



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 4

W2RCX

December 2003

December Meeting

The December meeting of GRAM was held on Thursday, December 18th, 2003 at the Hamilton House. Actually it wasn't a meeting but a Christmas party. The party was organized by Don & Cheryl Yaxley. The next GRAM meeting will be on Thursday January 15th 2004 at 7:30 PM. The Board of Directors and Club Officers will meet prior to the General Membership meeting at 6:30 PM

Dues Are Due

It's time to renew your GRAM membership ! It's easy to do. A membership application is included in this issue of GRAM NEWS. Simply complete it and bring it to the November meeting along with your payment. Or you can send your completed application and payment for dues to:

GRAM Radio Club
PO Box 572
Batavia, NY 14021-0572



ISS marks 5th Anniversary

The International Space Station has been in space five years and has had Amateur Radio and a permanent crew onboard for three years as of this month.

Since attaining orbit, the ISS has grown from a lone, uninhabited module into a continuously staffed, house-sized research facility. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program has been a part of the ISS since November 2000.

The US, Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe have cooperated in making the ISS a reality as well as with making ARISS a success. The ARISS initial station gear went into space in September 2000. A month later, the FCC granted vanity call signs NA1SS and NN1SS to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club for US ARISS operations. Russia has issued the call signs RZ3DZR and RS0ISS for ISS use.

The capabilities of NA1SS also are slated to expand in the near future. Already on board is a Kenwood TM-D700E VHF/UHF transceiver. The unit will mean a significant boost to the power output of the ARISS initial station gear--from 5 W to 25 W. Additional gear, including SSTV hardware, tentatively is set for transport in January.

Courtesy ARRL

Club Officers

President: Theodore Karpenko, KB2LXD

Vice-President: Brian Stricker, N2XNY

Secretary: Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE

Treasurer: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Directors

2005: Jim Cochrane, KC2EZL

2005: Joe DeFazio, W2DIG

2004: Howard Flint, KC2EZJ

2004: Peter Brundage, WB2CGF

2004: Tom Rosica, W2GIR

Committee Chairs

Membership:	Harold Hay, W2ABQ
Program:	Open
Newsletter:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Website:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Publicity:	Tom Rosica W2GIR
Education:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Christmas Party:	Don & Cheryl Yaxley KB2QKE & KB2RFI
Field Day:	Open
Picnic:	Open
Historian:	Open
Ways & Means	Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Committee Chairs (cont'd)

Hamfest:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
RFI:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
Equipment:	John Maha K2ZUT
Benevolence:	Joan Brundage KB2ZCE
Repeater:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
ARRL:	Dr. David Bell W2YCS
ARES/RACES:	Les Wilcox WA2GUP

Club Repeater

The club operates a 2m repeater, W2RCX, on 147.285 MHz with a + offset. The repeater control persons are:

Harold Hay W2ABQ
Howard Flint KC2EZJ
John Maha K2ZUT
Joe Defazio W2DIG

The GRAM Net is held on the club's repeater, W2RCX, on Thursday nights at 9:00PM. All amateurs with a technician class or higher license are invited to check in. This is an informal net. So come on and join in on the fun !

If the repeater is off the air, please tune to 147.285 MHz simplex and attempt to contact a repeater control person.

Computer Corner

How to choose an Internet Service Provider (ISP)? The first thing you must ask yourself is, what do I plan to do on the internet? What you want to do on the internet will help you decide which ISP to go with.

Lets look at scenario number one. This will be sending and receiving email from friends and family as well as some web surfing. A dialup ISP works well in this situation. A dialup ISP is one which you use your existing phone line to dialup the ISP using your computer and connect to the internet. Prices range from \$5 a month to as much as \$23 a month for this type of service. The upside to this type of connection is the price. The downside is that it ties up your phone line and is relatively slow.

Scenarios like online gaming (I'm not talking about Solitaire or Blackjack here), streaming music and video, a connection to your workplace, and multiple computers in the house wanting to get online will require a high speed ISP.

DSL is a high speed connection that is offered by your phone company. The advantage with DSL is that if you can live with less speed you can get a better price for the service. The disadvantage other than price is that you usually need to live within 18,000 feet of the phone company's central office (CO) to be able to get the service. Also the further you are from the CO the slower the connection. This type of connection does not tie up your phone line.

Cable is a service like RoadRunner or Powerlink that is offered through your cable provider. This service is fast and is generally available in most areas. The downside is price and the more people in you neighborhood who have the service the slower the service is. This service also does not tie up your phone line. In fact some providers are beginning to offer phone service through your cable line as well.

Editors Note

If you have an article that you would like to submit to GRAM NEWS, please submit them via e-mail. My e-mail address is: N2XNY@yahoo.com. I understand that not everyone has e-mail, so you can also send submissions to:

GRAM Radio Club
PO Box 572
Batavia, NY 14021-0572

Program Chairperson Needed

After many, many years, Tom Rosica is stepping down as the Program Chairperson. Many thanks go out to Tom for a job well done. As such, the Program Chairperson position is open to any member of the club. If you are interested in this important position, please let the club officers and board members know.

Activities

Is there a Ham Radio activity (Fox hunt, contest, satellite, SSTV, Road Trip to Dayton, etc.) that you would be interested in? Chances are that others in the club share the same interest. Please let a board member or club officer know. They can let the rest of the club know about the activity, recruit participants, and select a date.

Membership Chairperson Needed

The club is in need of a Membership Chairperson. As of 11/30/03 Harold Hay, W2ABQ, will relinquish his Membership Chairperson duties. If you are interested in this Chair, please contact a Club Officer or Board Member.

The club thanks Harold for his tenure as Membership Chairperson.

Upcoming Events

1/1	ARRL Straight Key Night
1/4	ARRL Kids Day
1/15	GRAM Meeting
1/18-1/20	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
1/31	Lockport ARA Auction

GRAM Treasurer

It is with great regret that GRAM must announce that Harold Hay, W2ABQ, has resigned his post of GRAM Treasurer. Harold's resignation will be effective 1/1/04. The club thanks Harold for his work as club Treasurer as well as all of the other functions that he handles for the club, most notably, Hamfest Chairperson.

Per the amendment to Article IV, Section 4 of the GRAM Constitution. The remainder of Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer shall be filled by an appointment by the Board of Directors after a written solicitation for candidates from the membership.

With that said, any full member of GRAM wishing to complete Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer should contact a GRAM Board member or Officer.

FCC adds Part 15 spectrum at 5 GHz

The FCC has made another 255 MHz of spectrum available in the 5.470-5.725 GHz band for unlicensed Part 15 National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices, including Radio Local Area Network (RLAN) devices. In a Report and Order in ET Docket 03-122 released November 18, the FCC said it was taking the action to alleviate crowding in existing allocations and to align U-NII bands in the US with bands elsewhere in the world. The FCC turned down an ARRL request to keep U-NII devices out of the 5.650 to 5.670 GHz segment

to avoid interference with the Amateur Satellite Service. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation from 5.650 to 5.925 GHz. "We are not persuaded that we should either add or modify our proposed rules as requested by ARRL," the FCC said, adding that its dynamic frequency selection (DFS) and transmitter power control (TPC) requirements "will in fact protect amateur operations," although they're not specifically designed to do so. Commenting in the proceeding September 3, the ARRL expressed concerns about "potential aggregate interference" from U-NII devices to Amateur Radio space stations in the 5.650-5.670 GHz band. The League did support of other elements of the FCC's proposals, however, including a power limitation of 1 W EIRP, and said hams were willing to cooperate with the RLAN industry on other sharing-related issues. In its comments, the League said the amateur allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 MHz "has been subject to 'death by a thousand cuts.'" The FCC's most recent action leaves Amateur Radio with "relatively uncompromised access" to a 25-MHz segment at 5 GHz--5.825 to 5.850 GHz, the ARRL said. That includes a 20-MHz-wide satellite downlink segment, 5.830 to 5.850 GHz. Federal government users are primary over the entire band. The Commission said that because of the large amount of spectrum it's adding to the 300 MHz of spectrum already available for U-NII devices, it expects the density of devices to be relatively low. "We believe that this low density of devices coupled with our technical requirements will provide adequate protection to all incumbent systems in the band, including amateur satellite uplink systems," the FCC said. The R&O culminated a 2002 Petition for Rule Making from the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance (WECA), now known as the Wi-Fi Alliance.

Courtesy of ARRL

Lockport Hamfest

The Lockport Amateur Radio Hamfest is coming up soon. The date is January 31, 2004 at the South Lockport Fire Hall Transit Rd. (Rt 78) at Ruhlman Rd. (1/.2 mi. North of Rt. 93) Lockport, NY 14094.

Time: 6:00 AM for vendors
7:00-12:00 to the public

Admission : \$ 5.00 (under 12-free)
8' Flea-Market tables @ \$ 5.00/each

Refreshments available

Talk in/Check in: Call W2RUI on 146.820 (-)
(PL 107.2)

Information/Reservations: Please call Duane Robinson (W2DLR) at 716-791-4096 or w2dlr@arrl.net

Happy Holidays

Wishing all GRAM members and their families a Happy Holidays and a Great New Year !!!

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

On 06 December over 100 National Weather Service offices were on the ham bands for 24 hours. They were on HF, VHF, and UHF to make as many contacts with hams as possible. Certificates and awards are available for hams who got logged in. You can read about it at the national page: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/> Also, the local NWS (Buffalo) page has a local Skywarn link on it: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

Buffalo NWS has a new--I think permanent--call sign: WX2BUF. I was able to spend about five hours there on the VHF repeaters helping them to rack up some points. Buffalo ranked very high last year, and they think that record will be surpassed this year. I watched the fellows in action on the two HF stations for a little while before I left. They could have used several additional operators. NWS hams who coordinated the local activity were Bob, N3QOT and Judy, N2TEZ.

Many of you have had the training (required every three years) for Skywarn observers, and have taken part in the monthly net or emergency net. It's a good public service, and if you are not already involved, I encourage you to become active.

---Les, WA2GUP