



CROSSTALK

NEWSLETTER OF THE W6TRW
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Volume 34 Number 11

November 2002



UNITED WE STAND



BREAKING NEWS:

W6TRW ARC

ANNUAL BANQUET

NOVEMBER 23rd 2002

Don't miss your opportunity to attend this years' Banquet! All club members should have received a sign up form in the mail.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

W6TRW ARC Monthly Calendar of Events

Third Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting, R4/2020f (All Club Members are invited)
Second Tuesday of each month	5:30pm	Club Meeting Round Table Pizza, (Redondo Bch. & Hawthorne)
Second Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon	Emergency Communications Team Meeting R3 Emergency Operations Center
Last Saturday of each month (Rain or Shine & Holidays)	7:00 am	W6TRW/ARC Swap Meet Marine and Aviation (Southeast Corner)
During the Swapmeet	10:00 am	VE Sessions in Cafeteria

Weekly Events

Every Monday Night (Except the 1st & Holidays)	7:30 pm	Disaster Communication Systems (DCS) Net DCS Members: Check in on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Wednesday	12:00 noon	ECT Net on 2 meter Repeater All Amateurs Welcome
Every Thursday	7:00 pm	Space Hams Net on 2 meter Repeater with N6SHI and W6EKK
Every Mon, Wed, Fri	2:00 pm	W6TRW Retirees Net 7185 KHz
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters

Other Ham Swap meets:

El Cajon ARC - 1st Sat. ea. mo. 6:00 AM @ Santee Drive-in Theater, Woodside Ave. @ Hwy 67 in Santee Talk-in 146.52

Inland Empire ARC - 2nd Sat. ea. mo. 7:00 to 11:30 AM @ A.B. Miller High School, Walnut & Oleander in Fontana Talk-in 145.480 (-600 pl=77.0hz)

CA Microwave Relay Assoc. at CAL POLY - 3rd Sat. ea. mo. 7-11am in lots F8,F9 and F10 @ CAL Poly Pomona at 3801 West Temple.

NEW CC&R BILL COSPONSORS CONTINUE TO STEP FORWARD

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 43)

Despite the fact that action on the CC&R bill, HR 4720, is highly unlikely as the current session of Congress winds down, additional cosponsors continue to register their support for the measure. The latest--representatives Todd Platts (R-PA), Larry Combest (R-TX), Duke Cunningham (R-CA), and Mary Bono (R-CA)--raise the total cosponsor count to 34.

The recent spurt in cosponsors may have resulted from an eleventh-hour initiative in late September, when the bill's sponsor, Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), and the only two amateurs in the US House of Representatives—Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR) and Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--appealed by letter to their colleagues who had not already done so to agree to cosponsor the measure.

HR 4720 is aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. No more votes will occur until a post-election "lame duck" session that begins November 12 to complete several appropriations, homeland security and other high-profile bills. Another lame duck session in December also is possible.

With further progress on the bill unlikely this year, the effort to secure a congressional solution to the CC&R issue will start all over again after the new Congress convenes in January. The current list of HR 4720 cosponsors and more information are available on the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page of the ARRL

Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720>>.

PHILLY YOUNGSTERS MEET ASTRONAUT PEGGY WHITSON VIA HAM RADIO

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 43)

US Astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, told students in Philadelphia that she thinks it's possible there's life on other planets somewhere in the universe. Using NA1SS aboard the International Space Station October 22, Whitson answered several questions from youngsters attending Spruce Hill Christian School. The contact was arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project.

"Actually, I think with the thousands and thousands of universes that we can see," Whitson said, "and knowing that there are even thousands and thousand more that we can't, I think that on all those planets somewhere there probably is going to be life somewhere else--maybe not exactly like ours, but I imagine there's going to be some kind of life."

Whitson said one of the most "fun" things she does aboard the ISS is look out the window. "Seeing the earth from this vantage point of over 200 miles above the earth is really impressive. It's really a beautiful place that we live on, and I think we take it for granted sometimes, when we live there." She said she also enjoys exercise--a necessity for long-term spaceflight. "We obviously aren't exposed to the effects of gravity, so we have to work very hard to maintain our physical fitness," she said.

Life in microgravity leads to demineralization of bones, Whitson explained. When the Expedition 5 crew returns to Earth next month, she said, it will take months before their bones return to normal. The crew likely will recover much more quickly from the other aftereffects of several months in space, she added, such as the dizziness or lightheadedness experienced by some returning astronauts.

(PHILLY YOUNGSTERS MEET ASTRONAUT PEGGY WHITSON VIA HAM RADIO cont.)

The ARISS QSO got off to an uncertain start when Whitson and ground control operator Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Hawaii, apparently got on different frequencies. Initially, Rocheleau was able to copy NA1SS, but Whitson did not hear WH6PN. Once things got under way for real, the contact lasted a little more than seven minutes.

Remote audio between the school and the ISS via WH6PN in Hawaii was handled through a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit. Whitson, who is related to the wife of the school's principal, Seth Cohen, asked ARISS to arrange the Spruce Hill contact as a "crew pick." ARISS is an international project with US participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.

TEXAS AMATEURS VOLUNTEER AS TORNADO STRIKES CORPUS CHRISTI

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 43)

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers activated October 24 as a tornado struck Corpus Christi, Texas. One person died after a wall at the library of Del Mar College collapsed. The twister also caused perhaps two dozen other injuries as well as considerable property damage. ARRL South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, said the Texas Department of Public Safety was unable to get helicopters in to rescue stranded people due to the storm's turbulence. Gov Rick Perry declared a state of disaster for Corpus Christi and Nueces County.

The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Texas Men's Baptist Kitchen were among the responding organizations. According to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, feeding and shelter operations continue in the impacted areas.

SKYWARN volunteers and South Texas Amateur Repeater Club weather station N5CCW were activated in advance of the severe weather that hit Corpus Christi. ARRL South Texas District Emergency Coordinator Robert Lobaugh, W5JYJ, said rainwater runoff depth ranged from 18 inches to several feet, depending upon the location. He reported downed power lines and roads blocked by debris and water. ARES teams and individual amateurs assisted as needed, Taylor said.

The tornado swept through about three miles from the shop of Mark Mireles, AD5CA. "It was impressive," Mireles said of the tornado damage. "People here are not used to that type of thing." Mireles said the Corpus Christi emergency operations center was activated, and amateurs staffed the radio room from noon until 10 PM October 25 and from 8 AM until shortly before noon October 26. Anticipated severe weather from Hurricane Kenna failed to materialize, so emergency volunteers were able to stand down.

"We have been well-received by all the city officials, from the city manager to the police chief," Mireles said, "and I almost have the EMS director talked into becoming a ham." Amateurs made use of a networked repeater system to facilitate communication.

The Corpus Christi tornado was the most severe weather problem for the Lone Star State in a week that had included heavy rains and flooding elsewhere. According to Lobaugh, San Patricio County, some 30 miles north of Corpus Christi, suffered storm damage October 23. Roads were closed due to high water, and utility poles were downed. Power has since been restored, he said. Taylor said wet weather earlier in the week caused some residents in Seguin and Gonzales near the Guadalupe River to be evacuated.

(TEXAS AMATEURS VOLUNTEER AS TORNADO STRIKES CORPUS CHRISTI cont.)

"The people in New Braunfels along the same river had to leave while they were in process of rebuilding from storm damage earlier this year," he added. By the end of the week, the remnants of Hurricane Kenna exacerbated the situation in some areas after the storm dumped additional precipitation that led to more flooding in Pearland and possibly elsewhere. Weather problems continued this week as tornado and thunderstorm watches were in effect for more than a dozen Texas counties. Taylor reports that another tornado October 29 in the Beaumont area caused one death by drowning and did some damage.

The Hurricane Watch Net conducted an abbreviated session October 25 to disseminate Hurricane Kenna advisories. The eastern Pacific storm, once a treacherous Category 5 hurricane, moved across Mexico toward southern Texas. Well-known Cuban amateur and International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Area C Emergency Coordinator Arnie Coro, CO2KK, said Cuban amateurs monitored the Mexican emergency net on 7065 kHz during the storm.

VANITY APPLICATION REMINDERS BEAR REPEATING

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 43)

When applying for a vanity call sign, the application purpose on FCC Form 605 should always be "Modification" (MD). ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, advises that vanity applicants within their 90-day license renewal window should not attempt to do a "Renewal/Modification" (RM) when applying for a vanity call sign.

"I would recommend that you renew first," Jahnke said. "If vanity processing is delayed for some reason--as happened last fall and spring--your license could expire while awaiting processing, and your application would be dismissed."

The fee for a vanity call sign increased to \$14.50 in September. Jahnke says it is possible for vanity applicants to register a name, address or contact information (eg, e-mail or telephone number) change with the FCC while also applying for a vanity call sign, since both actions can be dealt with as a Modification. Note, however, that if you're only changing such data as name, address or contact information and not applying for a new call sign, you should check "Administrative Update" (AU) as the application purpose--and, yes, this is confusing.

By the way, unlike a vanity application, which requires a fee and goes to the FCC's fiscal agent in Pittsburgh, an Administrative Update application requires no fee and goes directly to the FCC in Gettysburg.

Amateur applications may be filed electronically via the FCC's ULS Web site <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> or on paper (using FCC Form 605). The FCC says that anyone filing any application with the FCC--whether for a vanity, license renewal, upgrade or modification--first must be registered with the Commission Registration System (CORES) and have obtained an FCC Registration Number (FRN).

For more information on vanity filing, visit the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Signs page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>> on the ARRL Web site.

INDIAN PIRATES PERSIST

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 43)

Sahrudin, VU2SDN, the president of the Amateur Radio Society of India, reports a spate of pirate operations using call signs VU4A, VU7A and similar other call signs continues. These have all been pirates, he says. A blanket ban exists on operations from Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, so VU4 and VU7-prefix call signs have not been assigned for 10 years, although the brief 1993 VU2JPS from the Andaman Islands was valid. Sahrudin reported last April that India's QSL Bureau was receiving many QSL requests for contacts apparently made by bootleggers using VU call signs. Sahrudin has explained that call signs that begin with VU2 followed by two or three letters or with VU3 followed by three letters are the only valid call signs for India.--The Daily DX

FCC RESCINDS 146.52 MHz ADVISORY NOTICES

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter vol. 21 # 42)

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told five amateurs in Ohio and Michigan to disregard his earlier admonitions to avoid lengthy QSOs on 146.52 MHz. That's the generally recognized national simplex calling frequency and is endorsed as such by the ARRL's 2-meter band plan. Acknowledging, however, that some confusion exists within the amateur community as to whether 146.52 is a national calling channel or just another simplex frequency, Hollingsworth decided to simply rescind the five advisory notices he'd sent October 15.

"We made an error in issuing that Advisory Notice, and you may disregard it," Hollingsworth wrote October 23 in letters to the affected amateurs. Commenting to ARRL, Hollingsworth was blunt yet good-natured. "I goofed," he said. "If I were worried about making a fool of myself from time to time, I never would have become a lawyer in the first place."

Amateurs commenting to the FCC and on various newsgroups reportedly were bewildered by the FCC advisory notices. An ARRL error apparently contributed to the confusion. Hollingsworth did not find 146.52 MHz singled out as the national simplex calling frequency in his edition of The ARRL's FCC Rule Book (12th edition, 1st printing). The designation does appear in subsequent printings of the Rule Book, however, as well as in recent editions of The ARRL Operating Manual and The ARRL Repeater Directory 2002/2003.

Hollingsworth says that operation that does not comply with a generally accepted band plan such as ARRL's is not illegal. He points out, however, that band plans--to the extent that they're followed--do help to keep down friction among various users and make his job a lot easier.

"I don't consider it a big deal. I was just trying to raise awareness," he said, adding that the FCC has no intention of making band plan compliance mandatory.

Hollingsworth told ARRL this week that he had initially written four amateurs in Ohio and one in Michigan on the basis of complaints about lengthy contacts on 146.52 MHz in late September and early October. Those QSOs, he said, averaged 45 minutes and in some cases lasted up to an hour. Two of the amateurs who had received the October 15 advisories already have contacted Hollingsworth and agreed to cooperate with the original requests, now rescinded.

"In an ideal world, stations making initial contact on 146.52 MHz probably should move off to another accepted simplex channel to continue their conversation," Hollingsworth said. "The main thing is, we're all in this together, and the goal is to make Amateur Radio last 1000 years."

US ASTRONAUT HELPS NETHERLANDS' SCOUTS CELEBRATE JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

US Astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, made Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) a very special occasion this year for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in The Netherlands. One of the International Space Station's Expedition 5 crew members and the only woman, Whitson on October 20 answered questions posed by the scouts via Amateur Radio. The direct, 2-meter contact with PA3HGQ was arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

"The scouts were very impressed by the quality of the radio link and delighted to have an astronaut joining the Jamboree On The Air right from the International Space Station," said ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF. On hand for the official opening of the JOTA in The Netherlands was Dutch astronaut Andre Kuipers, who congratulated the Ascanen scouting group of Lelystad for their ARISS QSO with Whitson.

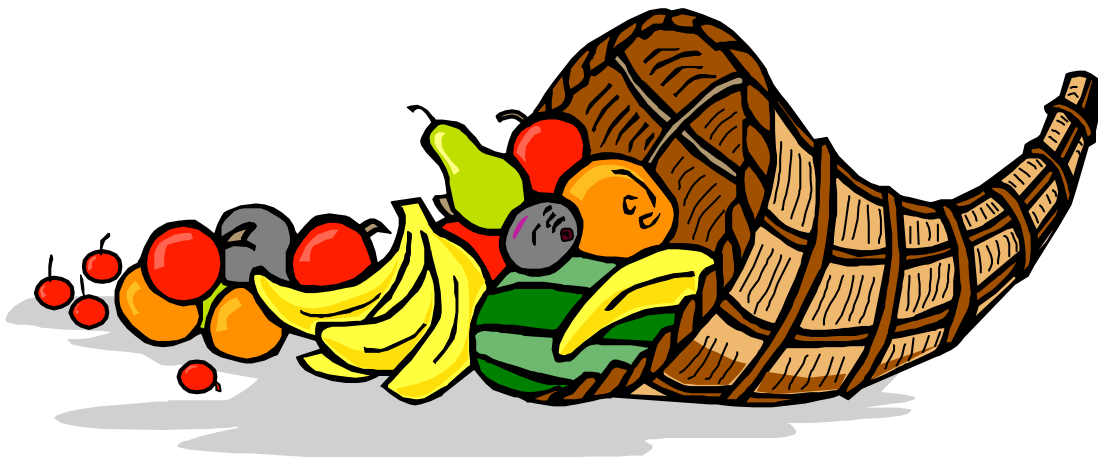
More than 100 scout groups from all over The Netherlands listened in on the downlink while Whitson answered about a dozen questions. At the contact site, parents and friends of the 20 youngsters selected to take part assisted with the space chat, and local radio and TV stations covered the event.

Several of the questions the Dutch youngsters asked mirrored those often put to crew members by their American counterparts. One Scout asked about how the ISS crew prepared its meals. Whitson explained that meals in space are pre-cooked and stowed in foil packages or cans. "It's just a matter of warming it up or adding water," she said.

Whitson told another questioner that the crew can see weather from space. "It's beautiful up here," she said, noting that the crew can recognize such systems as hurricanes. "At night, we can even see thunderstorms," she added. Whitson said the crew can see the aurora borealis (northern lights) too. "They're beautiful from here!" she declared.

Bertels said the NAISS downlink also was monitored at Flanders Expo in Ghent, Belgium, where a science exhibition for youth drew a big audience. At a booth set up by the Royal Belgian Amateur Radio Union (UBA) and devoted primarily to ARISS, visitors--mostly youngsters, parents and teachers--followed the pass of the ISS on a screen showing the world map.

"The UBA also was very pleased to use this opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio at its best to the public visiting a popular scientific and technological event," Bertels remarked. He said many amateur stations all over Western Europe tuned into the downlink and reported excellent copy. ARISS is an international project with US participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.--Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, provided information, photographs and audio-video for this report



W6TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Wendell Young	KE6ASC	R3 / 1086	(310) 813-2622
Vice President	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Secretary	Wendy Crawford	KQ6CG	Carson	(310) 513-2060
Treasurer	Jason Fujino	KD6ELS	R5 / 2130	(310) 812-5461

APPOINTED STAFF

447 Repeater Autopatch	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
Activities Chairperson	Mike Hamada	KF6UCN	M5 / 0435	(310) 814-2628
Crosstalk Editor	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
Emer. Comm. Coordinator	Bob Briggs	KD6WYQ	O1 / 1270	(310) 813-2622
Librarian	Jim Harrison	K6OUE	R6 / 2541	(310) 814-1937
Membership Chairperson	Wendy Crawford	KQ6CG		(310) 513-2060
Past President	Bob Briggs	KD6WYQ	O1 / 1270	(310) 813-2622
Publicity Chairperson	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	R8 / 2144	(310) 813-9775
QSL Manager	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
S.P. Packet/Internet Sysop	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
SEA Representative	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
Swap Meet Manager	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Technical Chairperson	John Cheatham	KE6OJM	R9 / 2477	(310) 813-5903
Training Chairperson	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
Trustee of W6TRW License	Elizabeth Kunkee	KS4IS	D1 / 1024	(310) 813-0524
W6TRW COMM Webmaster	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1060	(310) 813-4219

BOLD=NEW

W6TRW ARC Hotline (Club Answering Machine)	(310) 813-8569
W6TRW 2 Meter Repeater (Open Repeater)	145.32 (-600) PL 114.8Hz
W6TRW UHF Repeater (Open Repeater / Closed Autopatch)	447.00 (-5 MHz) PL 100 Hz
W6TRW-3 Packet Radio Internet Gateway and BBS (1200 Baud Port)	146.745 (-600)

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FIRST CLASS

Deliver To:

