

Minutes of January 4, 2006

2006 DUES are DUE, please mail dues to the club address (see cover page) or bring to the next meeting. Dues are currently \$15 per individual membership or \$18 per family membership.

The January meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m., by the newly elected President, Mike Brannock, KG4IES. The minutes were approved with two corrections shortly thereafter.

Dues were collected from Jerry Mueller, KC4WZO, Mike Brannock, KG4IES, Todd Rose, KE4YAH, Steve McFadden, KA4TJD, the Harrington family, KB4ENQ, KE4GNX, KF4LRK, and KF4YRK, Jim Hughes, K4ZPL and Stewart Butler, KG4TNA.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Following the Treasurer's report, Todd Rose, KE4YAH made a motion that the honorary members' dues are waved for the year 2006. The motion was seconded by Jerry Mueller, KC4WZO and passed.

Committee Reports:

Emergency: Jerry, KC4WZO has received a request from Sarah Cunliffe for a club member to present on Amateur Radio for the CERT training session, Thursday, January 12. The speaker would be expected to start around 7:30 p.m. Sarah has asked for some modifications to the existing presentation, possibly to include a demonstration. It was suggested that the Thursday evening net be called in conjunction with the presentation. Paul Harrington III, KB4ENQ volunteered to talk to the CERT students. Mike Brannock KG4IES indicated that he would like to be present so that he might do the training for a future group.

The weather training is scheduled for March 8.

The CERT training Session VIII, Disaster Simulation will be held Thursday, January. 26, 6-9:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2

There will be a CERT exercise on March 16, at 6:00p.m.

Jerry suggested that members interested in emergency activation, investigate NIMS IS-700 training on the FEMA web site.

Field Day: no activity.

Net Report:

	1/12/2006	1/19/2006	1/19/2006	1/26/2006
1/5/2006	6			6
KB4ENQ	KG4IES	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ
KD4GNX		KF4YRK	KF4YRK	KF4YRK
KC4WZO		KD4GNX	KD4GNX	KE4GNX
KE4GNX		KF4LRK	KF4LRK	KE4LZP
KE4AIE		KA4TJD	KA4TJD	KG4TND
KG4LXR		KE4AIE	KE4AIE	KE4AIE
		W2LTB	W2LTB	KI4LSG
				KQ4ZZ

Note: net data for 1/12/2006 temporarily unavailable.

Repeater: no activity.

Newsletter: Paul 3, KB4ENQ invited anyone to submit new ideas or material for the newsletter.

Fund Raising: Todd, KE4YAH indicated that Hillbilly Daze would be the third Saturday in September (September, 16).

Adopt-A-Highway: Paul 3, KB4ENQ indicated that the dates for the 2006 coordinated cleanup events are not available yet, and will attempt to get them before the next meeting so that Adopt-A-Highway events may be scheduled for the coming year.

Old Business:

Steve, KA4TJD met with Melissa Lippert to discuss the December parade activity. Topics discussed included additional signs and traffic control methods. Melissa is working on an improved entry form to gather additional data to aid in arranging the lineup. Suggestions are invited for an improved method of marking out the lineup, as the chalk washes away with rain.

We would like to thank Drew Chandler and Keith Slugantz for making the Emergency Management trailer available. It provided a dry place for net control and a warm place for operators to thaw out during and after the event.

There was discussion on converting the video / audio from the TV coverage of our Field Day activity into a format was usable and not space prohibitive for use on the web site.

A new battery has been placed in the Emergency Management trailer.

New CERT badges are available, contact Sarah Cunliffe to arrange a time to pick up your new badge.

New Business: Steve, KA4TJD indicated that he has acquired a cell phone; his new number has been added to the member data sheet at the end of this publication.

Emergency Management would like to make ID badges for WCARC members. Discussion revolved around the format for and information that should be added to the new badges.

The Blue Grass club has started an entry level license class, check into the Thursday evening Fayette County net for information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Attendance:

Paul Harrington III	KB4ENQ	Mike Brannock	KG4IES
Paul Harrington IV	KF4YRK	Steve McFadden	KA4TJD
	KG4TN		
Stu Butler	D	Drew Chandler	EM
Todd Rose	KE4YAH	Jerry Mueller	KC4WZO
Jim Hughes	K4ZPL		

Upcoming Exams:

The second Saturday in March, June, September, and December, 10:00 a.m., Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY, contact Harry Sparks, KN4S at 859-272-8762.

Saturday February 11, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room B, Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY For information contact Fernie Williams, KE4MAI at 859-245-2140 or email ke4mai@arrl.net

Upcoming Hamfests:

Date: March 4, 2006

Sponsor: Mammoth Cave ARC

Location: Cave City (KY) Convention Center, Mammoth Cave Street (Hyw 70)

Contact: Larry Brumett, KN4IV, 108 Withers Drive, Glasgow, KY 42141

Phone: 270-651-2363

E-Mail: lbrumett@glasgow-ky.com

Remember When:

Memory was something you lost with age
An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano
A web was a spider's home
A virus was the flu
A CD was a bank account
A hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived

And Radios glowed in the dark

From the ARRL News Letter:

==>ISS COMMANDER VISITS HOME VIA HAM RADIO, TALKS SPACE TRASH WITH OHIO KIDS

It was a trip down memory lane for International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, when he spoke from NA1SS January 9 with students at Peterson Elementary School in his home town of Red Springs, North Carolina. A couple of days later, McArthur took to the air again to answer questions put to him by youngsters at St Albert the Great School in Royalton, Ohio.

"Nice to talk to you today," McArthur greeted the Peterson students. "I hope everyone's doing well in Red Springs. Of course, you know that's my home town," he added proudly.

Responding to one youngster's question, McArthur enthused that living in microgravity--commonly called Zero G--"is just the coolest thing." Germs aren't a real problem in space. "Germs do live in space, but we don't, like, catch colds up here because we don't have people who bring fresh germs up, so we stay pretty healthy," he said.

McArthur also told the Peterson pupils that he considers himself a learner too.

"To become an astronaut, you never stop studying," he explained, noting that, from kindergarten through graduate school he spent 17 years in classrooms in addition to a few years of astronaut training for his mission.

"I think the most important thing I've learned," McArthur said later, speaking of his time aboard the ISS, "is that human beings can live, be healthy and work very well for long times in space--long enough to go to other planets."

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, served as the Earth station control operator for the contact with Peterson Elementary--a culturally diverse school in rural Robeson County. An MCI teleconference bridge provided two-way audio from Australia to the US.

On January 11, members of the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club (NGARC) made it possible for youngsters at St Albert the Great School to talk with McArthur. NGARC President Nancy Hall, KC4IYD, a NASA engineer, served as the control operator at NA8SA for the contact with NA1SS. She had help from several local hams and NGARC members in setting up the gear.

Asked how the ISS crew intended to clean up human-generated debris orbiting Earth, McArthur conceded that he and crewmate Valery Tokarev would be doing just the opposite--but he didn't consider that to be a problem.

"I need to confess, not only are we not going to clean up the space junk, we've even added to it," he said.

"We discarded a small electrical component in a space walk in November, and in a space walk next month, we're going to throw away a whole space suit." That surplus Russian Orlan space suit won't initially be trash, however. It will become "SuitSat-1," an unusual transmit-only satellite with an FM downlink on 145.990 MHz (see "'SUITSAT' TARGET DATE NOW FEBRUARY 3" below). Using the call sign RS0RS, it will beam to Earth voice messages, telemetry and an SSTV image on a nine-minute cycle as it orbits the planet.

"But the good news is that in low-Earth orbit, everything deorbits on its own," McArthur continued. "Nature takes over. There's a little bit of drag. Everything slows down and eventually goes back into the atmosphere all by itself."

Seventeen of the 18 students participating were able to ask their questions during the approximately 10-minute pass, while more than 800 students and some 400 faculty members, parents and friends filled St Albert Church for the event. A local TV news crew turned out and produced a report on the contact for the station's 6 PM news.

The St Albert ARISS school group contact had been in the queue for a few years. Past NASA employee and NGARC member Art Anzic, K8BVI (SK), had helped the school apply in 2002. The school's principal, Tom Brownfield, dedicated the contact to Anzic's memory.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

==>"SUITSAT" TARGET DATE NOW FEBRUARY 3

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced another change in the "SuitSat" deployment date, which has been a bit of a moving target. The latest target date is late Friday, February 3 (UTC). That's when the International Space Station crew is set to perform its next space walk. According to informed sources, the crew is scheduled to open the hatch for its excursion around 2200 UTC, and SuitSat should be put into orbit within the first hour.

Possibly the most unusual Earth satellite ever, SuitSat consists of a surplus Russian Orlan space suit converted into a transmit-only satellite with an FM downlink frequency of 145.990 MHz. Using the call sign RS0RS, it will transmit voice messages, telemetry and an SSTV image on a nine-minute cycle as it orbits Earth.

The batteries powering the satellite are expected to last about a week after deployment, and SuitSat's free-floating, decaying orbit should cause it to re-enter Earth's atmosphere after some six weeks in space. The SuitSat signal should be strong enough to hear using a VHF transceiver or scanner and a simple antenna--thus making it an ideal project for students to monitor and track.

SuitSat's payload also includes a CD containing hundreds of school pictures, artwork, poems, and student signatures. For more information, see article "This is SuitSat-1 RS0RS" by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>>.

==>MINING DISASTER SURVIVOR RANDY MCCLOY, KC8VKZ, REPORTED IMPROVING

There's encouraging news this week on the medical condition of Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago mining disaster in West Virginia. Rick Robinson, W8ZT, reports he spoke with McCloy's brother-in-law, Rick McGee January 18, and received an upbeat report on the 26-year-old miner's progress.

"He was sitting up in bed and eating ice chips," he said. "His dialysis treatments have been reduced to every other day as his kidney function [is returning]." Other reports say McCloy's heart and liver functions have improved, his muscle deterioration has abated, his neurological condition is stable and he's been breathing on his own. His doctors say McCloy exhibits "purposeful movements" and appears to be responding to his family.

Robinson says McGee told him that McCloy's wife, Anna, expressed appreciation from the outpouring of

good wishes from the Amateur Radio community and elsewhere.

"His family wants to thank everyone for the cards and letters that arrive daily in the large plastic postal bins," he said. "The mail keeps his wife occupied and gives her consolation that so many think of her and her husband and family." Randy and Anna McCloy live in Simpson, West Virginia, and have two young children. A Technician class licensee, McCloy is a relatively new radio amateur, according to Robinson.

Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435.

The Charleston Gazette reported January 19 that McCloy was out of intensive care and likely will be able to leave West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown within a week or two for a rehabilitation facility. His physicians say it's difficult to predict how fully McCloy will recover over the long haul, however, because his case is unusual. McCoy was the only miner among 13 men trapped for more than 40 hours in an Upshur County coal mine that filled with deadly carbon monoxide following a January 2 explosion.

McCloy reportedly is eligible for immediate medical and wage-replacement benefits as well as for workers compensation benefits based on the extent of his injuries. In addition, a fund has been set up to accept donations for his benefit: the Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505.

According to "The Checkout" column <<http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thecheckout/>> of The Washington Post, federal and state authorities have warned consumers about a bogus e-mail seeking donations to aid McCloy. "The Checkout" reports that e-mails claiming to be from Dr Lawrence Roberts, McCloy's primary physician, describe the young miner's condition and seek monetary donations for his treatment.

"The Checkout" editor Caroline Mayer advises those who have received such e-mails to consider contacting the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) <<http://www.ic3.gov/>>.