

# The SPARK GAP



147.375

Tone=110.9

444.350



Volume 9 issue 21

September 2008

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## **Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

## NEXT MEETING

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2008. You are welcome to join all who want to eat, ordering off the Halliie Eagles club menu, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting will follow dinner at 7:00 P.M.

## NETS/FREQS/TIMES

- Badger Weather Net 3.985 - 0600
- Badger Emergency Net 3.985 - Noon
- Wisconsin Side Band Net 3.985 - 1715/1730
- ARES/RACES 3.977.5 - Sun - 1800

## Club Wear

Here are the prices for clothing. Please take a look at what is offered and let me know what you would like. Please get your order to me no later than January 6th, 2009. Thanks Wendy.

The hoody are 18500 S-XL \$17.04 2XL-3XL \$20.00

Zip Hoodys' 18600 S-XL \$24.86 2XL-3XL \$27.90

T's Short Sleeve 2000 S-XL \$4.66 2XL-3XL \$6.66

Long Sleeve T's 2400 S-XL \$8.44 2XL-3XL \$11.00

The above prices are without the embroidery, it will depend on if you are getting a full size or a crest size

## **Ham trivia**

Which government can claim the most entities on the current DXCC list?

## **You know you're a ham if:**

You tell your kids (or grandkids) that you'll track Santa by DX-ing instead of using NORRAD

## Hamfests

Jan 3 37th Annual Midwinter Swapfest  
Waukesha, WI  
Contact Phil Gural W9NAW  
janphil@att.net

Feb. 7th HARA Swap and Shop  
Neganuee, Mi  
Contact Bob Serfas N8PKN  
n8pkn@aol.com

Feb 14th Cabin Fever Reliever  
St Cloud, MN  
Contact Scott Hall N0UV  
n0uv@charter.net

## Up coming exams

Jan. 10th & Feb. 7th  
 St. Paul Radio Club  
 9 a.m. walkins  
 Contat: David M. Buending  
 AD2B@arrl.net

Trivia answer: The United Kingdom

## DX News

SB DX ARL ARLD053  
 ARLD053 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.

Thanks to all.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Dani, EA4ATI is QRV as 9M2TI from Kuala Lumpur and is here for about one year. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. This includes entries in the upcoming main international contests. QSL to home call.

ANDORRA, C3. Salvatore is QRV as C31CT and has been active on 30 meters from around 1100 to 1130z. QSL via EA3QS.

ENGLAND, G. Terry, GM3WUX will be QRV with special event callsign GB2HLB from December 26 to January 22 in commemoration of the birth of Louis Braille, the inventor of the embossed printing used by the blind. QSL via operator's instructions.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Jean-Claude is QRV as J28JA and has been active on 20 meters around 1900z. QSL via F5JFU.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Hiroyuki, JG7PSJ and Makoto, JI5RPT will be QRV as JD1BMH and JD1BLY, respectively, from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from December 28 to January 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including various satellites, using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home calls.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. Larry, WO0Z will be QRV as PJ4/homecall from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006, from De-

ember 26 to January 4. Activity will be mainly on 30 and 17 meters using all modes and operating holiday style. QSL to home call.

BANGLADESH, S2. Operators S21RC, S21AM, S21DM and S21S will be QRV from St. Martin's Island, IOTA AS-127, by the end of December. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to EB7DX.

CHAD, TT. Sylvain, F6CIS is QRV as TT8SK and may be here from six months to three years. Activity is on all bands during his spare time. QSL via F5OZF.

COTE d'IVOIRE, TU. Phil, F4EGS is QRV as TU8/homecall from Abidjan until the end of February 2009 while on work assignment. Activity is mostly on 160 and 80 meters but he will also try the other HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK. JA6REX will be QRV as VK6/homecall from Perth from December 28 to January 6 while on holiday. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using mostly CW. He plans to be active from other locations as well. QSL to home call.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Jim, ND9M is QRV as VQ98JC until December 31. He is also active as VQ9JC until April 2009. Activity is on 30 to 15 meters using CW and generally around 1200 to 1630z most days. This includes some activity on various satellites as well. QSL to home call.

MEXICO, XE. Members of the Mexican Contest and DX group are QRV as 4A1DXXE until January 6 in celebration of their 4th anniversary. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7RO.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Gary, W2VQ and Paul, WQ2N will be QRV as ZF2VQ and ZF2NN, respectively, from December 28 to January 3. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Stew Perry Top-band CW Challenge, SKCC CW Sprint, DARC Christmas Contest, RAC Winter Contest, Original QRP CW Contest, PODXS 070 Club QRP DX Scramble and the RAEM CW Contest are all on tap this upcoming weekend. The Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party runs until January 4, 2009.

Please see December QST, page 68, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

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## Plans for Silver Anniversary of Amateur Radio from Space

SB SPACE @ ARL \$ARLS009  
ARLS009 ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of  
Amateur Radio from  
Space

ZCZC AS09  
QST de W1AW  
Space Bulletin 009 ARLS009  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington, CT December 18, 2008  
To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS009  
ARLS009 ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of  
Amateur Radio from  
Space

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage."

If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15." Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio on-board the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

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## **AREA REPEATERS**

Albertville (link)	442.800	110.9
Albertville	444.350	110.9
Chippewa Falls	147.375	110.9
Eau Claire	146.91	110.9
Eau Claire	147.24	110.9
Eau Claire	443.300	110.9
Holcombe	145.47	110.9
Holcombe (link)	147.345	136.5
Holcombe	444.525	110.9
Menomonie	146.61	110.9
Osseo	145.33	110.9
Osseo	444.200	110.9

## **CVARC OFFICERS**

President -- Gene Radtke - AG9GK  
President Elect -- Jim Fering - K9BDN  
Secretary -- Dave Urness--KC9CRG  
Treasurer -- Joe Eide-- KB9R  
Past President -- Ron Anderson-W9RMA  
News letter -- Wendy Cohoon KC9KGE

Please send newsletter info to

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