

ARISS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian Activities Report

Good day to all!

My name is Maurice-Andre Vigneault, and my call is VE3VIG.
I'm here to present to you the Canadian Report on ARISS activities.

Here are the main subjects we'll report on: 1,2,3,4. (ppt)
1 - Capital area; 2 - Daniel's Report; 3 - Field Ops comments;
4 - Conclusion.

First, activities in the Capital region which is Ottawa

- We are fortunate to be supported by the Canada Science and Technology Museum where we manage the VE3JW Amateur Radio Exhibit station. →
- From there, we have access to visitors from all over the world. For instance, a family from India, Father, Mother, 2 youths interested in astronauts and Space Station. When I mentioned School contacts, they wanted to know if there were any radio amateurs in their region. I queried the APRS site and found 2 active operators on APRS. Looking up QRZ gave us their names and addresses. I then pointed to the ARISS page and the application form. They may not have had this information in Northwestern India. Astronauts, get ready for a contact from India in the future as we sent this family home with a dream.
- > The Italian connection: We've had our ARISS station published in the Italian National Amateur Radio bulletin "Radio Rivista", Paolo, IK2MLS from Milan visited VE3JW last fall and took pictures. D-Star.
- A Short Wave Listener dropped in to the VE3JW station and after a long and enjoyable conversation on Amateur Radio, satellites and ISS, he decided to take me up on the challenge of writing for his amateur

ticket in Canada. After three weeks of study he passed his basic and Morse exam, and he is now VA3ITY, Angelo in Modena Italy. He will try for his Italian license and his objective is to bring his club to install satellite communications and work the ISS.

- Any one knows callsign YI1RJ? Raed was issued the serial number "One" Amateur Radio certificate in Iraq. He graduated from the Jordan University, got his master's degree in Malaysia and is now completing his PhD in Ottawa. He wants to establish an Amateur Radio station at Carleton University. He visited our VE3JW station with 50 students from the Ottawa University. He is now busy working on his Canadian Amateur Radio certificate, along with some of the students no doubt, as I judge from the amount of interest shown and questions asked from his group. Satellite communications and ARISS is what grabbed their attention.

- And it's like that in many other ways with residents of Canada or tourists visiting Ottawa where we cater to the many cultures and seed interest in Amateur Radio and especially in Amateur Radio on board the International Space Station. An example of this: >

Recently, we demonstrated an impromptu ARISS contact with Space Tourist, Dr Charles Simonyi. Charles addressed the visitors gathered at our exhibit station, through our loudspeaker system, and gave them the message of how important it is to support the Science Museum. On the following pass, we were more than happy to hear Charles again addressing a new group, and saying how valuable it is to experience science through Amateur Radio. We had his SSTV picture on our large screen.

ON-GOING

- Right now, we provide a free course on Amateur Radio Satellite Communications with hands-on practice until the participants have completed several satellite contacts. This course was started because of the need to develop satellite operators for an upcoming ARISS schedule contact. A big high for the students during the course is certainly when we have the chance to work the Space Station.

- We have an opportunity to talk to School Staff, Teachers, Parents and youths visiting our exhibit. We provide information with regards to possible contacts in their area, and hand out freely, our coordinates and offer of help, in case they wish to pursue the dream of an ARISS contact at their school.

- Let me point out how important it is to inform the astronauts of the high interest and expectations from the Scouts and Guides during their annual Jamboree and On-The-Air weekends. We cater to both at the VE3JW exhibit station. Although, at times, we have to explain that astronauts have priority tasks to perform before they can come to the radio.

DEVELOPMENT

- We have a display of our contact with Astronaut Sunita Williams → and we plan to have a mock-up of the Space Station Amateur Radio operating area, where visitors could talk on the same radio equipment used by the astronauts.

- I am now making arrangements with the Museum's Administration to have permission to operate the station beyond Museum's opening hours so that we can serve as a ground station for the ARISS program.

- Also, we have an ATV repeater in the region looking for a place to go. With the museum's agreement, we could use this equipment for the upcoming facility on board the ISS, in the Columbus module. This would provide a great demonstration on a large screen at VE3JW.

DANIEL'S REPORT

Elsewhere in Canada, ARISS activity is summarized in the following report.

- School contacts

Since Dec 2000, we have completed 30 ARISS contacts in Canada. 40% of these were conducted in our region. A couple of evident reasons for this are

- 1 – the VE3JW station and our PR efforts and
- 2 – Our Canadian ARISS mentor, who lives in Ottawa, and who reaches out to local schools.

Steve is looking to expand activities across Canada. He does ARISS presentations with the help of NASA videos. He travels with First Air, a contributor to our program, and he has assisted in almost all the Canadian contacts, including Nunavut, Arctic, and Northern Quebec. He points out to the main difficulties at this time:

- Funding
- School involvement (until they see the ARISS presentation)
- Amateur Radio clubs or operator involvement. (Wayne, VE1WPH)

Here is the list of contacts completed -
and the list of contacts being arranged - > (ppt)

- Humber College, Toronto

Interesting to note that a group of students at the Humber College in Toronto wanted to accomplish a contact with the Space Station. Their leader registered at a local club and obtained his Amateur Radio certificate. The group built their antenna and the rotor control tracking system while waiting for their sked. After a two-year wait, they were successful in completing their contact last Feb. Great initiative coming from the students.

- Other activities

- (AVATAR referred on to IC)
- Daniel would like a statement from ARISS

AMSAT Field Operations coordinators' comments on ARISS.

- Regional ARISS activities. The idea here is to find out about other than "School Contacts" activities in other regions where a Field Ops coord is located. Working the ISS through packet, repeater, voice contact with astronauts, and demonstrations to the public or to schools.

CONCLUSION

- Stefan Wagoner, VE4NSA had to resign due to personal reasons.
- I am the new AMSAT Canadian delegate and I intend to pursue the development, and facilitate avenues to have many more contacts between students and astronauts. Working with Steve, our Canadian ARISS mentor, we intend to reach out from the Ontario region to the East Coast, Halifax etc. and the Western provinces as well as the Northern Territories.
- Satellite operator training is going well in our area as we develop an interest for many who discover a new field of activities.
- The course materiel that we have developed is made available freely to other clubs anywhere.
- And we are always happy to hear that initiative for a contact with ISS is, at times, coming from the students who will tackle the task with the help of local Radio Amateurs as in the case of the Humber College in Toronto.

Thank you all and Long Live ARISS!

Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG
For RAC delegate and AMSAT Canadian delegate

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