



the RARA RAG

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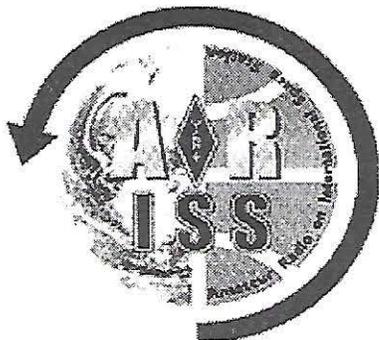
OCTOBER 2003

NO.2

ARISS

Brad Armstrong W1YX

First, let me thank all of you who showed up to enjoy the September presentations. They were a great success and the attendance and participation of the members made the programs all that much better!



This month we will have a joint presentation by Peter Fournia, W2SKY and Jim Stefano, W2COP; all about the September 10th ARISS (Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station) event at Thomas High School in Webster. A team of nine hams operated a satellite station in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

Webster Hears Voice from Space Station

Daryl Bell D&C Staff Writer

WEBSTER- It's been 23 years since Ed Lu walked the hallways of Webster Thomas High School, but on Wednesday his voice was coming from every in-school audio/visual unit. Even more impressive, his words were coming from out of this world.

Lu, a NASA astronaut, is currently circling the globe in the International Space Station, which is about 245 miles above Earth.



CARLOS ORTIZ

Lead amateur radio operator Peter Fournia, left, talks to astronaut Ed Lu Wednesday as Webster Thomas High School 11th-grader Kristin Mannella and 12th-grader Jeff Keesorn follow the trajectory of the space station via computer. Lu is an alumnus of the Webster school. [Day in Photos]

As he did last May 27 when he spoke to inquisitive students at Klein Road South Elementary School, Lu spoke into a handheld radio from the space station to students at Webster Thomas. Lu attended Klein Road South 30 years ago.

"This shows that you can do anything you set your mind to," said Richard Christman, the head of Webster Thomas' science department, "It shows there are no limits to

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RaRa

MEETING

October 3, 2003

8:00 PM

HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.

ARISS

Presented by

Peter Fournia W2SKY
Jim Stefano W2COP

the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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THE PRES SEZ.....

George Platteter AA2FO

The summer has passed and we have already had our first regular meeting and the following Board of Directors meeting. Coming up next will be the VE testing session on Sept. 20th. As CVE, (Contact Volunteer Examiner), I've received several calls from individuals wanting to take exams. So I guess it won't be a washout.

Both the regular and the Board meetings went smoothly, with the help of Kieth Freeberg assisting yours truly with "parliamentary procedure". Thanks Keith! Peter Fournia also helped a lot. Again, many thanks.

I'm pleased with the spirit and enthusiasm of the officers and Board of Directors, and committee chairpersons who have contributed greatly to the operation in our organization. There is a great number of People who are very actively involved. Thank you very much.

Let's continue to have fun. Consider sharing your enjoyment with others. There are a lot of opportunities to do that, such as elmering, teaching, public service events, committees, officers, etc. Let's continue the enjoyment of this diverse hobby. Pick an activity you enjoy. Share it with others.

Thank you for your participation in RaRa.

VOL. 56 OCTOBER 2003 NO.2

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or call KA2GBX 546-6712 would like to
sell as a package.

COUNTINUED FROM WEBSTER HEARS PAGE 1

what you can do. You can do things that are out of this world."

Lu's question-and-answer session with the 10 students lasted about nine minutes as the space station, traveling 1,600 mph, made its way over the United States from Washington State to Florida. One Webster student, Erica Albright, gave up her opportunity to talk with Lu to a classmate, Krista Johnson. Albright gave up her spot because Johnson expressed an interest in pursuing a career in space.

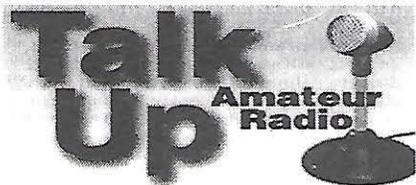
And it was hard to find anyone more pleased than Thomas High principal John Walker. It was the second time that he's had an astronaut speak to his students. A few years ago, Eileen Collins spoke to students at her alma mater, Elmira Free Academy, while Walker was principal.

"I'm extremely lucky in having been in these situations," Walker said, "I know it's a thrill for the students here, but this is the second time that I can say I've had a former student talk from space. I haven't met Mr. Lu, but I'm looking forward to doing so in the future, maybe the next time he goes up, he can carry a school banner with him. That would be great."

With the help of ham operators who acted as relays, the signal from space was strong. Students spoke through a microphone and were delighted to talk to an astronaut.

"This is something that I'm going to remember," said Alicia Housel, a senior. "It's not every day that you talk to someone from outer space."

Lu, 39, who considers Webster and Honolulu his hometowns, flew in the space shuttle Atlantis in 1997 and 2002. He was to be on the next Atlantis flight in March to take him to the space station, but the shuttle program was halted when the Columbia broke up during re-entry Feb, 1. Instead, Lu launched with Yuri Malchenko from Kazakhstan on April 25. He is expected to stay in the space station as science officer for a few more weeks. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) made Wednesday's connection possible at no cost to the school.



RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, October 1983

Ed Gable K2MP

If you were among the many buying new home computers, such as the Radio Shack TRS-80, VIC-20 or even an Atari, then this RaRa program was for you. Speaking on how to use your computer for amateur applications was Ed Neubauer, N2BXA. Several area hams brought in their machines to perform demos. The venue was the 40/8 Club, on University Avenue, where George Muller, WA2IEO, served up refreshments. President Bill Thiel, K2KGE, announced that the RaRa Directors would be mailed out to all paid members, where previously they had to be picked up at a meeting. Scotty Ross, KZ2U, of neighboring Canandaigua, invited RaRa members to attend the Squaw Island ARC meeting where a special presentation by FCC staffers on new rules and regulations would be presented. The Kodak ARC announced the results of their elections with A.G. de Blicck, KW2X, President, S.W. Maier, KZ2R to VP, and G.P. Ahl, WA2JRP as Secretary-Treasurer. Howie Davies, N2CUN, writing for the RRRRA, told that another of their popular transmitter hunts on two-meter FM will be the October program. RRRRA Technical Director Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, reported that the voting receiver project is nearing completion and is operating bug-free, albeit somewhat hay wire at the moment. The Rochester VHF Group, as told by Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, had a talk on 2 GHZ microwave networks with Pat Sheedy, WA2DHB, talking over a slide program. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced that RaRa Jacket orders would be taken with the cut off date the December meeting. Jacks ran from \$15.90 to \$23.50, depending on the type of lining. Sadly, Bill Ehlers, WA2JMH, an active VHF'er and RaRa member, was reported as a silent key. There is a curious Want Ad listing for sale a Heath Linear, a yagi, and more, but there is no name, callsign, telephone number or any kind of contact info. We'll see if there is a correction next month - standby.

SILENT KEY

William A. Smith N2RFZ
August 22, 2003

AWA Museum Closing for the Winter

Ed Gable K2MP

After a wonderful season, the AWA Electronic Communication Museum is closing it's non-heated museum for the Winter. You still have a few weeks to stop and visit the new displays. The wonderful, hardworking volunteers have new, mostly operating, and always interesting, items to see, hear and even touch. If you have never seen the museum, or have not seen it in recent years, shame on you. You're missing a real treat by not visiting one of the countries most unique collections. Museum Curator Ed Gable, K2MP, says come on out on a Sunday in October from two to five p.m. The location is 2 South Avenue in Bloomfield. See the web-site at www.antiquewireless.org.

RaRa

Amateur Radio License Testing

Contact George Platteter AA2FO
For any special needs or questions
(585)334-4488

All Elements Needed To Complete
A License Class

SATURDAY

October 18, 2003

Registration – 8:30 AM

Testing – 9:00 AM

NEW LOCATION

**ROOM 2150 IN BUILDING 76
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623**

(Turn south at the signal light between The Radisson Inn and the Genesee River At the traffic circle bear to the right look For parking lot F at the far end of lot F is Building 76 go in the main entrance up the Stairs to the second floor turn to the left To room 2150 the hall runs in a circle so If you miss it you will end up back where You started)

RAG DEADLINE 10/21/2003

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COUNTINUED FROM ARISS PAGE ONE

school library. Ten students spoke with astronaut Ed Lu who was aboard the International Space Station. The whole school was inspired by this event! It was very special because Ed was a graduate of their school. Students in the TV studio broadcasted this event on the school's closed circuit TV and to the Webster Community TV channel. Students were riveted to their classroom monitors. Peter was interviewed live on TV Channel 10. Additionally, Jim fed the audio to IRLP and EchoLink

Peter will show how this was done from start to finish. This event used the formal ARISS application and process. The planning, equipment, duties, personnel, and results will be reviewed. Audio, videotape and stills of the event will be presented.



During the contact, Jim ran a test of a method he is developing to sequence the communications hand-off among Internet linked ground stations along the ISS path. This has the potential of extending the usual 10-minute QSO to as much as 25 minutes. The downlink part of the system was monitored during the conversation with the ISS. Jim will detail the way this works and present the results of his experiment.

Peter has been a driving force on the RaRa Education Committee for years and is an active participant on the Club Board. Jim has been active on the local repeater scene for some time, and spends a great deal of effort helping the local clubs at RIT and the University of Rochester.

Far from being a dry, technical lecture, I expect this discussion of ARISS communication methods to be inspiring and thought provoking. Club members and guests are encouraged to attend (and join).

My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. If you have a program idea, especially one that showcases ways for local hams to get involved (doing, building, learning, any way at all), please contact me as soon as possible so I can get you on the schedule. See you at the meeting!

EMERGENCY TRAINING

Gregory J. Michels, KC2GXV

The RaRa Education Committee in conjunction with Monroe County ARES is organizing several emergency communications training opportunities.

American Red Cross Introduction to Disaster Services Training

A second offering of the four introductory courses in Disaster Services by the American Red Cross will be starting soon. These courses consist of an Orientation, Introduction to Disaster Services, Mass Care, Shelter Operations, and Shelter Operations Exercises. After completing this series of courses you will be able to participate in more advanced courses which will show the most effective means to provide the American Red Cross with emergency communications. The classes are FREE. If you are interested it is imperative that you inform me (see last paragraph) AND sign up for the RARAEmCommEd Yahoo! group NOW at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RARAEmCommEd/>. Pick "Join this Group!" on the right hand side of the page. Then either (1) pick "Sign Up Now" on the left under "New to Yahoo!?" if you do not already have a Yahoo! Group user profile or (2) sign in with your existing profile username and password. Then be sure that you subscribe to the RaRaEmCommEd group. If you have trouble please contact me at kc2gxv@arrl.net or 217-9708 and I will be glad to help. After you sign up you will be getting a reflected email to schedule the second round of American Red Cross training.

Directed Net/Traffic Handling Workshop

In addition, we will be holding some seminars/workshops in directed net participation and traffic handling. These start with the November Monroe County ARES meeting on November 20th at 7PM at RIT Building 09 in the Xerox 1st floor auditorium. These workshops will consist of classroom instruction and interactive off-the-air practice sessions. We plan to make the workshops fun yet highly instructive. We hope you are eager to participate. The workshops are FREE.

Mass Enrollment of ARRL Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course

The ARRL has teamed up with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium to offer a series of three online self-paced courses in

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

CONTINUER FROM EMERGENCY TRAINING
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. Level I is highly suggested for anyone interested in emergency communications. I am currently taking steps with the ARRL to offer a hybrid version of this course that will feature both classroom and online work. The amount of online involvement will be such that you will not need your own internet connection at home. The resources of a friend or your local library will be sufficient.

There will be a \$45 cost (\$75 for non-ARRL members) to register. A Homeland Security Grant allocation will reimburse \$45 once you pass the course. There may be a non-reimbursable \$10 cost of printed course material. There may be some lead time required to get a mass enrollment organized and there are qualifications and preparations which need to be in place before this course can happen, so I anticipate that the time frame will be early next year. There is the potential to get it started sooner but that would put it during the holiday season; which is a really bad idea. You may take this course on your own, as many have. See <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> for more information on online and mail registration.

If these opportunities to improve your preparation for service in an emergency communications call-out interest you, then please (1) sign up for the RARA EmCommEd Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RARAEmCommEd/> and (2) send me your name, call, address, phone, and email at kc2gxv@arrl.net. Hope to hear from you soon.



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"NEWBIE NET"

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

To all Rochester and Area Hams: Join in every Sunday evening following the Monroe County FM Net. The Sunday agenda is: 20:20 plus or minus 3-4 minutes depending how long Amateur Newslines is, followed by K2KWK with his Hilltop Bulletins at 20:45: at 21:00 the Monroe County FM Net comes on this all alternates between the 146.28/88 (K2RRA/R) and the 146.19/79 (K2SA/R).

Then after left over FM Net business is taken care of and the frequency is free the "NEWBIE NET" Starts. This net is as the name implies a question and answer type net not only for newly licensed hams but Not limited to, any ham new or old is welcome to check in with questions, comments, and hopefully to Supply answers to submitted questions from time to time.

I do announce my email address during the net and have received a few emails from unlicensed, Mike shy and or hams who don't own a transceiver with questions along with scanner buffs who just say that they enjoy listening and to keep it up, someday maybe the scanner buffs will realize that they to can be a Licensed Amateur.

RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

Another semester started Monday September 8, 2003 19:00 with 20 students 15 in the CW/Technician Theory and 5 in the General Theory and continuing for the next 12 Mondays in room 1230 building 76 on the RIT Campus. A campus map can be viewed and or downloaded @ www.rit.edu click on campus map and go for it.

We will be running classes in CW (element 1) Technician Theory (element 2), General Theory (element 3), as only one prospective Extra Class student showed up the fact that we didn't have an Extra Class Instructor is mote. I suggested he try again in the February Semester.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
REPEATERS**

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Rochester VHF Group

Charles Barkowski N2IM

The Rochester VHF Group is proud to announce that Nobel Laureate Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, is coming to Rochester on October 10th to present on Weak-signal DSP and its application in amateur radio. Joe Taylor is a Professor of Physics at Princeton University and is best known outside The radio circle for his groundbreaking work in pulsars. He is the Author of the FSK441 and JT44 digital modes as part of the WSJT computer software..

Program package, which has revolutionized weak-signal work on the VHF+ Bands. Since this is a wonderful opportunity to see technical Innovation working within amateur radio, the Rochester VHF Group is inviting and *encouraging* other clubs in the Western NY area to attend--everyone will learn Something! Exact time and location TBA--

For more information, please contact Mark Hoffman, K2AXX (k2axx@hotmail.com) or check <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>.

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VE TESTING (W5YI-VEC)

THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

(except if it falls on a holiday)

Registration 17:30

Contact Person Charles N2IM

n2im@arrl.net/585-820-9218

KODAK PK. BUILDING 28

(corner of Palm St. & Ridge Rd. E)

Pumpkin Patrol 2003

Ed Holdsworth N2EH

The Pumpkin Patrol October 30-31 takes on a different glow this year with the many different acts of violence that occurred this year on the inter-state system. Last year we were able to cover most of the bridges in Monroe County but were unable to cover those bridges that have metal shields. This year I would like to cover them also.

We will be activated the same as previous years - 7:00 - 11:59pm both days. There will be sign-up sheets at the September and October meetings. You can call me at home, 585-624-1929 or you can drop me a note.

I hope to get a coordinator from the Buffalo Zone to answer any questions you may have. This program will be activate by the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Getting the Message out- Ham Radio (Educating the Public)

Kieth Freeberg N2BEL

Have you ever thought about the impression the general populace has of Ham Radio? When I tell people I'm a Ham I often hear in response, "Oh, you do that CB lingo stuff." It usually takes a lot of explaining, sometimes more than their patience can stand, to show a plausible difference. It seems people talking on radios or communicating in special modes is something the general public just doesn't understand, and just doesn't get the positive attention of the community.

I'm sure you have run into even more shows of indifference from people you've talked with or perhaps even less than approving glances from acquaintances that know little more about radio than clicking the power switch. Perhaps they believe that beyond entertainment value, there is little reason to have it. Perhaps they even equate you, due to their lack of understanding, with some of those distasteful talk show hosts?

How then can we change these perceptions? Untrue perceptions of distasteful talk show hosts or perhaps Hams secluded nerds? One

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

suggestion is to get involved in organized forms of public education. And, there are lots of opportunities through Rochester Area Radio Educators (RARE). There are some dozen or so programs active in the Greater Rochester Area and it is easy to get involved.

All are welcome to get involved for an hour or two each year in one of the many existing or new educational programs. You can find out just how two hours a year can help bring understanding of our avocation and its value to the community. It is easy to get involved, it's flexible, and it honors our commitments to family and our hobby.

To find out more, go to <http://www.rochesterham.org>, email n2bel@frontiernet.net or call Keith at 585-254-0722.

RaRa VE Testing Schedule

2003/2004 Season

The third Saturday of the month
September 2003 thru May 2004

Registration 08:30 Begin testing at 09:00

September 20, 2003

October 18, 2003

November 15, 2003

December 20, 2003

January 15, 2004

February 21, 2004

March 20, 2004

April 17, 2004

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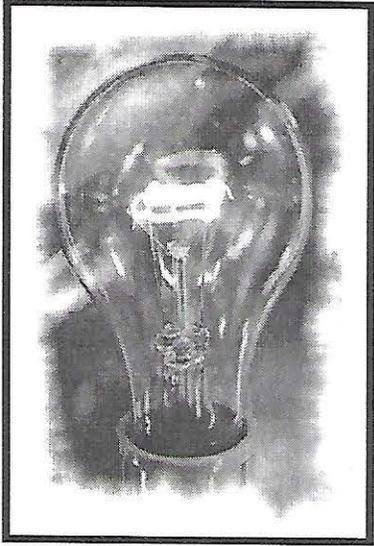
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RARA RAG 7



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