
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

November 2002

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

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

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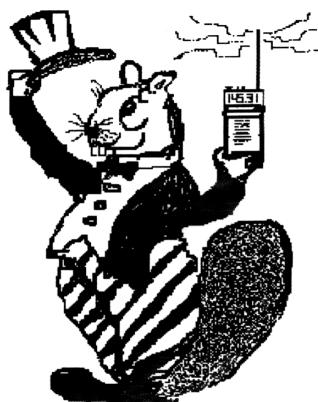
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petrucci/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Reid



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585
TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898
HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910
CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5
WPA PHONE & TFC NET...6:00 PM DAILY...3.983
PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM...3.610
E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255
EAN NET.....2:30 PM DAILY..7.243
RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31
B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER.....8:30 PM WED....145.31
B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER...9:00 PM WED...28.370
WPA TRAFFIC.....8:00 PM DAILY..146.88
QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

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

www.qsl.net/bvara

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: ke3ed@arrl.net, Packet: ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na, or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

Inside This Issue

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CLUB MEETING

The November B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held on Thursday the 14th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. Planning for the annual Christmas Party will be discussed as well as other potential projects for 2003.

2003 B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

The results are official. Our 2002 officers will continue on in their current capacity for another year. Congratulations and thank you to all those who agreed to carry on their responsibilities through 2003!

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

It is time again to start thinking of the annual B.V.A.R.A. Christmas Party. We have tentatively planned to meet, once again, at Hoss's Restaurant in Moon Twp on Thursday December 12th, 2002 at 7:00 PM. Debbie KB3EAQ promises "plenty of surprises" including presentation of our "Ham of the Year" award.

HAM OF THE YEAR

Who do you think proved to be "Ham of the Year" for 2002? Now is your chance to let us know. At the end of the of this newsletter you will find a ballot to fill out and send in. Each member is entitled to one vote. Please send your ballot(s) to Wes Morar's (N3ALS) attention at the club address of P.O.B. 424, South Heights, PA 15081. In the return address area of the envelope please list the callsign(s) of the members voting. So that we can have the award ready by our annual Christmas Party, your vote must be received by November 30th, 2002.

NEW PROJECT FOR 2003

Recently the B.V.A.R.A. was selected by Yaesu Communication to participate in a new repeater to repeater linking service via the internet. The equipment was provided free of charge and would enable us to link to other repeaters across the country for real time conversations. More detail and information will be available at the November club meeting and upcoming issues of The QRM.

PA QSO PARTY WRAP UP

Thanks to all who helped in anyway with our entry in the annual PA QSO Party. Special thanks go to Ron and Ellie Paine (K3OIW & KA3OSC) for the gracious use of their house for the weekend. A great time was had by all.

==>COSPONSOR LIST FOR CC&R BILL, HR 4720, CONTINUES TO GROW

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Four new cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. The latest additions make a total of nine new cosponsors in the past month alone. HR 4720 has been referred to the House Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee.

To date, 27 members of the US House of Representatives have agreed to cosponsor the measure. The list includes two amateurs--Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR. Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives.

Arkansas Section Manager Bob Ideker, WB5VUH, credits the Fort Smith Amateur Radio Club with influencing one of the most recent cosponsors--Arkansas Republican John Boozman--to sign onto the bill as a cosponsor. A third Arkansas congressman, Democrat Marion Berry, also is new to the list. "Three congressmen from Arkansas down, one to go!" exclaimed Ideker.

Other recent arrivals include representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Constance Morella (R-MD), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Michael McNulty (D-NY), and Neil Abercrombie (D-OH).

On Capitol Hill for a visit September 19, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said his meetings with members of Congress and their staff in general and with House Internet and Telecommunications Subcommittee members in particular were very favorable. "All my work on The Hill on HR 4720 was extremely encouraging," Haynie said. "I felt real good about it."

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720--the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

For more information, visit the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

==>HAM-CONGRESSMAN APPOINTED TO KEY HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden is one of two amateurs in the US House of Representatives, and his appointment to the key House panel is considered good news for the amateur community. Walden's appointment was announced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana.

"With his extensive background in broadcasting, Greg has a world of experience and expertise in telecommunications issues," Tauzin said. "His knowledge of the issues will help the Subcommittee address digital television, spectrum management, broadband deployment and other telecommunications matters."

For his part, Walden said he was elated to become a subcommittee member. "I intend to work diligently to help invigorate the economic engine in Oregon and across the country," he said. "I am anxious to roll up my sleeves for Chairman Tauzin and Chairman Upton and work hard under their very effective leadership." Walden, who represents Oregon's second congressional district, was elected to Congress in 1998.

Within the amateur community, he's best known as one of the original cosponsors--with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--of HR 4720. That's the bill pending in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas.

==>NIECES QUESTION "AUNT PEGGY" DURING ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT

Two of astronaut Peggy Whitson's young nieces were among the youngsters at St Mary's School in Martensdale, Iowa, who got to ask questions of their Aunt Peggy via Amateur Radio on September 19. Kelsey and Megan Whitson each got a chance to ask two questions apiece during the contact, arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

At one point, Megan Whitson asked her aunt if she would return to space again if she had the chance. "Yes, Megan, in a heartbeat. I would go again," came back the reply from Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, who--as part of the Expedition 5 ISS crew--has been in space since early June. Whitson said she's most looking forward upon her return to seeing her husband and taking a shower. The reply drew laughter from the youngsters at the kindergarten through grade 6 school.

Kelsey Whitson wanted to know how her aunt was going to get back to Earth. "Kelsey, I'm gonna come down on a shuttle in November, so I'll see you then," said Whitson, who that same week was named by NASA as the first International

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Space Station science officer. Whitson holds a doctorate in biochemistry from Rice University.

Another youngster, Michaela McIlravy, asked about doing laundry and bathing aboard the ISS. "Once our clothes smell bad, we throw them in the trash," Whitson said. Blasts from the onboard Amateur Radio packet system punctuated the contact and covered an occasional word.

Whitson saved what was perhaps her most eloquent reply for Dustin Loyd's question about what it was like to take a space walk.

"As much it is absolutely phenomenal to be on the space station, going outside was even more impressive," Whitson responded. "Being in the spacesuit is like being in your own little space ship, and it's just around you and your body, and being outside made me feel like I was flying over the Earth like a bird. It made me feel like I had wings."

The contact with St Mary's was handled via Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Hawaii. Two-way audio for the contact was provided courtesy of a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit.

Earlier in the month, Whitson completed a successful ARISS contact with students at Glen Waverley Secondary College in Melbourne, Australia. Despite the evening hour of the September 12 QSO, more than 130 people turned out for the occasion.

ARISS mentor Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, noted "a few antenna problems" in the hour before the contact, but Whitson managed to answer 13 questions put to her by the students. Their questions reflected concerns over the cost of the space program as well as curiosity about the physical effects of living in space and the prospects of space tourism.

"The event was well followed by Amateur Radio operators in several states of Australia," said Joe Magee VK3BKI, of the Eastern and Mountain Districts Radio Club, which assisted with the contact. "Many were listening to the downlink, and the contact was the major point of discussion on the Melbourne VHF/UHF repeaters for many hours after the event and the next day."

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

==>AMATEURS ASSIST IN ISIDORE RESPONSE

Amateurs in Mississippi rallied to help deal with the effects of former tropical storm Isidore, which came ashore September 26. According to Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Isidore dumped at least nine inches of rain on the state and caused power outages, tree damage and lowland flooding.

Keown said Louisiana, Mississippi and South Texas joined forces according to a previous agreement and, earlier this week, activated the West Gulf Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net (7285 kHz in the daytime and 3873 kHz at night) in preparation for the storm's arrival. The net remained in operation all week.

Jackson Metro Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU, organized an Amateur Radio Red Cross net, and all five Red Cross shelters in the area were equipped with ham radio communication and prepared to keep in touch with one another as well as with the Red Cross Emergency Operations Center in Jackson. "Red Cross officials were very excited about this" Keown said.

At week's end, the FCC rescinded a general communications emergency that had included Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. "Amateurs may resume using the frequencies 3873, 3965, 7247 and 7285 kHz (plus or minus 3 kHz)," said Joe Casey, deputy chief of the FCC Enforcement Bureau. "The Federal Communications Commission wishes to thank everyone for their cooperation and dedicated amateur service."

On September 25, Jackson County Civil Defense/Emergency Management Director Todd Adams, KD5POK, requested activation of the local ARES/RACES team to support the American Red Cross and Jackson County government agencies. Jackson County EC and RACES Officer Ira Groff, NN5AF, says the Jackson County Emergency Net was called up on a local VHF repeater, and 24 ARES/RACES members and 11 other operators checked in to provide support.

Meanwhile, Sheryl Mathieu, KB5ZIB, Groff, and his wife, Evelyn, KB5ZIA, staffed the emergency operations center in Pascagoula. "We were in direct communications with the National Hurricane Center in Miami and the National Weather Service in Slidell, Louisiana, on HF," Groff said. Thanks to the fact that Adams is a certified meteorologist, Groff added, the Mississippi amateurs were able to provide vital weather data to the NHC and the NWS.

The Red Cross opened four shelters in the county, and some 180 people took refuge during the emergency. Seven amateurs were deployed to support shelter communications, while two others maintained contact from at the American Red Cross building in Pascagoula, Groff said. The emergency activation wrapped up around 7:30 AM on September 26.

Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Nils Millergren, WA4NDA, reported this week that ARES members were activated in three counties and on standby in another. ARES members staffed both the EOC and two shelters in Okaloosa County and one shelter in Walton County. ARES was active in the EOC in Escambia County and remained on standby in Santa Rosa County.

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The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <<http://www.hwn.org>> and W4EHW <<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>> at the National Hurricane Center in Miami secured September 26 after eight hours effort in support of tropical storms Isidore and Lili, neither of which developed into hurricane status as had been predicted but did produce heavy rains and serious flood threats.

==>FORMER FCC OFFICIAL A. PROSE WALKER, W4BW, SK

Former FCC official A. Prose Walker, W4BW, the man some consider the godfather of the so-called "WARC bands"--30, 17 and 12 meters--died August 8 following a brief illness. He was 92. Word of his death reached ARRL Headquarters this month.

Walker, who headed the FCC Amateur and Citizens Division from 1971 until 1975, made the initial proposal for three new amateur allocations at 10,18 and 24 MHz during an International Amateur Radio Club (4U1ITU) meeting in Geneva in 1972. Later, he organized and chaired the US preparatory committee for the Amateur Service--the Advisory Committee of Amateur Radio--which took the initial steps to turn the idea into reality at the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference. The committee also included former ARRL General Manager Richard L. Baldwin, W1RU, who said this week that he was greatly saddened to learn of Walker's passing.

"One of my fondest memories of WARC 79 was the pleasure and the challenge of working with Prose in preparing for that conference," Baldwin said. "He was a stalwart supporter of the Amateur Service, and few amateurs realize how very much they owe to him."

Walker's most recent recognition came at Dayton Hamvention 2000, when he was recognized with a special achievement award, an honor his daughter, Helen Herman, said he coveted among many other more prestigious awards. The award recognized his work in obtaining the new amateur allocations more than two decades earlier.

An ARRL Life Member and a licensee since the 1920s, Walker was an enthusiastic amateur who remained quite active on the air until shortly before his death. Only a few months before he died, he bought a state-of-the-art transceiver and reveled in becoming acquainted with its many features. Walker's favorite operating mode was CW, and he was a frequent visitor on the bands he'd helped to create.

A native of Ohio, Walker's career took a number of turns, including a stint as a high school teacher, but his primary contributions were in the fields of communications and engineering. He did two tour with the FCC and also worked for the National Association of Broadcasters and Collins Radio Company.

During his career, Walker earned a global reputation for participation and leadership within the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He was the leading member of the US delegation at more than 20 international conferences.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, knew Walker and occasionally encountered him on the air. "The careers of some radio amateurs are so long and so rich that they bridge generations," Sumner said. "Prose was among these."

Walker retired to Florida, but after his wife Ellanie died in 1999, he moved to Rochester, New York, to be near his daughter, Helen. A memorial service will be held later this year.

==>W3ZZ, TO BECOME NEW "WORLD ABOVE 50 MHZ" EDITOR

A venerable QST institution is getting a new editor. Starting with the December issue, Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, will take over the reins of "The World Above 50 MHz" from Emil Pocock, W3EP, who has handled the column for the past 10 years.

"The VHF and above area has been an interest of mine since I was first licensed," says Zimmerman, a ham since 1956.

Among other accomplishments, Zimmerman has logged several national top-10 finishes in the ARRL November Sweepstakes (both modes) as well as a second-place North American finish in the CQ World Wide CW event (from VP2MDD). He's also bagged several national top-10 finishes in ARRL VHF parties and in the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes.

After his forays into HF DXing and contesting, Zimmerman returned to VHF in the early 1980s. Operating from his home in Maryland, he's progressed to a setup that covers 6 meters through 70 cm with full legal limit amps plus gear for 903 MHz through 10 GHz--"when it all works," he quips.

Even in "the world above 50 MHz," Zimmerman says he's more of a DXer than a tester. He holds VUCC on 50 through 1296 MHz with more than 800 grids confirmed on 6 meters alone and 250 on 2 meters. He's also a frequent participant on the VHF convention scene.

A Life Member of ARRL, Zimmerman has served on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, edited the VHF contesting column for CQ Contest magazine during its five-year lifespan and was director from 2000 until 2002 of the CQ VHF Contest.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, credited Pocock, the retiring editor, with popularizing VHF operating for the non-VHF community. "Emil used his column as a forum to encourage interest among beginners," Ford said. He also

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broadened the column's scope to embrace activities not often described in the amateur press and described propagation phenomena in a way that all hams could understand, he added.

==>NEWEST ARRL HANDBOOK EDITION SPORTS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NAME

Sharp-eyed QST readers will notice a slight difference in the title on the cover of the 80th edition of The ARRL Handbook. The 2003 edition of the famous reference book, dubbed "the most respected communications resource for hams, engineers and technicians since 1926," is advertised for the first time on page 7 of the October issue of QST and is now available for ordering. Starting with the 2003 edition, it's now officially called The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications.

"The name change from The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs epitomizes the Handbook's known appeal in non-amateur circles," says ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "The book remains largely written by radio amateurs for radio amateurs."

Inderbitzen notes that for many years, the Handbook has enjoyed broad appeal among electronic technicians and engineers, instructors and students, and even government and private researchers, whether or not they also happened to be Amateur Radio licensees. "We hope the small name change will make it easier for users in our non-traditional markets to locate this excellent ARRL resource," Inderbitzen said.

The cover of the 2003 Handbook sports a photograph of the high-power, automatic "EZ-Tuner" project by Jim Garland, W8ZR. The project, which also won the QST Cover Plaque Award for the April 2002 issue, is among those included in the 2003 edition.

Among other things, the 2003 edition of the Handbook includes updated and comprehensive chapters on modulation sources—including digital voice—and on digital signal processing (DSP) technology. Other changes include a revised chapter on safety practices.

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (2003) now is available for ordering via the ARRL Web catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>>. The softcover edition <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1921>> is \$34.95; the hardcover edition <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1948>> is \$49.95 and available in limited supply. Orders are expected to ship in mid-October.

The Handbook CD for Radio Communications (2003) Version 7.0 <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1956>> is \$39.95 and includes the entire 2003 edition of The ARRL Handbook as a fully searchable, easy-to-use CD-ROM. It will ship in November.

==>A DIMINISHED HURRICANE LILI COMES ASHORE IN LOUISIANA

Hurricane Lili made landfall October 3 on the western edge of Vermillion Bay, Louisiana. A Category 2 storm packing winds of around 90 MPH with higher gusts, Lili was the first hurricane to hit the US since Hurricane Irene in 1999. Lili soon was downgraded to a tropical depression, but not before pounding the state with heavy rain and high winds and leaving thousands without power.

At week's end, an FCC-declared communications emergency remained in effect for Louisiana and Texas. The declaration requires amateurs to refrain from using 7285 kHz (daytime) and 3873 kHz (nighttime), plus or minus 3 kHz, unless they are taking part in the handling of emergency traffic. The FCC declaration supports operation of the West Gulf Emergency Net. It remains in effect until rescinded.

"A number of Red Cross and other types of shelters have been opened across Louisiana, including Shreveport, Monroe, and Ruston in the northern part of the state," ARRL Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, reported not long after the storm struck. "Lots of Louisiana stations are checking in on the HF emergency nets with weather reports and information on shelters." Cox said operators from the Ozone Amateur Radio Club, W5SLA, were staffing the National Weather Service in Slidell and have been active on the HF emergency nets.

According to Cox, ARES activated in Calcasieu Parish, in the southwestern corner of the state. In addition, he said, Ouachita Parish ARES deployed hams to the Office of Emergency Preparedness in W Monroe as well as to a Red Cross shelter in Monroe, where other operators plan to handle health-and-welfare traffic.

South Texas SM Ray Taylor, N5NAV, said a daytime HF net would likely be kept going until the Baptist Men's Kitchen gets situated and has telephone service operational. Hams also began handling health-and-welfare traffic (on 7.285 MHz) when not supporting relief agencies there. "We were very fortunate that Lili lost strength before making landfall," Taylor said. "There was a lot of damage, but it could have been worse."

The Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org>> officially reopened on 14.325 MHz shortly before the storm hit the coast, and shut down about eight hours later. "Lots of data was collected during and after the storm made landfall," said Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, who's filling in this week for HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP.

Graves also noted that the hurricane season still has another couple of months to go. "Even though this is the first of October, we better not let down our guard as the hurricane season continues until November 30," he said.

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Operators at W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center <<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>> in Miami also were active and cooperated with the HWN effort. "With this storm we established another milestone in W4EHW's history," said W4EHW Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY. "Using the Palmetto Radio Club repeater that was connected to similar repeaters in Louisiana via IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Protocol), we were able to collect weather reports from stations in the affected area that do not have HF radios."

By week's end, Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) ham operators dropped back to an SA Level I alert.

==>ARRL ANNOUNCES DIAMOND CLUB DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The ARRL has introduced The Diamond Club as a way to increase member involvement, support the League and offer valuable membership benefits above and beyond those already available. The program was approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July meeting and introduced this month.

"This is a donor recognition program, to acknowledge member loyalty," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "We're excited to be able to thank our members in ways we've never been able to do previously and, at the same time, to raise critical additional resources to sustain ARRL in the future."

Hobart said the program has a first-year goal of \$150,000 "to support those ARRL-sponsored programs amateurs enjoy." She compared the program to those already offered by other non-profit organizations across the US.

"We did a membership sample survey in 2001 to gauge interest in specific benefits and types of benefits," Hobart explained. "The Diamond Club program was crafted to be consistent with the results of that survey."

Recognition for increased annual support in The Diamond Club includes all current ARRL membership benefits plus pins and certificates at every membership level plus special Diamond Club car window decals, publication discounts, new QST delivery options and donor recognition opportunities. "You select the contribution level that fits your budget, and ARRL will do the rest," Hobart said.

Members of The Diamond Club can start out small--with an annual contribution as little as \$75 a year (\$50 a year for ARRL Life Members)--or large, with a yearly gift of \$5000 or more. In addition to a subscription to QST, access to members-only pages on the ARRL Web site, and other member benefits, Diamond Club donors at the introductory level will receive a Diamond Club pin, a personalized Diamond Club certificate and two Diamond Club vehicle window decals.

The Diamond Club offers additional benefits for larger contributions at the Brass, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Director levels. For instance, at the Platinum level--available for contributions of from \$2500 to \$4999 annually--members also will receive 10 percent off direct ARRL publications purchases, first-class delivery of QST, unlimited free use of DXCC, Outgoing QSL Service and awards, an invitation to all ARRL donor recognition events and an annual voluntary listing in the ARRL Annual Report and on the ARRL Web site.

Donations to the ARRL Diamond Club are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are not refundable. Hobart emphasized that The Diamond Club contributions are annual. Details on The Diamond Club are spelled out on the ARRL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/diamondclub/>>

=>WHITSON WOWS 'EM FROM CANADA TO CALIFORNIA

Continuing a successful string of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts, US astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, during the past week answered questions from youngsters in northern Canada to southern California. At the controls of NA1SS on September 27, Whitson spoke with youngsters at Joamie Iuniarvik, a kindergarten through grade 5 school in Iqaluit, the capital of Canada's newest territory, Nunavut. She followed up October 2 by answering questions posed by youngsters at St Mark's Lutheran School in Hacienda Heights, California.

The Joamie youngsters spoke to Whitson via a teleconferencing circuit that included ARISS veteran Earth station operator Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa. Whitson told the Joamie pupils that working in a zero-gravity environment makes doing a lot of things easier than on Earth. But if you need to apply some force, she said, "it's difficult to find the appropriate foothold to hold yourself into place."

Another youngster asked about meteor showers. "From here, we can actually see some of the meteors as they enter Earth's atmosphere," Whitson said, "and we hope to not run into any of them at all." Whitson also explained that velocity is what keeps the ISS in space but about every three months the crew needs to do an orbital boost. "The ISS travels at 17,500 MPH," Whitson said. "That's what keeps us in orbit."

Whitson expounded on the importance of space exploration. "The human species will always be exploring new frontiers," she said, "and I think it's important that we go to space for lots of different reasons, some on a more practical level--for the science and technology that we learn—but mostly I think it is most important to go into space to continue exploration."

Sharing the experience with the Iqaluit students were youngsters at a school in Ottawa, Ontario. The two schools were connected via a two-way videoconferencing link. "The event proved to be a huge success both in Iqaluit and Ottawa,"

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said ARISS mentor Steve McFarlane, VE3TBD. A total of 800 people--including news media representatives and various dignitaries--were in attendance at both schools. McFarlane initially approached the Nunavut school at random because he wanted more isolated communities involved in the ARISS program.

Whitson told students at St Mark's Lutheran School in Hacienda Heights, California, on October 2 that the most challenging thing she had to do in preparation for her space flight was to learn how to speak Russian. The ISS crew consists of American and Russian members.

"It's not one of my skills, and so learning Russian was very difficult for me," Whitson said. "It made learning about guidance and navigation seem easy." Her biggest thrill was being able to go on a space walk and enjoying the experience of "flying like a bird." Being in the spacesuit for a space walk "is just like being in our own space capsule," she said.

Being able to do her scientific experiments aboard the ISS was the most worthwhile of her activities during her tour of duty as part of the Expedition 5 crew. Developing better superconductor and zeolite crystals are some of the more beneficial pieces of research, she said. The lack of gravity on the ISS is one of the advantages that contribute to scientific research.

In response to a question about what she missed on Earth in addition to her family and friends, Whitson replied "food!" She told the students that she's "tired of eating out of cans" and having to rehydrate all her food.

Two dozen St Mark's students took part in the ARISS QSO. Principal Barbara Clark said the students' questions evolved from a schoolwide competition to select the best questions from each grade level. Whitson was impressed. "I think they did an excellent job," she said. "These were some of the best questions I've had and actually got more to the point of asking what it really feels like to be here." Located approximately 80 miles east of Los Angeles, St Mark's has an enrollment of some 800 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The St Mark's contact was handled via ARISS Earth station veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, in Australia. Audio for both the Joamie and St Mark's QSOs was handled via a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit.

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

=>ARRL SURVEYING MEMBERSHIP ON FUTURE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE PREFERENCES

The ARRL is surveying its membership regarding which future on-line ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) courses hams would be most likely to take. The list of possibilities ranges from antennas to VHF and UHF

operation. The Web-based survey <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/cce/ccesurv.html>> is now open for input. The survey period will end October 27.

"The C-CE program has been very successful," said C-CE Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, who notes that thousands of hams have registered for ARRL's on-line classes since the C-CE program began in late 2000. The C-CE program's first offering--selected as a result of membership input--was the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001). The League now offers three levels in emergency communications and expanded course offerings to include Antenna Modeling, HF Digital Communication and Satellite Communication.

"Our plans are to make several additional courses available in 2003," Robins said. "The survey results will guide the C-CE program in providing courses of demonstrated interest to ARRL members."

Members will be asked to rank the various possibilities in terms of the likelihood that they would take the course if it were offered. The list includes Antennas 101, Basic Electronics, Trouble Shooting, Test Equipment, Radio Propagation, VHF and UHF Beyond the Repeater and Contesting 101.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, hrobins@arrl.org.

==>TIMOFEEV ELECTED TO HEAD ITU RADIOCOMMUNICATION BUREAU

Valery Timofeev has been elected director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Bureau. Timofeev, who is Russia's deputy minister for communications and informatization, has extensive experience in radio frequency spectrum management at both the national and international levels.

Timofeev replaces Robert Jones, ex-VE3CTM, now VE7RWJ. Jones has served two four-year terms and could not run again. Timofeev's election means that for the first time in at least three decades, an Amateur Radio licensee will not head the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. The election took place during the 16th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference now under way in Marrakesh, Morocco.

A former ITU staff member, Timofeev promised to dedicate himself to serving the needs of the ITU "at this very important time in the history of radiocommunications." He noted the very difficult and complex tasks facing the bureau, including the issue of satellite filings. He told the delegates that "building the future information society can't be done without effective radiocommunication and broadcasting."

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More information on Timofeev is available on the ITU Web site <http://www.itu.int/newsroom/pp02/media_information/cv_timofeev.html>.

A day earlier, ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi and Deputy Secretary-General Roberto Blois were re-elected for second terms. Also this week, Houlin Zhao of China and Hamadoun Touré of Mali were elected for second terms as directors of the ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau, respectively.

For the first time, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has observer status at an ITU "Plenipot." IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, represented the organization in Marrakesh from September 23 until September 30. IARU Region 2 Executive Committee member Tim Ellam, VE6SH, now is participating on behalf of the IARU. ARRL Technical Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, is a member of the US delegation to this global conference.

IARU earned observer status during the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Minneapolis. Observer status gives the IARU an opportunity to network with delegates of member-states to support the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide allocation at 7 MHz. As ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, explains, although the 40-meter issue is not on the Plenipot's agenda, many of the people attending also will go to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 preparatory meeting this year and to WRC-03 itself next year.

Amateur Radio special event station CN8UIT is on the air from the convention site with Roberto Cabanillas, LU3HAK, as one of the primary operators. Ellam says CN8UIT has been active mostly on 10 and 15 meters. QSL via CN8MC.

The Plenipot concludes October 18.

==FCC RESCINDS 146.52 MHz ADVISORY NOTICES

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told five amateurs in Ohio and Michigan to disregard his earlier admonitions to avoid lengthy QSOs on 146.52 MHz. That's the generally recognized national simplex calling frequency and is endorsed as such by the ARRL's 2-meter band plan. Acknowledging, however, that some confusion exists within the amateur community as to whether 146.52 is a national calling channel or just another simplex frequency, Hollingsworth decided to simply rescind the five advisory notices he'd sent October 15.

"We made an error in issuing that Advisory Notice, and you may disregard it," Hollingsworth wrote October 23 in letters to the affected amateurs. Commenting to ARRL, Hollingsworth was blunt yet good-natured. "I goofed," he said. "If I were worried about making a fool of myself from

time to time, I never would have become a lawyer in the first place."

Amateurs commenting to the FCC and on various newsgroups reportedly were bewildered by the FCC advisory notices. An ARRL error apparently contributed to the confusion. Hollingsworth did not find 146.52 MHz singled out as the national simplex calling frequency in his edition of The ARRL's FCC Rule Book (12th edition, 1st printing). The designation does appear in subsequent printings of the Rule Book, however, as well as in recent editions of The ARRL Operating Manual and The ARRL Repeater Directory 2002/2003.

Hollingsworth says that operation that does not comply with a generally accepted band plan such as ARRL's is not illegal. He points out, however, that band plans--to the extent that they're followed--do help to keep down friction among various users and make his job a lot easier.

"I don't consider it a big deal. I was just trying to raise awareness," he said, adding that the FCC has no intention of making band plan compliance mandatory.

Hollingsworth told ARRL this week that he had initially written four amateurs in Ohio and one in Michigan on the basis of complaints about lengthy contacts on 146.52 MHz in late September and early October. Those QSOs, he said, averaged 45 minutes and in some cases lasted up to an hour. Two of the amateurs who had received the October 15 advisories already have contacted Hollingsworth and agreed to cooperate with the original requests, now rescinded.

"In an ideal world, stations making initial contact on 146.52 MHz probably should move off to another accepted simplex channel to continue their conversation," Hollingsworth said. "The main thing is, we're all in this together, and the goal is to make Amateur Radio last 1000 years."

All ARRL band plans are available on the ARRL Web site

==PEGGY WHITSON HELPS NETHERLANDS' SCOUTS CELEBRATE JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

US Astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, made Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) a very special occasion this year for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in The Netherlands. One of the International Space Station's Expedition 5 crew members and the only woman, Whitson on October 20 answered questions posed by the scouts via Amateur Radio. The direct, 2-meter contact with PA3HGQ was arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

"The scouts were very impressed by the quality of the radio link and delighted to have an astronaut joining the Jamboree On The Air right from the International Space Station," said ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF. On hand for the official opening of the JOTA in The Netherlands was

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Dutch astronaut Andre Kuipers, who congratulated the Ascanen scouting group of Lelystad for their ARISS QSO with Whitson.

More than 100 scout groups from all over The Netherlands listened in on the downlink while Whitson answered about a dozen questions. At the contact site, parents and friends of the 20 youngsters selected to take part assisted with the space chat, and local radio and TV stations covered the event.

Several of the questions the Dutch youngsters asked mirrored those often put to crew members by their American counterparts. One Scout asked about how the ISS crew prepared its meals. Whitson explained that meals in space are pre-cooked and stowed in foil packages or cans. "It's just a matter of warming it up or adding water," she said.

Whitson told another questioner that the crew can see weather from space. "It's beautiful up here," she said, noting that the crew can recognize such systems as hurricanes. "At night, we can even see thunderstorms," she added. Whitson said the crew can see the aurora borealis (northern lights) too. "They're beautiful from here!" she declared.

Bertels said the NAISS downlink also was monitored at Flanders Expo in Ghent, Belgium, where a science exhibition for youth drew a big audience. At a booth set up by the Royal Belgian Amateur Radio Union (UBA) and devoted primarily to ARISS, visitors--mostly youngsters, parents and teachers--followed the pass of the ISS on a screen showing the world map.

"The UBA also was very pleased to use this opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio at its best to the public visiting a popular scientific and technological event," Bertels remarked. He said many amateur stations all over Western Europe tuned into the downlink and reported excellent copy.

ARISS is an international project with US participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.--Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, provided information, photographs and audio-video for this report

==>IN BRIEF:

* **Correction/clarification:** The correct link to the ICOM Digital Voice system Web site mentioned in the article "Digital Aficionados Turn Out for 2002 ARRL/TAPR Conference" in The ARRL Letter, Vol 21, No 37, should be <http://www.tapr.org/tapr/dv/DStar%20brochure.pdf>>. The audio sample file mentioned is available on the ARRL Web site<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/09/16/1/audio.m3u>>.

* **Job opening at ARRL Laboratory:** The ARRL Laboratory has a job opening for an RFI/EMC specialist. The successful candidate will work at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on a variety of technical projects and programs

relating to radio-frequency interference and its effect on the Amateur Radio Service. An Amateur Radio license and experience is required for this position. This job is a unique opportunity to work with ARRL members, the FCC, industry groups and standards organizations to make a real difference in this critical area for Amateur Radio. Some additional duties of this position are: Works with amateurs to find solutions to RFI problems; maintains and improves ARRL's RFI information; writes articles, book material and papers about RFI; and develops and maintains a database for tracking and documenting RFI problems. Send a resume and salary expectations to Bob Boucher, Personnel Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Resumes may be sent via e-mail to rboucher@arrl.org. No telephone calls, please. ARRL is an equal opportunity employer.

*** ARRL requesting JOTA activity registration:** Scouting's annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) takes place Saturday October 19 through Sunday October 20 (local time and always the third weekend of October). For the first time, ARRL is requesting that any club or individual planning to be active during the 2002 JOTA activity register on the "Youth Skeds" page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/youthskeds/>. (Set the expiration for the day after JOTA, October 21.) The idea is to provide a database of scheduled JOTA activity in advance of the event to help more scouting groups to participate in JOTA 2002. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and Venture Scouts soon will take to the airwaves in an effort to communicate with each other via Amateur Radio. As many as 400,000 Scouts, scouters and other youth have participated in JOTA in the past, and it's become the world's largest scouting event! JOTA provides another way to expose youth to Amateur Radio by showing them a great time as well as helping them to meet new friends, share stories of past scout experiences, and, ultimately, to light the spark that inspires them to pursue their own Amateur Radio licenses. For more information, visit the JOTA page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>.

*** ARRL International DX Contest phone results now available:** The ARRL has posted the results of the 2002 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) event, held last March 2-3. The results are now on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/>. Some of the information--such as an Adobe PDF document of the QST contest article and the search database--is accessible only by ARRL members, nonmembers are able to access the online Soapbox. The QST contest article will be available to all in about one month.

*** Argentina to get 136-kHz band:** Radio Club Argentino <http://www.lu4aa.org> President Roberto Beviglia, LU4BR, reports that Argentinian amateurs will be the next to gain access to the 136-kHz LF band. As a result of a rule proposal the club made to federal officials, he reports, a portion of the 136-kHz band has been allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis in Argentina. The segment 135.7 to 137.8

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kHz will be coordinated by the Radio Club Argentino until it is finally assigned on a primary basis within a year.

*** Western States Weak Signal Society schedules VHF/UHF conference:** The Western States Weak Signal Society will host a VHF/UHF conference October 12 at the Cerritos Sheraton, 12725 Center Court Drive, Cerritos, California. Activities will include demonstrations of weak-signal operating on Friday, Oct 11, as well as a swap event on Sunday, Oct 13. The Saturday evening banquet will feature ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, a long-time VHF/UHF enthusiast. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, also is scheduled to be on hand. More information and a registration form are available on the Western States Weak Signal Society Web site <http://www.wswss.org>. Proceedings will be available via the ARRL online catalog for \$20. Order Item 8748.

*** Correction:** The story "Amateurs Assist in Isidore Response" in The ARRL Letter, Vol 21, No 38 (Sep 27, 2002) should have said that the Amateur Radio Red Cross Net for the first time enabled all five Red Cross chapters on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to keep in touch with each other as well as with the Red Cross Emergency Operations Center in Jackson, which had only one shelter.--Ben Jones, AC5SU

*** ARRL VEC welcomes Perry Green, WY1O:** ARRL Headquarters on September 20 welcomed Perry Green, WY1O, to the staff of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Green will serve as assistant to ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a position vacated by the retirement of Wayne Irwin, W1KI. A Connecticut native, he has lived for the last 25 years in Winsted. Green says that as a child living in the greater Hartford area, he often passed the "unusual little brick building"--W1AW. "Now to be working here is a thrill," he said. Green became interested in Amateur Radio in the early 1960s but didn't get licensed until the 1980s after some ham radio friends at work invited him to a club meeting. Not long afterwards, he took the club's course and successfully passed his Novice exam to become KA1VFK. "The nurturing provided by the ham club motivated me to attain the Extra-class license and to become a volunteer examiner," he said. Green serves as president of the Wireless Operators of Winsted, and the CQ Club. He also is active in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and involved in local community organizations and projects. Green comes to ARRL after 23 years at Waring Products Div of DCA, where he worked in inventory control and shipping. He also enjoys motorcycling, photography, genealogy and computers. Welcome aboard, Perry!

*** Monitors needed to track burrowing owl migration:** For the fifth year in a row, volunteer monitors are needed to help determine the routes and winter destinations of the threatened burrowing owl. In past years, Amateur Radio operators have listened for tracking transmitters attached to the owls, which, as their name suggests, live in burrows in the ground rather than in trees. These efforts have helped scientists determine

that owls hatching during summer months in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta travel over the central states from North Dakota to Oklahoma and end up in southeastern Texas and northern Mexico. "They sometimes fly over 2000 miles to their winter homes," says ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV. This fall the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona is asking hams to help track 53 transmitter-equipped owls from eastern Washington. "If you live in the western USA and can receive 150-MHz signals, you could help," Moell says. "Your scanner or extended-range hand-held Amateur Radio transceiver plus an outside antenna are all you need to join in. If you have radio-direction finding equipment for VHF, so much the better." Moell's "Homing In" Web site <<http://www.homingin.com>> has more information on this monitoring project, including frequencies and equipment and antenna suggestions. The site also tells how to join the BIOTRACKERS mailing list for the latest updates and discussions of wildlife-tracking topics.

*** ARRL to sponsor legal seminar at Pacificon:** The ARRL will sponsor a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar in conjunction with Pacificon--the ARRL 2002 Pacific Division Convention. Pacificon takes place October 18-20. The seminar is designed for practicing attorneys who also serve as ARRL volunteer counsel, but it also is open to the general public. The seminar will cover recent developments affecting regulation of the Amateur Radio Service, including antennas, RFI, international regulation and licensing and possible future developments. This interesting and informative seminar will be held Friday, October 18, 2002, 9 AM until 1 PM, in the Sun Valley Room of the Airport Sheraton Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA 94527. Instructors will be

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ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and longtime ARRL Volunteer Counsel Phil Kane, K2ASP. Attending attorneys who pay the necessary fee will be eligible for approximately four units of CLE credit. To insure adequate seating, notify John Hennessee, N1KB, at ARRL HQ (n1kb@arrl.org; 860-594-0236; fax 860-594-0259) that you plan to attend. The cost for attorneys wishing CLE credit is \$50. For all others, the seminar fee is \$10 for ARRL members and \$15 for non-members, payable before the seminar begins. The fee does not include admission to Pacificon. Required course material is the ARRL book Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur, available for \$49.95 via the ARRL on-line catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8217>>. For more information about Pacificon, visit the Pacificon 2002 Web site <<http://www.pacificon.org/>>.

*** P5/4L4FN postpones plans to work teen hams:** Because of poor propagation, Ed Giorgadze, P5/4L4FN, in North Korea has put off plans to work operators aged 16 or younger on October 5. "I was just informed by Ed that he has absolutely no propagation stateside--or just about anywhere else--on 10 meters," said Bruce Paige, KK5DO, the P5/4L4FN QSL manager. "Sorry about that, but we have no control over radio propagation." Paige says P5/4L4FN will reschedule the event until later this month or sometime in November. Giorgadze logged his 15,000th P5/4L4FN QSO on September 22. For more information, visit the Houston AMSAT Net Web site <<http://www.amsatnet.com>> and click on "P5 North Korea."

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