ARISS PR Committee Report

Covering July 2015 - February 2016

By David Jordan, AA4KN

Debra Johnson, K1DMJ

Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP

Sergey Samburov, RV3DR

other contributors

John Spasojevich, AG9D

Ciaran Morgan, M0XTD

John Brier, KG4AKV

Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO Barrios Technology

Tracy Thumm, Barrios Technology

ARISS Contact

with

Oasis Academy Brightstowe, Bristol, UK on

February 19, 2016

via HAM TV

ARISS NEWS OUTPUT LISTINGS

- ARISS School Contact announcements by Charlie Sufana, AJ9N
- ARISS School QSO Press Releases by Dave Jordan, AA4KN
- ARISS News Releases (ANR) by Dave Jordan, AA4KN
- ARISS facebook postings by Dave Jordan, AA4KN
- ARISS Twitter postings (@ARISS_Status) by Dave Jordan, AA4KN
- ARISS Twitter Postings (@ISS_HAM_RADIO) by Tracy Thumm, Barrios Technologies
- ISS HAM (@RF2Space) by Kenneth G. Ransom, need call sign, Barrios Technologies
- AMSAT News Service (ANS) by AMSAT NA (multiple editors)
- ARISS-Europe News Letter by Gaston Bertels,
- ISS Fan Club by Alain IZ6BYY and Claudio IK1SLD
- Southgate ARC at http://www.southgatearc.org/news
- Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) at http://wp.rac.ca/category/news/

STATS ON ARISS INFORMATION RELEASES

- The number of ARISS contacts that occurred between July 2015 and February 2016 was **55**.
- The number of ARISS school pre-contact press releases was **55**.
- The number of ARISS News Releases (ANR) covering special ARISS-related events was **14**.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

ARISS Facebook: Likes at the end of June 2015 were 1591.

Likes as of February 25, 2016 were 1788.

An increase of **197**.

ARISS Twitter: Followers at the end of June 2015 were **3450**.

Followers as of February 25, 2016 were **4358**.

An increase of **908.**

Best News Stories between

July 2015 and February 2016

"Ham TV" System Used for First Time during ARISS Contact with UK School
Reported at the official ARISS website on February 12, 2016
http://www.ariss.org/news.html

The "**Ham TV**" digital Amateur Radio television system onboard the International Space Station was used for the first time ever this week for an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact. UK and ESA Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, inaugurated the system as he spoke on February 11 with students at a school in Rickmansworth, England. The DATV system in the *Columbus* module of the ISS allowed students at Royal Masonic School, home of GB1RSM, to see as well as listen, as Peake, operating as GB1SS, answered their questions about life in space. The one-way DATV downlink took place near 2.4 GHz, while the two-way FM audio component was maintained on 2 meters.

1000th ARISS Contact Coming Soon
Reported at the official ARISS website on February 26, 2016

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, the first payload activated by the crew, is gearing up for its 1000th educational radio contact in March 2016.

ARISS-International Meeting Held in Tokyo, Japan

Reported at the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) website and released September 10, 2015

http://wp.rac.ca/ariss-news-release/

This is a reprint of the copy issued in an ARISS News Release

An ARISS International delegates meeting was held at the Big Sight convention facility located in Tokyo, Japan from Thursday August 20 until Sunday August 23. This year's ARISS face-to-face meeting was held in conjunction with the Japan Amateur Radio League's 90th anniversary celebration and international Ham Fair exposition.

SSTV Images from Space Will Commemorate 40th Apollo-Soyuz Mission Anniversary

Reported at ARRL.org on July 15, 2015

http://www.arrl.org/news/sstv-images-from-space-will-commemorate-40th-apollo-soyuz-mission-anniversary

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo Soyuz mission, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team will transmit a series of 12 Slow Scan Television (SSTV) images.

ARISS-US receives $5000 grant from Yasme Foundation

Reported at Southgate ARC on January 10, 2016
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2016/january/ariss_us_receives_5000_grant_from_yasme_foundation.htm#.VtKJktBKKrI

The ARISS-US Team is thrilled to announce that it received a $5,000 grant from the Yasme Foundation, awarded to support the development of the power converters needed as a part of an extensive upgrade to the entire ARISS radio system onboard the International Space Station.

ARISS-Europe Chairman Retires, Successor Elected

Reported at the official ARISS website on September 21, 2015
http://www.ariss.org/news.html

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station-Europe (**ARISS-EU**) Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, will retire from that post this fall after serving since 2000, when the ARISS Working Group was formed … his successor is ARISS-EU Chairman, Emanuele D'Andria, I0ELE.

Significant ARISS Events

Listed chronologically
July 2015 - February 2016

Oliver Amend, DG6BCE, Vice Chairman of ARISS-International, recently led several activities at the 40th "Ham Radio" in Friedrichshafen, Germany, which ran from June 26 - 28. (http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/) The theme for this year's gathering was "Space Stations, Satellites, Reflections: Amateur Radio Contact with Space." This annual event is an international gathering of leading ham radio organizations such as the ARRL, IARU, and prominent ham radio clubs including thousands of ham radio enthusiasts.

In recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the historic joint Apollo-Soyuz mission, the ARISS team created a series of 12 Slow Scan Television (SSTV) images that were broadcast from the International Space Station (ISS) this last weekend. They were received by educational organizations and ham radio operators around the world, many of whom downloaded them to this special internet website: http://spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/index.php

A successful ARISS contact was made on July 31, 2015 with the 23rd World Scout Jamboree Nippon Boy Scout Amateur Radio Club, Bunkyo-ku, Japan. This was a direct contact via ground station 8N23WSJ. Astronaut Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS, answered all 20 questions posed by the scouts. Ten of the scouts were Japanese and each of the other ten were from different countries attending the event. A YouTube video of the event can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGhQ8OamfTY&feature=player_embedded

The 2015 ARISS-International Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan August 20 - 23. This was an annual gathering of ARISS Delegates from the five regions that support operations on board the International Space Station (Russia, United States, Europe, Japan and Canada) as well as other ARISS team members. The meeting covered various aspects of ARISS programmatics and operations. Included in the meeting agenda were committee reports, technical project updates, upcoming contact events, reports on ARISS activities within the five regions, and presentation of awards.

Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, will retire from his position as Chairman of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station-Europe (ARISS-EU) after serving since 2000. Bertels was instrumental in the project to have Amateur Radio equipment and antennas installed on the ISS Columbus Module as well as the installation and commissioning of the Ham TV Digital Amateur TV system in Columbus. He has also personally assisted as mentor in many ARISS contacts involving schools and groups on the Continent. Bertels's elected successor will be Emanuele D'Andria, I0ELE.

On November 3, 2015 there was a special ARISS contact event between crew members on the ISS, students from the Institut Florimont, and attendees and dignitaries attending the World Radio Conference 2015 meeting at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland. Astronauts participating were Kjell Lindgren and Kimiya Yui. Videos of the event can be viewed at youtu.be/ahdDiuFk2-Y and https://youtu.be/pVwCvWCfGzM. At the end of the second link there is an interview with William Gerstenmaier, NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations. The AMSAT-UK website has an article at http://amsat-uk.org/2015/11/03/iss-astronauts-link-up-itu-wrc-15/ and ARISS.org featured it in its news section at http://www.ariss.org/news.html.

Fifteen years ago on November 13, 2000 ARISS operations on board the ISS began with the first contacts between the amateur radio system in the Russian Functional Cargo Block (FGB) and amateur radio ground stations in Moscow, Russia; Houston, TX; and Greenbelt, MD. Astronaut Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS, tweeted a note and a photo commemorating this anniversary that can be found at https://twitter.com/astro_kjell/status/665993147260932096.

ESA Astronaut Tim Peake has begun his six-month stay on the ISS, which has been christened by the UK space agency as the *Principia* mission. While on board, he will participate in a number of pre-planned ARISS contacts at schools through the UK and Europe, making extensive use of the ARISS onboard amateur radio hardware and ground system to engage UK students in STEM. At each of the UK schools involved, a special 2 day space STEM event has been organized in conjunction with the ARISS contact at the school that is scheduled to occur during the last day of their event. These events have support from the UK Space Agency with ESA Education, and over 60 educational partners have contributed on behalf of the UK Space agency. The event will consist of activities

demonstrating the student involvement in space and STEM projects that have occurred since the schools were chosen to participate several weeks ago.

In celebration of the launch of ISS Expedition 46 and British astronaut Tim Peake, a Launch Party was held on December 15, 2015 at the London Science Museum to celebrate the occasion and to recognize the beginning of the ESA Principia Mission. The event was live streamed at https://principia.ariss.org/live/. This site also posted Twitter updates of the event and it will continue to be used for ARISS-related events throughout the entire Principia mission. Twitter updates will originate from Ciaran Morgan, M0XTD, at @m0xtd and retweeted by the official ARISS twitter account, @ARISS_status as well as other various sources.

December 21, 2000 was the date of the first ISS ARISS contact held with the Burbank School in Burbank, Ill. The astronaut hosting the contact was Expedition 1 Commander Bill "Shep" Shepherd, KD5CDL. Burbank school teacher, Rita Wright, who later became KC9CDL, continues to be active in ARISS as a volunteer. Rita's 2004 AMSAT Symposium paper, "Remember, We're Pioneers!" chronicles the Burbank school's journey to the first ARISS contact and beyond is attached.

ARISS engineers and managers met with engineers and executives from Japan's JVC-Kenwood Corporation in late December at JSC in Houston, TX. The successful Technical Interchange Meetings discussed in detail the operation plans for and configuration of the JVC-Kenwood D710G transceivers that are being proposed to be sent to the ISS.

The ARISS-US Team is pleased to announce that it received a $5,000 grant from the Yasme Foundation (www.yasme.org) to support the development of the power converters needed as a part of a proposed extensive upgrade to the entire ARISS radio system onboard the International Space Station. The YASME Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries.

On February 11, 2016 a direct ARISS contact was held between amateur ground station GB1RMS at the Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth, UK and Tim Peake, KG4BVI,

onboard the ISS using call sign GB1SS. This was a historic occasion with the first use of the ARISS HAM TV system to provide live video downlink using Digital Amateur Television over an amateur S-band link. During the contact Peake was seen live from the ISS as he used the standard ARISS VHF amateur radio voice link to converse with the students. A total of 14 student questions were answered before an audience of 640 in the room and 740 via the internet. Local radio, newspapers and national media covered the event, which was also streamed live at https://principia.ariss.org/live/. Video of the reaction to the first reception of HamVideo during an ARISS Schools contact can be found at https://youtu.be/x3KpilFGQX4.

Footnote—this committee does not yet have a terms of reference and does not have international teleconference committee meetings.