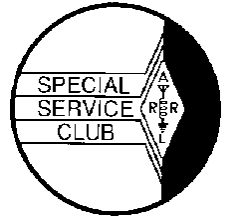




The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



February 2006

SATELLITE RADIO



"SuitSat" is a Russian space suit equipped with a 2 meter radio that was launched from the International Space Station on February 4, 2006. It had a radio broadcasting a recorded message on 145.990 MHz. The message was, " This is SuitSat-1, RS0RS." in English, then in 5 other languages with key words that were different. Special awards were given those who copied the messages and reported them to NASA or the ARRL. On Monday 2-6, It was in range of Memphis, TN at 00:06:15 for 2 minutes. Then in range of Little Rock, AR 12 seconds later for 2 minutes.

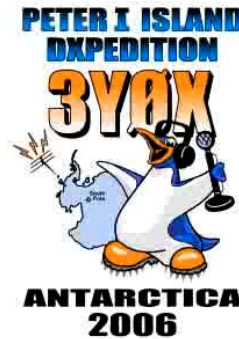
On Sunday, February 5, "SuitSat" had completed 3 orbits of the earth. The batteries lasted 2 to 3 days. The suit will eventually enter the Earth's atmosphere and burn up. For further information on the ISS and other satellite orbits, visit nasa.gov website.

Article and photo submitted by
Dick Koski, W5VUB

ADDRESS UPDATE

I am trying to maintain an accurate current membership roster. Please inform me of any changes in your address, phone number and/or e-mail address at n4owb@arrl.net or call me at 479-890-4504.
73, Aulton N4OWB (editor)

ANTARCTICA DXPEDITION



The most expensive (\$500,000) DXpedition ever is underway on Peter I Island, Antarctica. They are operating on all HF bands. For more information, go to www.peterone.com.

HAMFEST MARCH 4 AT HUGHES CENTER

Convert that un-used equipment into cash, and clear out your storage. Bring it to the Hamfest and be ready to sell, buy and have eye-ball QSOs with the folks that you visit on the radio. Food & Fellowship for all.

FIELD-DAY PLANS

I know Field Day is still a few months down the road for many of us, but with this being such an important event, early preparation is needed. That being said, I want everyone to know that Field Day is an important aspect of HAM Radio in two major ways.

First and foremost, Field Day is an event that gives us, as operators, a chance to see just how prepared we are to deal with a real emergency situation. This includes how organized we are to set up and maintain a station to transmit health and welfare info, or to help the many different relief organizations with other communications.

As we've all heard, the proof is in the pudding. A high score indicates to us, our neighbors in the state, and to the nation just how well we did our job.

Secondly, but just as important. Field Day is used as a recruitment opportunity to interest and amaze people in the community about our hobby and how they can become active operators as well.

(continued on page 2)

FIELD-DAY PLANS (continued from page 1)

So, with these two main ideas in mind, I would like to see the club work together to achieve these goals. Everyone that is a part of ARVARF has an operators ticket for one reason or another. I challenge you to show folks why you got interested in the art of radio. Whether it's CW, Packet, Phone, ATV, or RTTY, lets pull out the stops this year and really show folks what we can do. But most importantly let's work together as a team to get this task done.

Starting now, I'm looking for some locations to have this event. Trying to keep in mind both objectives above. I will take suggestions until the end of February. I know that deadline sounds early, but with good reason. Some of the locations that have been mentioned to this point require scheduling, and/or permits to operate. The February deadline will allow enough time to acquire what we need in whatever location is chosen. So if you have any suggestions you can e-mail me at kd5qjq@centurytel.net, you can tell me at one of the meetings, you can call me (479) 641-1899, or you can give me a shout on the radio. After all the locations are suggested, I will go to each one and list the pro's and con's of each one. I will make copies available to the club so that we can vote on one in the March meeting. I feel this is the only way to give everyone some input as to the location of such an important event.

I want to reiterate that team work is the key to this event. Let's break and make some new records for the club this year in both areas of Field Day!

73, Andy KD5QJQ, [Field-Day Chairman](#)

ARES/RACES NEWS

Our next RACES/ARES meeting will be February 28th at 7:00 p.m. The location will be the Civil Air Patrol hangar at the Russellville airport. Park in the main parking lot and the CAP hangar is the blue one - first one to the right (just to the right of the main operations building). Everyone is very welcome to attend. The training topic for the February meeting will be net operations.

At the January meeting, we had a training session on the difference between ARES and RACES and how the two groups relate. Here is a brief summary of what we discussed.

ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. It is sponsored by ARRL. Each state has a Section Emergency Coordinator. Our SEC is J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, of Hot Springs. The SEC appoints District Emergency Coordinators. Our DEC is Kenneth Hamm, KC5SKY, of Morrilton. The SEC and DEC appoint an Emergency Coordinator for ARES in each county. I am the EC for Pope County. The EC is generally recommended by a local group or club and cannot function effectively without the support of a club.

ARES usually supports non-government agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. It also does weather spotting for the National Weather Service and is primarily responsible for health and welfare traffic after a disaster. ARES can engage in any legal activity and ARRL guidelines are very broad so local needs can be met. Depending on manpower, ARES units can be ready for transmitter hunting in case of deliberate or unintentional interference, or to search for someone who is lost or injured. There are no particular membership requirements for ARES. Hams do not have to be ARRL members and all classes of licensees are welcome. Anyone can contribute to ARES, regardless of age, health, equipment, or ability.

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ARES/RACES (continued)

RACES is the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. It is specifically authorized by 97.407 of FCC rules and there are restrictions on what RACES can do. RACES can operate during wartime if authorized, even if normal amateur radio is suspended. RACES members must be registered with a civil defense organization (OEM in Arkansas). The county pays worker's compensation insurance on RACES members, just like for volunteer firemen, OEM rescue, etc. In Arkansas, a loyalty oath is required. David Freeman is the Pope county OEM coordinator and Justin Drittler is the deputy coordinator. All RACES activations and messages must be specifically authorized by the Civil Defense organization. However, this can be by standard operating procedures, (activate when there is a tornado warning or evacuation, etc). RACES-only drills are limited to 1 hour per week and one 72 hour drill not more than twice a year. This only covers drills that exclude non-RACES members. It is not normal practice to have this kind of exercise in Arkansas.

While in RACES communication, you may not communicate with non-RACES stations. Who decides when you are in RACES operation? You do, unless you go to another area and participate in a RACES-only net. In an actual emergency, you will slip in and out of RACES operation as you talk to RACES and non-RACES stations. Since everything you do will be legal under normal amateur radio regulations, you do not have to worry about violating this rule unless there is a wartime situation which restricts normal amateur radio activity. If in doubt, the net control station should make it very clear if non-RACES stations cannot participate.

ARES has an EC at the county level and RACES has a RACES Officer. The RACES officer is appointed by the OEM coordinator and is generally the same person as the ARES EC. The RACES state coordinator is the same as the SEC and the DEC also serves both.

Because of the Worker's Compensation, RACES units are usually small, generally those who man the EOC, or are willing to be dispatched and travel to different places, or operate county-owned equipment, such as amateur television, etc.

RACES members participate in storm spotting, and if a net control is needed at the EOC, it is generally a RACES member. RACES provides backup for county government agencies if communications are out, and maintains the packet radio network in the area.

In most areas, including Pope County, the RACES and ARES units function as one organization. The only difference is that the RACES members registered with the county are the ones who operate the equipment in the EOC, and are dispatched with county-owned equipment.

At the January meeting, we covered a typical scenario which shows how RACES and ARES react to a typical disaster. There isn't enough space to cover that in the newsletter, but maybe we can cover it next month.

**73,
Dennis W5RZ
Pope County EC/RACES Officer.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARVARF meeting at Western Sizzlin'

Tuesday, February 21st

Regular meeting at 7:00.

Come at 6:00, if you want to eat.

ARVARF Net:

Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on 146.82
(except club meeting night)

Net Control Stations:

February - KE5EIW, Sonia Picado

ARVARF Board Meeting:

ARES/RACES Meeting:

February 28th , 7:00 p.m.

CAP Hangar, Russellville Airport

ARVARF web page:

www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/

Arkansas Section Web Domain:

www.arkansashams.org

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

no minutes submitted

I am looking for operating instructions for a Uniden Bearcat BC700A. If you have some information please e-mail me at dricka@cox.net
Don Rickard, WA5IXG

JON'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Q. Ever hear of "Bridging Amplifiers"? What does that mean?

A. This implies that you're going from a low-Z input to a Hi-Z output where MAX voltage is transferred.

73, Jon Caery KC5LVW

Don't Forget to pay your 2006 Dues

"Know yourself. Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."--Ann Landers

ARVARF Officers

President	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
Vice President	Roger Sayer	AC5YG
Treasurer	Glenn Holmes	N5KLE
Secretary	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
Board Members	Michael McAllister	KE5EIY
	Ben Hillis	W5HH
	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
	John Evans	WB5BHS
	Rich Bailey	KE5AQH
Newsletter	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
	Roger Sayer	AC5YG
	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
	Aulton White	N4OWB

TECHNICIAN CLASS

The first session of the Technician class met on Thursday, Feb. 2nd , with 12 students. The second session met on Feb. 9th , with 10 students. The students seem attentive and interested.

THE REPEATER

P.O. Box 582

Russellville, AR 72811

Editor

Aulton White, N4OWB

n4owb@arrl.net

Columnists

Sergio Picado, KE5CUY

Roger Sayer, AC5YG

Sonia Picado, KE5EIW