

Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
P. O. Box 2112, Parkersburg, WV 26101

"TIM" W8CRW - SK

Wayne Veon "Tim" Britton (W8CRW), 66, of Vienna died March 2, 2001 at the McGuire Veteran Administration Medical Center, Richmond, Va.

He was born in Ritchie County, a son of the late Wilbur L. Britton and Edra Gluck Britton Deem. He graduated from Ritchie County High School and attended West Virginia University. He served in the Army where he was injured. He was a life member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a life member of the Vienna Lions Club and a life member of the A.A.R. L. He was a charter member of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub, where his call sign was W8CRW, formerly WA8CRW.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Stephenson Britton of Vienna; one sister, Helen Britton Dedow of Birmingham, Mich.; one stepbrother Ray Deem of Oakdale, Conn.; one stepson, George Y. Kerr; one stepdaughter, Rosellen Taylor;

and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Harry C. Deem.

There will be no services or visitation. His body was donated to the Medical College of Virginia for further study as 'per his request. Memorials may be made to the PVA or the American Cancer Society.

Reprint of Parkersburg Sentinel
Please see related story on page 3.



Taroh Yagi, JH1WIX, SK:

Well-known JA DXer and Amateur Radio pioneer Taroh Yagi, JH1WIX (ex-J1DO, J2GX) died January 29. He was 93.

First licensed in 1924, Yagi, often was the first JA contact for many new hams. Among the founding members of the original JARL, founded in 1926, Yagi in his later years made most of his contacts on CW and spent a lot of time on the 15-meter Novice band handing out JA to newcomers.

Bill Acito, W1PA, remembers when he first worked JH1WIX. "I was 15, with an NC300 receiver and a Heath DX-60 transmitter, and tried patiently to work him over several nights," he wrote. "When I finally did, I think I was more excited than when I made my first QSO."

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said he remembered Yagi very well, but for a different reason. "For some reason he remembered my name--'Wyne'--many, many times when I worked him in a contest. He never forgot, and he misspelled my name each time. I will miss him." Yagi has belonged to ARRL, JARL, QCWA, FOC and the Tokyo Old Timers Club.--thanks to Bernie McClenny, W3UR; Bill Acito, W1PA

AO-40 TEAM REPORTS SUCCESS IN SLOWING SATELLITE'S SPIN RATE

Initial efforts to slow AO-40's spin rate have met with success. Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of AMSAT-DL and the AO-40 team says magnetorqueing has been able to decrease AO-40's initial spin rate from 17.59 RPM to 15.9 RPM. "The target is something in the area of 5 RPM," Guelzow said this week.

The onboard magnetorqueing system which consists of solenoid coils--makes use of Earth's magnetic field to control the spacecraft's spin and orientation.

Magnetorqueing is most effective when Earth's magnetic field is strongest, so it typically only takes place at perigee--when the satellite is closest to Earth. Ground controllers have been making incremental adjustments during each perigee.

Guelzow said that as soon as the spin is favorable, AO-40's attitude will be adjusted to improve communication with Earth. De-spinning the spacecraft is a necessary first step to making any attitude adjustments, however.

Guelzow said the onboard YACE camera was used to take some photographs "for

a quick attitude determination," but he said the highly compressed JPEG-format digital photos were inconclusive. More pictures are planned once the spin rate is reduced.

When it met in Orlando late last month, the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors recognized that completing a full evaluation of AO-40 would take some time and that all of the satellite's designed functions may not be available.

A GLIMMER OF GOOD NEWS FOR AO-40

AMSAT reports that the sun began triggering AO-40's sun sensor as the satellite merged from Earth's shadow on orbit 147. The news has boosted ground controllers' optimism that they might be able to regain control over the satellite's spin rate and attitude sooner than had been predicted.

AMSAT-DL's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, said this week that as soon as the sensor unit delivers good sun sensor data, controllers will be able to reduce AO-40's spin and make it easier to adjust attitude. "This also will lead to an improvement in reception of the

S-Band telemetry," he said.

For the past few weeks, the AO-40 has remained in what AMSAT called "a semi-hibernation state," because the satellite's high angle has prevented the sensor from seeing the sun's light. Controllers had planned to work around the sun sensor issue by using a software routine.

Once ground controllers can get accurate AO-40 attitude data, they should be able to correctly aim AO-40's high-gain antennas for optimal reception on Earth. Ground controllers have been relying on telemetry from AO-40's S-band (2.4 GHz) downlink--the only transmitter now perating--but they are holding out hope that at least some of the satellite's other transmitters still function. Since the satellite went silent for about two weeks in December, ground controllers have had no luck hearing the 2-meter, 70-cm or 1.2 GHz transmitters using AO-40's omnidirectional antennas.

The next major step will be to bring AO-40 into an orientation where ground controllers can fire the onboard arc-jet thruster--using only gaseous ammonia and no electrical power. The test firing will allow checking out the guidance

This is a reprint of an article by Larry Dale that appeared in our newsletter in 1993. I thought it would bring back some fine memories of Tim. It will be hard to imagine a Radio Klub without his guidance and helping hand. His passing saddens us all. He will be GREATLY missed.
Jerry

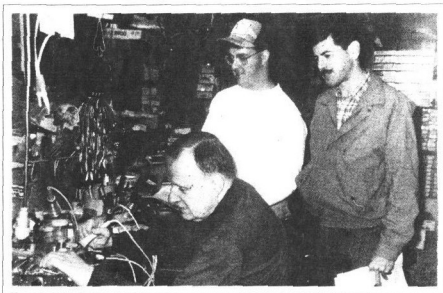
Sure! Bring it on up . . . we'll take a look at it.

Imagine a repair shop that caters to ham radio operators. The shop is open late every night, plus maintains weekend hours. And is available for emergency repairs at most anytime.

The shop doubles as a hands-on vocational training center for the would-be electronic technician and an advanced learning center for the electronic engineer.

You may say, "There's no such place." But there is—it's the basement of Tim Britton's house in Vienna.

Mention the name Tim, or the call sign WA8CRW and you'll find people who know him. Locally and regionally, the call sign IDs on the 146.970



Tim, WA8CRW, (seated at workbench) assists Adam (no call) and Mike, KB8KNY with a project in Tim's basement/shop/shack.

from all over the country who come through Parkersburg sometimes give Tim a shout,

his willingness to help solve problems with H-Ts to HF rigs. (And stereos and intercoms, etc.)

Along with his willingness to aid the ailing rigs, Tim has a wealth of resources to pinpoint the problem. There's a file cabinet full of service/operating manuals for rigs of all kinds. And state-of-the-art test equipment lining the workbench. Plus, Tim's own knowledge.

"August 8, 1988, my birthday, I became Tim's wife . . . and he was my birthday present."

Mary Britton's (KB8BOA) comment about Tim, WA8CRW

Mhz and 147.390 Mhz repeaters. Tim is one of the OTs at "The Mill" each July 4. Hams

just say, "Hi," and talk over old times.

Local hams know Tim for

His own knowledge, is an under statement. Whether you're looking for the right answer in your troubleshooting, or if you want to know the performance of a particular rig—or even the fair-market value of a used rig—Tim knows the answer or can refer you to someone who can provide the answer.

There is one catch that comes with putting any piece of equipment on Tim's bench.

You must be willing to do the work. "That's it! Pure and simple! I am here to help people—not to do the work for them," says Tim. "I know, as most people know, people learn better when they not only are told about something, but can experience it."

Tim's wife is Mary, KB8BOA. They have two grandchildren. And both enjoy their boat and river lot in

Vienna.

If you experience problems with your rig—don't ask Tim to help you—unless you're ready to learn something.

*(Editor's note: Tim's wisdom and experience has helped countless hams throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley. To allow enough space to say, "Thanks," in these pages is not nearly enough space. So, Tim, accept our appreciation with this—***THANKS!!!!***)*



Field Day 1999



Christmas 1993



Get together at Linda D's



Christmas



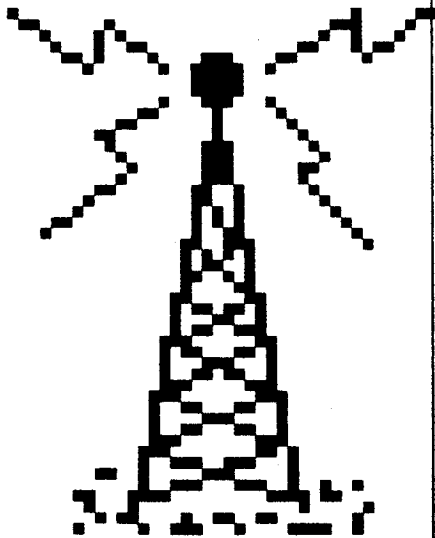
Veterans Park picnic

Continued from page 2

electronics and the arc-jet valves. Guelzow said the thrust of the test will be enough to lift the satellite's perigee by about 100 km.

Guelzow said plans call for optimizing the current orbit with a live arc-jet firing. He said that several independent analyses including one done by the French space agency, CNES confirm that the current orbit will be stable for many years longer than the spacecraft's anticipated lifetime.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org/>.



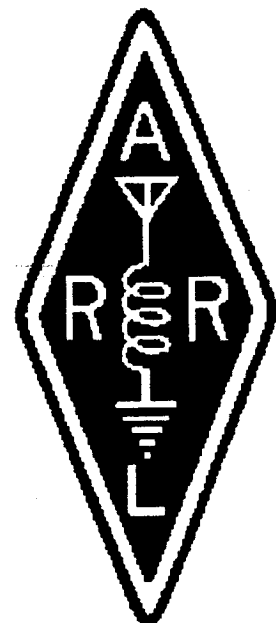
SPACE STATION SHIFT CHANGE SET WITH NEXT SHUTTLE LAUNCH

It's almost time for a shift change aboard the International Space Station, and two hams are among the new crew members. Relieving the current ISS crew will be the Expedition 2 team of Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD/R3MIR, of Russia and US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Jim Voss. The Expedition 2 crew is scheduled to head into space March 8 aboard the space shuttle Discovery. The Expedition 1 crew has spent more than four months in orbit.

The Space Station Alpha crew is staying in space a couple of weeks longer than planned because of a tight shuttle launch schedule and necessary refitting on the Discovery. Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, arrived at the station November 2. During their stay, Shepherd has spoken via ham radio with students at several schools as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--program.

In addition to ferrying the Expedition 2 crew, Discovery will have in tow an Italian-made cargo carrier that's filled with laboratory experiments and equipment. At the end of its almost 12-day flight, Discovery will transport Shepherd, Gidzenko and Krikalev back to Earth. Discovery is planned to land March 20 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Commanding Discovery will be Jim Wetherbee. Jim Kelly, KC5ZSW, will be the shuttle's pilot, and Andy Thomas, KD5CHF--a Mir veteran--and Paul Richards, KC5ZSZ, will serve as mission specialists. No Amateur Radio activity from the shuttle is scheduled.



NEW FIELD DAY RULES FOR 2001 DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE FUN

Field Day 2001 will run from 1800 UTC June 23 to 2100 UTC June 24—as always, the fourth full weekend in June. Typically a club or group event, Field Day is the most popular operating activity of the year—and one of the most enjoyable for hams of all skill levels. A few rules changes this year affect bonus points for Field Day scores.

* The non-traditional mode bonus has been expanded from 100 to 300 points for doing three separate demonstration modes.

* Packet is back and will be counted as one of the three demonstration modes, but to claim packet credit, you must set up a portable digipeater system. Existing, permanent packet networks do not qualify for this bonus.

* You may earn a 100-point bonus if an invited local government official

or representative of one of the agencies that ARES serves in an emergency visits your Field Day site. To earn this bonus, the invited official must actually visit the site, not just be invited.

* The message-handling bonus has been changed. You may now earn 10 points per message, up to 100 points total, for origination, relay, and delivery of formal NTS messages. In the past, only messages received and relayed were counted. The Field Day participation message to the Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator under rule 7.3.5 does not also qualify for bonus points under these rules.

This marks the last year that the extra Novice/Tech Plus station will exist in its current form. The Novice/Tech station is a non-counting transmitter, and its QSOs count for QSO point credit. The ARRL Membership Services Committee is considering several options to encourage participation by newly licensed hams.

The ARRL Contest Branch has compiled a 24-page Field Day 2001 Information packet, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/01fdpack.pdf>. This document is available in hard-copy format by sending an SASE with four units of postage to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

In addition to the dated Field Day pins that have proven so popular the past few years, the League now offers 2001 Field Day T-shirts. Pins are just \$5, and the T-shirts are \$9.95. For ordering information, visit the ARRL Products Catalog, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog>, or call toll-free 888-277-5289. The Contest Branch no longer handles orders for these items.



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