



the RARRA RAG

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March 6 Program – Alaskan Adventure

by Rick Wells, W2RW

We've had such a mild winter season so far that I figured we should at least talk about ice, wind and snow. Actually, by the time this goes to print I will have just returned from two delightful weeks in '4' land...so *talking* about the cold is about as close to Winter as I intend to get.

Actually, it is Frank Di Stefano, WB2DZF, who has volunteered to delight us with an account of his 4 ½ month trip to Alaska. He traveled throughout the KL7 area last year from May until October. His journey was about 14,000 miles in length. Hey, Frank, how much gas did your RV burn up at 3 mi/gal or so?

Frank operated HF and VHF mobile during the trip and will show us his setup as well as many beautiful pictures of the scenery along the way. He very much enjoyed the incredible DX on just his mobile whip from the Yukon Territory.

Frank retired from Kodak in 1988 and enjoys his RV and DXing very much. Please join us at the usual time and place for a fun and informative evening.

SKYWARN Information Net

The National Weather Service conducts a SKYWARN Check-in and Informational Net on the first and third Tuesdays of each month on the 145.31 Attica Repeater. The time of the net is 7:15 pm and it lasts approx. 20 to 30 minutes. Through the month of March, the SKYWARN Net will be geared to the dangers of winter weather. Significant recent weather will be reviewed... safety tips will be given... and a different feature will be given each time relating to another type of winter weather phenomena.

RaRa MEETING

March 6, 1998

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3139 West Henrietta Road

Alaskan Adventure

CUSHCRAFT CONTINUES IN HAM MARKET; HIRES NEW VP

Cushcraft says reports of its demise in the ham radio market have been greatly exaggerated. Cushcraft Production Manager Art Hambleton, K1ART, says the New Hampshire antenna manufacturer is still very much a part of the Amateur Radio antenna industry. Rumors that Cushcraft was exiting the ham market apparently mushroomed when word spread of some layoffs at Cushcraft.

Hambleton confirmed that a couple of people had been let go and that Cushcraft had cut back on its advertising in ham radio publications, and he attributed the moves to budgetary cutbacks. But he said "1997 was not a bad year" for the company. And Cushcraft has just hired another ham in a key position.

Hambleton announced this week that Cushcraft has hired Adam Alevy, N1FXT, of Amherst, New Hampshire, as its vice president of engineering. Alevy was previously with Atlantic Microwave of Bolton, Massachusetts. At Atlantic he designed VHF through millimeter wave antennas for communications and tracking applications.

As director of engineering at Cushcraft, Hambleton said, Alevy, 34, will manage the engineering group and design antennas in both commercial and amateur radio markets.

Cushcraft recently announced its X7 and X9 tribanders as part of its "Big Thunder" series.

Trx ARRL Letter

the RARA RAG

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1998 Hamfest Programs- Part III

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Spring is fast approaching and I for one am glad to see it getting closer. It seems that I dislike the cold winter months more each year. With a little luck March and April will give us an early spring with some nice warm weather. However, even more importantly is the fact that the Hamfest season for this area will be getting closer (RARA's is only three months away). As in the past couple of months this article will bring you just a few highlights of some of the programs that will be taking place this year. Review these each month and be sure to schedule your time at the Hamfest so as to attend the ones that are of interest to you.

One of the reasons that the Rochester Hamfest requires a nice warm summer weekend is that Bill Pasternk, WA6ITF will be joining us from sunny California and he does not like the cold weather either. Bill is the gentleman that puts together the News Line to keep us informed at all times as to what is going on around us in radio. This year he will be talking to us on TV News and You. Bill will try educate us on what constitutes a news story; how Ham radio fits in TV news stories; how to act in the presence of a TV crew; and what you can and cannot do according to the Part 97 rules. This is a program that we should all attend as you never know when you may be put into this situation and it is usually at the most unexpected time. Also, some of us may be trying to get Ham radio in the news so the public learns more about our service. In doing this you want to be sure you give them the correct impression and facts.

Also, with us this year will be Dan Miller, K3UFG from the ARRL Headquarters. Dan is the Education Activities Correspondent and will be presenting The New Ham. This program is not just for the new ham however. This is a chance for everyone to learn what ham radio is all about and has to offer. There is a lot more to it than just 2 meter repeaters and phone patches. This is true no matter what class license you may hold.

As in the past, Bill Thompson, W2MTA will host the ARRL Field Organization and NTS. Bill is the Western New York Section Manager and NTS Eastern Area Staff Chairman. This is a great time to be brought up to speed on what is happening in public service and on the traffic nets. If you are interested in traffic handling or public service this forum is for you. It is also a great place to meet the folks in person that you may have talked to on the air.

Do you own a GPS unit? Do you know all the ways that it can be used? Are you interested in APRS? Think about these questions for a while. If this technology all seems new to you then Beginners APRS is for you. This program will be hosted by Keith Sproul, WU2Z. Keith is one of the few real experts in this area and will try to make APRS simple for you to understand.

That is all for this month. I don't want to let everything out of the bag at one time. Keep watching here next month to learn more about this years Hamfest program.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CREW TO INCLUDE HAMS

Hams will be among the first crew members to live and work aboard the International Space Station. In addition, several of the crew members named recently by the US and Russia are studying for their licenses. The R0MIR Mir club station call may also be available to the Russian crew members on the ISS.

The first crew will consist of US astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander. Shepherd is studying for his ticket. He'll be accompanied by Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. All three have previous space flight experience. The crew is training for an early 1999 launch on a Soyuz vehicle for a planned five-month mission on the ISS. Initially, crews will inhabit the service module, which will include a ham radio antenna. Ham gear will be delivered aboard STS-96 late next year.

The second crew, headed by Russian cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, R3MIR, will include US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and James S. Voss, who's indicated an interest in getting his ham ticket. All three have spaceflight experience.

No licensed hams are among the third crew, which will be headed by astronaut Kenneth Bowersox and will include Russian crewmates Vladimir Dezhurov and Mikahil Turin. Bowersox also has said he'd like to get his ham license.

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko will head the fourth crew. US astronauts Carl Walz, KC5TIE, and Daniel Bursch will accompany him.

NASA has said it won't have the International Space Station assembled fully until the end of 2003--some 18 months behind the June 2002 date announced earlier this year. Microsat/repeater payloads are supposed to arrive in early 2002, expanding radio capability aboard the ISS.

March Calendar

6 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 East Henrietta Road

21 - RaRa Testing - 111 Westfall Road, 8:30 AM

NASA says the US habitation module--the astronaut's living quarters--should be in place by the end of 2003. Fifteen countries are cooperating in building the International Space Station.--NASA; Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL

Tnx ARRL Letter

US TO PARTICIPATE IN CEPT GUEST LICENSE ARRANGEMENT

US amateurs soon will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. While an official announcement still may be a few weeks away, it's been learned the US request to participate in the European guest license arrangement has been approved. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Last September, the US State Department applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. A holder of a CEPT license can operate in CEPT-participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Approval of the US request came in late January at a meeting of the CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRG), in Groningen, The Netherlands. The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) has been instructed to officially notify the FCC of the decision approving US participation.

Continued on next page

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The State Department's action came at the urging of the ARRL that the US take advantage of the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a license that would be recognized by CEPT-participating administrations and would be valid for brief visits.

Also last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US.

Under the soon-to-be-implemented arrangement, a US Technician license would be recognized as a CEPT Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets would be given a CEPT Class 1 license, with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licensees would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most CEPT countries don't offer a license of this type.

Once the ERO formally advises the FCC of the decision, the FCC must complete the steps to implement the participation before CEPT licensing can become effective.

"We've been urging the Commission to do this since 1991," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has given the green light, we hope the FCC will step on the gas."

Tnx ARRL Letter

MIR TO STAY UP A BIT LONGER; NEXT CREW TO BE ALL HAMS

News reports say that the 12-year-old Russian Mir space station may stay in orbit until the first components of the International Space Station are in place in 1999--a few months longer than planned. The first ISS units are set to be launched later this year. Hams are scheduled to be among the first crew members to populate the ISS, but the US presence aboard Mir will come to an end this June.

US astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, now aboard Mir, is scheduled to be replaced later this month by Australian-born US astronaut Andy Thomas, KC5CHF. Two new Russian crew members, both hams, are due to arrive at month's end. NASA has set January 22 as the launch date for the penultimate space shuttle trip to Mir. The shuttle Endeavour will carry supplies and a crew of seven, including Thomas.

Wolf has been living on Mir since late September. Thomas will work aboard Mir until

June, when the US shuttle Discovery will dock with Mir for the final time, rounding off the Russian-US cooperative mission.

Wolf's research schedule has allowed him little spare time to use the ham radio equipment aboard Mir. The packet system aboard the space station has been experiencing problems because the crew has not had time to set up the correct parameters for the new TNC aboard Mir. This week, Wolf, 41, monitored and filmed the operation from inside Mir's main module as his two cosmonaut crewmates conducted a space walk to check a leaky hatch and to retrieve some equipment. Wolf and cosmonaut Anatoly Solovyov will carry out a NASA-run spacewalk on January 14 to recover experiments set up outside Mir by previous US astronauts.

The SAFEX repeater (downlink 437.950 MHz; uplink 435.750 MHz) has been active on an intermittent basis. The crew has turned off the CTCSS tone feature of the repeater, making it easier for weak stations to access the repeater. However, this also means the repeater may transmit noise and occasionally time out.

While the aging space station has been free of the kinds of major troubles that plagued it last year, Mir's computer malfunctioned just two days into the new year. The problem was subsequently fixed.

Later this month, Mir will get a bit crowded. French astronaut Leopold Eyharts is scheduled to join Russian cosmonauts Talgat Musabayev, RO3FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB (ex-RV3DB and R4MIR) in the first crew change of the year. They are scheduled to blast off to Mir on January 29. Eyharts' mission to Mir was planned for last August but had to be postponed after a Progress cargo rocket collided with Mir last June forcing emergency repairs. Eyharts will work aboard Mir for three weeks before returning to earth with Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the current Mir Russian contingent.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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ASTRO-SWAP COMPLETED; THREE HAMS ON MIR

Three hams--two Russians and one American--now are aboard the 12-year old Mir. US astronaut Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR, last week swapped spots on the Russian space station with Dave Wolf, KC5VPF. Wolf returned to Earth--and a pepperoni pizza he'd called ahead for--on January 31 aboard the shuttle Endeavour. For its next mission, in July, Endeavour will carry the US Node Module to support construction of the International Space Station.

At about the same time the Endeavour was departing Mir, a Russian replacement crew and a French astronaut on his first ride into space were blasting off from Baikonur. The new Russian crew, Talgat Musabayev, RO3FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB (ex-RV3DB/R4MIR), and French researcher Leopold Eyharts, arrived February 1. Eyharts will stay for three weeks.

The Australian-born Thomas, 41, is an engineer and the seventh US astronaut to serve a tour aboard the Russian space station. He will spend the next four months aboard Mir.

It had been announced that Thomas would be the last US astronaut to be posted to Mir. But last week, NASA and Russian authorities left open the door to the possibility that additional US astronauts might also serve aboard Mir as the International Space Station construction lags behind schedule.

Tnx ARRL Letter

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

Ed Gable K2MP

February / March 1978: The annual Valentines Day Dinner Dance was planned to take place at the *Pittsford Tavern on the Mall*. A ten dollar ticket could be ordered from Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM. Ed, N2EH, announced that the K2JD club station was available for use 24 hours a day. A special county pass was issued after being checked out on the station, then located on the Iola Hospital grounds. Thanks to arrangements made by Virg Dumond, WB2FGY, local hams could then call the main Monroe County library branch and obtain QSL addresses over the phone. In a nice article, Brad, WB2CHO, and Dwight, K2KWK, urged all Novices to participate in the *ARRL Novice Round-Up* contest. Club President Ed Gable, K2MP, authored a timely article on the increasing pressure by the FCC on unauthorized use of autopatches. Using such devices for commercial traffic and for bypassing telephone long distance charges were hot topics of the period. John Davis, WB2UVJ, announced a new UHF Repeater, WR2AOX, was now operating from RF Communications on 444.4 Mhz. Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, reported that the *Rochester VHF Group* antenna project constructed 55 two-meter yagis for local members. Don, W2EBF, and Harvey, WA2LUE, announced plans for the popular RaRa Camping activities for the year. The FCC announced a ban on selling 23 channel CB radios in an effort to populate the newer 40 channels. An error in wording made it also illegal to sell Ham equipment capable of operating above 27 Mhz. The FCC said "they're working on it." A new advertiser is *Amateur Radio of Rochester* located on Scottsville Road, taking a full page ad. Not to be out done, *JR's* ham radio outlet store on Lake Avenue purchased the opposite page for their first full size ad. Did the ad battle continue? Tune in next month...

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**Novice - Tech - Tech Plus
General - Advanced - Extra
or**

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to complete a license class.**

**Saturday March 21, 1998
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM**

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RaRa DIRECTORY BINDING AVAILABLE AT THE MARCH MEETING

For those members that would like to have their RaRa directories bound, the equipment will be available at the March meeting. Bring your directory along and get it bound for free. This is another benefit of your RaRa membership.

Next Rag Deadline
March 11, 1998

FOR SALE: 2 kW_{pep} Linear Amplifier. Viking Thunderbolt, pair 4-400A's, 80-10 meters including all WARC bands. Asking \$400.00. Ted Frederickson 225-8409

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