



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXII No. 9 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida September 2006

Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday
at 7:00 p.m. Golden Gate
Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
Naples FL

Club Repeater: K4YHB
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5

EOC Repeater:
WB2WPA 147.030 (+600)

Club Web Site:
<http://www.araswf.org>

Club Officers/ Chairpersons

President: KK4PG

Peter Gaddy

Vice President: KI4AI

Carl Pacini

Secretary: W2HI

Bob Graf

Treasurer: K2ZEL

Bill Reynolds

Past President: KB4ETT

Corey Mugaas

Technical Director: WB2QLP

Jordan Mash

Emergency Comm. Dir:

N1DL, Karl Geng

Ops. Director: KI4DBI

Rodney Smith

Public Info. Officer: KI4HQP

Elio Hernandez

Awards Manager: KD4VRZ

Gary Randall

VE Liaison: AI4CZ

Carolyn Conklin

Newsletter: WD8RFL

Mike Welsh

Webmaster: KI4HEY

Eric Rice

Social Chair: W2JQ

Sigi Boernet

From the President's Shack:

Thanks to all who helped with tower erection. It was very smooth and professionally done.

Karl, N1DL, our emergency communications director has spoken with Dan Summers and will have further discussions with him in the future.

I would like everyone at the next meeting to come up with suggestions as to how we should accomplish training and what our role should be in emergency communications.

Peter KK4PG



Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2006.

Present: Peter Gady, KK4PG - President
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary
Jordan Marsh, WB2QLP - Co-Technical Director
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI - Operations Director

Apologies: Carl Pacini, KI4AI - Vice President
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL - Treasurer
Tim Wallen, KC4SSD - Co-Technical Director
Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT - Past President

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 24 members including 4 directors in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call to the meeting.

Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:

On a motion by John N2ØI, seconded by N3ISH, the minutes of the July meeting as published in the ARASWF Newsletter were unanimously accepted without change.

Officers' Reports:

Emergency Preparedness: Peter, KK4PG, reported that he had received a formal response from Collier County EOC to his previous letter wherein he requested a meeting to discuss how the club might be better associated with Collier County in the event of an emergency. It was agreed that this formal response was not exactly the kind of response the club was hoping for, and further attempts to arrange a meaningful meeting will be undertaken.

Director of Emergency Communications: KK4PG announced that the Board of Directors had approved the appointment of Karl, N1DL, as ARASWF Director of Emergency Communications, and in that capacity Karl will undertake the follow-up to the Collier County EOC response discussed previously by KK4PG.

Repeater Backup: KK4PG announced that the Board of Directors had approved the purchase of a back-up Kenwood UHF transceiver for the repeater site, at a cost of \$100. - \$150. Carl, WA9ZIF, who donated the two existing UHF link radios to the club for use with the Echolink system, will purchase the transceiver when one similar to the existing Kenwood link radios becomes available.

TV Publicity: Finally, KK4PG announced that WBBH/NBC2 would like to do a story about Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications. Because other commitments will prevent him from participating in this project, he asked for a volunteer to work on this project which is scheduled for Friday, August 25th from his home, and George, N3ISH, agreed to take on this responsibility. Rodney, KI4DBI, will assist if he is able to be there at the appointed time.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was dispensed with for this month. Peter, KK4PG, announced that Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, (Treasurer) was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness. Peter did announce that he spent \$59. for a UPS that he installed at the club repeater site to provide lightning suppression.

Committee Reports:

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, announced that the next VE testing session will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 30th, at 1:30 PM. This time was chosen in a coordinated effort with Collier County EOC office, where it was felt that a Saturday afternoon would best suit the needs of several people there who desired to be tested. Instead of using the facilities at Collier County Government Center as was done in June, the new test site will be at a Collier County office on Horseshoe Drive. The exact address will be announced on the Wednesday night Net, and be published in the next ARASWF Newsletter. Carolyn, once again, solicited the members to become active with the VE program and become accredited with the ARRL VEC because of a continuing need for additional accredited examiners at the testing sessions.

6-Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that the 6-meter AM Net is alive and well, with 13 check-ins last Monday at 7:30 PM on 50.400 MHz. He also said that after last Monday's net several distant stations were heard, and 2 such stations in Maine and Massachusetts were worked. In addition, other stations were heard from Michigan and Pennsylvania.

6-Meter Gear: Peter, KK4PG, took this opportunity to request that the members be alert to any possible availability of vintage 6-meter AM gear that might be obtained and reconditioned. This gear is become scarcer as 6-meter AM activity seems to be on the rise all over the country, and there is a particular shortage of 6-meter converters and Dow-Key T/R relays.

Old Business:

QSL Cards: Jordan, WB2QLP, announced that he has a small supply of club QSL cards that can be used to satisfy commitments resulting from the recent Keywadin Island expedition.

Antenna Trailers: Jordan also discussed the need to form a small group to work on the club antenna trailer, which is in need of some repairs and renovation. He will first make an inspection to determine what needs to be done, and then report back so arrangements can be made to get a work party together. George, N3ISH, suggested that the club also inspect Jordan's antenna trailer, and be prepared to repair his trailer at the same time, in appreciation of his having made it available when needed. Everyone agreed.

New Business:

December Meeting/Christmas Party: Sigy, W2JQ, announced that he may not be available to make the necessary advance arrangements for the 2006 December meeting/Christmas Party later in the Fall, and asked if someone else might like to assume that responsibility. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Christmas Party will again be held at Perkins Restaurant on Pine Ridge Road, and Sigy will inquire about reservations and possible dates now, before he departs the area.

Gear For Sale: Jordan, WB2QLP, announced that he is selling a considerable number of items for the widow of a fellow ham, including amplifiers, transceivers, etc., and anyone who is interested can contact him. He will try to make available a listing of available gear for the next newsletter, but observed that he may be attending 2 hamfests before then, and some of the items might be sold before the newsletter is distributed.

Special Feature:

Karl, N1DL passed around some very old (1928) QSL cards that were from the collection of NV1QQ, and made some of them available to the members. He also announced that he will be operating as J7R from the Commonwealth of Dominica from September 21 – 29.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was dispensed with this month due to the absence of Bill, K2ZEL, ARASWF Treasurer.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, George, N3ISH, made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Karl, N1DL, and unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Bob Graf
W2HI
Secretary

From Bob Graf, W2HI:

OUR ROLE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**By Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary, ARASWF**

Emergency Preparedness for us in ARASWF means being able to be on the air quickly, helping our community, state, and nation, in possibly less than ideal situations. We may need to operate from a shelter, an incident site, a fire station, a hospital, an emergency headquarters, or our home in situations that may be less than ideal. We may need to provide assistance locally, or we may volunteer to travel to an out-of-area site of a major incident.

With all the attention being given recently to weather related incidents such as Wilma, Katrina, the continuing threat of hurricanes, etc., and non-weather related incidents such as 9/11, there has arisen a need for training volunteer responders, including radio amateurs, in a common and standardized manner so as to improve coordination of responses to incidents, improve efficiency and eliminate mis-communication and misdirection of effort.

Thus, NIMS was born.

National Incident Management System



While most emergency situations are handled locally, when there's a major incident help may be needed from other jurisdictions, the state and the federal government. NIMS was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and

management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management. One of the key features of NIMS is the Incident Command System (ICS). All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel. At present, the required NIMS ICS training courses are ICS-100, 200, 700 & 800.

Question:

So how does all this relate to volunteer Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Assistance, and our involvement with ARASWF in particular?

ANSWER:

If we want to be on a level playing field with other emergency responders and be accepted as professionals, we need to be certified for the required training.

Required training is becoming the norm for local agencies that respond to disasters. For example, Red Cross asks for training for both local and out of area assignments. And Collier County EOC has already indicated that training will be required for future incident responses. As reported previously in the SFL Section News, there are certain training requirements for ARES, and for those hams who wish to deploy out of their home counties. All training requirements must be met by January 1, 2007, for all ARES members and appointees of record as of 7/22/06.

All ARES and NTS members must obtain Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) Level 1 certification in addition to FEMA ICS-100 certification. This will be the minimum training for local assignments.

For those who wish to deploy outside their counties, FEMA ICS-200, ICS-700 and ICS-800 certification will be required. This training certification is necessary to heighten the state of readiness of Amateur communications and increase the level of professionalism of Field Volunteers so as to meet more effectively the needs of the served agencies.

The required Level 1 ARECC training can be done in a variety of ways thru ARRL. The most practical way is through an on-line course which has a \$45. registration fee. (It can also be done through self-study, but the final exam must be taken before a local, accredited, Certification Examiner (not just an accredited VE), of which there are very few in this area.)

The purpose of this article is to relate how easy it is to obtain the required FEMA ICS-100, 200, 700 & 800 certifications, which are free.

Contrary to popular belief, one can read all the required material and take the 4 tests in several brief sittings. The procedures for doing so are simple. Basically, one navigates to the correct web page and downloads/prints a copy of the final examination. Then the study material is read, and the answers to the questions on the printed exam copy are marked on that copy. (All the answers are covered in the study material.) Finally, one navigates to the final exam and enters all the answers he/she marked on the printed exam copy.

The exact procedures are as follows:

For ICS-100:

1. Go to <http://www.training.fema.gov/>
2. Click on "FEMA NIMS Training" in the upper left corner of the FEMA web page
3. Scroll down the IS Course List to "ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100" and Click
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and Click "Download Final Exam Questions", and Print the exam questions

5. Go Back to the previous page and Click “Option 4: Printable version of IS-100 (Self-Study Guide, Summary Only)” – this is the study material and can be either read on-line or printed for off-line study
6. Mark your answers to the exam questions on the printed copy of the exam
7. Then complete the on-line process to take the actual exam - Go Back to the previous page and Click on “Take Final Exam” – You will have the opportunity to register when you are finished taking the exam.

FEMA will respond by sending an email indicating pass or fail, together with a message that a completion certificate will follow by regular mail in 2-3 weeks. (Actually, at the present time, the certificate may arrive in as little as 2-3 days.)

For ICS-200, repeat the above steps 1 & 2, then:

3. Scroll down the IS Course List to “IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents” and Click
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and Click “Download Final Exam Questions”, and Print the exam questions
5. Go Back to the previous page and Click “Option 4: Course Summary” – this is the study material and can be either read on-line or printed for off-line study
6. Repeat above step 6
7. Repeat above step 7

For ICS-700, repeat the above steps 1 & 2, then:

3. Scroll down the IS Course List to “ICS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction” and Click
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and Click “Download Final Exam Questions” and Print the exam questions
5. Go Back to the previous page Click “Lesson Summary – A Complete IS-700 Lesson Summary” – this is the study material and can be either read on-line or printed for off-line study
6. Repeat above step 6
7. Repeat above step 7

For ICS-800, the procedures are a little different, so repeat the above steps 1 & 2, then:

3. Scroll down the IS Course List to “ICS-800” and Click
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and Click “Download Final Exam Questions” and Print the exam
5. Go Back to the previous page and Click “Option 1: Interactive Web-based Course”
6. Scroll to the bottom of the page and Click “IS-800.A National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction”
7. Scroll to the bottom of the IS-800 Course Map and Click “Lesson 6: Summary and Posttest”
8. On the Lesson Overview page, Click “Click on this link to print a copy of the information presented in this course summary” – this is the study material and can be either read on-line or printed for off-line study
9. Mark your answers to the exam questions on the printed copy of the exam

10. Close out of this page, then close out of the Lesson Overview page, then close out of the Course Map page, then go Back to the original IS-800 page and Scroll to the bottom of the page and Click "Take Final Exam"

That's all there is to it! When you're finished with taking the 4 exams, you'll be certified for the required ICS training and your credentials will accepted both locally and out-of-area - everywhere you might want to volunteer to provide emergency communications assistance – and will help in your being recognized and accepted as a trained volunteer responder.

From RL Caron, K4GP:

The Future of Emergency Communications in Naples and Collier County

For as long as some can remember, ham radio and the local chapter of the American Red Cross have been "in charge" of shelter communications during hurricane evacuation periods. As of Tropical Storm Ernesto, all that changed.

Actually, things began changing a long time ago. It became increasingly difficult in recent times to cover the shelters during storm activations. The number of active hams, never very high for any event, is precariously low when serious storms threaten. The reasons are varied, from family obligations and jobs that are tied to public safety to more mundane and somewhat suspect excuses. But the fact remains that in none of the eight official activations of 2004/2005 were all the open shelters properly equipped and occupied with a licensed radio operator. Fortunately, the most serious glitches in that period—including a generator failure at the special needs shelter—were instantly and capably covered by ham radio and problems averted.

But the lack of consistently dependable ham radio coverage at the shelters was a problem Collier County Director of Emergency Services Dan Summers couldn't ignore. Enlisting the help of Paul Johnson, K9OLE and the designer of the vast UHF trunked system operated by the school board, the two initiated a profound change. The priority for shelter communications was placed on a commercial UHF frequency—a repeater that is normally part of the school communications system is during emergencies split off to provide a dedicated EOC-only radio channel. This makes all the sense in the world from a number of perspectives: the school system has by far the best radio coverage of any in the county; there is plenty of equipment available at no cost as it is constantly being updated with state-of-the-art gear; the system is nearly idle when schools are closed, and best of all, the radios don't have to be tended by a licensed ham radio operator.

Rather than see this as a slight on the ham community (as some surely will) this move by the EOC allows our very limited people resources to be used in a more appropriate and productive manner. After all, our ham training makes us valuable more as innovative communicators than as baby sitters to a radio set that may be needed for a routine matter once or twice in a 24-hour period. Now, with the UHF, any one of dozens of volunteers at a shelter can be assigned to keep an ear out for the EOC radio. Or

instructed to simply walk over to the microphone and key up if a dicey situation or a simple question arises. Simple and effective.

So what's left for us? Well, for openers, we should continue to be ready to provide shelter comms on short notice. The WWAV tower on which the school board radio system antennas are mounted is a rugged one, but taller and stronger structures have been known to come down in storms. And of course, any part of the repeater chain could fail--most likely some component right there at the shelter.

None of this is to say that hams should not volunteer to tend those shelter radios--having their 2-meter rigs also set up for side chatter and backup. That would be ideal. It's just that now, limited ham resources do not HAVE to be expended at the preparatory and storm arrival stage of the crisis. We can and should be monitoring all developing emergencies from wherever we might be, and stand ready to respond to any communications crises. But we don't necessarily have to spend a 12 or 24 hour cycle in a shelter reading a book or doing crossword puzzles. It's likely that our primary value will ultimately be in the post-disaster phase of the emergency--establishing communications links in the field where they will likely be most needed in relief of existing systems already overloaded from storm recovery activities.

Our future role in emergencies can only be even more valuable than in the past. The local model should be a close parallel of that of the ham community nationwide. Ham radio is a unique resource of trained and talented people, equipment, established protocols, and innovation serving the public's need for specialized communications when they are most acutely needed. Hams routinely "invent" communications systems on the fly, tailored to practically any unforeseen need that might be created by a natural or other disaster.

This change in priorities is not a change in responsibility. To the contrary, it will allow Collier County hams to see our larger scope of responsibilities more clearly and with better assurance that the deployment of our limited number of trained and dedicated hams will truly serve the community in the best way possible. Let us never forget: we provide a free service that no other resource is able to deliver at any cost.

RL Caron, K4GP

From John Simander, NSOI:

HOW TO GET A REAL LIVE PERSON ON THE PHONE

To speak to a real live human and not keep pushing buttons on the phone. Here is a link to a site that lists 454 companies and how to bypass their "buttons". It is listed as accurate as of August 21, 2006. From the Naples Daily News August 21, 2006.

<http://www.gethuman.com>

From Carolyn Conklin, AI4CZ:

VE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

On Saturday, September 30, 2006 at 1:30 PM the ARASWF will host an amateur radio exam session at the new EOC Training Rooms located at 2685 Horseshoe Dr. So., Suites 104/105, Naples, FL. This is approximately across the street from the David Lawrence Office on Horseshoe Drive South. Examiners please be there by 1 PM to prepare for the session.

All elements will be available for testing. Any member looking to up-grade is welcome as well as any friends for family looking to get started in Amateur Radio.

Please spread the word! Any questions you may contact me at cconklin2@swfla.rr.com or cell phone 239-465-2684.

Carolyn Conklin - AI4CZ
VE Liason

From Karl Geng, N1DL:

DXpedition to Dominica Under Way

Karl N1DL and George W4LFK are on their way to Dominica where they will commence operating as J79DL and J79MD on Sept. 21. Over the weekend they will use the special call sign J7R before securing operations on Sept. 27. Their QTH will be about 5 miles from the capital city Roseau in a mountain village called Wotten Waven. A beam and several wire antennas should make it easy for us to work them from South West Florida. They will check into the Spiderweb net on 14347 around 0830 am and periodically into the YL System on 14332 during the day. Evening and night operations will include 40 and 80 meters.

Help Needed for County Preparedness

The EOC needs our help to inventory, clean, test and assemble a number of 450 MHz rigs to be used at the shelters and other key locations in the county for hurricane and disaster communications.

If you can spare a few hours please come on Saturday Oct. 7 at 9 am to the County facility on 195 Basik Drive in Naples. This place is on Route 41 east of 951 next the old Krehling (now CEMEX) cement plant.

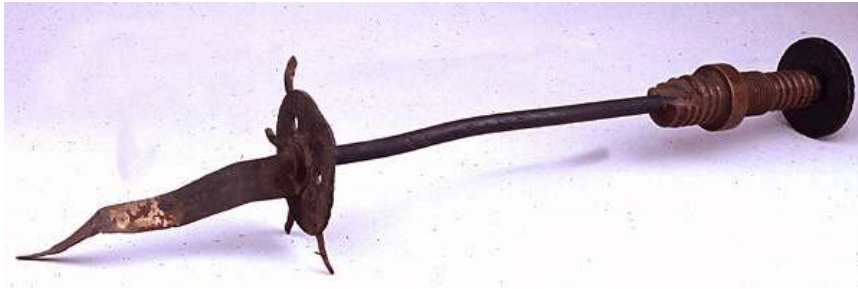
We are trying to get about 10 hams from both the ARASWF and MIRC to help out. Please let Karl N1DL or Peter KK4PG know if you can help out.

73
Karl N1DL

The "Mystery Object" from Last Month's Newsletter

Editor's Note: I received three replies concerning the item in question. One from Jeff Beals, WA4AW, ARRL Southern Florida Section, Assistant Section Manager; one from Gunther Meisse W8GSM/4; and an outstanding response from Jordan Mash, WB2QLP, which is reprinted here. Jeff's reply came very shortly after e-mailing the newsletter, at 12:11AM. He must stay up late, "copying the mail" !

The Rettysnitch



The **Rettysnitch** is used to enforce **decency** in Amateur Radio operating work.

In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Cebik stated that "Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate: "The Wouff-Hong", and Rettysnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 *QST*. According to Cebik, "In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos." An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

In case you were wondering, here is a photo of the Wouff-Hong:



"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."

"The Rettysnitch. . .is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work."



Standing in front of W1AW, "Riley The Enforcer" wields the venerable and traditional Wouff Hong (left) and Rettysnitch (right) as adjunct weapons against operators who break the rules. The Wouff Hong and the Rettysnitch were products of the creative mind and hand of "The Old Man," none other than ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, who occasionally invoked their specter in his QST editorials about "rotten QRM" and poor operating practices. [Rick Lindquist, N1RL]

From The ARRL Letter Online Volume 18, Number 12 (March 19, 1999)

Related article submitted by Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

How to Sound like a Lid

By Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

(Really by: Stan Slaughter, N4GUX With additional input from Mark Huff, WA4DHY.)

Stan Slaughter 1989. ©All Rights reserved.

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a Lid (i.e. poor operator). Since this appears to be the new style in amateur radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

1. Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. i.e. "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.
2. Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW rag chewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.
3. Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."
4. Always say "XX4XXX (insert your own call) for ID" Anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for ID" While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)
5. The better the copy on two-meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one. i.e. "My name is Al..Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."
6. Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.
7. Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa. And even if the two-meter FM amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill.
8. If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.
9. Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.
10. The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.
11. If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.
12. If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the auto patch for the full three minutes. This

way, once the two re-establish contacts, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

13. You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

14. Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

15. See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopiable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

16. Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.

17. Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."

18. Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. Distortion is the key here. If you are mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from the entire racket.

19. Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)

20. Start every transmission with the word "Roger " or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

21. When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22. Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!

23. Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.

24. If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")

25. In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")

26. On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

27. Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.

28. Use the repeater's auto patch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line, so they get charged for each auto patch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues.

29. Never say, "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases:

"The personal here is...."

"The handle here is...."

Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years.

30. Use 73 and 88 incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "73's" or "88's." Who cares if it means "best regardses" and "love and kisseses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds." (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3.)

31. Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Gates.

32. Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.

34. Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of keyups. That stuff is fun to track. Test the temperature as often as possible. The farther the outside temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test

it. Also, if you get page on the repeater, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

25. If the repeater is off the air for service, as soon as it's turned back on complain about the fact that it was off the air. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because the repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. A general rule of thumb here is that the more reliable the repeater is, the more you should complain after it comes back up.

26. Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on auto patches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the "floppy disk" you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

27. Buy the smallest, most complicated rig you can afford. Immediately throw away the book, then, start asking around on the local repeaters for someone who knows how to program it. Never look something up for yourself. Always rely on someone else to learn how to use it. Inconvenience that person as much as possible, preferably having him come to your house to teach you how to program it. Even better...try to find someone as far away as possible. Oh yes, and don't forget to complain about how small your new rig is and how hard it is to push those tiny buttons. If someone asks you why you bought a rig that was too small for you to easily use, change the subject.

28. Interrupt any and all conversations. Take control of the rotation. All repeaters need a rotation cop. It might as well be you, especially if you have nothing to add. Because you can interrupt the conversation, this means you should.

Just using a few of these easy steps should put you well on the way to Lid-hood. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect Lid.

Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

Rusty Bumpers is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

Revised 02/16/02

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LOCAL HAMFEST CALENDAR

- 7 OCT 2006 Cy Harris W4MAQ Memorial Free Flea, Broward ARC
<http://www.eagle3.net/barc>
Locn: Oakland Park, FL, Collins Center, 3900 NE 3rd Avenue
- 14-15 Oct 2006 Florida State Convention, Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.pcars.org>
Locn: Melbourne, FL, Melbourne Aud., 625 East Hibiscus Blvd.
- 25 Nov 2006 Okeechobee ARC
<http://www.flweather.com/oarc/hamfest/>
Locn: Okeechobee, FL, Okeechobee County Civic Center
1750 Highway 98 North
- 2-3 Dec 2006 West Central Florida Section Convention (Tampa Bay Hamfest)
Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council
<http://www.tampabayhamfest.org>
Locn: Palmetto, FL, Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd

SOLAR REPORT, Submitted by Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

"BACKWARD SUNSPOTS" MAY HERALD START OF SOLAR CYCLE 24

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August - although it subsequently began to dissipate -- and some sungazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

Shack of the Month

Peter Gaddy, KK4PG

“A pictorial history to date”



Helper Molly finishes the tower base
(May 2006)



Radio Dog with Amp running (May 2006)



Repair Bench (May 2006)



Operating Position (May 2006)



Antenna Switches

KK4PG Tower Raising Party - September 10, 2006



<--- Pictured from left to right,
KK4PG,N3ISH,AH8M,WB2QLP,and N1DL
standing next to Peter's new tower.

AH8M, Bob, took
out time from the
ARRL VHF QSO
Party to help
KK4PG with his
tower. Check his
"Rover" truck ----->



An Update on Our Now FAMOUS Member from "Across the Pond" David Worboys, M0ZLB

amateur radio news & products

A comprehensive look at what's new in our hobby this month

New QSL Manager

The QSL Manager for the **International Short Wave League (ISWL)** has changed from Alan Loveridge to: **Herbie Yeldham, BelleFleurs, 18 Wade Reach, Walton on the Naze, Essex CO14 8RG**. All QSL cards to members should be sent direct or to the new address E-mail: iswlburo@yahoo.co.uk

In Stock Now!

If you're a fan of our sister publication, *RadioUser*, then you'll be pleased to hear that we now have available binders to keep your issues in. The smart black binders with the *RadioUser* logo on both the spine and front are a must if you want to keep your collection tidy, safe and to hand for easy reference. To order your *RU* binder for **£10 plus P&P** please use the order form on page 61 of this issue or call **0870 224 7830** today!

Island of Mull Activation

The **Sands Contest Group (M0SCG)** will be activating the Island of Mull (EU-008) during the week of 23rd to 29th September. All the h.f. bands will be activated and modes used will, hopefully, include s.s.b., RTTY, PSK31 and maybe c.w.

Operators during the event will include, **Ian G0VGS, Kev (the hat) G6FKE, Mark M0DGK, Chris M0DWK, Bex 2E0BEX** and **Andrew G0LWU**. The equipment they will be using will include a Yaesu FT-920, Kenwood TS-2000 and Elecraft K2 and a Ranger 811 amplifier. The antennas will include a 3-band Spiderbeam and dipoles for each band and it's hoped to also load the main mast as a vertical.

The contest group will also hopefully be activating Iona as well, weather permitting. Several of the members will be attempting to activate Ben-More (SI-003) for SOTA and WAB information will be available.

The members of M0SCG hope to work as many operators as possible during their stay. Further information on the Sands Contest Group can be found at www.gb7mbc.net/sands/



Receiving ISS SSTV Pictures

The astronauts onboard the *International Space Station (ISS)* are all Radio Amateurs and they have recently completed commissioning the SpaceCam1 Amateur Radio Slow Scan TV (SSTV) system developed by MAREX-MG. It will be used by ISS crews for SSTV image communications with Amateur Radio operators world-wide.

Some of the first pictures from the newly commissioned system were received by Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) member, **David Worboys M0ZLB**. On Saturday 12 August during the 2335UTC pass, he successfully received two SSTV pictures from the astronauts on 145.800MHz.

David received the pictures using his Icom IC-706MKIIG with a Maldol GHX-510 tri-band vertical antenna. The decoding of the SSTV picture was done using the free *MMSSSTV* software and he used *Nova* for the satellite predictions.

Further information on SpaceCam1 and how to receive SSTV can be found at www.marexmg.org. The site also has some of the pictures already received from SpaceCam1.

If you'd like to chat to David M0ZLB about his 'pictures from space' experience, go along to one of the Chelmsford ARS meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the **Marconi Social Club (MASC), Beehive Lane, Great Baddow, CM2 9RX**, doors open at 1910 for a start at 1930 start.

For further information on CARS contact the club secretary:

Martyn Medcalf G1EFL
Tel: (01245) 469008
E-mail: info2006@g0mwt.org.uk
Website: www.g0mwt.org.uk/



MARS Moves

The **Midland Amateur Radio Society**, known locally as MARS, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, having been founded on 16 June 1931. Over the years, the society has seen many changes and the latest is a move to new premises.

Members of MARS now meet at the **Selly Park Baptist Church, 1041, Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B29 7PS**. Club nights are held every Wednesday from 1900.

The club serves both licensed Amateur Radio enthusiasts and Short Wave Listeners. There are currently have over 60 members of MARS, who are predominantly from the Birmingham area but there are also a few out-of-town members from all over the UK, Europe and Australia!

If you're interested in joining MARS please contact:
Ron M0WSN
Tel: 0121-742 1808
Website: www.midamradio.co.uk





SPACE CAM: David Worboys with the equipment at his Witham home. And above, Flight Engineer Jeff Williams, Commander Pavel Vinogradov and Thomas Reiter.

Photo: Laura Johnson

Radio ham's space odyssey

A CHELMSFORD Amateur Radio Club member is one of the first in the country to receive pictures from the International Space Station orbiting the Earth.

David Worboys downloaded two pictures of the crew as the orbiting space station passed within range of his VHF radio link.

The three astronauts have just set up and commissioned the SpaceCam 1 Amateur Radio Slow Scan TV system to enable contact to be made with radio amateurs across the world.

David, 43, whose call sign is M0ZLB, managed to link up with his VHF radio equipment as the astronauts flew 242 miles above the Earth.

A free programme downloaded on to his computer from the internet received and decoded the digital pictures sent from space.

John Perfect

newsdesk@essexchronicle.co.uk

He said: "I was quite impressed. Sometimes I have set it up in the middle of the night and got nothing.

"I just switched on a programme that tells me exactly where the station is and I realised it was going over.

"I set up my equipment and just had to sit back and listen as the pictures came in.

"It sounds rather like the noise you get with a fax machine and could not have taken more than 30 seconds to a minute to come through."

A third picture was only half completed as the station, which takes 90 minutes to orbit the Earth, went out of range.

Aerial

He said that a six-foot aerial on the roof of his detached house received the signal from space — straight into the converted bedroom he uses for his hobby.

Because of the nature of the station's orbit it is often out of range.

David, an accountant who lives in Witham, has been a keen radio amateur for five years and has British and American licences.

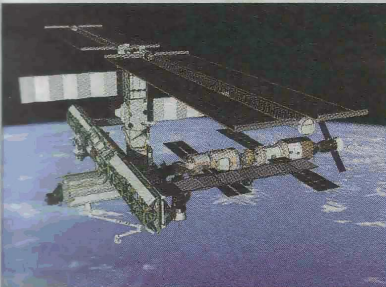
Like many other radio amateurs he spoke to the previous space station crew last November.

The commander of the 13th space station mission is Pavel Vinogradov.

The flight engineer is Jeff Williams and the European Space Agency Astronaut is Thomas



OUT OF THIS WORLD: The space station's distance from the Earth fluctuates as it revolves around us but on average it travels at an orbit of around 220 miles away from our planet.



The International Space Station.

Reiter. The station crew is due to be replaced in the autumn.

Work on the station orbiting at 3,700 mph — a project involving five space agencies — has been going on since 1998 with completion anticipated in 2010, when there is likely to be more crew.

As well as being a gateway to new frontiers in space exploration the station will offer a research facility with six planned state-of-the-art laboratories, hopefully leading to advances in medicine, technology and science.

For more information on Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society and the courses on offer, contact Clive Ward on 01245 224577 or 07860 418835 or email training2006@g0mwt.org.uk or visit www.g0mwt.org.uk.

SPACECAM 1

Amateur slow scan television from the International Space Station

By David Worboys M0ZLB/KG4ZLB

m0zlb@btinternet.com

kg4zlb@comcast.net

Cmdr. Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS



image received August 13 2006 @ 00:36 UTC

Expedition 13 crew: (L-R) Jeff Williams KD5TVQ, Pavel Vinogradov RV3BS and Thomas Reiter



image received August 13 2006 @ 00:42 UTC

Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS



image courtesy of G8OQW received August 15 2006 @ 20:02 UTC

The concept of amateur radio equipment on the International Space Station (ISS) is a familiar one to most, if not all, radio amateurs worldwide and the amazing on air voracity of Bill McArthur, *KC5ACR*, the Commander of the previous Expedition 12 mission, only cemented that in the minds of people when he gave so many amateurs around the world the chance to make the QSO and receive the prized card.



ISS QSL card

Of course missions come and go and the crew's time to get on the air is limited to their official duties and the ISS is also armed with cross band and packet repeaters. So there tends to always be something going on when the footprint is in the vicinity of your

QTH unless mission practicalities such as the arrival of the Russian Progress supply ships or the Space Shuttle, demands that the system is switched off.

Very recently, a new mode of operation, dubbed "SpaceCam 1" has been developed and delivered to the ISS which will allow amateurs and anyone with a suitable receiver and a personal computer to receive fairly high quality images (Slow Scan TV – "SSTV") direct from the orbiting Space Station. The continuing SSTV developments for ISS are being conducted by the MAREX group that contributed and gained much valuable experience in the very successful Mir SSTV System. Whilst the Mir SSTV System consisted of a hardware package, ISS SSTV utilizes a laptop computer that was already aboard the ISS and the software and interface was mated to the already present Ericsson HT radio aboard the station. That Ericsson radio is also the one being used for packet and voice communications. It is worth mentioning at this point that there is no funding available for this project, the generous contributions of amateur radio operators worldwide having made this idea a reality.

So what is it all about and how do you receive the pictures?

The idea is that eventually the system will be transmitting pictures 24 hours a day on a slideshow basis which should allow three or four pictures to be downloaded in the time that it takes for the ISS to pass over your QTH. That is providing that the pass is high enough in the sky. A library of some 400 images will be available and ultimately it is hoped that amateurs will be able to upload their own images.

At the end of July, Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, the Commander of the present Expedition 13 mission, initiated some testing of the system by activating the SSTV program which proved that the basic configuration was set up correctly.

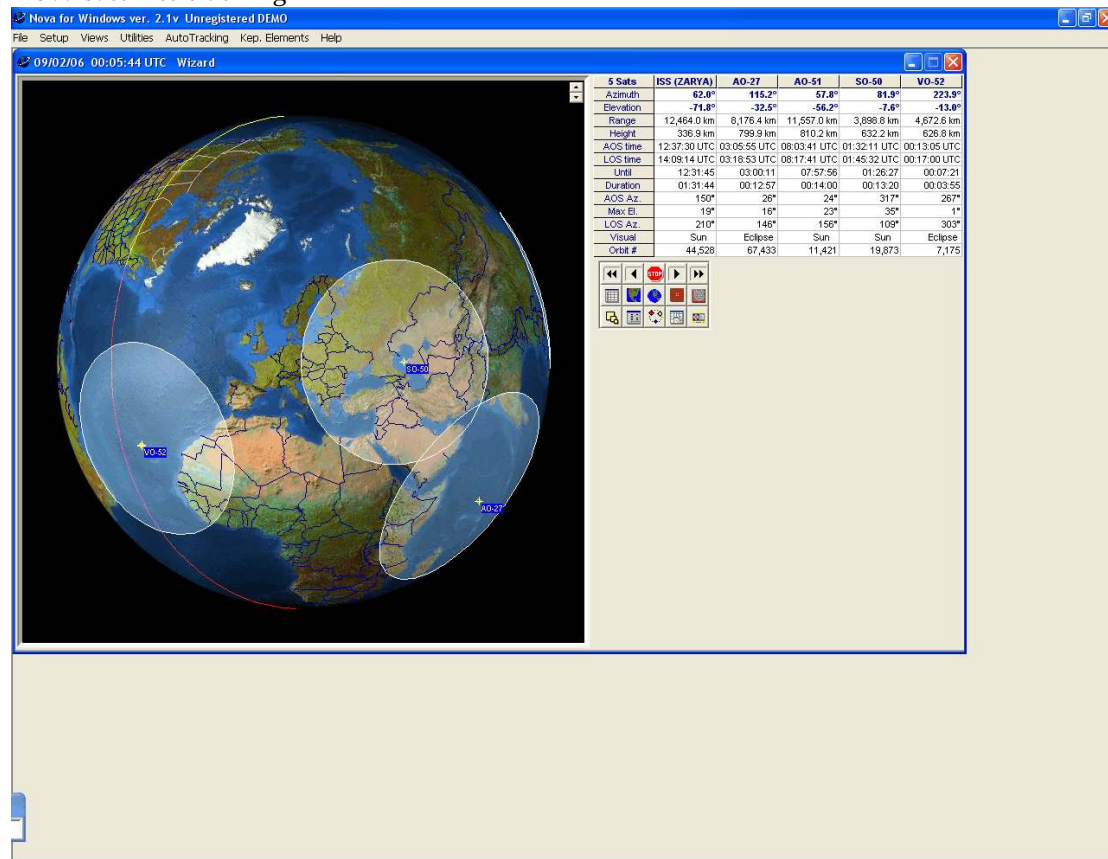
Since that time the system has been operated sporadically and it is my understanding that the nature of the full duty cycle that the radio has to endure in transmitting the images is creating an overheating situation which will need to be addressed and rectified before full deployment can take place. Remember, there are no ambient cooling effects in the ISS – they can't just open the window!

The real beauty of this mode of operation, from a recipient's viewpoint, is the ease and simplicity and inexpensiveness of the equipment needed to receive images. If you have 2m receive capability and a personal computer equipped with a soundcard, you can get in to this new mode of ISS amateur radio with the minimum of fuss. You do not need az/el rotators, high gain yagi's and computer controlled tracking – it's nice, but not actually a requirement for any ISS mode of transmission. Better still, for those experienced satellite operators, there are no worries about Doppler effect, the strength of the signal from a craft that is not spinning away in space combined with a large footprint, means that you can set your equipment up, wait for an ISS pass over your location and let the equipment do all the work.

So, how do you do it?

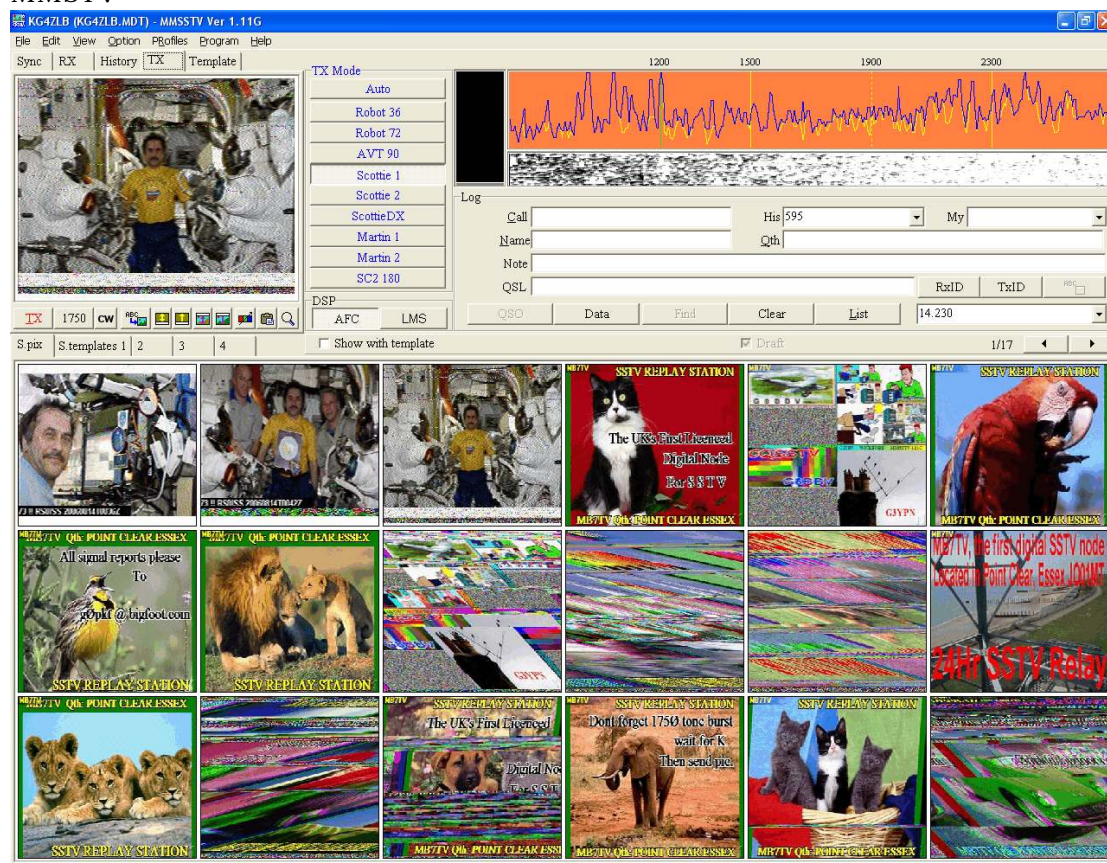
Two programs are needed on your computer, one being a satellite tracking program to tell you where and when the ISS will be passing you and the second is a program that will decode the signal received to provide the image. Again, good news, both of these are available on the internet for free thanks to the generosity of software developing amateurs worldwide who provide “freeware” to the amateur community. A basic Google search for “Satellite tracking” and “SSTV” will provide a wealth of links to sites for you to peruse and download.

Nova satellite tracking



(copyright: Northern Lights Software Association)

MMSTV



(copyright: JE3HHT Makoto Mori) Images courtesy of G8OQW and MB7TV

I have for some time, used a program called “Nova” which is available for download on a trial basis – the only difference between the trial version and the registered version is the inability to save as default, certain end user preferences but it is a clean and clear program that is extremely user friendly. For SSTV, I use a program called “MMSSTV” which is extremely popular with SSTV enthusiasts, again because of it's simplicity of use.

As regards hardware, a radio or scanner that has 2m capability and an antenna (I should say “aerial” as this is a "receive" only project). Yes you can do it with a handheld and a rubber ducky type of antenna, the strength of the signal from the ISS is such that basic antenna's are adequate. Indeed I personally have conducted a QSO with the ISS using a handheld for receive and a mobile radio to transmit, so it can be done with limited equipment. Of course, having some sort of proper VHF station set up at your QTH is useful though!

Finally an audio cable link between the extension speaker of your radio and the mic input of your computer (normally a 3.5mm jack plug each end of the cable). In an emergency, even an external microphone from your computer placed in front of your radio's speaker will do!

Currently, SSTV images have been received on the ISS normal downlink frequency of 145.800, I anticipate that when the system is running at full capacity this may be changed as 145.800 is the worldwide downlink frequency for voice and packet but for now, 145.800 is the place to be.

And do take into consideration your own local geography. Are you in a town, in the country, up high etc? The more passes you observe using the tracking program, the more knowledge you will gain about the characteristics of your personal set up when receive signals from the ISS.

After running your satellite tracking program and evaluating where and when the ISS will be passing, tune your radio to 145.800, open up your SSTV decode program (after having ensured that your audio input levels are correct) and connect your radio to your computer. The higher the pass (the "elevation") the better the signal, and therefore the image, will be. Adjust the volume into the computer and watch! Or go and make a cup of tea.

The one parameter that you can not control is whether or not the system on the ISS will be switched on for a pass over your QTH. At the present time there is some question over when the system will go live full time, and (at the time of writing) the next Space Shuttle mission is due to dock in a few days and all these considerations will effect when and where the system will be in operation. As the SSTV system is currently manually operated, the only time that it will be switched on is when the crew have the time. Remember that they tend to keep to UTC time so later in the day could be the best time to listen.

If you currently have just a basic VHF station and a personal computer then this new addition to the amateur radio armoury will cost you nothing to get into. And if for any reason the project is shelved or cancelled, you have likewise lost nothing, so give it a try and remember to check the websites of AMSAT and MAREX to see any new information concerning frequencies and times.

Good luck and have fun

Finally I should like to thank my friend and fellow amateur radio enthusiast David Barber, G8OQW, whom without, much of my recent ISS SSTV success would have been impossible.

WEB LINKS:

MAREX-MG

<http://www.marexmg.org/>

MMSSTV Slow Scan TV Software

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/>

AMSAT-UK

<http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

NOVA

<http://www.nlsa.com/>

Another Article About David

[Radio Ham's Space Odyssey](#)

Visit our Club Web Site at: www.araswf.org

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 26, 2006
7:00 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER