An Amazing Recovery: ARISS Packet System Revives

Similar to the AO-7 satellite resurrection several years ago, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet radio system on the International Space Station (ISS) has begun working again. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said over the weekend that reports he'd received indicated that the NA1SS packet signal returned in mid-August.

"No idea how long it will last, given the degrading state of the current hardware. The longer it lasts, the better," he said. Ransom said the revived system will fill the gap until a replacement packet module is flown to the ISS later this year and is installed by the crew on a time-available basis.

The packet signal on 145.825 MHz has been copied in Europe, South America, India, and elsewhere. In another August 25 post, Mark Pisani, KK6OTJ, reported copying the packet system during an 18° pass over southern California and said he worked KB6LTY through the system. "Heard over Patagonia Argentina!" Francisco Rodriguez, LU2WBA, enthused in a post on August 24 at 2323 UTC. "Welcome back!" An August 17 post from Marco Antonio, PU2MUS, in Brazil indicated that the system was not active at that time.

Earlier this summer, ARISS hardware team members on the ground reported that they were able to locate a functional duplicate of the ISS packet module that had been in use on the ISS for 17 years before it failed more than a year ago.

ARISS has expressed hope that the new packet system hardware could be online again by the end of November.

W1DYJ does FT8 overview

At the September MARA meeting in Topsham our valued member Larry Banks, W1DYJ did an excellent presentation and overview of the weak signal FT8 digital mode, the digital mode that has become the most popular within the past twelve months, especially for folks involved in the “paper chase”awards such as DXCC, VUCC, WAZ, WAS, etc.. It was a big hit to those in attendance.
Al’s Good Deal,  
Tower & Beam for Sale

Someone local should use this 40-foot crankup & tilt over lightweight tower. It is in very good condition and was used in this year’s Field Day. It’s 1” tubular triangular construction, and a total of three sections, 18 ft each.

Of the 20 years that I have had it up and running, I have never found any rust with little to no maintenance required for the next owner. With my installation I dug and poured a concrete foundation for it about 3 ft X 3 ft X 3 ft. The mounting bolts all have been Teflon taped, so I’ll take them off for the next owner.

The antenna is a two element, 10-15-20 meter beam with external coils. Antenna is currently in operation.

It is located at my QTH in East Boothbay. Asking $300 and you take it home.

Al Sirois, N1MHC n1mhc@arrl.net

DID YOU HAVE A HAM LICENSE BEFORE October 1993?

If so, you too can be a member of the QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

For more information about this organization contact:

Bruce Randall, W1ZE at w1ze@arrl.net

Bill Crawley, K1NIT at k1nit@arrl.net
Maine’s Ham Radio Historian Phil Young, W1JTH, SK

Philip M. Young 1917 - 2018

Maine’s premier ham Philip M. Young, 100, passed away on July 16, 2018, at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough.

Philip, better known to some as Phil, and to others as W1JTH, was born in Shirley Mills, ME on Oct. 22, 1917. He graduated valedictorian of Corinna Union Academy. Following high school, he worked at Milton Willard Co. and in 1941 he married Dorothy Wood. In 1945 Phil he enlisted in the United States Navy proudly serving his country at the end of World War II as an Electronics Technicians Mate. Passing the Eddy Test had identified him as having the aptitude and capability to receive intensive technical training in electronics.

Phil’s interest in radio began when he was a young boy. He was only seven when (in his own words) "the magic device invaded our household in 1924". He became the family radio technician connecting the batteries, speaker, antenna and ground wires by studying diagrams. He was thoroughly invested in ham radio, receiving his Class C radio license in 1936 and upgraded to advanced in 1947. By 1950 Dot had also become interested in ham radio and was licensed as W1TGY. Phil sat as net control for the Sea Gull Net every Friday night, worked stations around the globe, and even the International Space Station.

A career in radio began when Phil and Dot moved to Augusta in the 50’s where he worked at WRDO Radio, and later for the State of Maine becoming the Director of Radio Facilities for the Maine State Department of Transportation until retirement in 1977. Phil considered himself lucky to have worked in a field he was so passionate about.

In his spare time, Phil along with his XYL Dot, did extensive volunteer work during the 1980s and 1990s. His volunteer work continued with the Trek Across Maine, where he introduced the idea of using ham radio to coordinate communication services for the race in a time before cellular phones. This year, Phil was a recipient of the Remember ME award, an award sponsored by the Maine Health Care Association to recognize pioneering, innovative, and interesting residents living in Maine’s long term care facilities.

He is survived by his XYL of 77 years, Dorothy Young; a daughter, Carol Hanken and her husband Bruce of South Hiram, a son Kenneth Young of Pensacola, Fla. He was "Gump" to grandchildren, Jeremy Hanken (N1KWT) and his wife, Sara of Gorham, Jason Hanken of Windham, and Katie Veazie and her husband Chris of Gorham; and three great-grandchildren, Philip Hanken, Haley Hanken, and Hazel Veazie.

Phil will be missed by those of us that called him our friend and fellow Ham. Rest In Peace OM.

CONVERSATION
From the ARRL Contest Update for September 2018
Editor: Brian Moran, N9ADG

It's Different for a YL

One YL operator I spoke with recently shared some of her experiences in becoming a contester. She relates that
after she'd become an Amateur and expressed her contesting interest at a local radio club meeting, she was told that "she didn't want to be a contester" by more than a small number of crusty been-there done-that types, in various ways verbally and non-verbally. Thankfully, she's persistent, confident, and has skills that enable her to reach her goals, and also met some contesters that encouraged her interest. It turns out she's a good operator, and not infrequently makes more contacts than anyone else when she participates in multi-op groups. When she does a multi-op, she has different on the air experiences than her male team members. She has not infrequently received comments on the order of "I hate when women do contests, I can't understand their accent." After calling "CQ Contest," callers will often uncomfortably draw out the contact, and stray from the contest format with creepy requests for non-exchange related personal information. If tolerance for this type of behavior continues as part of Amateur Radio, then we should expect continued declining numbers and lack of diversity in our hobby. The next time you hear a female-sounding voice during a contest, you should assume that person is on the air to make a lot of contacts, just like you. If you hear someone stopping to comment on a voice or request non-relevant personal details, not only are they delaying her, they're slowing down everyone else in the pile up... including you.

Windsor Hamfest, A Good Time

N1TTT, AA4AK, W1ZE & K1JJS. KX1I took this photo

A goodly group of MARA members braved the early morning cool and headed to the Windsor Fairgrounds on Saturday September 22nd.
During the Hamfest, members of the 3940 kHz PTN, SGN, MSSN and MPSN nets gathered for a steering committee meeting, an annual gathering at the Windsor Hamfest.

Be an Elmer to a friend that wants to become a Ham. Help swell our ranks!