



The Repeater The Repeater



The Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a nice turnout for the Hot Dog & Corn Roast! It was nice to see our members show up at the event. As always, the food was delicious, and the conversation and camaraderie were great. Thanks to Tas & Doris for again hosting this event at their place.

The presentation for September will be John, K8AZT, on the large scale 2009 Field Day of K0GQ - Raytown Amateur Radio Club in Missouri. John will set up a SKYPE session with the photographer of the K0GQ Field Day, who will narrate his work via the internet.

November 7th is our annual special event station, commemorating the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. This event is held in conjunction with the N8F and K8F special event stations at Whitefish Point, put on by the Stu Rockafellow Club. Our Special Events Coordinator, Bruno, WA8DHP, has the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle reserved for us once again to set up and operate from 1500 UTC to 2000UTC. Why not stop by and help us set up or operate. And Dossin is a great museum to walk through on operator breaks. The terrain map of the great lakes is particularly fascinating.

November also brings the annual LARC Night Out - our annual club dinner. This will take place on either November 14th or 21st. Last year's venue, The Atlantis, has closed, but we have several places in mind. So mark the dates and QRX for details.

Summer is winding down, and soon we can put away the lawn tools and start listening for openings on the low bands (160, 80, 40 and 30 Meters). Summertime brings about thunderstorms, which produce lots of static. As we in the northern hemisphere see fewer storms, we will start hearing more of the weaker signals on the air, especially those in the southern hemisphere. And as we move closer to winter (a time in which we experience the least number of thunderstorms), countries south of the equator are starting to get more of their summer storms, at which time, they will have a harder time hearing us. The two annual equinoxes (the period when the sun is at the equator—during March and September) are considered the best time for trans-equatorial DXing on low bands. Give it a listen.

73,
Mike, N8MR

From: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/10/11013/>

Excerpts from Weaver's Words, Aug. 28, 2009

Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Featured in National Commercial

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, is featured in a 60 second radio spot* for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- enabling communications with emergency medical teams, police and fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL.

Ripoll said that he and WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, worked with the ACME Marketing Firm and Duracell for several weeks to help produce the radio commercial. "It captures the essence of Amateur Radio volunteer public service and the important role of Amateur Radio performs during emergency communications in 30 seconds," Ripoll said. "The President and Creative Director of ACME and the Duracell national representative also flew down to Miami and received a tour of NHC and of the WX4NHC station where they learned about our many modes of communications, including our portable VHF/UHF radios and other portable battery operated equipment."

"With this new spot, we are helping to showcase the important contributions made by the Miami ham radio operators," said Duracell's Bob Jacobs. "These heroic teams are working to save the lives of others. When storms strike, the radio operators are donating their time to make sure communications stay intact, facing intense pressures and dangerous conditions to those in need. We're proud that our batteries can help power these life-saving efforts."

* The radio spot in MP3 format:

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRICANE_60_PREPAREDNESS_MIX.MP3

ARRL Great Lakes Division Symposium: Sept. 12, 2009 in Findlay, OH

Preparations for the Great Lakes Division Symposium are moving along well. The slate of speakers is full -- in fact -- there is one more speaker than time slots available! The extra presentation is on a CD coming from the UK, so it can be used to fill a slot if a speaker has a last minute conflict. Otherwise it will be presented over the lunch hour and included on the CD or DVD that we hope will be available after the Symposium.

The precise schedule is still being worked out. It will include the following sessions:

- ARRL Division Officers - Amateur Radio update and Q&A.
- Keynote Speaker Tony England, W0ORE will talk about his experience as a ham as a teenager and how it influenced his career.
- Charlie Sufana, AJ9N - will talk about the ARISS space program.
- Dave Pruett, K8CC -- Contesting 101 -- How to get started in contesting.
- Rick Campbell, KK7B -- will do a remote presentation from Oregon about getting started in VHF experimenting.
- Steve Coy, K8UD and others -- will talk about getting started on Satellites.
- Tom Sly, WB8LCD -- will talk about keeping clubs active.
- Jim Hicks, WB4CTX - will talk about his success using Ham Radio in High School instruction.
- Dave Dryden, KD8AVT -- will talk about his success getting Boy Scouts into Ham Radio through Radio Merit Badge classes.
- Richard Knowles, N8IJ -- will discuss Emergency Communications.
- George Dobbs G3RJV -- will talk about getting started on QRP. (This is the presentation on a CD)

The final session will be a Hints and Kinks hour. Bring your questions, answers, stories, projects, etc. This will be an audience participation session, and a lot of good ideas should come out of this session.

Registration starts at 8 AM, and the first presentation will begin at 9. The Symposium will end at about 5 PM.

Admission to the Symposium is FREE. As details of the schedule are finalized they will be posted on the Symposium Web page which is accessible from the Findlay Radio Club page at www.w8ft.org (click on the "Hamfest and Symposium" link).

Bill Kelsey, N8ET.

From: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/26/11039/?nc=1>

SuitSat-2 Now Called ARISSat-1

The SuitSat-2 project -- an Amateur Radio satellite housed in a Russian spacesuit -- now has a new name to go with a new shape: ARISSat-1. On Wednesday, August 19, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, announced the new name for the satellite and project. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the project team is moving ahead, using the same hardware that was to fly in the Russian Orlan suit. Russia will continue to call the satellite Radioskaf-2, so ARISS is designating it ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2.

Due to storage considerations, the two surplus Orlan space suits in storage on the ISS were discarded via the Progress Cargo Vessel earlier this year. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission; the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, video cameras and antenna mounted on the helmet by the ISS crew prior to deployment during an extra-vehicular activity (EVA), commonly called a spacewalk. The removal of the Orlan space suits from ISS removes the "Suit" component of the deployment and the new name reflects the change in configuration.

White told the ARRL that the ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 team, through Gould Smith, WA4SXM, made the final decision for the satellite to be square, with solar panels on all 6 sides. "The team is mounting a 70 cm quarter-wave whip on the bottom and a 2 meter quarter wave whip on the top," she said. "All of the hardware and software goes inside the square, and cameras go on the outside." The experiment being developed by Russia's Kursk State University is expected to be integrated into the electronics once the US-produced equipment is delivered to Russia this fall.

AMSAT and ARISS pointed out that the importance of this project to both organizations is not diminished. "ARISS sees this mission as an important component of education outreach, as it will provide an opportunity for students around the world to listen for recorded greetings from space, as well as learn about tracking spacecraft in orbit," White said.

The ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 transmitter and receiver will be based on a Software Defined Transponder (SDX) system. It will consist of two major components: The RF Module and

the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) module. In the RF module, there will be an up converter that receives a signal from the DSP module as a 10.7 MHz intermediate frequency RF signal with a 50 kHz bandwidth, and up converts it to 145 MHz signal of 50 kHz bandwidth centered on 145.9375 MHz. The receiver is a down converter with a 50 kHz bandwidth centered on 437.6125 MHz. The output of the receiver is a 10.7 MHz RF signal with a bandwidth of 50 kHz. The DSP processor receives the 10.7 MHz signal from the receiver down converter and processes it and outputs a 10.7 MHz signal to the transmitter up converter. The DSP can also inject signals such as the CW ID, telemetry, audio and packet signals as determined by the software on the DSP.

AMSAT calls the deployment of the SDX "a critical milestone" for the organization. "This upcoming flight provides an opportunity to flight test the next generation of spacecraft hardware," Bertels said. "Lessons learned from this deployment will be applied to future flight opportunities as AMSAT moves towards a 'modularization approach' to spacecraft development with the expectation the future spacecraft missions will utilize a derivative of SDX and the associated hardware."

The ARISS International Team has been informed that there is still space available for shipment of the ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 electronics on the projected cargo flight to the ISS in January 2010, and the EVA scheduled for April 2010 still has a SuitSat-2 deployment on the schedule.

Plans to launch a second SuitSat-spacesuit-turned-satellite were the subject of discussions and presentations at the November 2006 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS International Delegates' meeting. Despite a weaker-than-anticipated 2 meter signal, SuitSat-1 -- a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit fitted with an Amateur Radio transmitter -- sparked the imagination of students and the general public and turned into a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio. ARISS hoped to capitalize on the concept by building an even better SuitSat that will include ham radio transponders. The SuitSat.org Web site attracted nearly 10 million hits during the mission. Designated by AMSAT as AO-54, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would transmit for about a week. SuitSat-1 re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere in September 2006. ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 is expected to be live for at least six months.

THIS MONTH ON THE AIR

Contests & Special Events

September 2009

AGCW Straight Key Party - 1300z, Sept 5 to 1600z, Sept 5

All Asian DX Contest, Phone - 0000z, Sept 5 to 2400z, Sept 6

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint - 2300z, Sept 7 to 0300z, Sept 8.

WAE (Worked All Europe) DX Contest, Phone - 0000z, Sept 12 to 2359z, Sept 13. (Be ready for those QTCs!)

ARRL September VHF QSO Party - 1800z, Sept 12 to 0300z, Sept 14.

North American Sprint, CW - 0000z, Sept 13 to 0400z, Sept 13

North American Sprint, SSB - 0000z, Sept 20 to 0400z, Sept 20

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY - 0000z Sept 26 to 2400z Sept 27.

Texas QSO Party - 1400z, Sept 26 to 2000z Sept 27

DX

OH0/DF6FL and OH0/DL9ZE - Aland Island - Aug. 28 to Sept 12 - CW, SSB, RTTY - QSL via Homecall

FO/G3BJ - Austral Islands - Sept. 4 to Sept 14 - CW by G3BJ

FT5GA - Glorioso Island - Sept 12 to Oct 8 (Rescheduled) - CW, SSB, RTTY - QSL via F5OGL << Rare!

ZK2BJ - Niue - Sept. 18 to Sept 25 - CW by G3BJ

ZL7/N7OU - Chatham Island - Sept 18 to Sept 30 - 80 thru 10M, CW, 100w, vertical - QSL via N7OU

TO7RJ - Mayotte - Sept 22 to Oct 21 - 160 thru 10M - CW, SSB - QSL direct to DJ7RJ

TX5SPA - Austral Islands - Sept 28 to Oct 12 - CW, SSB, RTTY - Focus on low bands - QSL via SP9PT

K4M - Midway Island - Oct. 9 to Oct 19 - 160 thru 6M - CW, SSB, RTTY

There's always more DX than those listed here.

UPCOMING SWAPS

Sept 13

Findlay Radio Club

Hancock County Fairgrounds, Findlay, OH; Talk-In: 147.15; <http://www.findlayradioclub.org>

Sept 20

Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI; Talk-In: 145.37 (PL 85.4); <http://www.w8qge.com>

Oct 25

USECA Hamfest

American Polish Century Club, Sterling Heights, MI; Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 100); <http://www.usecaarc.com>

Dec 6

L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club

L'Anse Creuse High School, Mount Clemens, MI; Talk-In: 147.08 (PL 100); <http://www.n8lc.org>