

November 2004

# FEEDBACK



The **OFFICIAL** Newsletter

of the

## Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc.

P.O. Box 113, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5P1

### GBARC Meetings

are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and August in our CLUBHOUSE, Unit 6 Rockford Plaza, Rockford On. 5km S of Owen Sound. 7:30 p.m.

### Breakfast Anyone?

Any Saturday 9:00 a.m., at the Rockford Restaurant.

### Nets

80 metre net on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on 3.783 Mhz. Two metre net on Thursday at 9 p.m. on VE3OSR 146.94-Mhz.

### Submissions

are always welcome.

## This Month

**Santa Clause Parade 2004**

**Upcoming Events**

**Space Chats Exhilarate Long Island, Quebec Schools**

**Swap Shop**

**Ham Radio Trivia**

**Message From The Newsletter Team**

**GBARC Mail Box**

**NEXT MEETING will be on October 26 on the air 146.940**

**President**

Gene VE3IJD



**Vice-President**

Bob  
VE3XOX



**Secretary**

Tom VA3TS



**Treasurer**

Bob  
VE3LKD



**Newsletter Team**

Editor  
Barry VA3WBG  
Steven VE3SEG  
Tom VE3CVL



**Program Director**

Jim VE3CJM



## Santa Clause Parade 2004

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The Santa Clause Parade was held on Saturday November 17 2004. As in previous years members of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club managed to pull themselves out of there warm shacks and help with communications. We had many members come out and help make this a safe and fun event. Thanks to all who helped out.



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## Upcoming Events

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# Christmas Dinner

This years GBARC Christmas dinner will be held on Friday Dec.10....Happy hour is 6 to 7 with meal at 7.Tickets can be purchased from Gene VE3IJD.

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## Space Chats Exhilarate Long Island, Quebec Schools

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NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 9, 2004--Teacher April Pokorny's fifth graders at Westhampton Beach Elementary School on Long Island, New York, had reason to be grateful the day before Thanksgiving. That's when they got a chance to speak via Amateur Radio with International Space Station Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, at the controls of NA1SS. Secondary school students in Quebec spoke with Chiao via ham radio on November 30. Both contacts were arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. The Long Island school's November 24 educational contact was some three years in the making.

"I am still feeling euphoric over our wonderful experience," Westhampton Beach Elementary School Principal Anne Rullan remarked the following day. Pokorny said the ARISS contact provided a connection between classroom learning and real life. "What could possibly be more exciting than talking to an astronaut while he is in space," she told a reporter for TV Channel 12. In addition to TV coverage, one radio station and two newspapers reported the event.

The youngsters had worked up a list of two dozen possible questions to ask Chiao, who's been aboard the ISS since October. The Westhampton Beach contact was only his second Amateur Radio contact ever.

Among other things, Chiao told the Westhampton Beach pupils that the food aboard the ISS was pretty good, that the orbit of the ISS could be altered "a little bit," and that the 2003 shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, in which seven astronauts died, did not deter his desire to go into space. "We're all professional astronauts, and this is what we do, and we know what the risks are" he said. Chiao called the *Columbia* mishap "a very sad thing for all of us."

As was the case with other astronauts and cosmonauts before him, Chiao said he enjoys looking out the window and taking pictures, and he sometimes and spends his spare time watching movies. "I also like floating around a lot," he said. Chiao told another youngster that it would be easier to pitch a fast ball on Earth than in zero gravity.

The ARISS QSO was supposed to happen during the previous school year, but the Expedition 8 crew was dealing with an air leak aboard the spacecraft at the time and had to beg off some scheduled school group contacts.

Seventeen members of the Peconic Amateur Radio Club (PARC) set up the W2AMC Earth station and made other technical arrangements to enable the contact. Jim Jones, KC2IGT, Charles Burnham, K2GLP, and Van Field, W2OQI, provided radio practice for the 12 students "who were willing participants in this experience," said PARC President Roberta Keis, N2RBU. PARC has practice in making ARISS contact arrangements. It also

assisted in a 2002 ARISS contact with Quogue School, also on Long Island.

"Second time around was not as scary as the first time, but it was not without the usual need for backup planning," Keis said. An auxiliary generator ended up running all the radio and videoconferencing equipment after power at the school kept cutting out due to damp, rainy conditions that day. PARC members also needed to repair an antenna controller within an hour of the contact's start.

"The after-contact comments were all positive," Keis said. "Words like 'amazing' and 'wow!' were mixed with tears of emotion and a general feeling of floating on air."

### **Canada Contact Short but Successful**

On November 30, youngsters at the Fernand Lefebvre Secondary School in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec, Canada, chatted with Chiao during a somewhat curtailed contact. Calls by Earth station operator Luc Leblanc, VE2DWE, were met with packet bursts during the first several minutes of the 10-minute pass. When Chiao's voice finally came through loud and clear, "all in the auditorium started to breathe again," said ARISS-Canada's Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA.

Because of the late start and further interruptions, Chiao only answered seven questions. He told the students he had trained for about three years before going into space as the Expedition 10 commander in October--about 18 months as a backup crew member and another 18 months for his current mission. In response to other questions, Chiao again said he enjoyed being able to float around, but that zero gravity did have its downside.

"Everything's a little trickier in zero gravity because there's no gravity to help keep things in their place," he said. "It's easy to lose things. Just small, little things go floating away. You have to pay attention to what you're doing and know where everything is."

Chiao said the most surprising thing about going into space was the view of Earth and how beautiful it is. "It's even better than the pictures and the IMAX movies," he commented.

As the contact drew to a close, Chiao said he was sorry he wasn't able to answer more questions. Remarked Lamoureux afterward, "Despite the shortened contact, the ARISS spirit was present, and all will remember the event for a long time."

Members of the Sorel-Tracey Amateur Radio Club, VE2CBS, set up the Earth station for the contact. As an audience of some 450 parents, teachers and visitors looked on, a French-language radio reporting team from CJSO (101.7 FM) commented on the contact as it progressed, somewhat as if it were a sporting event. Some 1800 students outside the auditorium heard the contact via an intercom link.

ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

# SWAP SHOP

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TS-690  
HF plus 6 Meters  
Asking \$1000.00  
John Fox  
R.R.#2  
Tara, Ontario, Canada  
N0H-2N0  
Kenwood TS-520  
HF Transceiver  
Asking \$275.00  
Bob Vary  
R.R.#8  
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada  
N4K-5W4  
519-376-8060  
REIS 25 Amp P.S.  
German Made  
Asking \$100.00  
Bob Vary  
R.R.#8  
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada  
N4K-5W4  
519-376-8060

Icom IC-551d  
100 watt 6 Meter All Mode  
\$550Bob Vary  
R.R.#8  
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada  
N4K-5W4  
519-376-8060  
MFJ Antenna Tuner  
MFJ-901b  
Asking \$40.00  
Bob Vary  
R.R.#8  
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada  
N4K-5W4  
519-376-8060

# HAM RADIO TRIVIA

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**1. What MHz band is 23cm?**

222-225

420-450

1240-1300

902-928

**2. What radio was the Heathkit SB-100 reversed engineered from ?**

KW electronics KW-1000

Collins KWM-2

Yaesu FT-101

Hallicrafters SX-110

**3. What is a standard for the data exchange between the various ham logging software?**

Dbase

DXbase

ADIF

Cabrillo

**Answers for the October edition of Ham Radio trivia**

**1. 1933**

**2. The reflector is normally the shortest parasitic element**

**3. an audio filter**

# **MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM**

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Have you made an interesting contact or read a really interesting article that you think others would like? well then what better way of doing that then in the GBARC newsletter. The GBARC newsletter is always looking for interesting stories so if you have one done be a chicken be a ham and send it to Steven VE3SEG and Barry VA3WBG at [ve3seg@rogers.com](mailto:ve3seg@rogers.com)

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## **From The Mailbox**

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# **ZEROBEAT**

**THE BRUCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**IS NOW POSTED 73 DE JIM COVERLEY VE3OVV**

**<http://www.brucearc.on.ca>**

When in Barrie stop in at the **Barrie Amateur Radio Club Meeting**

**Georgian college, Rowntree Theatre**

**Date: TBA Time: 7:30 PM**

**73 de ken ve3kpp**