

JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Mississippi's Oldest and Largest Ham Radio Club
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W5PFC Report

The Jackson Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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FCC announces new Universal Licensing System Interface

From the ARRL Bulletin

The FCC unveiled a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> which includes the Amateur Service. Among other features, the ULS's new look includes easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new

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January 15 Club Meeting

- ☞ Malcolm Keown, W5XX, will be speaking about the thrills of 160 meter DXing!
- ☞ Another \$50 door prize will be given away!
- ☞ The W5PFC club station will be on the air at 6 PM.
- ☞ Club meetings are held at 7 PM on the third Thursday of the month at the American Red Cross building, 875 Riverside Drive in Jackson, just south of Murrah High School.



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Ham Radio in Space Reaches Another Milestone

From the ARRL Letter

Ham radio in space has reached another milestone with the successful installation and checkout of the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Phase 2 equipment. The ISS now sports a new Kenwood TM-D700E dualband transceiver in the Zvezda Service Module—the crew's living quarters. ISS Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, set up the new transceiver at NAISS earlier this month. Only official approval is needed to begin operations. Activation of the new gear will mean a power boost for the NAISS downlink signal, which could prove especially helpful in school group contacts. The additional equipment—which soon will include a slow-scan television (SSTV) system—also opens up new operational

possibilities.

The Phase 2 gear will use the four antennas installed on the Service Module during space walks in 2002 specifically to support Amateur Radio operations. Addition of the new antennas, which will cover from HF to microwave frequencies, opened the door to deploying the two separate ham stations aboard the orbiting outpost. Waiting in the wings is a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver that could go into space in January along with the new SSTV gear.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the second ham station with the Kenwood transceiver is near the Service Module's dinner table and the window. "This prime location will allow the crew to more conveniently use the ISS ham radio system," he said. "They'll be able to look out the window while operating from the Service Module." ☒

Upcoming Events

Capital City Hamfest

February 6-7, 2004

TradeMart at Fairgrounds in Jackson, POC: Ron Brown, AB5WF, (601) 956-1448

Set-up will start at 1:00 PM on Friday for dealers and 3:00 PM and 7:00 AM Saturday for non-dealers. Dealer tables will be \$20.00 and non-dealer flea market tables are \$15.00. The Hamfest will be open to the public from 5:00 until 8:00 PM on Friday and 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturday. General admission is \$5.00 for adults. No charge for youth ages twelve and under. Friday at 6:00 PM we will have a session entitled "Introduction to Ham Radio" for prospective hams and includes free admission to the Hamfest on Friday night.

The TradeMart building is located on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds northeast of the Coliseum. Take I-55 exit 96-B at High Street then west to the second traffic light at the main entrance to the fairgrounds. The first building on the left is the TradeMart. Talk-in will be on 146.76 (-). Door prizes will include: Grand Prize, IC 706 MKIIG (HF+6m+2m+70 cm), Dual Band Mobile, Kenwood TM-V7A (Cool Blue), MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer, 3 each Yaesu VX-2R Dual Band Hand Held and cash coupons worth \$25, \$50, and \$100 toward purchase of merchandise from Hamfest dealers. VE Test for all classes of FCC license and Level I and II of ECC will be given at 8:00 AM Saturday at the Trade Mart. See www.jxnarc.org for more information.

Mississippi QSO Party

February 28, 2004

Sponsored by the Vicksburg ARC, POC: Malcolm Keown, W5XX

Starts at 1500Z Feb. 28 and ends at 0300Z Feb. 29. Suggested frequencies are 3545, 7045, 14045, 21045 and 28045 on CW and 3862, 7238, 14275, 21375, and 28375 KHz on SSB, but no WARC band or VHF & above contacts. Mississippi hams exchange signal report and their county, and outsiders give a report and their SPC (State, Province, Country). Phone contacts count one point each, while CW is worth two points each. See www.arrlmiss.org for complete rules.

CQ DX!

The DXer's Toolbox

John Bergman, KC5LK

For the past couple of years I have used the January Newsletter article as a "Year in Review" type article. This time it appears that I have lost more than a few gray matter cells, because I am having difficulty trying to remember who went where and when they were there.

Once again the New Year is upon us and hopefully someone out there has resolved to begin working toward the top of the Honor Roll. Books have been written on the subject of how to be a successful DXer so I will not try to cover that in one short article. One of the things that is most often asked of me is "what is the QSL route for a particular DXpedition," or where do I send a card to someone that I just want to send a card to. The other most asked question concerns specific details of a DXpedition to some very rare or even semi-rare Entity.

In past years the only resource for looking up the elusive route or address was the "Radio Amateur Callbook" a.k.a. the Callbook, RAC, or the Flying Horse Callbook. Today there are several callbooks available either online or on CD-ROM. Time and space will not permit a discussion of the virtues of each. I use both types of callbooks to take advantage of the good points of each. Murphy's Law informs us that the more important the QSL card the more likely the data we receive will be incorrect. In all cases it is wise to compare several sources just to verify the data. DX newsletters are also good resources for obtaining needed route and address information in addition to news about who is going where and when they will be there.

Let us see where we can find all this really important information. I will mention only publications that most of us already know about or are free. CQ Magazine, www.cq-amateur-radio.com and "WorldRadio" <http://www.wr6wr.com> have listings of routes and addresses in each issue.

"QST" does not have such a listing but the ARRL does provide a weekly newsletter available to members via email. Callbooks, both the RAC and Buckmaster the two most popular, are available from many sources and have online updates available to registered users to keep them current. There are several weekly newsletters that are available free, the "Ohio/Penn DX Newsletter" www.papays.com/opdx and the "425 DX News" <http://www.425dxn.org> are among the best. Most of the better commercial newsletters advertise in all the Amateur Radio publications. There are several online sources of address and/or route information. Probably the overall best site is "Pathfinder" www.qsl.net/pathfinder/webclient because it has links to most of the best Manager and/or address

lookup sites, national callsign servers, and past packet cluster spots. A word of caution about the callsign servers is needed because many of them are in their native language and script.

Another often asked question I read or hear is "How can I find if I am in the log?" There are several online log check sites perhaps the best can be found at: <http://dx.qsl.net/logs/index.html>.

<http://dx.qsl.net/logs/index.html>.

A new site that has just come to my attention has information about most of the major expeditions of the past few years including links to each DXpeditions log check site, if available, QSL information, etc. can be found by connecting to: <http://www.dailydx.com/dxpeditions.htm>.

What is ironic about all this that just as soon as you become a member of the DX Century Club all these sources of information that you really needed to obtain your DXCC Award comes looking for you. You will have newsletter editors, magazine publisher, software designers, and all sorts of information brokers filling your mailbox with offers of how to obtain anything that you may want in the How, When, Where, and Why categories. The first 100 Entities are easy. It is the last 20 that are hard, and everything in between is practice for the last 9. ☐



New Universal Licensing System Interface, continued from page 1

system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place immediately.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said. Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time.

Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site at <http://esupport.fcc.gov/> or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255). ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888). ☐

Foundation for Amateur Radio Solicits Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR), a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, plans to administer 59 scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Comprised of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs, FAR fully funds seven of these scholarships with income from grants and its annual hamfest.

The foundation administers the remaining 52 without cost to the donors. FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees planning to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study.

FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs—especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin—to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on Web pages. Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card post-marked prior to April 30, 2004, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. ☐

2004 Breland Award Nominations Sought

The fourth annual Breland Award will be presented at the Capital City Hamfest in Jackson on Saturday, February 7, 2004. This year we are promoting the Breland award to all young Mississippi amateur radio operators. All are invited to make nominations based on the following criteria.

The nominee must be 21 years of age or younger. The nominee should be a licensed amateur or have a demonstrated interest in amateur radio. Submit a description of how the nominee has demonstrated that interest, and what the nominee might do with the cash award (i.e., save for college, buy radio equipment, etc.).

A committee will review all nominations and determine the winner. Nominations should be sent to Bill McLarty, KM5GE, via email at KM5GE@arrl.net or by postal mail to the JARC address, P.O. Box 55643, Jackson, MS 39296, arriving no later than Friday, January 30, 2004. ☐