



The Feedline

AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY IS SEPTEMBER 16

ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 35

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio. "More than 4000 ARRL 'Hello' campaign <<http://www.hello-radio.org/>> brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative," he said.

To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0711.xml to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages

[http://www.arrl.org/pio contact/2006/08/SEPTEMBER](http://www.arrl.org/pio_contact/2006/08/SEPTEMBER).

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long. "Amateur Radio operators, led by ARRL Field Organization leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) -- as well as all preparations and post-SET evaluations -- as a demonstration of your participation in National Preparedness Month," Ewald said. The target weekend for the 2006 SET is October 7-8 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>.

A major ham radio presentation during September will take place on the West Coast. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, says Amateur Radio Expo 2006 <<http://lafair.b2v.org/>> will be held in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fair. "They will staff the exhibit over four weekends," Norton said, noting that the fair annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Amateur Radio Expo 2006 will get
Please see "AWARENESS", page 11

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 11—Membership meeting
Nominating Com. Formed
- October 9—Membership meeting
- November 13—Membership meeting
Officer Elections
- December ? - Dinner Get Together
- January 8 - Membership Meeting

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Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255+

—WEB Site—

WWW.K4CO.ORG

Membership meetings on the **2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

Board meetings: TBA

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Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

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"BACKWARD SUNSPOTS" MAY HERALD START OF SOLAR CYCLE 24

ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 35

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity

was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August -- although it subsequently began to dissipate -- and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve anytime soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

The August Meeting Minutes were not received by the publishing deadline.

It will return next month.

August Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
8/1/06	KB4VKS	12	23	1
8/8/06	KG4SBG	6	21	0
8/15/06	WA4QMV	11	16	1
8/22/06	KG4SBG	10	23	0
8/29/06	KI4QG	9	33	0
TOTALS		48	116	2

Weaver's Words

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
Great Lakes Division, ARRL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By now I imagine that you have seen the synopsis of the minutes from the January Board of Directors meeting. Board Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, published this online. If you have questions concerning the results of this meeting, please let me know. I'll be happy to discuss these with you.

DIVISION MEMBER ELECTED TO QCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GLD member Tony Hirsch, W8RSH of Worthington, OH has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

2007 GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

GLD Division Convention Chairman Gary Johnston, KI4LA, has announced the next biannual convention will be in Cleveland, OH on September 22, 2007. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will be the main speaker at the banquet and will be seen at other events of the day as well as at the Cleveland Hamfest on September 23. This will be Pres. Harrison's first visit to the Great Lakes Division and Ohio.

A word about convention site selection: As the Director for all three states in the Great Lakes Division, I am very interested in having the biannual Division conventions move around to give all of our members a good opportunity to participate in them. The 2007 offering will be the third since these conventions resumed. So far, offers to host the conventions have come only from Ohio clubs. With Ohio being my adopted home state, I have no personal problem with having every convention in Ohio. On the other hand, as your Director I would be very pleased to have Kentucky and Michigan clubs step forward to host future conventions. If your group would like to be considered as the sponsor for the 2009 convention, please contact Gary Johnston, KI4LA at ki4la@arrl.org to learn the requirements.

PHILLIPS RE-ELECTED OHIO SM

In case you've not heard this, yet, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, of Fairfield, OH was re-elected Ohio Section Manager by a good margin. Joe was opposed this year by Mark Erman, N8ME of London, OH. The two candidates fought a vigorous, ethical campaign that brought out a record vote. Good job, guys. Thanks for your interest in making ARRL work.

FCC ISSUES FINAL RULE ON BPL

The FCC has issued its final rules on BPL. In doing this, it denied the petitions ARRL and others had filed for further

review and reconsideration. The League is reviewing possible actions it may take to continue the battle against rules that inappropriately favor the BPL industry. A summary of the FCC action can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-13967.pdf>.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING COMMITTEE

As I reported to you some time back, the Board of Directors established an ad hoc National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC). Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chairs this Committee. The charge given the Committee was to review the events related to Amateur Radio support following Hurricane Katrina and to determine just what actions should be taken to improve the service given by amateurs. Means for improving an immediate-response effort by hams is a key aspect being considered by the group.

It is too early to report on this Herculean task, but substantial progress is being made. A report of the results to date of the Committee work will be made later this year.

The Committee consists of key workers in the ARRL Field Organization (experienced SMs, etc.), select personnel from HQ and Vice President Craigie.

MY BACK

I don't want to belabor the point, but the surgery on my lower (lumbar) back was done a week ago. Everything seems to be fine. I have no pain in my legs, which is the problem I had been having. At this time, I'm told to keep my back (and the rest of me) out of cars, so I am not traveling even on short trips. I expect to be able to resume my normal schedule late this year. Thanks to the many of you who expressed your good wishes to me.

FINAL NOTE

My not-so-old, but obsolete-when-it-hit-the-shelf laptop finally went south down the information highway. After having put a new hard drive into it and paid to have data retrieved from the original hard drive a short time ago, the motherboard and some other things gave out. I prevailed on our very computer-literate son to help select a new laptop and ended up with a very nice one at modest price. The only problem I now face is that our son decided I need a 17-inch screen. So much for the nice leather computer bag I had been using. It is too small. The search for a replacement bag for a screen this large isn't very simple at least from what I've seen in my online searches so far. Such trials and tribulations! Hi!

Time For A Change

John Meyers, NB4K
KY Section Manager

As I am in my third term and approaching the time that I need to consider whether or not I should run for another term, I feel that I have given my all and have run out of ideas for any future commitment. I am also being treated for C.O.P.D. and emphysema and do not see any relief in site. Therefore, I will not be seeking a fourth term as Kentucky Section Manager.

I have enjoyed every endeavor that I have faced, be it difficult or easy. There have been many changes made in the Kentucky Section. All the changes that were made had as much thought, consultation and research as possible. I'm sure that not all folks agreed with the changes. Probably to this day they still don't agree with them but they were made for the betterment of the Section. I have made mistakes and take full responsibility for them, as I am only human. The Section was set up to make sure that all parts of the state had equal opportunity and input by having a Section Official in their area, be it an Assistant Section Manager, Official Observer Coordinator, Section Emergency Coordinator or any of the other 9 positions that need to be filled. Every staff member played an important role and I am truly a lucky person to have been able to put together this outstanding team. I thank them for their interest and dedication to the hobby and the league.

Your job over the next few months will be to seek and find a suitable replacement. Talk it up between your friends and yourself. One very important aspect that needs to be considered is time. It would be difficult for a person who 40 hours a week to maintain the time and energy that needs to go into this



position. To travel from east to west in the Commonwealth takes about 8 hours and north to south about 3 hours. When one is working and needs to drive to a club meeting this would need to be taken into consideration. On any given day there can be as many as 45 to 75 e-mails. Some that needs answered; others are reports and still others just to keep you informed. So, time and lots of it is needed to do the job respectfully.

The term begins April 1st; 1st notice appears in the October *QST*; 2nd notice appears in the November *QST*. Closing date for nominations is the Friday prior to or corresponding to December 10, 4pm; ballots mailed by January 2nd; deadline for returns Friday prior to or corresponding to

February 20, 4pm; and counted the following Tuesday. If the mailing date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then ballots will be sent out no later than the following Monday. ARRL SM eligibility form can be found at this URL <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/FSD-191.pdf>. SM description can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sm.html>.

If you have any additional questions or comments feel free to e-mail me at nb4k@arrl.org. I would like as much time as possible to be in contact with the next SM and as soon as possible. If the election comes down to a run off, meaning two or more have filed to run for the office, this would only give me a little over a month. If only one candidate files, then I would have about four months. Times have change and so has the process. Time is of the essence. Good luck to all of you in the future and thanks for allowing me to be your SM for six years ending March 31, 2007. This will be my last day as Kentucky Section Manager.

September is National Preparedness Month

Are you ready?

www.protectyourfamily.ky.gov

A Decision and My Reasons

Ron Dodson, KA4MAP

SEC Ky

After the announcement by current Section Manager, John Meyers, NB4K that he would not seek re-election this fall of another term, I again re-examined my own situation. A few years ago I had similar feelings and misgivings about staying on for this term as my work load increased and my young one was in her last few years of school. After long consideration, I decided to stay on one more time.

Advance two years into the future and it brings us to today. I am even more loaded down with work than ever and though the kiddo is off to higher education, I still have no time to do things that need doing.

Much as I have enjoyed working with everyone in the past eight years building the Ky ARES program, it is time that someone with more time and some different ideas take over. It is purely a personal decision that effective April 1, 2007 a new SEC needs to take control in this section.

In thinking it through I decided that I needed to make this announcement now. This early on, you have time for Section Manager Candidates to come forward to file and the winner will name their new SEC appointment. I wanted there to be no misunderstanding that I had any feud with anyone. As I have no idea who the new SM will be, I certainly can not be going because I would not work with them.

I can tell you that being the SEC for Kentucky has been a real learning experience and has given me the chance to meet a lot of good people. While I seem to always get the credit for Ky's growth and progress, it was not all me. I have been fortunate to have a great team of people backing me and doing 100% of the leg work in the field. They deserve a lion's share of the credit. It is not that I was all that great. I simply found good people (many times they found me!) and let them do their thing based on their local and regional needs. Ron Goodpaster, Scott Thile and Pat Spencer have been there for me

in their special areas of expertise doing what they do best. All of the DEC's and EC's with successful programs deserve a round of applause and a pat on the back goes to every individual volunteer in their organizations. Without the individual volunteers, the program is only on paper. People make it work! Without all of the above, I would have had no program to manage! For eight years (as of March 31, 2007), I will have had the pleasure of working with you all.



Most of all, I thank all of you for putting up with me! I had misgivings about my abilities to be a good SEC when I started in April of 1999. As most of you know, I do not see well and therefore do not drive. Anywhere I go, some else has to be available to take me. In my job as a county EMA Director, it is not too bad, but to try to attend ham-fests and make ham club meetings etc. around the state have been just more than I could handle as I would have liked to. I apologize to everyone who asked me to come speak and were turned down because of travel issues. In the early years I was fairly comfortable with things and mostly satisfied with my abilities and performance. These last several years (post 9/11), I have not had what I considered the time to do the job to my personal satisfaction. Our changing world is placing more and more demands on me from the paying job world and I feel it is best to let someone else jump in before our program suffers. Some years ago during an interview over a recent tornado event, I had a smart-alec TV news reporter question my ability to be an effective EMA Director with my vision problems and I told him on camera that when I felt I was a burden to the program, I'd leave voluntarily. While vision is not the issue here, I do feel it is time that I step aside for the good of the section. We have several months for anyone interested to examine their situations to see if this is a position you'd like to fill. Whoever wins the SM election this winter will be the person to talk to, if you choose to take up the banner. I'll be glad to talk with and work with whomever is taking over to insure a smooth transition.

Individual Choice

Ron Dodson, KA4MAP

SEC Ky

As this is being written, plans are underway to remember the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Out of a bright sunny morning came an act so devious that many feel it surpasses the Dec. 7, 1941 raid on Pearl Harbor which was, at least, a military installation. Some saw it coming years before. Others did not. Some never will. Also at this writing yet another hurricane churns in the waters of the Caribbean headed toward our southern shores. Some are preparing days ahead of its possible landfall. Some will again be as totally unprepared as they were when Katrina, Rita and Wilma visited in 2005. Here at home as EMA Director I regularly do programs, write articles and make media appearances to encourage citizens to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Most turn a deaf ear. Only a few will take up the challenge and improve their lot before the next occurrence. It is all a matter of individual choice.

Since 1998, the former Section Emergency Coordinator and later myself have encouraged, cajoled, begged and even sometimes pleaded for preparedness on the part of the amateur radio community in Kentucky. Some have listened and heeded where possible, others have not. Some communities are better prepared thanks to homeland security money which has been available since 2002. Other communities chose to use their money for cups, glasses, uniforms, patches, flashy vehicle stripping and other items for show, but no go. Some communities struggle to make use of every item available in bettering their preparedness while others spend their time worrying about other matters of "importance". Again, all a matter of individual choice.

No matter what someone from on high says or does, each individual person or community will do as they will in setting priorities and where disaster preparedness falls in the lineup. Politics, apathy, or just plain cussedness far to often gets in the way and so once again, we have the limited segment of the

population who serve as best they can with the resources available and then all rest who are waiting (and complaining about the delay) to be served.

The month of September is again National Preparedness Month and during the coming 30 days, I'd like each of you to assess where you are in being prepared; at home, at work and as a radio amateur.

Are you happy with that current state of preparedness? Is there anything you can, No - WILL, do to improve either the readiness of your family or your community for the next emergency? Don't think "if". Think "WHEN"!

Be honest with yourself now; Do you take preparedness seriously or does it fall somewhere behind the day's ball scores and the latest exploits of your favorite musician, actor or actress? Do

you not only take part by checking into nets, but by also helping serve as a net control, liaison station or other service such as maintaining repeaters, working in ARES, MARS or RACES with a served agency like American Red Cross, a religious based disaster organization, government or some Citizen-Corps activity? Do you help with public service events? When weather nets operate do you listen in or do you cut off all means of communication and thus ignore the potential that you may be the one station who could have reported some severe weather just a little sooner so others could be warned faster? No, everyone can't do these things, but many can, who far too often do not.

We each have the right to make up our minds to do as much or as little as we see fit. Individually and at the community level. It is all a matter of individual choice. What you do or choose not to do, you can only answer to suit yourself.

The next disaster is already on its way. Today, tomorrow, this week, next week, next month; It IS coming. How ready you are when it gets here is up to you. It's your choice!



WHAT TO TAKE TO THE DISASTER AREA

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK,

Alabama Section Manager

ARRL ARES E-Letter AUG 16, 2006

Amateurs routinely ask me, what personal items do I need to take into a disaster area? The short answer is take everything you would need to survive on a camping trip for a week, plus some disaster specific items.

Your kit can be tailored to your specific needs. Prepare and test your kit well before-hand, as you will have to hit the ground running during the real thing. The purpose of your personal kit is to help you survive, be more comfortable and protect yourself from unknowns the best you can. We cannot be productive nor do our job if we are a burden on the system. Your communications/equipment "Go-Kit" would be a separate list. Always register with your local EC and never self-deploy to a disaster area.

Training is important to take with you. Train before the event and be ready. Take your ARRL and FEMA training certificates with you. Laminate your training cards to protect them. Minimal FEMA training includes IS-100, IS-200 and IS-700. Served agencies are requiring volunteers to have certain training so you will know their lingo,

procedures and processes. Red Cross First Aid/CPR training is also a must. A good way to get general training is to enroll in the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Then, take the Red Cross training, and the ARRL and FEMA Independent Study online courses, one at a time.

Vaccinations and medications: Tetanus and Hepatitis-B vaccinations are two recommended vaccinations. Check with your doctor to make sure

you get the right shots. Personal prescription medications, and copies of prescriptions, including the generic names for medications, and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried.

Plan for travel with the knowledge that there may be shortages of electricity, safe water, or food distribution systems in affected areas. Pack to be as self-sufficient as possible and bring only those items necessary for your trip.

Have a spare everything.

Put your items in resealable plastic containers, and then pack them full of trash on the way out.

Interoperability Called Vital

ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No34

California Department of General Services Senior Telecommunications Engineer Glen Nash, K6GSN, told a Radio Club of America (RCA) breakfast meeting August 9, that wireless communication among public safety first responders is a critical tool to satisfying their mission requirements. The meeting was held during a national convention of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) in Orlando, Florida. An APCO past president, Nash chairs the Technology Committee of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). ARRL has a relationship with both organizations. Nash explained that the need for interoperability comes into play during police chases crossing jurisdictional lines and mutual

assistance among neighboring fire departments to multi-agency drug enforcement and major emergencies involving multiple -- and sometimes distant -- agencies. Nash believes interoperability is not simply a technology problem. In addition to technical barriers to wireless interoperability, he cited cultural, social and language or terminology differences. "There are many areas where we need to approach the problem, and many factors to resolve to make it happen," he concluded. More than 100 attended the breakfast meeting, one of a series held every year by the Radio Club of America at conventions. Founded in 1909, the Radio Club of America is the world's oldest radio communications society. It promotes cooperation among those interested in the advancement and scientific study of radio communication.

MARS TO SUPPORT US TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN EMERGENCIES

Bill Sexton, N1IN

ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 32

Amateur Radio operators who are members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) will provide back-up communication for the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) under a formal agreement announced in July by Army MARS Chief Kathy Harrison, AAA9A. Protecting airports during the hurricane season will be the immediate focus, she said, adding that the new MARS-TSA collaboration "is likely to expand to other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) areas" in the future.

"This is an extensive area and will require member support across the continental United States," Harrison said in a broadcast announcement to Army MARS participants. "We will need many volunteers to man teams assigned to specific geographical areas, starting with airports throughout the hurricane corridor." She called for "physically capable" Amateur Radio operators to volunteer for the assignment.

The first airport emergency support teams will be located at four airports in the Florida hurricane belt: Miami, Ft Myers, Jacksonville and Pensacola, Harrison said. She added that recruiting will immediately follow for nine additional potential hurricane targets from Washington, DC to Houston. In a later phase - but as soon as possible - additional teams will be recruited for other hurricane locations including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and after that, the remainder of the continental US.

The emergency support teams - each consisting of four members of MARS - are being assembled under joint sponsorship of MARS and the TSA, with deployment assignments determined by the TSA when and if the government's communication systems fail. "Volunteers should be within a reasonable traveling distance to the airport. It will be their responsibility to get to the site when activated," said Harrison.

The Memorandum of Understanding, which is already in place, calls for using MARS networks, personnel and equipment to maintain communication during the first 72 hours of incidents involving aircraft, mass transit and pipelines. Seventy-two hours is considered the maximum time needed for federal response organizations to deploy internal emergency communication systems.

The MoU spells out the most extensive MARS support mission since the development of the Essential Elements of Information (EEI), which date to the 1994 Northridge earthquake that devastated parts of California's San Fernando Valley. EEIs are alerts to the Pentagon of a natural disaster or other incident that might require a federal response.

In a memo to MARS personnel, Harrison included the following points:

The Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force MARS organizations are included in the call for volunteers, via their separate chains of command.

Army MARS state directors will be responsible for formation of the joint teams.

All deployments will be by team, each with a combination of equipment and operator capabilities and members ready to work 12-hour shifts. Some locations may ultimately require more than one team.

Required equipment for each team will include HF and VHF radios with voice and digital capability, Pactor/Airmail digital messaging, phone patching and emergency power.

Some locations may have TSA radio gear and emergency power supply to augment the hams' personal equipment.

A particular MARS responsibility will be to provide communication interoperability with local, state and national networks, such as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Shared Resources (SHARES). A separate web of national and regional HF radio networks, SHARES links federal agencies under the DHS's National Communications System (NCS), of which MARS already is a primary participant.

The pact calls for a reliable back-up solution "to ensure the continuity of TSA's command and control function during the first 72 hours following any incident interfering with normal communications channels and to provide local, regional and nationwide TSA communications during that time." The existing Army MARS emergency communication network offers such a solution immediately and at no additional cost to the TSA, the MoU points out.

Under the MoU, the TSA agrees to provide MARS volunteers with access to its facilities and space for radio equipment. It further agrees to integrate MARS capabilities into its emergency planning and exercises. The Army's commitment includes providing "volunteer MARS radio operators, equipment, and use of the MARS radio networks" and developing "alert procedures and a communications support plan" that "will identify specific frequencies, callsigns, and radio operator level duties." Harrison stressed that the decision to volunteer rests with the individual. "The Army has no liability over a member who reports to a disaster site; members will be responsible to TSA personnel."

Harrison told the Army MARS membership that she's "very excited" about the new agreement. "This will be a fast-moving recruitment/development action, and I request your support in filling these teams."

The chiefs of Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS also are onboard with the new agreement and have messaged their

Please see MARS, page 11

Kentucky Section Manager Election

**Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
Great Lakes Division, ARRL**

You probably have seen that John Meyers, NB4K has announced he will not run for re-election as Kentucky Section Manager (SM) because of health reasons. John has dedicated himself to serving Amateur Radio in the Commonwealth since he first became your SM. Thanks largely to John's leadership, the support of his management team and the work of scores of individual amateurs; Kentucky has enjoyed a solid reputation as a progressive and stable unit in Amateur Radio. This is the way it should be.

The purpose of my note to you all is to thank John publicly for his tremendous service to Amateur Radio and ARRL in Kentucky, and to ask each of you to think deeply about whom you will choose as his successor. You, the voting ARRL members, are the ones who will make this choice.

It would be improper for me to attempt to tell you who to select for your next SM, or why you should select them. Instead, what I will do is to point out that the entire character of the Amateur Radio organization in Kentucky will depend greatly on the qualities of the man or woman you choose to follow John. It is the SM who sets the tone of the Field Organization in his or her Section, who appoints the people who will manage the several branches of operations of ARRL in the Section and how these people should fulfill their duties.



I encourage you to take an active part in the coming election of your new SM. You can make certain that the candidate or candidates who wish to move into this position are top-notch in their dedication to serve Amateur Radio, ARRL and Kentucky, and also that they have the ability to fulfill the needs of the job. I encourage you to take an active part in campaigning for the person you believe will do the best job. Finally, I encourage you to be ready to accept a key position in the new SM's organization if you are asked to do this.

How well Kentucky Amateur Radio fares in the future is up to you. I have full confidence that you will do what it takes to make this a bright and prosperous future for Amateur Radio and ARRL in Kentucky.

Information on the duties of the SM can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sm.html>. Additional information, including the forms to certify eligibility to run for Section Manager and a nominating form for Section Manager are available at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smterms.html>.

The first notice of the coming SM election will be published in QST in October. Refer to this notice for information on making a nomination and for being nominated. Ballots will be mailed right after the first of January. John's term in office ends on March 31, 2007. The new SM will take office April 1.

Thanks For The Ride

Effective with the publication of the January 2007 issue of the Feedline, I will resign as the Editor. This is due to personal reasons and is not due to anything club related.

I will be happy to work with whoever is willing to assume these duties. It takes only a couple of hours a month. A computer is a must.

Thank you to those who have encouraged and complimented me during my tenure. - W4SOU

ISS CREW, ARISS TEAM TROUBLESHOOTING SLOW-SCAN TV SYSTEM

ARRL Letter, Vol25, No 34

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> team is coordinating with Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, and ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, to troubleshoot the slow-scan television (SSTV) system onboard the ISS. The SSTV system remains off the air.

"Photos of the current SSTV configuration that were downlinked to Earth showed several unanticipated results from the initial tests," ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told ARRL. "More extensive troubleshooting is being developed and could further delay permanent activation of the radio." He pointed out that Vinogradov is only able to work on the system in his free time; he's also due to return to Earth in September.

During the early stages of SSTV testing in late July, Vinogradov thrilled Earth station operators by manually transmitting several pictures on 2 meters (the system has been using 144.490 and 145.800 MHz) using the RS0ISS call sign. Ransom says initial tests were run

over Moscow, and then the system was left on for a few orbits.

Plans call for Vinogradov to continue checking out the SSTV software, configure and optimize the radio and perform integration checks necessary. So far, the SSTV system has been unable to function properly in the autonomous "slide show" mode, Ransom said.

Miles Mann, WF1F, who developed the SSTV system as an ARISS project, explains that slide-show mode will permit the crew to preload a directory of images that then will automatically be transmitted to Earth. "The crew will not need to keep pushing a button to send images," he said in a recent news release. "In theory, the system can run for weeks at a time without crew involvement."

The SSTV system is not yet configured to receive SSTV transmissions from Earth stations, and no uplink frequency will be made public until testing is done. Earthbound radio amateurs are advised not to attempt to transmit SSTV images to the ISS. Mann has posted detailed information about the SSTV project on his MAREX-NA Web site <<http://www.marexmg.org/>>.

AWARENESS (from page 1)

under way the weekend of September 9-10 and will feature a special event station plus interactive presentations to demonstrate the many facets of ham radio.

In a related vein, Pitts says he'd like to see a tighter relationship between ARES organizations and the League's corps of volunteer PIOs.

"Too often something happens, and everyone grabs a radio. No one grabs a camera or laptop and gets the word of ARES actions out to the media until

long after the story becomes stale," he observed. "We have wonderful stories to tell, but we are too busy to tell them when they are fresh."

Pitts said he and the ARRL Public Relations Committee are working on ways to better integrate public relations and emergency response actions at the local level. Pitts says that according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), families should plan on being totally on their own for up to four days. "That's like being back in ancient times: no cell phone, no Internet, no 911," he said.

MARS (from page 9)

respective memberships to signify their participation and cooperation with Army MARS. Air Force MARS Chief Don Poquette, AGA3C/KE9XB, has pledged his members' support. "AF MARS will assist to accomplish this mission," he said, pending working out logistical details.

Harrison says she and her headquarters staff met recently with TSA and DHS representatives to formalize the details of the

cooperative arrangement. She said MARS area coordinators will provide specific requirements to state MARS directors to recruit members and equipment capabilities to support TSA.

Signing the MoU on behalf of the Army was Col Mary Beth Shively, chief of staff, Network Enterprise Technology Command/Ninth Army Signal Command. James Schear, General Manager, Operational Plans and Programs, endorsed it for the TSA. Headquartered at Ft Huachuca, Arizona, the Ninth Army Signal Command oversees the Army MARS mission.

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