

Empire Slow Speed
Net
Founded 1955 by
K2DYB

Daily
6 PM Local Time
3576 kHz

The ESS Bulletin

Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net
November 2010



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Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
K2ABX	WA2YOW	WE2G	W2RBA	WB2GTG	KB2ETO	WI2G

OCTOBER ROSTER

AA2JI	Duane	Rushford	1	W2PL	Phil	Lawrenceville	3
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	20	W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	28
K2ABX	Paul	Apalachin	26	WA2WMJ	J. B.	Pine Bush	25
K2DYB	Nat	Verona	26	WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	7
K2MMW	Bill	Milford	6	WB2YOR	Tom	Clifton Park	13
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	22	WE2G	Tom	Hudson	28
K2TV	Bob	Copague	4	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K4LV	Rich	Marcy	18	K1PJS	Pete	Concord NH	10
KA2OQB	Dan	Whitesboro	1	N1JX	Arnold	Roseland NJ	30
KB2ETO	Bill	Dryden	20	N1OTC	Jack	South Carver MA	1
KC2HTP	John	Bainbridge	9	W1LUH	Joe	Stamford CT	25
KT2D	Bob	Latham	13	AA2SV	Willie	Brick NJ	18
N2QZ	Nick	Carmel	1	W2EAG	Mark	New Bern NC	14
N2UC	John	Holland Patent	26	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	24
N2YHQ	Marcelo	Penfield	5	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	1
W2CS	Gary	North Chatham	2	WA3JXW	Dudley	Temple PA	4
W2MTA	Bill	Newark Valley	12	KA8WNO	Jack	Coalton WV	5

October Totals: QNI 466, per session 15.0 (Sep 15.0); QSP 83, per session 2.7 (Sep 2.6). A pretty good month, especially on attendance; however, it would be great to see more traffic (six goose-egg sessions--three in a row!--in the basket this month). That being said, though, the efforts of WB2GTG, K2NPN, N2UC and others to keep us all from dying of boredom are deeply appreciated. Congratulations to K2TV on two fronts--for earning an ESS net certificate (despite Bob's periodic forays south to visit family) and as recipient of the W4SUS Award from the venerable Hit & Bounce Net; tnx to WB2GTG for info. I remember Larry (a first-class traffic man, with a fantastic fist) well from my HBN days, and am delighted that the net is keeping his memory alive in this way. Many thanks for ten years of dedicated service to W2LC, W2MTA's successor; Scott is stepping down as WNY SM effective November 1st. Until a replacement is chosen, WNY monthly station-activity and net reports go to AK2Z. On a different note, if you're NCS and unclaimed traffic is listed please don't keep it a secret; a station may QNI, after the traffic is originally listed, who can help. On NYS/L recently there was a book of six listed for NLI, leftovers from 7 pm. Things were looking pretty bleak when W2XS, in Northport, happened to hear my incessant nagging and generously stepped into the breach. With the holiday season approaching, occasionally an NCS may be AWOL unexpectedly; if you're thinking about running a session, pick it up after 6:02! **Birthdays:** November--N2SKP 4, N2YHQ 5 and K2UL 22. December--N2DMZ (93 years young) 1, N2GJ 7, WA2IAX 10 and WA2WMJ 29. Additions/corrections to Suzi Sunshine, who hasn't had occasion to update the birthday list (except, sadly, to denote Silent Keys) in ages.

Working the International Space Station NA1SS/RS0ISS
by Bob Myers, K2TV (at right)
from the September 2010 Great South Bay ARC Compass



Recently there has been lots of activity from the International Space Station on both FM phone and packet. Col. Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC has been recently active on the air on FM phone in his spare time. When he is not on the radio, he puts the radio in the packet mode on 145.525 MHz simplex. To be able to contact the space station you must first know when it is coming over your area. On the internet you can check <http://www.amsat.org> to see the passes for your area. There are also several computer programs available allowing you to track the spacecraft on your own computer. Obitron is my personal favorite and is available through several sources free of charge on the internet. If you Google "Obitron satellite tracking" on the internet, you can find several sites that have it for download. Once you have it installed on your computer, you will be able to track it along with other satellites. An ordinary FM transceiver should work well using a power of 5 to 50 watts into a vertical antenna. Even a hand-held radio would work if there aren't too many stations calling; just remember to hold the handheld radio whip horizontal instead of vertical. Of course a yagi pointed at the spacecraft antenna will perform better, but is not necessary. Most passes the signal is fairly good and you may need to back off your squelch, but rarely is it necessary to completely un-squelch the radio. If you do not hear the station on the voice frequency, check the packet frequency for packet bursts. They either run voice or packet, never both. If you hear nothing on either frequency the ISS radio may be turned off because of a space walk or docking. The frequencies for the FM phone contacts with the ISS are 145.800 MHz downlink and 144.490 MHz uplink. That is, you listen on 145.800 MHz and transmit on 144.490 MHz. Sometimes due to the Doppler effect there will be a shift in frequency when the spacecraft is coming towards you and another when it is going away from you. This is really pronounced when the pass is directly overhead. See the chart below for the corrections you should program into your radio if this proves to be a problem. Otherwise programming 145.800 MHz receive and 144.490 MHz transmit should work most times. The pass times for the ISS are short and the operator is trying to make as many contacts as possible in the short time available. Once you make a contact, move on. If you have packet available for your VHF radio, you would use 145.525 MHz simplex. The TNC in the space station allows APRS, PBBS and keyboard-to-keyboard connections. The call for the PBBS is RS0ISS-11 and keyboard and APRS digi communications use RS0ISS-4. When connecting to RS0ISS-11 the BBS commands are slightly different than the usual PBBS commands. For instance to send a message the command is W instead of S. So to send a message to everyone it would be "W ALL." You have to type fast because the passes are very short in length. Messages should be kept very short, sometimes just a greeting in the subject line. End messages with "/EX."

Here are the *phone* frequencies to program into your radio: 145.805 rx and 144.495 MHz tx--Doppler frequency with ISS coming towards you. 145.800 rx and 144.490 tx--Center frequency when ISS is overhead. 145.795 rx and 144.485 tx--Doppler frequency with ISS going away.

Here are the *packet* frequencies to program into your radio: 145.830 MHz tx/rx (Doppler frequency with ISS approaching), 145.825 MHz tx/rx (center frequency) and 145.820 MHz tx/rx (Doppler frequency with ISS going away). Experiment with the three frequencies to see how it works as sometimes just using the center frequency works fine.

Additional information can be obtained at <http://www.arrl.org> and <http://www.nasa.gov>. QSL cards may be sent to the ARRL, ISS QSO, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111. They will respond with a beautiful card.

Happy Thanksgiving and 73/88 de Anne WI2G