



February 2009

(www.k7id.org)

P.O. Box 5222 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, February 9

Search and Rescue Building

Program: Military Affiliate Radio System (M.A.R.S.)

Presenter: Steve Twiggs, KM7U

Refreshments: Ed and Marilyn Hannigan

Monday, March 9

Search and Rescue Building

Program: VoIP

Presenter: Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS

SOCIAL EVENTS:

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Greetings,

Sorry we had to cancel last month's meeting, but this seemed like a wise move with all the snow and dangerous road conditions. The community was also better served by letting the planned ISP presenter spend his time patrolling roads and traffic. Jeff will reschedule this "Safe Winter Driving" presentation to a November time frame.

The KARS officers conducted a board meeting on Tue. 1/27 at the SAR building from 6:30 to 8 pm . We discussed issues ranging from future meeting presentations to supporting Boy Scout Merit Badge activity. Any KARS member is welcome to join us at future meetings, but you must let me know in advance since we limit our meetings to 1½ hours and space is limited.

To date, there are approximately 63 paid members for 2009 out of an expected total of 120. All memberships must be paid before the end of February to receive membership privileges and the monthly newsletter. Please either mail in your dues or bring it to the February meeting.

At the February meeting we will be discussing future presentations, possible Boy Scout Merit Badge support, and the upcoming QSO Party on March 14th & 15th and the Swap Meet on June 13th. Our presenter for February will be Steve, KM7U, who will discuss the Military Amateur Radio Service (M.A.R.S.).

Board members are always looking for inputs to the monthly "Propagation" newsletter and presentation volunteers. Contact a board member with your ideas.

Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW
Club President



February 2009!

M.A.R.S. is the presentation topic at this month's meeting. Steve Twiggs, KM7U, of Spokane will be our guest speaker.

Coming up in March, Thomas KD7JUS, will be presenting a program on VoIP. In April Larry K6SPP will give us a peek at slow & fast scan Amateur TV.

See ya'll there- **73** KB7TIC Jeff

BRAIN TEASER

- Answer to the January question was, $C=6$; $AB=25$, therefore $AB*AB=625$.
- New Problems:
 1. How can a ground loop be avoided ?
 2. What is the time constant of a circuit having a 220-microfarad capacitor in series with a 470-kilohm resistor ?

Section Manager Report

Greetings to all from Ed Stuckey (AI7H), your ARRL Section Manager for the Idaho Section. There's quite a bit happening, so read on!

North West Traffic Net (NWTN) – As you may know, the NWTN is associated with the ARRL National Traffic System (ARRL-NTS), with nets beginning at 6:30PM on the KC7ODP repeater, 147.080+, pl-100. There was a bump in the road recently, as the previous Net Manager rather suddenly decided to discontinue his services. I'm pleased to note that Brad Kasper (KA5PER) has stepped up and taken the Net Manager position. Brad plans to continue the net on a Monday-Friday basis, with occasional nets on the weekend if needed. If you are interested in helping out as a Net Control Station (NCS), or have a question

about the NWTN, contact Brad at ka5per@verizon.net.

DTV Changeover – The FCC has asked Amateur Radio Operators to “be ready to assist” folks who might have trouble with the DTV changeover, with specific instructions to follow. However, as of 01/25/09 we still have not received any information from them. While the changeover is supposed to happen on 02/17/09, a number of areas (like Hawaii and parts of North Carolina) have already changed over with (we guess) pretty good results. As you may have heard, President Obama has asked to delay the changeover so that more people can get the “converter box”, but that is also up in the air. And to add just a bit more confusion, a lot of the “translator” stations (TV repeaters) will not change over for some time. If you have questions about DTV changeover, you can visit www.dtv2009.gov for their latest information.

Puyallup Hamfest 2009 – Saturday, 03/07. Sponsored by the “Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club”. See the details at: <http://www.mikeandkey.org/lea.htm>.

The Idaho QSO Party (IDQP) – Way back in '08 the ARRL announced that 2009 would be the “Year of the State QSO Party”. We have our own Idaho QSO Party (IDQP) which will be held 03/14 – 03/15 this year, and the board has agreed to have KARS act as the “Sponsoring Club” for the event. For complete rules, go to <http://www.nx7tt.com> and click on the “IQP” Button. Remember, only about 1% of US hams live in Idaho, so folks are anxious to talk with us!

Idaho ARRL Convention – Friday-Sunday, 04/24-04/26. Check out the details at <http://www.voiceofidaho.org> (Scroll down to the bottom of “State Convention Information” and click on the “More Details” button). If you plan to go, I recommend that you complete the early bird registration form to get the discounted price.

Lastly, stop by to check out the Idaho ARRL web page, <http://www.idahoarrl.info/> Our webmaster has pulled together a wealth of information about Amateur Radio in Idaho!

73 to all, Ed Stuckey (AI7H) ai7h@arrl.net

LAURA L. SMITH NAMED TO AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over

the Amateur Radio Service <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>>.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) <<http://www.ita-relay.com/default.htm>>, now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including "Mobile Radio Technology Magazine" and "The Private Wireless Magazine."

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service

and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that." <ARRL Newsletter>

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SPOKANE, WA - Register for ham license tests in Spokane by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail: AA7RT@arrl.net for dates, locations and times.

Attention: Kootenai County ARES/RACES Members! Don't forget! New meeting location for the monthly KC ARES/RACES meetings, Civil Air Patrol, Sheprock Building, Coeur d'Alene Airport. The start time remains 6:30 p.m., on the third Monday of the month.

Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW EASIER THAN EVER

In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been updated <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based on LoTW help questions and listening to users.

"Through the efforts of Membership and Volunteer Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, we have also added an automated results table on the LoTW Users Home Page that lists members in numeric order who have achieved the Triple Play Award," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "IT personnel have also fixed a number of longstanding issues with Logbook in recent weeks, and some additional enhancements are underway."

Added enhancements include:

- An LoTW User's Corner that includes quick links to log onto your account, save or renew a certificate and ways to address PC failure.
- The GET STARTED section <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/start.html>> has been simplified with links for each of the four steps in the certificate process.
- LoTW instructions are now available in nine languages: English,

Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish. Options to select a language have always been available, but they have now been moved up front to the GET STARTED page. The languages are identified with icons of flags to represent each language.

- The GET STARTED pdf file has been updated to include new screenshots and refinement of some of the processes.
- The software download section now consists of only three icons representing the three operating systems for which software is available: Windows, Mac and Linux. The user simply selects their operating system and they are redirected to the download specific to their system.
- A new link has been added for QSL Manager, Club Calls and DXpeditions. This link gives details on establishing an account for these special operations and includes a section for 1x1 call signs.
- A new PowerPoint overview is available from the LoTW site. This presentation has also been added to our multimedia library <<http://www.arrl.org/multimedia>>. The program is an overview of LoTW and what users can expect from the service. There are screenshots of LoTW pages, as well as a condensed version of the certificate and award application process.

With more than 200 million QSOs submitted, ARRL's Logbook of The World system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around

the world <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10576/?nc=1>>.

When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Yaesu is the principal sponsor of the LoTW Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/02/10138/>>. <ARRL Newsletter>

This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the SARL Youth Day Sprint on January 31. The QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint is February 1. Next week is the School Club Roundup on February 9-13. The Minnesota QSO Party and the FYBO Winter QRP Field Day are on February 7. On February 7-8, look for the Vermont QSO Party, the 10-10 Winter Phone QSO Party, the Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities, the British Columbia QSO Challenge, the New Mexico QSO Party and the FMRE International RTTY Contest. The Delaware QSO Party is February 7-9, and the North American Sprint (CW) and the FM Simplex Contest are February 8. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>>. <ARRL Newsletter>

ARRL Expands Member Access to QST Archive:

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qnsearch.html>> will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST — from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year — 2005 — added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members. As an added benefit, ARRL Diamond Club members at the Brass level and above — as well as ARRL Maxim Society members — will be able to get images from the entire QST archive, right up through December 2008, an additional three years <<http://www.arrl.org/diamondclub>>.

According to ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, this is the first new benefit that has been added to the Diamond Club since the Diamond Terrace opened in 2007. “Given the popularity of the QST online archive,” Hobart said, “I hope that Diamond Club members and the Maxim Society members will enjoy exclusive access to the most recent four years of QST with our appreciation for their generosity. Perhaps the expanded QST viewable archive will inspire other ARRL members to participate in the Diamond Club and enjoy the other benefits available to Diamond Club members, as well.”

The online archive was first introduced to members in fall 2008, providing PDF copies of articles from the huge QST archive, from December 1915 through December 2004. Since then, thousands of members have enjoyed searching, viewing and printing their favorite articles, projects and more. The membership benefit is a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>>. Access to the archive is free for ARRL members. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/join>>.

Desecheo Island DXpedition Granted Call Sign

The DXpedition to Desecheo Island — February 12-26 — will use call sign K5D. “As soon as we land on Desecheo, two stations will be immediately activated,” said DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26.” Because Desecheo is very rare, Allphin said that “there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any

band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups. Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts. There will be no ‘greenies,’ no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the DXpedition more times than anyone else. So if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call.”

Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine’s Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

<ARRL Newsletter>

Spokane County Ares/Races Mailing List

At the last Eastern Washington Leadership Summit held in November of last year a discussion was held on what to do if the HF bands failed during an exercise or an actual emergency event. Several ideas were tossed about and once in particular caught everyone’s attention. Here is an excerpt from the report sent out after the summit:

“Discussion of the EWASET led to an interesting side discussion of what to do in any operation when HF totally fails. Finding relay paths between county localities serviced by local repeaters was discussed — which led to further discussion involving possible use of SSB on either 2 or 6 meters. The group agreed that an exercise using SSB on 6 and 2 meters would be a good thing. The SM suggested coordination on WSEN of after-net experimentation between counties on 2 and 6 SSB for a time before putting any plans in place for an exercise.

Because many of our HF transceivers will operate on 6 or 2 meters, there is a lot more gear out there now that grants its owner’s access to SSB on those bands. This is the one main fact that caused many people at the summit to show a special interest in this subject.

I propose that February 7, 2009 (the day that would be our Alternate SET day) be dedicated to this kind of experimentation with coordination on 3985 KHz after WSEN. This is a date that was discussed as a possibility.”

While some of us may not have HF privileges many do have HF gear capable of at least 2meter single side band operation such as the Icom 706 or the Yeasu 897. These radios would be great for this test. Below is a quote from Gordon, WA7LNC, EWA SEC, from his announcement regarding the VHF sweepstakes held later this month. So dig out the manuals and read up on six and two meter single side band operation and in the mean time for those who want to practice earlier refer to this month’s contesting in QST for the sweepstakes announcement:

“Date and Contest Period: Begins 1900 UTC Saturday January 17, ends 0359 UTC Monday January 19, 2009).

Object: To work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only.

This might be a way to help prepare for our VHF SSB activity scheduled for February.”

History of Army MARS Program

In November, 1925, the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS) was initiated by a few dedicated pioneers in the United States Army Signal Corps led by Capt. Thomas C. Rives. His original intention was to enlist the talents of volunteer Amateur Radio operators as a source to train Soldiers in the then new technology of radio as well as pursuing radio research and development to improve radio equipment within the Army. His efforts were very successful.

This organization continued until the United States entry into World War II, at which time radio Amateurs were denied the use of the air. Therefore, the activities of AARS, as it was known, were suspended until 1946 when, once again, AARS was allowed to go back on the air. During the years 1925 through 1942, the AARS functioned more or less as an extra curricular activity of the U. S. Army Signal Corps, its scope being necessarily limited by the meager budget of the pre-World War II depression years. The best available figures indicate that as of the 7th of December, 1941, there were approximately 60,000 FCC licensed Amateurs within the United States and its possessions. Some 5600 of those Amateurs were members of the AARS. About 20% of the pre-World War II AARS members eventually entered the service of their country either in the Army or in a civilian capacity. The U. S. Army recognized the great importance of reactivating the AARS to train vitally needed communications personnel at a relatively inexpensive direct cost to the U.S. government. Therefore, in 1946, the AARS was reactivated and functioned as such until the creation of the Military Amateur Radio System in 1948, later renamed the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) with Army MARS and the newly formed Air Force MARS reflecting the creation of the Air Force as a separate service. In early 1963, the Navy-Marine Corps MARS was established.

MARS has grown in all of the services throughout the world. It relies on civilian and military MARS members to be available in case of emergency or disaster to provide communications support. At such times, MARS needs all of the support it can provide. Amateur Radio, collectively with MARS, has made its mark in American history. Each year provides new evidence of the important role it plays in the service of the nation. <U.S. Army MARS Website>

MARS Mission

To provide Department of Defense sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications; to provide auxiliary communications for military, civil, and/or disaster officials during periods of emergency; to assist in effecting normal communications under emergency conditions.

Hams Provide Communications Support As Ice Storms Sweep Across US

With as much as 2 inches of crippling ice accumulation over parts of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and West Virginia and as much as 6 inches of sleet in Missouri and Indiana, many area residents are without power. The storm that began on Tuesday, January 27 not only brought up to 16 inches of snow in some regions, it also brought hams to local Emergency Operations Centers, shelters and area Nets as they were activated to service by their served agencies.

Based upon requests submitted by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe, President Barack Obama declared those states federal disaster areas. Utility officials estimated that more than 1.3 million homes and businesses across the wide swath of states were without power early Thursday, and they warned that it could be mid-February before some customers had power. The storm has been blamed for at least 23 deaths.

Kentucky

According to ARRL Kentucky Section Manager Jim Brooks, KY4Z, his state was hard hit by the ice storm, with the western portion taking the brunt of the storm. "Communications by landline and cell phone has been non-existent or spotty at best. I'm hearing reports that Amateurs are using local VHF repeaters to assist in their communities. My most reliable contact in Western Kentucky so far is John Hudson, KO4XJ, president of the Paducah Amateur Radio Association. He and I have been communicating via his Facebook Mobile account. He is on generator power from his home."

According to Brooks, the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center, KY4EOC, is currently monitoring 3960 kHz LSB, as well as the Brooks, Kentucky 146.70 repeater (tone 79.7). "They are seeking information from affected areas, including shelters, fuel supplies and other needs critical to these areas," Brooks said. "Several stations are also monitoring 3960 kHz for relays as needed."

Brooks told the ARRL that the Kentucky Office of Emergency Management's EOC has been operating on 3960 kHz since 1400 EST on Wednesday, January 27; they are also working VHF FM. "Here in Nelson County in Central Kentucky," Brooks said, "members of the Nelson County ARES have been active at the county EOC. My power was restored late yesterday, and I have been standing by on HF and VHF as liaison between local EM and the state EOC if needed. The duty officer at the state EOC reported this morning that healthcare facilities without power in Western Kentucky are evacuating their residents

and patients to locations out of state. The Kentucky National Guard has been deployed in many communities, including my own."

"I received word from the local American Red Cross disaster coordinator that Amateur Radio communications support was needed", said Kentucky ARES District 4 Public Information Officer Chris Shaw, W4BGN. "There was only one cellular carrier in the area that was working and the local land lines were also down. The Red Cross needed communications for the three shelters they were setting up," he said.

Shaw said that there was a lot of support from the local hams: "We set up temporary antennas and coordinated regular traffic handling Nets on local repeaters. A lot of people had no electricity due to the power outages and came to the Red Cross shelters to stay warm and get a hot meal."

Saying that he had not seen a comparable storm, Shaw thanked all the hams and repeater owners who helped out. "Most of the hams were members of the Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club in Bowling Green," he said. "This goes to show just how helpful and willing the local ham radio community is during times in need. The traffic nets continue as of Thursday afternoon."

More than 1000 members of the Kentucky National Guard have been activated to support relief efforts in the wake of the storm. Soldiers are currently in 27 counties across Kentucky, supporting Department of Transportation personnel and utility companies in clearing debris from roadways and power lines. In addition, troops are helping transport critical personnel, equipment and supplies where travel conditions are hazardous, including transporting kidney dialysis patients to treatment centers.

Arkansas

Delta Division Assistant Director Howard Runions, W4HLR, called it a "bad situation" in his state of Arkansas: "Most people are without power and phones at the present. I am south of the freeze line. I just took the first piece of traffic out of the affected area. ARES member Chris Edmaiston, KI4TRM, from Fulton County, Kentucky just came on the WA4YGM repeater; he was looking for someone to pass info from the Emergency Management Office in Hickman, Kentucky to the US Army. He passed several pages of traffic for the EOC in Hickman."

Runions said that "Communications is out of the question unless you have Amateur Radio. The town of Hickman just announced they are in need of a water purification system — they have only 16 hours of water." Runions said that traffic is being handled by ARES personnel: "These ARES members train regularly through the Area Wide ARES Net, sponsored by the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club in Union City, Tennessee and the big footprint of the WA4YGM repeater, also located in Union

City.”

Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator John Nordlund, AD5FU, said that there have been no official requests for activation, outside of local county operations: “We currently have disaster declarations from Stone, Randolph, Boone, Sharp and Clay Counties. Piggot Community Hospital is without power, so they are transferring patients to another hospital in Paragould. Lawrence Memorial Hospital reported that they are without Internet service and are on generator power; they are opening a community shelter on their campus. Shelters are also opening in Marmaduke, Paragould and Yellville.”
<ARRL Website>

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NASA SEEKS HAM HELP WITH STEREO SUN MISSION STUDY

NASA says it needs ham radio help to keep track of signals from the STEREO mission.

STEREO is an acronym for the twin Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory. It employs two nearly identical space-based observatories to provide the first-ever stereoscopic measurements to study the Sun. One leads the Earth in orbit and the other trails our planet by the same distance.

Chris St. Cyr of the Goddard Space Flight Center says that NASA’s Deep Space Network downloads data from STEREO only three hours a day. He says that’s plenty of time to capture all of the previous day’s data, but the space agency would like to monitor the transmissions around the clock. To accomplish this St. Cyr says that hams experienced with receiving weak signals in the microwave region can participate in the historic mission by helping NASA capture the spacecraft’s images.

Bill Thompson is the director of the STEREO Science Center at Goddard. He explains that hams would be a part of an amateur radio-based mini-Deep Space Network. One that that would monitor STEREO around the clock.

Thompson notes that the two spacecraft beam their data back to Earth via an X-band beacon. He says that anyone with a 10-meter dish antenna and a suitable receiver can pick up the spacecraft signals. He notes that the data rate is a slow 500 bits per second, and it takes 3 to 5 minutes to download a complete image.

So far, the mini-Network includes stations in the United Kingdom, France and Japan but Thompson is looking for more volunteers. Information on contacting Bill Thompson to become a part of this mission is on-line at <http://stereo-ssc.nascom.nasa.gov/contact/contact.shtml> (NASA)

WORLDBEAT: GIANT 160 METER BEAM ERECTED IN FINLAND

A full size, 160 meter beam has been erected for use in a recent radiosports event. This, as the group at Radio Arcala in Finland put up the 39-ton, 3-element full-size monster in mid-January so as to have had it ready for the 2009 CQ World Wide 160 meter contest from the 23rd to the 25th of January.

But, the large low frequency array was put up for more than just contesting at the OH8X. station. Contest. Radio Arcala is also cooperating with the University of Oulu in several areas of High Frequency propagation study that require an antenna of this size and directivity. They also welcome and acknowledge field reports to oh1wz@sral.fi.

RECYCLING ALKALINE BATTERIES

And finally this week, a word about recycling spent batteries. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details:

—
It’s widely known that the U.S. government classifies alkaline batteries as non-hazardous waste. That means that in most places they can be disposed of in normal household trash.

But not all states agree. California for example has laws that require you to properly recycle them. And even some cities and counties are getting into the forced alkaline battery recycling act. The February edition of Popular Photography magazine notes that Hennepin County, Minnesota also requires that you dispose of them through proper recycling.

And, depending where you live, Nickel-Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Lithium-Ion and even old fashioned Carbon based cells can be considered as hazardous waste. This means that you cannot just toss them into the garbage can. Rather you must dispose of these cells according to federal, state and local laws for your area. In most cases this means dropping them off at a recycling center.

So what do you do to find a used battery recycling center? Take to the World-Wide-Web and go to www.rbrc.org to locate one close to you.

If you would like to use the club callsign, K7ID, contact Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX, or any of the KARS Board members. They have the approval forms available.

PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND!!!

GOSAT + Six SatPals Successfully Launched By Japan

JAXA GOSAT launch site Japan has launched a satellite whose focus will be to observe the concentration distribution of greenhouse gases from space. The launch of the Ibuki satellite (also known by GOSAT - Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite) took place on January 23rd at 03:54 UTC from the LP1 launch platform of the Yoshinubo launch complex on Tanegashima. Ibuki has a approximate mass of 1750 kg., and is equipped with two solar panels that generate 3.8 kW. The satellite will operate for 5 years on a sun-synchronous sub-recurrent orbit with a inclination of 98 degrees.

The small satellites with Amateur Radio capabilities launched with this satellite are SDS-1, SOHLA-1, SPRITESAT, PRISM, KKS-1, STARS-1, and the KAGAYAKI. Further information, frequencies and keplerian data can be found on the AMSAT website. We have some new stars to be pointing to and check the website often as more information is passed on.

[AmSat NewsService thanks Masa, JN1GKZ, for the above information]

RADIO BUSINESS: NEW SUPPLIER OF HEATHKIT MANUALS AND EVEN SOME PARTS

A new source for high quality reprints of Heathkit manuals along with some upgrades and service parts has come to the World-Wide-Web. This, with word that Data Professionals of Pleasanton, California, has purchased the copyrights and existing inventory of all legacy Heathkit product documentation from Heath Company of Benton Harbor Michigan. Amateur Radio Newline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

If you are old enough to remember when Heathkits reigned supreme among electronic builders then you will be happy to know that there is a new source of manuals and even some parts to keep them alive and well today. And we are not just talking ham radio gear either.

Data Professionals is a new company headed up by Don Peterson. He tells Newline that last year Heathkit contacted him and indicated that it wanted to stop supporting the manual requests that they were still receiving. Its preference was for him to take it over since he had already shown an interest in supporting Heathkit products.

After agreeing on a price Peterson says that he paid the cost to have 2.5 tons of documents shipped from Michigan to his office in California. He says that the new company will make high quality copies of the original legacy manuals available to the marketplace via its web site and through eBay and PayPal.

As to Internet rumors that he forced websites that have supplied manuals to stop doing that, Peterson says that in part, that is the case. He says that during the time he was negotiating the purchase, Heathkit had again taken an interest in trying to suppress various unauthorized manual suppliers. Once he made the purchase he realized that if he was now the copyright holder, that it fell to him to protect the copyrights of the manuals. So he contacted the various manual suppliers and requested that they stop.

Peterson says that he also realized that Boat Anchor Manual Archive, known better as BAMA was one of the most used sources of free manuals on the web. He says that it was his intent to continue to support BAMA, but with some compromises. His offer was for BAMA to be able to offer electronic copies of the schematics while just removing the other pages of the manuals from their website. He even offered to provide good quality .PDF files for the schematics but he believes that was simply too much of a bother for the BAMA webmaster who has removed the Heath manuals completely.

So what will Peterson be doing with the manuals? Obviously selling copies, but at prices below that of others on the web. As Don Peterson says, what he will charge will cover the cost of duplication plus a little margin to keep the doors open. He also says that he and W7FG have agreed to a royalty deal so he can continue to sell the Heathkit manuals as well. He does, however, say that he will continue to try and shut down any site that is providing free copies of entire manuals or is selling electronic copies on eBay on CD ROM's.

As to any profits from the sale of manuals? Peterson says that will be used to continue development of new upgrades and after-market modules so as to continue to support the entire Heathkit product line. His company has already designed some replacement temperature sensor modules for the weather stations and a replacement board for the old Mostek CPU for the ID-4001 Weather Station. He is currently in development of a replacement CPU board in the GC-1000 'Most Accurate Clock' that is still very popular and in service a lot of places these days. He tells Newline that this module will be a 'plug-in' replacement board that will plug into the socket of the Mostek CPU. Peterson says that without the cash flow from the manuals, this would not be possible.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

Complete information on obtaining manuals for Heath gear along with the updated modules and other parts is on line at Don Peterson's website. It's in cyberspace at www.d8apro.com. (ARNewline™)

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society

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Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about 1 mile North of Hayden Avenue). Instead of proceeding west from the corner of Miles and Ramsey, go north about ¼ mile, to the first building on the left (West) side of the road.

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Notice

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All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not the radio club as a whole.

KARS operates a voice repeater on 146.98 and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer if you wish to join.

If you know of anyone interested in joining KARS, you can notify the newsletter editor as to that parties email address. A copy of this newsletter will be sent with no obligation to join.

Material can be submitted for publication in Propagation. The deadline for articles, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's issue.