

FEEDBACK



MAY 2001
VOLUME 45 NUMBER 5



May Meeting

The meeting for the month of May will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on May 4, 2001 at 8:00 PM.

With the onset of Spring, 2001 comes thoughts of...yes FIELD DAY!!!! That's right..... Field Day will take place on June 23, and 24, 2001. We will again host Field Day at Petro's Park in Perry Township (located just off Faircrest Avenue). If you need a ride to the park, just let one of the Officer's know and they will see to it you are provided with transportation to and from the park.

We will decide at the May meeting weather to operate Class 2A again this year. This seems to be the best operating class for us to run. It will be a real challenge to top last year's score. Last year we had one of the best scores that we have ever had (at least since I have been keeping score!). We can do better, it will take a concentrated effort on everyone's part to make this year the best one yet for MARC!

Our President Don, W8DEF, will want to cover all the activities for Field Day at this meeting very thoroughly. One thing that we will need for a complete success this year will be OPERATORS !!! We will need skilled CW operators, phone operators, packet, six meters, and UHF etc.. Especially during the long midnight hours!! So plan on helping, we will need everyone's help to top last year's score !

One of the biggest event's of the year happens this month. Yes it's the Dayton Hamvention! This year they are celebrating their 50th year > So look for some extra special events to happen there this year. If you have never been there, this will be the year for you! This year's Hamvention will be May 18th, 19th & 20th, 2001 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio.

Need a ride to the Hamvention? The Tusco Club is sponsoring a bus trip to the Hamvention again this year. Contact Dave Lomandy, WD8CKK, on the 146.73 Repeater, Dover Ohio (sorry I do not have a phone number for Dave). You can write to him at:

David A. Lomandy, WD8CKK
723 Front Street
Dover, Ohio 44622-1434.

Or you can fill out the order form in the February issue of *Feedback* and send it to him, but hurry the seats are going fast !

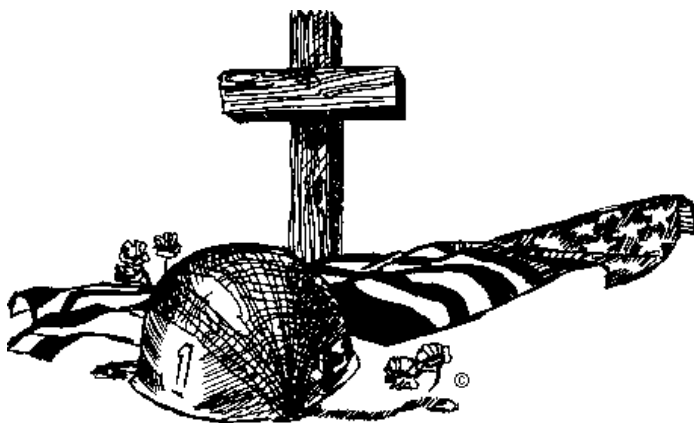
--- SHORT SKIP ---

Our FCC has recently levied a \$ 17,000.00 "forfeiture" involving a non licensed jammer in East Palo Alto, California. I think this sets a new record and hope it serves as a warning to those who want to operate or cause interference on our ham bands.

See this month's issue of *WORLDRADIO* for all the exciting details !

\$ 17,000 bucks - ouch !

73 DE WB80WM



Memorial Day

MAY 28 , 2001

MARC MINUTES

Friday April 9,2001

The April MARC meeting was held at the Senior Center with 38 members and guest present.

Don W8DEF called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made. He asked the March Minutes be accepted as written in the FEEDBACK. They were accepted by Byron Kf8UN and second by Dennis N8UDL.

The Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report and asked for acceptance. It was accepted by Rick KC8LYG and second by Jeff KC8KIX.

Gene W8KXR had newsletters form other Amateur Radio Clubs. Anyone wanting to see them could look them over.

Don W8DEF said the ARRL letter hasn't been getting here in time for the meetings. The ARRL will be having Field Day pins again this year, Also T-shirts if anyone was interested. Byron offered to show his last year pin .He also gave his contesting results of over the weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

Don W8DEA gave his update on the Monday night classes. Seems they are doing well, with good attendance.

Bruce AB8FB says he still need helpers for the MS walk on April 22.

Don W8DEF said in case of a tornado warning we still needed someone to be at Doctors Hospital to man the radio. Byron KF8UN volunteered. Don will show him were to find the radio at the Emergency Room nurses station.

Jeff KC8KIX gave an update on the Friday night NET. They are getting good response. They read some of the ARRL letter, have Swap& Shop and in general a lot of comments. So don't forget Friday evenings at 8:00 P.M. check in on the 147.180 repeater with Jeff KC8KIX, Jason KC8LIN, Don W8DEA, or Bruce AB8FB.

We still have some Stark County Directories . If anyone needs one contact Don W8DEF or Anne N8GAF.

NEW BUSINESS

We welcomed 4 new members who join the MARC. James France WA8HOO, Steve Cordeal N8VXT, Rick Deem N8SZA, and William Deem WC8I.

Don W8DEF gave an update on the shirts and jacket orders.

James WA8HOO said he was sorry that the 355.955 repeater was down because of a wind storm.

Terry N8ATZ said the club trailer needed 3 things. One of them being the packet station needing updated. We had a borrowed one but need to purchase our own. He asked motion to be made to spend \$200.00 to make the purchase, it was second by Byron KF8UN. It was voted on and passed.

Perry W8AU applied for the Safety Break dates. He will let us know when we are assigned.

Byron KF8UN remarked the QSL cards in the Shack needs to be brought to date. He also belongs to a club in Arizona and was helping them out by selling their raffle tickets for an ICON 718, anyone wanting one can see him.

Anne N8GAF wanted to know if anyone wanted her to order more Dayton Hamvention tickets.

Don W8DEA was giving the program tonight on Civil Air Patrol. Thanks Don for a great job on the program !

Don W8DEF asked for motion to close the meeting at 8:35 P.M. Jeff KC8KIX did so and Gary WC8W second it.

Thanks again goes to Dan N8DZM for bringing the donuts.

Congratulations to Sam WA8YGR for winning the 50-50 for \$21.00.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

MAY PROGRAM NOTICE

Dave Rankle , KB8AHD from our club, will give a short talk and demo regarding another specialized hobby... the History and Collection of "Locks and Keys." There are only a few Historians and collectors of the Lock and Keys in the U.S. and Dave is one who has accumulated a substantial collection. As well as a specialist in the history of locks and keys, and their development here in America dating from early manufacturing in New England to present times, Dave is also an expert lock smith.

And, believe it or not, some of the "collector grade" locks tie into early radio! Dave will have some samples to illustrate some of the fascinating history of this little known part of our every days lives and their development. Should be another good program!

73,

DE W8KXR

..... MARC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN RED CROSS TRAINING

On Saturday, April 21 several members of the MARC participated in Red Cross training sponsored by both the club and the Western Stark Chapter of The American Red Cross. The training was held at the chapter offices on 3rd Street SE in Massillon. Those participating MARC members were President Don Finley - W8DEF himself an avid Red Cross volunteer and member of their DAT team as well as Don's XYL Linda - K8MOO also an active volunteer. Vice-President Gene Beckwith - W8KXR and his XYL Maryln. Also our Red Cross Liaison and Western Stark Communications Officer Jim Farriss - WA8GXM and his XYL Mary, and Terry Russ - N8ATZ. The club has wanted to sponsor this type of activity for several years and thank to Don, Jim & Gene for organizing this years training. They had hoped for a little better turnout but the course price was a little higher than anticipated. I propose we do this again perhaps later on this fall or winter with the club helping to pay part of the cost. I think this would increase participation. Having sat through the eight hour course might have seemed a little long but I can safely say it was very informative and useful. I imagine all of us going through our daily lives never realizing that one day we could make the difference between life and death by just knowing a few simple techniques. None of us are expected to become medical emergency experts, but I did realize that if we helped someone for just a few precious minutes until trained medical personnel arrived we could literally save a life. Image the feeling that would be versus the feeling you would have if you just stood by and did nothing. Something to think about. It almost seems like a natural extension to our public service efforts in Amateur Radio. At the conclusion of the days training and after answering a few simple questions, each participant was issued certificates in both

Community First Aid and Safety and Adult, Child & Infant CPR. Hats off to those club members who gave up a Saturday to take part in this worthwhile training.

..... ECOMM 1 UPDATE

The clubs emergency communications trailer, Ecomm 1, is presently undergoing a few updates for 2001. At the April meeting the purchase of a new two meter packet radio was approved by the membership. Since installing a borrowed laptop computer, we have been using a loaner rigs for this station. The new two meter radio will be ordered soon and will be installed in time for Field Day activities. We will also be asking the club for approval to add a second club diamond logo as well as the club call sign to the trailer as part of phase two of the external markings originally conceived. Lastly we hope to be able to purchase a combination Heating/Cooling unit for the trailer as well. Field Day can be quite warm and other public service functions don't always occur on fair weather days. These represent 2001 improvements that have been budgeted by the executive committee but still require club approval. We'll keep you up to date on improvements as we make them.

..... DAYTON ANYONE ?

Are any of you going to Dayton this year ? If so I hope you've already reserved your room for the weekend of May 18, 19 & 20. I plan to go down for a day or so, or as long as the meager Dayton budget lasts !. They are expecting another big crowd this year as Dayton celebrates their 50th anniversary of Hamvention. I know there are still some hotel rooms available around the outside of town, you just have to let your fingers do the walking if still need one. I believe the Tusco Club still has some seats left on the bus trip which is still a great way to go if you don't want to drive. I believe this will be my 20th consecutive Dayton Hamvention, I have always enjoyed going each year, good weather or bad. This year I'm even considering making a pretty good purchase. If I find the right deal I might just come back with the Yeasu FT - 817 multi function radio. I'll let you know. For those of you who aren't going to make it this year, I'll try to give you a report next month of my adventures in Dayton along with a few pictures.

..... MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

And speaking of EComm 1 activities, I have it on good authority that the trailer will be shown this year in the annual Massillon Memorial Day Parade. Not really a public service event, but it will represent another opportunity to increase awareness of the MARC's commitment to Community Service. The parade usually starts off about 10:00 AM if my memory serves correct and will go along 1st Street SW. Since many of us will be off work for the holiday, why not drop by and check out the activities. You may even get the rare opportunity to see a few club members decked out in official military uniforms (if they can still fit in them !) to commemorate the true meaning of this holiday.

Another item from the rumor mill, V-P Gene has found us yet another great program for this months meeting. I'm not sure of the topic, but his record so far has been spectacular !

Out of time for this month, I was a bit busy with the Red Cross classes and the MS Walk, which I will report on next month or check it out on the website soon along with a few great pictures.

Till next time,

Terry - N8ATZ

FIELD DAY PINS & T-SHIRTS

The ARRL will be selling Field Day Pins again this year @ \$5.00 ea. This year they will also have Field Day T-shirts @ \$9.95 ea. These are plus postage of \$4.00, but for a club order will they give a lower rate for larger orders. Anyone interested please contact Don W8DEF or let us know at the May meeting, so we will see if we can see if there is enough interest to get an order together. Or maybe we can get MARC T-shirts for F/D???

73's, Don W8DEF

FYI:

COMMENTS FROM NEW ZEALAND ON ARRL'S FOUNDER H.P. MAXIM (W1AW) AND CURRENT STATE OF AMATEUR RADIO.

(permission to quote obtained by W8AU)

In my opinion Maxim's achievement was the creation of amateur radio as a social organisation. There were all manner of people experimenting in the early days. Maxim connected many of them for a common purpose: Relaying messages and thereby overcoming the limits of what was then for most a short range means of communication. He also set up a social organisation with rank and position and defined roles, plus a system of ethics, symbols and signs of recognition. This system is with today, but sadly is taken for granted and many mistakes are being made at the organisational level, in my opinion.

There were other models: In the UK before WWII the model was the gentlemen amateur scientist: There was an "artificial aerial" ie dummy load license class so chaps could experiment with transmitting technology without actually radiating a signal. And calling CQ was forbidden. They called "testing, testing".

The Soviets ran amateur radio under the Ministry of Sport. Nowadays because of falling numbers of new entrants to amateur radio there is a push to lower entry standards and remove code qualifications. In the process everything that makes us unique will go.

In ZL all amateurs once had to spend six months on 80m

before getting other band privileges. In that six months Elmers and new hams met on the air, assisted one another and in many cases made life long friendships.

Now new hams go on hf and like Tony Hancock in the famous television sketch "...have friends all over the world. Just don't have any around here." Removing the probationary period on 80 was meant to encourage new operators, but instead the numbers dropped and many gave up after a period on the air. And in ZL the greatest loss of amateurs is amongst no code licensees.

There is an attempt to solve the problems of amateur radio at by administrative and technical means. I believe these are bound to fail as the problems are social and environmental.

Where are you Hiram? We need you.

73

Barry Kirkwood PhD ZL1DD
Signal Hill Homestay
66 Cory Road
Palm Beach
Waiheke Island 1240
NEW ZEALAND

ARRL NEWS

ARLD017 DX news

ZCZC AE17
QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 17 ARLD017
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 26, 2001
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD017
ARLD017 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, QRZ DX, 425DXnews, DL7NFK, BA1DU, The Daily DX and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

ROTUMA, 3D2. Kit, JA1NVF, will be QRV as 3D2NV/p from April 27 to May 4. QSL to home call.

VIETNAM, 3W. Look for BA1DU, BA4TA, BA7QT, 3W6AR and 3W6LI to be QRV as 3W7D from Tam Island, a new IOTA, until May 1. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via BA1DU.

MALDIVES ISLANDS, 8Q. Peter, HA2SX, is QRV as 8Q7KK until May 4. He is QRV on 80 to 10 meters using CW, RTTY and PSK31, with SSB and SSTV as well. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Kaz, JA8MWU, is QRV as 9N7WU until May 3.

Activity is on 20 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, D4. D44AC is usually QRV around 14190 kHz from 1900 to 0000z.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Vlad, EX8F, is usually QRV on 18074 kHz around 0400z.

MAYOTTE, FH. Ted, JJ1LIB, will be QRV as FH/JJ1LIB from April 29 to May 4 on all HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JN1HOW.

CHESTERFIELD ISLAND, FK/C. Look for TX0C to be QRV from April 27 to May 1. Activity will be on all HF bands and 6 meters. QSL via JA1BK.

THAILAND, HS. Kurt, HS0ZBS, is active using RTTY and PSK31. He has been QRV on 15 meters using either mode just before 0900z and later around 1600z.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Look for Taka, KH0/JR3TVH, and Natsu, KH0/JJ3NAW, to be QRV from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, from April 28 to May 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL KH0/JR3TVH via bureau and KH0/JJ3NAW to home call.

GREECE, SV. William, N2DH, will be QRV as SV8/N2DH from Thassos Island, IOTA EU-174, from April 27 to May 4. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters, and possibly 80 meters, using SSB. QSL to home call.

COCOS-KEELING ISLAND, VK9C. Look for G3MXJ, G3SXW and G3TXF to be QRV as VK9CXJ, VK9CXW and VK9CXF, respectively, from April 28 to May 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW only. QSL to home calls.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Gav, GM0GAV, Rob, GM3YTS, Tom, GM4FDM, and Jack, GM4COX are active as VP8SDX until May 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands. QSL via GM4FDM.

ALBANIA, ZA. Loreto, IK7VJP, is here for two months and is QRV as ZA1/IK7VJP from Durres. QSL to home call.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1. Uwe, DL9NDS, and Klaus, DL7NFK, will be active as ZK1NDS and ZK1NFK, respectively, from April 28 to May 18. They will be QRV from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, Mangaja Atoll, IOTA OC-014 and Aitutaki Island, IOTA OC-083. Later on, they will also be QRV from Manihiki Atoll, IOTA OC-014, on the North Cook islands. Activity using RTTY, PSK31 and MFSK16 is planned. QSL to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Florida and Nebraska QSO Parties and the Six Meter Sprint are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see April QST, page 109 for details.

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ARLP018 Propagation de K7VVV

ZCZC AP18

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 18 ARLP018

From Tad Cook, K7VVV

Seattle, WA April 27, 2001

To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP018

ARLP018 Propagation de K7VVV

After bottoming out on April 16 at 123.4, solar flux is on the rise. Average flux values for this week were up over 50 points, and activity is still increasing with the return of sunspot region 9393. Solar flux is expected to peak this weekend around 210, but a rise in geomagnetic activity due to a large M7-class solar flare on Thursday is expected on Sunday. This flare was from sunspot 9393, which also hurled a full halo coronal mass ejection. This sunspot covers about half the area that it did when it was on our side of the sun last month, but it is still quite large. Last month it produced the largest solar flare ever recorded, which fortunately was not pointed toward earth.

On Monday an enormous prominence (a filament of cool dense gas suspended above the sun) extended over the sun's southwestern limb. You may still be able to view a photo from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory at http://spaceweather.com/images2001/23apr01/20010423_1837_eit_304_big.gif.

N4CD took a trip to Costa Rica from April 4-17, and reported that he had great HF propagation, even as higher latitudes were disrupted. He worked about 9,300 stations on his trip. Probably the worst days during that period were April 8 and 11-13, when geomagnetic storms raged. But N4CD worked many stations on 10 meters who said that his was the only signal they heard. These were probably stations working him on a north-south path. This isn't because north-south propagation is enhanced during geomagnetic storms, but because when propagation is disrupted these are often the only paths that work for high frequencies. He said his best DX for QRP was working WD3P, who was only running 500 milliwatts into a dipole.

A number of emails have arrived lately asking about some of the numbers reported in this bulletin, so it is probably time to run the following explanation.

Amateur Radio operators who use HF generally like increased sunspots because they correlate with better worldwide radio propagation. When there are more sunspots, the sun puts out radiation that charges particles in the earth's ionosphere. Radio waves bounce off of (refract from) these charged particles, and the denser these clouds of ions, the better the HF propagation.

When the ionosphere is denser, higher frequencies will refract off it rather than passing through to outer space. This is why every 11 years or so when this activity is higher, 10 meters gets exciting. 10 meters is at a high enough frequency, right near the top of the HF spectrum, that radio waves propagate very efficiently when the sunspot count is high. Because of the shorter wavelength, smaller

antennas are very efficient on this band, so mobile stations running low power on 10 meters can communicate world wide on a daily basis when the sunspot cycle is at its peak. There are also seasonal variations, and 10 meters tends to be best near the spring or fall equinox. If the ionosphere is not so dense, the Maximum Usable Frequency may be below 10 meters, and perhaps only signals with frequencies as high as 15 meters or below will propagate.

The sunspot numbers used in this bulletin are calculated by counting the spots on the visible solar surface and also measuring their area.

Solar flux is another value reported in this bulletin, and it is measured at an observatory in Penticton, British Columbia using an antenna pointed toward the sun hooked to a receiver tuned to 2.8 GHz, which is at a wavelength of 10.7 cm. Energy detected seems to correlate somewhat with sunspots and with the density of the ionosphere.

Other solar activity of concern to HF operators are solar flares and coronal holes, which emit protons. Since the charged ions in the ionosphere are negative, a blast of protons from the sun can neutralize the charge and make the ionosphere less refractive. These waves of protons can be so intense that they may trigger an event called a geomagnetic storm. In addition, energy from a solar flare may energize the D-layer of the ionosphere, which absorbs radio waves.

The Planetary A index relates to geomagnetic stability. Magnetometers around the world are used to generate a number called the Planetary K index.

A one-point change in the K index is quite significant. K index readings below 3 generally mean good stable conditions, and above 3 can mean high absorption of radio waves. Each point change reflects a big change in conditions.

Every 24 hours the K index is summarized in a number called the A index. A one-point change in the A value is not very significant. A full day with the K index at 3 will produce an A index of 15, K of 4 means A of 27, K of 5 means A of 48, and K of 6 means A of 80. You can find an explanation of these numbers on the web at http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html.

The geomagnetic number reported here is the Planetary A index, which is a worldwide average based on the K index readings from a number of magnetometers. The numbers reported on WWV are the Boulder K and A index, measured in Colorado. Generally the higher the latitude of the measuring station, the higher the K and A indices reported. This is because the effects of geomagnetic instability tend to concentrate toward the polar regions of the globe. You can hear the Boulder K index updated every three hours on WWV, or by calling 303-497-3235.

For an interesting web page on the earth's magnetosphere, check <http://science.nasa.gov/ssl/pad/sppb/edu/magnetosphere/bullets.html>

Sunspot numbers for April 19 through 25 were 85, 103, 156, 164, 140, 175 and 182 with a mean of 143.6. 10.7 cm flux was 144.5, 180.4, 191.1, 192.5, 196.4, 193.5 and 193.9, with a mean of 184.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 7, 8, 7, 28, 21, 8 and 7 with a mean of 12.3.

NNNN
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EXCERPTS FROM THE ARRL LETTER

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 20, No. 17

April 27, 2001

==>AO-40 TRANSPONDER OPERATION POSSIBLE THIS SUMMER

A MSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, this week raised the possibility that AO-40 could inaugurate transponder operation this summer, if tests and orbital maneuvers between now and then go as planned.

“We are learning how to fly this thing,” Haighton said. “But I still think we’re going to end up with a darned good satellite.”

The most likely initial transponder configurations, Haighton said, would be Mode L/S—1.2 GHz up and 2.4 GHz down, Mode U/S—435 MHz up and 2.4 GHz down, and possibly Mode V/S—145 MHz up and 2.4 GHz down.

Recent data suggest that the mid-December incident that silenced AO-40 for two weeks and rendered some systems unusable also might have blown a hole on the 400-newton motor side of the spacecraft. “Speculation is there could be damage, and sunlight is getting right in,” Haighton said. He noted that ground controllers have detected a distinct rise in temperature when sunlight strikes that side of the satellite. The speculated opening was not causing any major problems, he said, but it could explain why efforts to adjust AO-40’s attitude via magnetorquing have been unpredictable.

As the AO-40 recovery effort continues, Haighton said, ground controllers plan to raise the height of the perigee in the very near future. That process, using the onboard arc-jet motor, could take up to several weeks. The AO-40 team hopes the maneuver will minimize or eliminate possible effects on the satellite’s orbit caused by atmospheric expansion at the peak of the solar cycle.

AO-40 currently is approximately 320 km—almost 200 miles—above Earth at perigee—its closest point—and some 51,000 km—some 31,600 miles—at apogee. Plans call for raising the orbit at perigee to around 520 km, or some 320 miles. The maneuver would “hardly affect” the satellite’s apogee, Haighton said. The arc-jet would be operated without electrically igniting it, using the pressure of the ammonia fuel alone.

Once the orbit has been adjusted, ground controllers would orient the spacecraft’s attitude and check out the various onboard transmitter and receiver systems to see what works and what does not. “We’re still pretty confident that the 2 meter and 70 cm transmitters are not there,” Haighton said, “but we’re equally confident that the receivers for those bands still are.”

The satellite has been transmitting telemetry on the 2.4 GHz (S-2) beacon, and signals reportedly have continued to improve—although the beacon has been out from time to time as needed to conserve power during eclipse periods.

==>WRTC 2002 TO BE HELD IN FINLAND

The next World Radiosport Team Championship—which some characterize as the “Olympics of Amateur Radio”—will be held next year in Finland. A formal announcement came April 21 during the International DX Convention in Visalia, California.

WRTC 2002 will be jointly organized by Contest Club Finland and the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL). The on-air competition will take place July 13-14, 2002, in conjunction with the IARU HF Championship.

Last held in Slovenia in July 2000, the WRTC involves on-air contest-style competition among two-person teams operating from the same geographical vicinity at stations having equivalent capabilities. All operation is done at 100 W with modest antennas.

The WRTC 2002 Organizing Committee Chairman is Jouko Häyrynen, OH1RX. Sharing duties in chairing the competition will be Martti Laine, OH2BH, and Pasi Luoma-aho, OH2IW, both world-class contesters. Ari Korhonen, OH1EH, who’s handling WRTC 2002 publicity, was paired with OH1NOA on Team Finland, which finished fifth at WRTC 2000.

Team selection will begin soon. Considered likely contenders next year are WRTC 96 and WRTC 2000 winners Dan Street, K1TO, and Jeff Steinman, N5TJ. Participants from all continents will be selected based on their track-records in past contests. Korhonen said every effort would be made to provide teams with comparable operating conditions. “Our plan is to have 45 to 50 station sites set up in locations around Helsinki, each equipped with identical antenna systems,” he said.

The WRTC 2002 Web site is <http://www.wrtc2002.org>.

==>ISS PARTNERS GRANT FLIGHT EXEMPTION FOR DENNIS TITO, KG6FZX

The International Space Station Partnership has granted an exemption for the flight of American businessman Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, to the ISS aboard a Russian Soyuz 2 taxi mission. Russia already had given Tito the go ahead to visit the ISS as part of a three-man team on the 10-day Soyuz mission, scheduled to begin April 28. NASA has extended the shuttle Endeavour visit to the ISS by at least a day as the space station crew resolves computer problems and recommended that Russia postpone the Soyuz mission.

A NASA statement said that following “intense and extensive consultations” among all space station partners, the Multilateral Coordination Board “achieved consensus on the proposed Tito flight.” A former Jet Propulsion Lab engineer, Tito, 61, reportedly has agreed to pay the Russian space program \$20 million for the privilege of becoming the first “space tourist.”

The public relations value of Tito’s imminent visit was not lost on the Board. “It is understood that Mr. Tito will contribute to the formation of positive public opinion about the ISS program and the ISS partnership,” its meeting report concluded.

There are conditions to Tito’s visit. He reportedly has agreed that neither he nor his heirs will hold NASA liable for anything that might happen to him on board and that he will pay for anything he might damage. A NASA task force has recommended that Tito have an astronaut escort to visit the US sectors of the ISS and that he sleep near the Soyuz escape vehicle in case an emergency arises.

During Tito’s visit, the crew of Russian Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and

Jim Voss, is expected to adopt a minimal work routine and maintenance schedule.

Initially, NASA had vigorously opposed allowing Tito to fly to the ISS at this time and had suggested putting the mission off until later this year. NASA said the Board agreed that no ISS partner would propose to fly another “non-professional crewmember” until the ISS partnership had finalized and adopted detailed crew criteria. Those criteria are to be in place by June.

Tito has been in Russia training to go into space. He took and passed the Technician exam earlier this month.

NASA sources have said that Tito will have access to the ARISS amateur gear on a “non-interference basis”—meaning that he must not interfere with the crew’s work or sleep schedules. At this point, the ham gear is installed in the module that doubles as sleeping quarters for some of the crew. Tito is not scheduled to be involved in any ARISS school contacts—such QSOs normally are not scheduled during docked operations anyway, because the crew is too busy—but it’s expected that he may use ham radio to keep in touch with his family. He’s also indicated a preference for packet over FM voice.

==>MISSIONARY-HAM, INFANT, DIE WHEN PLANE IS DOWNED IN PERU

A missionary from Michigan, killed after the plane in which she was a passenger was shot down last week in Peru, was an Amateur Radio operator. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, identified the dead as Veronica “Roni” Bowers, 35, and her infant daughter, Charity, seven months. Roni Bowers was KD4CKM, a Tech Plus licensee.

The Cessna 185 float plane ditched in the Amazon River after being fired upon. Bowers’ husband, Jim, and their son, Cory, 6, were not seriously injured in the incident. Jim Bowers is KD4CKN, a General licensee. Pilot Kevin Donaldson was shot in the leg in the incident but survived.

The Bowerses, from Muskegon, Michigan, had been serving in Peru since July 1993. News accounts say the Peruvian Air Force shot down the plane carrying the missionaries in the Amazon jungle April 20. The Peruvian military said it opened fire after the pilot ignored warnings to land, but that claim is disputed.

A communiqué from the Peruvian Ministry of Defense said that the Peruvian Air Force “deeply regrets the loss of human life.” It said its actions were part of its anti-drug operations procedures. Reports say a US military aircraft associated with anti-drug trafficking operations first spotted the Cessna but told the Peruvians the plane might be legitimate.

An investigation continues. Funeral services for the mother and infant were set for April 27 in Michigan.

==>KANSAS HAMS RESPOND IN TORNADO’S AFTERMATH

Several dozen Amateur Radio Emergency Service members turned out to help in the wake of an F4 tornado that ripped through the small Central Kansas town of Hoisington April 21. The surprise twister left one dead, dozens injured and millions of dollars in damage. A weather-spotting ARES net active prior to touchdown had received reports of a funnel cloud at Hoisington, but the National Weather

Service had issued no tornado warnings.

Kansas District 5 Emergency Coordinator Bob Haneke, WG0Q, says storm spotter Larry Bruce, KC0IFO, called in a report of extensive damage in Hoisington and said help was needed. Haneke first checked on his brother, who lives in Hoisington, then headed out. Barton County Emergency Coordinator Carl Anderson, N0ORS, activated an ARES emergency net on the 146.76 repeater. Then, accompanied by his wife and two sons—all hams—Anderson and several other amateurs established initial emergency communications from Hoisington. Others helping in Hoisington included ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ.

The town of about 3000 is located some 100 miles northwest of Wichita and just north of Great Bend in Barton County. The storm took the roof off the Hoisington High School auditorium, and gutted a strip mall, the town's only grocery store, and a Dairy Queen where some people took shelter in a walk-in freezer. Also heavily damaged was Hoisington's hospital. Its patients had to be relocated to Great Bend or to the local nursing home, which had no power or telephone. Later, severe flooding swamped sections of the town that the tornado had skipped.

At one point early on, Haneke said, the only link parts of Hoisington had with the outside world was via Amateur Radio VHF to the emergency operations center in Great Bend. "The outgoing phone line trunk had been damaged," he said, "and cellular phones in the area were useless, as the system was grid-locked."

Amateurs assisted in several ways during the relief effort. Haneke says hams provided communication support to several responding agencies, including the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Adventist Community Services. Hams also provided primary or back-up communication for hospital facilities and shelters and assisted the Red Cross with damage assessment. In addition, HF and VHF links were established to handle health-and-welfare traffic. The Golden Belt Amateur Radio Club dispatched its emergency communications bus.

Haneke says that as power and telephone service were restored to the community on April 24, amateur operators were able to stand down from active duty, and the ARES emergency net was deactivated that afternoon. A contingent from the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) remained in Hoisington to handle additional requests and to support Salvation Army relief efforts. Frahm said amateurs also still were assisting at the nursing home, municipal building and hospital area.

==>ASTRONAUT MAKING CASUAL QSOS FROM NA1SS

Astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, recently put smiles on the faces of a number of US hams. Reports from several amateurs indicate that she's made several casual voice contacts from her perch aboard the International Space Station.

Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, was one of the stations who made contact with Helms on April 20. He reports she had a great signal. Also reporting contacts were Tom Blubaugh, N7HXP, Samuel Danner, N3MPE (who worked NA1SS for the second time), and Stan Vandiver, W4SV (who posted audio from his QSO on his Web site, <http://stan.vandiver.com>). Helms also was active on April 23. Several stations have managed to connect with the ISS packet system, still operating as "NO CALL". Bruce Paige, KK5DO, reports he worked a male operator at the

NA1SS mike on April 25.

As of April 27, the ARRL had received QSL card requests for two Expedition One FM voice contacts and four Expedition Two FM voice contacts (along with several dozen SWL reports for both missions), plus eight "NO CALL" packet encounters.

With the STS-100 mission under way, four of the five space agencies involved in building the space station are now represented on board. Endeavour's crew includes Italian Umberto Guidoni of the European Space Agency, Russian Yuri Lonchakov—who's been granted the call sign RS1ISS—and Canadian Chris Hadfield as well as US astronauts Kent Rominger, Jeffrey Ashby, John Phillips and Scott Parazynski, who's KC5RSY.

Endeavour docked with the ISS April 21. It's return flight was delayed at least a day and possibly two because of the ISS computer difficulties. It's not known if either of the hams from Endeavour planned to do voice QSOs while aboard the ISS. There is no amateur gear installed aboard the shuttle.

Here are the QSL routes for W/VE stations working NA1SS: US stations QSL to Margie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Canadian stations QSL to Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Rd—Suite 217, Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required to get a QSL in return.—ANS; news reports

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