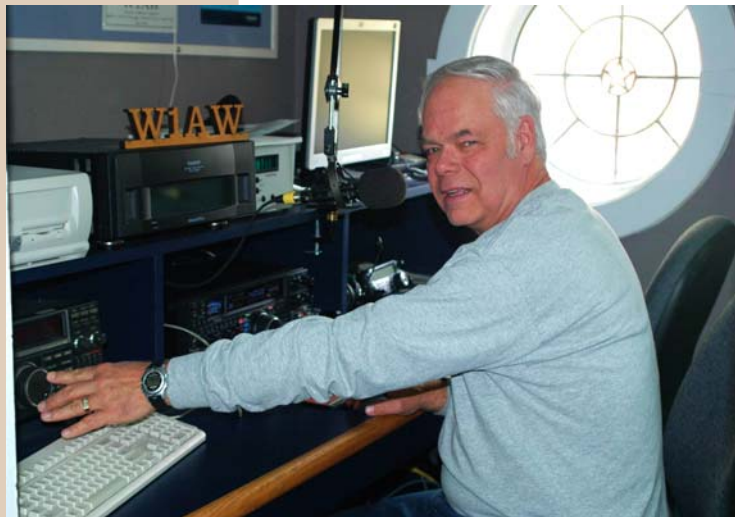


Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 11, November 2006



Jack Parker, W8ISH, at the desk of W1AW.

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

New “Hello” video now available (Nov 6, 2006) — A new Amateur Radio promotional video — part of the “Hello” campaign — now is available from ARRL. Kevin O’Dell, N0IRW, a member of the ARRL Public Relations Committee, produced the video, which runs approximately four minutes. It’s available for viewing (.wmv version) and downloading (scroll down to “Hello Video Files Hello - 4 minute mini-presentation”) in Windows Media and MPEG formats via the League’s public relations page. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the video is an excellent addition to the Hello package. Timed to coincide with the culmination of the Hello campaign in late December, he says, the video “gives hams a once-in-a-century opportunity to promote Amateur Radio as

Hello!

never before!” He advises that a DVD version also is available for placement on cable and TV stations (unlike Amateur Radio Today, the “Hello” campaign video production may be broadcast). Contact Pitts to obtain a copy. The “Hello” campaign, aimed at presenting a friendly and inviting image of Amateur Radio to non-hams, has been tremendously successful, Pitts reports. “It has

shown that active public information officers across the country can be very effective when provided with quality materials. Audio and video public service announcements have played on hundreds of stations.” The “Hello” campaign brochure quickly blew its initial

printing of 40,000 and soon will pass 80,000 or more, he says, adding that buttons and bumper stickers “flew off the tables” at various gatherings.

Note: Make sure you check out the new video as our own Jack Parker, W8ISH, has some screen time.

Hello Campaign Update



FCC “Omnibus” Amateur Radio R&O Published in *Federal Register*, Takes Effect December 15

NEWINGTON, CT (November 15, 2006)

— Just a little over a month after the Federal

Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called “Omnibus” Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared today in the Federal Register. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM

EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order as published this morning clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter

band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

- Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)

- The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth (thus making

FACTOR III at full capability illegal), and

- The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: “The release of the R&O in the Federal Register has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the Report and Order for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on

that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon.”

For more information, see the band chart [917,715 bytes, PDF] and the Frequently Asked Questions on WT Docket No. 04-140. Both have been updated to reflect the

R&O as it was published in the Federal Register. ■

Note: For more information on this subject please go to www.ARRL.org. I will try to download a copy of the Federal Register item for our next meeting. KC9GCH ■

R & O Update

Officers

President:
Meredith 'JR'
Osborne, KB9HSE

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Carol Osborne,
KC9CFK

Treasurer:
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Jay Chrisman,
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Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU



Now on the Drawing Board: SuitSat-2 to Have Ham Radio Transponders



SuitSat-1 was launched into space from the ISS in February 2006. [NASA Photo]

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 9, 2006 — Plans to launch a second “SuitSat” spacesuit-turned-satellite were the subject of discussions and presentations at the recent AMSAT Space Symposium and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Delegates’ meeting near San Francisco. Despite a weaker-than-anticipated 2-meter signal, SuitSat-1 — a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit fitted with an Amateur Radio transmitter — sparked the imagination of students and the general public and turned into a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio. ARISS now hopes to capitalize on the concept by building an even better SuitSat that will include ham radio transponders.

“The whole science fiction aspect” of SuitSat-1 made it attractive, ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, told the AMSAT Space Symposium in early October. “From our perspective it was a tremendous success.” Bauer said the experience gained through SuitSat-1 “will provide the stepping stone to get to the next level.”

The ISS Expedition 12 crew of Bill McArthur, KC5ACR — who was the AMSAT Space Symposium’s banquet speaker — and Valery Tokarev released SuitSat-1 into orbit. SuitSat-1 transmitted its voice message — “This is

SuitSat-1 RS0RS!” — in several languages plus telemetry and an SSTV image on an eight-minute cycle as it orbited Earth. The unusual spacecraft’s radio signal was heard around the globe, although only the best-equipped Earth stations could copy it. The SuitSat.org Web site attracted nearly 10 million hits during the mission. Designated by AMSAT as AO-54, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would transmit for about a week. SuitSat-1 re-entered and burned up in Earth’s atmosphere September 7.

Bauer said ARISS learned a great deal from SuitSat-1 that it hopes to apply to the next-generation model, which will re-use another surplus Orlan spacesuit. Demonstrating safety interlock systems to space agencies was perhaps the most important, he said. Telemetry also indicated that SuitSat’s thermal environment was not hostile to the onboard experimental equipment. Dispelling at least one SuitSat-1 “myth,” Bauer said the satellite’s battery never froze, as some had speculated as the cause for the extremely weak downlink signal. Also, he said, SuitSat-1 never stopped transmitting during its active lifetime as other reports stated.

“We’re going to have so much fun with this,” McFadin predicted, adding that one goal of SuitSat-2 will be to attract newcomers to Amateur Radio.

Whether it flies or not, “there are benefits to all along the path to SuitSat-2,” McFadin added. He predicted the second SuitSat could have an operational lifetime of six months or longer.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline.

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time.

This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby.

For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to

netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
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2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

NOVEMBER 2006

18 MARC Meeting

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

18-19 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center, Fort Wayne, IN

DECEMBER 2006

12 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting, 7:00 PM

Election of Officers scheduled

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

16 MARC Meeting

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 Evansville Hamfest

Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium, Evansville, IN

Please note: If you have any information on 2007 scheduled events, please forward to the PIO, Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at PIO@midstatehams.org or KC9GCH@arrl.net. I am in the process of putting together a 2007 calendar of events and appreciate your assistance.

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.