio Province. Coro requested protection from interference for 3740, 7040 and 7125 kHz. He said amateur operators were deployed at CO9BNA at the Cuban weather service, Instituto de Meteorologia.

Isidore was moving at about 8 MPH to the west-northwest. Heavy rainfall of up to 30 inches and damaging surf conditions were forecast for the storm's path. Official advisories are available on the NHC Web site <<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>>.

Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, at W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center <<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>>, reported that W4EHW also commenced operations on September 19. W4EHW has HF stations on both 20 and 40 meters. W4EHW is collecting reports via APRS, e-mail and its on-line Hurricane Reporting Form.

The Hurricane Watch Net and W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center work hand-in-hand to gather and disseminate real-time, ground-level weather data and damage reports from Amateur Radio operators to assist forecasters. The HWN also functions as a backup communication link for the NHC, emergency operating centers and the National Weather Service.

==>AMATEURS AID IN ACID SPILL AFTERMATH

Dozens of Tennessee hams passed the acid test after a train derailed near Knoxville the morning of Sunday, September 15. The wreck of the Norfolk-Southern freight dumped more than 10,000 gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid, some of which leaked into Ft Loudoun Lake along the Tennessee River. The resulting vigorous thermal reaction generated a hazardous mist, prompting a massive evacuation. Two Amateur Radio emergency teams activated to assist responding agencies.

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ARRL Knox County Emergency Coordinator Greg Williams, K4HSM, says authorities ordered the evacuation of all residents--some 9000 households--within a 1.3-mile radius and recommended those within five miles also get out of the area.

Williams said the Middle East Tennessee Emergency Radio Service (METERS) was called up at 12:30 PM on the Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville repeater system. Nearby Blount County activated its ARES net as the potentially toxic cloud drifted south by the prevailing winds.

"There were several immediate concerns," Williams said. "One was a bike tour sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Society that had cyclists traveling near the affected area." Williams said hams assisting with the MS Bike Tour were alerted to the spill. Event personnel promptly called off the remainder of the tour, evacuated the few remaining cyclists and had paramedics check them for any symptoms.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross set up shelters to handle evacuees, and the emergency operations centers for Knox and Blount counties activated.

Williams said Amateur Radio assistance, although offered, was not immediately needed by the emergency services overseeing the situation. But the Red Cross requested ARES activation by mid-afternoon due to overloaded phone lines and a need to communicate with shelter workers. Amateur operators were deployed throughout the afternoon and into the evening to all shelters in Knox and Blount counties.

According to Williams, more than 50 amateurs checked into the METERS net over the course of the 10-hour activation, which drew praise from Red Cross officials. Williams reports that more than 50 amateurs checked into the METERS net during the activation.

==>REPEATER? REMOTE BASE? FCC ORDERS CALIFORNIA SYSTEM TO SHUT DOWN

The FCC has ordered a UHF Amateur Radio system in the Los Angeles area shut down until it either obtains coordination or comes up with an acceptable plan to prevent interfering with a coordinated repeater just 10 kHz away. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says the owner of the 447.250-MHz system on Mt Disappointment, Steven R. Decho, KE6FX, has complied with the FCC request, which was included in a September 4 Warning Notice.

"For over two years, your Mt Disappointment KE6FX station has been characterized by lack of control and identification problems," Hollingsworth wrote. "The real basis of this matter seems to be that you object to a recent change in spacing standards by the coordinator and do not wish to conform to them." The regional coordinator, the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association

(SCRRBA), has told the FCC that the coordination for KE6FX was abandoned.

The FCC considers the KE6FX station a repeater, while Decho, who resides in Draper, Utah, calls it "a remote base." As a remote base, he has claimed, KE6FX does not require coordination. But the FCC said Decho did submit outdated coordination documents in his response last year to FCC communications.

In either case, Hollingsworth again pointed out, the KE6FX system is causing interference to the coordinated WA6UZS repeater 10 kHz away. If it's a repeater, Hollingsworth explained, KE6FX is obliged to prevent interference to the WA6UZS repeater under §97.205 of the FC rules. If it's an auxiliary station or a remote base, "the fact remains that it interferes with the WA6UZS repeater," Hollingsworth said.

In previous communications with Decho going back about a year and a half, Hollingsworth among other things cited "reports of dead carriers that last for weeks, a tone that lasted continuously for three weeks, weekends of 2-meter rebroadcasts and a repeating CW identification that lasted for weeks." Over the July 4 holiday this summer, the system rebroadcast other repeater traffic and ignored attempts by WA6UZS repeater personnel to contact Decho, the FCC said.

In August 2001, the FCC said the KE6FX beacon identifier that activated without operational input, the rebroadcasting of other repeater traffic, dead carriers, continuous tones or repetitive CW identifiers "must cease immediately" and normal repeater traffic, if any, must not interfere with WA6UZS.

==>DIGITAL AFICIONADOS TURN OUT FOR 2002 ARRL/TAPR CONFERENCE

More than 100 of the most active Amateur Radio digital enthusiasts from around the world turned out in Denver, Colorado, September 13-15 for the 2002 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference. This year's event marked the 21st conference. Agenda topics ranged from APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) to high-speed digital networking and software-defined radio (SDR), among others.

Friday's forums were dominated by discussions of APRS. Topics included a discussion of single-wire APRS weather stations, high-altitude balloon tracking and recovery--presented by representatives from Edge of Space Sciences <<http://www.eoss.org/>>--APRS in the Sydney Olympics and the versatile Findu.com <<http://www.findu.com/>> on-line APRS database.

Saturday's sessions included forums on the prospect of using consumer wireless devices (popularly known as 802.11b or "Wi-Fi" devices) to create high-speed Amateur Radio digital networks. A forum on HF digital voice also drew considerable interest.

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One of Saturday's highlights was a demonstration of the new ICOM D-Star <[http://www.tapr.org/tapr/dv/DStar brochure.pdf](http://www.tapr.org/tapr/dv/DStar%20brochure.pdf)> digital radio system. At the heart of D-Star is the ID-1 transceiver, which ICOM had on display at the Dayton Hamvention last spring. The ID-1 operates on 1.2 GHz and can communicate using FM analog voice, digital voice and data. The transceiver can be programmed with a desktop or laptop computer, or it can be operated in a more conventional manner via a remote front panel. ICOM's Ray Novak, KC7JPA, said D-Star will be available in the US in November. (Click here for a sample of D-Star audio recorded at the conference.)

Bruce Perens, K6BP, <<http://perens.com/>> was the featured speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. His entertaining presentation stressed the notion that individuals, not just corporations, still can innovate and invent. Perens called for grassroots development of Amateur Radio software and hardware according to the Open Source model. He also encouraged the audience to become educators, because, he explained, "the future strength of Amateur Radio is in our value as technology teachers."

SDR was another hot topic at the conference, and the Sunday seminar was devoted exclusively to that subject. Projects such as GNU Radio <<http://www.gnu.org/software/gnuradio/gnuradio.html>> promise a day when amateur transceivers will achieve extraordinary levels of flexibility. Under the SDR paradigm, software, rather than the hardware, literally will "define" the way in which a radio operates.

Proceedings of the 21st ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference now are available for \$20 (plus shipping and handling) via the ARRL Web catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8756>>.

==>VINTAGE 1AW QSL BRINGS RECORD PRICE

We're not certain if ARRL co-founder and first president Hiram Percy Maxim would have been proud or surprised to know that one of his old 1AW QSLs apparently set a price record for the sale of a single QSL card. A 1923-vintage HPM 1AW card recently went for \$2125 on the eBay auction site <<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2131624991>>.

Neither the seller nor the buyer have been identified, but ARRL member Paul Cassel, VE3SY, of Petersburg, Ontario, Canada, acted as the sale agent and posted the card on the auction site. "The winning bidder is in California and is a very serious QSL collector," he said after the auction closed. Cassel pledged to donate half of his sale commission to the W1AW Endowment Fund <<http://www.arrl.org/endoww1aw.html>>.

The 1AW card appears to verify reception of 9CTR on a wavelength of 193 meters rather than a two-way contact. "You were calling another 9," Maxim wrote in the card's

"Remarks" section. Although the card proclaims "American Radio Relay League Station 1AW" across the top, the now-famous call sign was Maxim's own personal call sign at the time, not the League's, and Maxim operated from his home on Hartford.

Until the 1AW card sale, Cassel says the highest known price paid for a single QSL card was more than \$1100 for an AC4YN QSL from the Tibet DXpedition of Sir Evan Nepean, G5YN, who died last March at age 92.

==>ARRL CONTEST BRANCH ANNOUNCES REDESIGNED CERTIFICATES

The ARRL Contest Branch has released newly designed certificates for various ARRL-sponsored contests. The new certificate designs will be used for all contests starting with those issued to qualifying participants in the December 2001 ARRL 160-Meter Contest.

"They replace a design that has been in use by the ARRL for at least the past 20 years," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said of the new designs. He explains that part of the redesign involved reformatting the certificates from a "landscape" (horizontal) to a "portrait" (vertical) layout.

The ARRL November Sweepstakes certificate features an attractive red, white and blue design and incorporates the popular outline map of the US and Canada that has been appearing on Sweepstakes plaques.

Certificates for other HF events are highlighted by the "global" icon now found on the International DX Contest plaques.

The VHF/UHF/Microwave contest certificates incorporate a moonbounce dish antenna as a background motif.

While the criteria for winning an award vary among the various operating events, certificates normally go to the top-finishing station in each category from each ARRL/RAC section and DXCC entity.

"We are waiting for the new certificates to arrive back from the printer's," Henderson said. "As soon as we have them in hand, we will begin printing and mailing the backlog of certificates."

==>IN BRIEF:

*** ARRL Computer System Upgrade to Cause Some Disruptions:** A major computer system conversion at ARRL Headquarters will allow the League to better serve our members, but there will be some delays in service as we transition from the old system to the new one. Any membership applications, renewals or changes to membership records--such as address or call sign--that arrived after 5 PM

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EDT August 28 will not be processed until the new system is in operation next week. Club and examination information also will not be updated. In the meantime, all normal lookup features will remain available via the ARRL Web site, but the information will be as of 5 PM EDT on August 28. ARRL product and publication orders placed during the conversion period will be delayed by a few days. E-mail and FCC call sign lookup information will not be affected by the changeover. "Please bear with us as we work our way through the conversion," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO. "The staff is a little nervous about flipping the switch but excited about seeing all of the work and preparation that went into developing the new system turn into reality." ARRL anticipates that regular Web processing will resume by Friday, September 6--if not sooner. We apologize for any inconvenience during this transitional period. Further information on the changeover will be posted as it's available.

*** NASA names Whitson first ISS science officer:** NASA has named astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, as the first NASA International Space Station science officer. Whitson, who holds a doctorate in biochemistry from Rice University, became the ISS's first resident scientist when she arrived at the orbiting outpost June 7. "Dr. Peggy Whitson is an obvious choice for NASA's first ISS science officer," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said in making the announcement September 16. Before joining the astronaut corps, Whitson's NASA career included time spent as a researcher. She helped develop experiments to fly on the space shuttle, served as the project scientist for the Shuttle-Mir program and co-chaired the US-Russian mission science working group. The post of NASA ISS science officer is a new duty assignment that will be made for a NASA astronaut on each ISS crew increment. For now, NASA says, the science officer will focus on US research conducted aboard ISS. When she returns to Earth this fall, Whitson's science officer duties will continue for those experiments conducted during Expedition 5.--NASA news release

***ARRL DXCC Desk accredits 7O/OH2YY Yemen operation:** The ARRL DXCC Desk reports that it has received evidence that the Yemen operation by Pekka Ahlqvist, OH2YY, in May 2002 was conducted with written approval from the Yemeni government. "Credit for QSOs with 7O/OH2YY from May 4 through May 11, 2002, will be given effective immediately," said ARRL Century Club Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. Regarding the 7O1YGF operation, the DXCC Desk says it still has received no evidence traceable to the Yemeni government to accredit that operation for DXCC. "DXCC credit for this operation will be given only after such evidence has been presented to ARRL," Moore said.

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