

SPARK GAP

Vol. 33, Issue 4, April 2016 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years*

On our MARC:

I think the groundhog is confused. Maybe he meant to say that we were going to have a late spring arrival. Well, we know they say; April showers bring May flowers. But what happens to the flowers when we still have freezing weather in April? Let's face it, the groundhog lied!

May is the start of a summer full of Amateur Radio related activities. It kicks off with the Dayton Hamfest in May, followed by the Strawberry Fest and Field Day in June. Then September brings the Heartnut Fest and the Radio Club annual picnic. I hope everyone will get a chance to stop by some of the activities. Just to let you know, Strawberry Fest is June 10th & 11th. This has been confirmed with an employee of White River Township Fire Department.

I would like to take this time to thank Rhonda, WS9H, for all her hard work and years of being the head of our VE Team. Rhonda has decided to step down from this position. With all her involvement in other Ham activities, this was one that she decided to step down from. Rhonda did an excellent job and her replacement will have big shoes to fill. Kevin, K9NTZ, has agreed to take over the VE Team. Just a reminder, if you know of anyone that you would like to have as a speaker, please let Ron K9THR or Phil, AE9H know. They are looking for speakers. If you are willing to speak on a subject, please let them know.

For those of you that were not at the meeting in February or March, we now have the information for the Kroger card to sign up and get registered so the Club can start earning points. The information sheet is located on the Website. Also, I will have some with me to pass out at the meeting. I hope everyone will take the time to register your number. Just remember, it does not take points away from you.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President





HAPPY BIRTHDAY MONTH of APRIL

KI6QOG Jacki Frederick
KD9FHI Bob Cloutier

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Net Control Operators

The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](http://hwn.org)) is looking for additional net control operators. Hurricane Season in the Atlantic begins on June 1 and ends on November 30; in the Eastern Pacific, it begins on May 15 and ends on November 30. Hurricanes can form at any time of the year, however, as witnessed by Hurricane Alex in January.

"With the 2016 hurricane season rapidly approaching, the Hurricane Watch Net is preparing for what looks to be an active season," HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said. "It has been a long time since the US has seen a major hurricane make landfall." He believes the US may be overdue for one.

Graves said the HWN is always on the lookout for well-qualified, experienced net control operators who can effectively communicate with hurricane-prone areas from eastern Canada, the US East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. He said bilingual (English and Spanish) operators are a valuable asset.

Visit the HWN <http://hwn.org/about-us/membership-info.htm>, if you're interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net.



..... ARRL News April 2016



NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR Big Cypress National Preserve Everglades Florida

Steve K9DY and Jack W8ISH

Wednesday March 23rd Steve Carmean K9DY and Jack Parker W8ISH activated a National Parks On The Air station from the Big Cypress National Preserve in southwest Florida. The park is located along US route 41, Alligator Alley, at the south end of the Everglades in Florida.

Using Steve's K9DY call sign and his Ten Tec HF radio we made around 100 contacts with stations in California, Wyoming, Idaho, the Midwest, Canada and up the eastern seaboard. Late in the afternoon we even made connect with a station in Italy.

The NPOTA event commemorates the Centennial of the national parks system. Bruce K9ICP and Chris KQ9Y were two of our DX contacts that day.

We used battery power for the radio and laptop logging program. Steve ran 100 watts to his vertical HF antenna located at "zero" elevation and just yards from the swamp. Big Cypress Preserve is one of the few national parks without a mountain or elevation of any height. Fortunately no gators came by to check out our operation. A park ranger and a few curious birds were our only visitors for the day.

We set up and started logging contacts around 10:30 am. Fading propagation forced us to finally pull the plug around 4:30pm. We had expected to log at least two hundred contacts during our six hour operation, but fell a little short as other DX stations invaded our air space. Earlier in the day we were spotted on the DX Cluster and that did generate a couple of great pile ups.

This was our second Amateur Radio field project since joining the other "snow birds" in Florida this winter. In January we participated in the Winter Field Day.

We operated from the Estero Community Park. It was only in the low 70's that day. The swamp project found us operating with sunny 80 degree temps and a nice breeze.

We would encourage other club members to activate from a national park or at least chase some of the rare contacts throughout this year.

..... de Jack W8ISH * pictures by W8ISH



Antenna Set up



Exact location



Steve K9DY checks the antenna

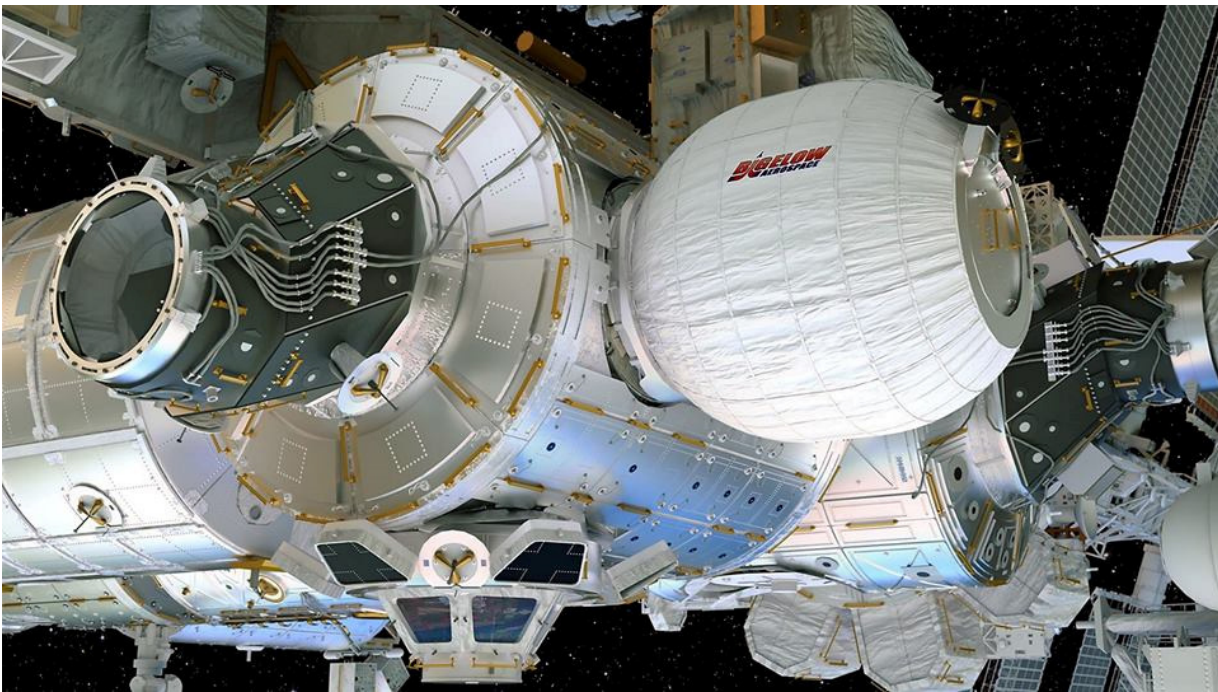


NASA to attach and test first expandable habitat on ISS

The first human-rated expandable structure that may help inform the design of deep space habitats is set to be installed to the International Space Station Saturday, April 16. NASA Television coverage of the installation will begin at 5:30 a.m. EDT.

The **Bigelow Expandable Activity Module** (BEAM) will be attached to the station's Tranquility module over a period of about four hours.

Controllers in mission control at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston will remove BEAM from the unpressurized trunk of SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, using the robotic Canadarm2, and move it into position next to Tranquility's aft assembly port. NASA astronauts aboard the station will secure BEAM using common berthing mechanism controls. Robotic operations begin at 2:15 a.m. and are expected to be complete by 6:15 a.m.



This artist's concept depicts the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module attached to the International Space Station's Tranquility module. Credits: Bigelow Aerospace

BEAM launched aboard Dragon on April 8 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. At the end of May, the module will be expanded to nearly five times its compressed size of 7 feet in diameter by 8 feet in length to roughly 10 feet in diameter and 13 feet in length.

Astronauts will first enter the habitat about a week after expansion and, during a two-year test mission, will return to the module for a few hours several times a year to retrieve sensor data and assess conditions.

Expandable habitats are designed to take up less room on a rocket, but provide greater volume for living and working in space once expanded. This first test of an expandable module will allow investigators to gauge how well the habitat performs overall and, specifically, how well it protects against solar radiation, space debris and the temperature extremes of space. Once the test period is over, BEAM will be released from the space station, and will burn up during its descent through Earth's atmosphere.

BEAM is an example of NASA's increased commitment to partnering with industry to enable the growth of the commercial use of space. The BEAM project is co-sponsored by NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems Division and Bigelow Aerospace.

The International Space Station serves as the world's leading laboratory for conducting cutting-edge microgravity research and is the primary platform for technology development and testing in space to enable human and robotic exploration of destinations beyond low-Earth orbit, including asteroids and Mars.

For coverage times and to watch the BEAM installation live, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv>

For more information about BEAM, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/beam>

For more information about the International Space Station, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/station>

..... Southgate News April 2016

HELP NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ham Radio Volunteers are needed in all the public served events that we support.

These are:

May 7 - 500 Festival Mini Marathon

May 28 - 500 Festival Parade

Jun 4 - American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure Bike Ride

Aug 1 - Indy Air Race

Sep 10 - Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

Oct 1 - Indianapolis Marathon in Lawrence

Nov 7 - Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

Contact is Mike Palmer, N9FEB ---- N9FEB@comcast.net

Michael R. Palmer, N9FEB

Marion County IN Events Coordinator for Ham Radio

7461 Hague Rd., Indpls, IN 46256

(317) 849-3602 home

(317) 753-8691 cell

www.IndyHams.org

INTERESTED IN UPGRADING TO GENERAL CLASS?

MARC is considering a general class licensure class at some point later this year.

Anyone interested should contact either Bruce Tisdale

(VicePresident@Midstatehams.org) or Jacki Fredericks (President@Midstatehams.org) in regard to participating.

Additional details will be communicated based on the level of interest.

2016 List of Hamfests in Indiana / Convention

04/09/2016 Columbus Hamfest

Location: Bartholomew County Fairgrounds Community Building Columbus, IN 47201

Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.carcnet.net>

04/16/2016 North Central Indiana Hamfest

Location: Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1029 W 200 N, Peru, IN

Sponsor: Cass Co. ARC, Miami Co. ARC, Grant Co. ARC, & Kokomo ARC

Website: <http://nci-hamfest.net>

05/20-21-22/2016 Dayton Hamvention

Location: HARA Arena, Dayton, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

09/17/2016 Bloomington ARC Hamfest

Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 West Airport Road, Bloomington, IN 47401

Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org>

11/12/2016 Indiana State Convention

(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)

Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



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 Law Enforcement Center, Conference Room 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

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

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Remember Club Dues for 2016 are due; please see Cy Young N9CHY at the meeting Saturday.

