

ARISS/IRLP Distribution Project Halifax Group Activity Report to July 23, 2005

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Halifax Group Member

To: Robin Haighton, VE3FRH
ARISS Canadian Delegate

July 24, 2005

Robin:

In response to your request for an ARISS/IRLP Distribution Project Activity report I'd like to provide you with the following in point form:

- Close liaison with the ARISS Operations Group
- Successfully distributed audio of 13 ARISS School contacts
- Established a IRLP "Super Reflector"
- Created a Internet Web Site that supports "Discovery" reflector activities.

Liaison with ARISS Operations

Since October 2004 the Halifax Group has been working closely with ARISS Operations by taking part in weekly teleconferences. This liaison has provided us with valuable information on various operational topics and provides a means co-ordinating our activities. As a result we have to date been successful in distributing the audio of 13 ARISS school contacts through the IRLP.

At the present time we are limited to distribute contacts that are supported by a telebridge. There are plans however investigate various means of collecting the audio during direct contacts. Frank Bauer is expected to call a meeting to call a meeting in the near future.

I might also add that, while not directly related to the ARISS Project the Halifax Group provided the means for 6 schools from coast to coast across Canada to have a 2-way conversation with Professor Sean Egan while he was climbing Mount Everest. Via Sat Phone the call from Base Camp and was "patched" through to the IRLP. Students at the participating schools were given the opportunity to take turns asking questions. This method could be used during ARISS contacts given the right circumstances.

13 Successful School Contacts

As previously mentioned we have been successful in distributing a total of 13 school contacts via the IRLP. They include participants from a variety of grade levels from Australia, Canada, Ireland and Russia.

In addition we have been providing local schools with simple VHF receivers (inexpensive scanners). By simply tuning these receivers to our local Node repeater students and educators are able to listen to the contacts from the classroom.

Established an IRLP “Super Reflector”

Early on in the Project we were fortunate to have the assistance of Chris Morgan, VE5BAR, who provided us with access to the “Saskatchewan” Reflector. There were however limitations associated with this reflector due to the limited amount of bandwidth that it had available for use. It was decided that we would find a local source of adequate bandwidth and construct our own reflector. After some effort we have found Dalhousie University as a partner who can provide us with the necessary bandwidth.

The “Discovery” Reflector # 9010 has 8 Channels that will be available for a number of Educational Outreach Programs (Radio Amateurs of Canada, Youth Education Program, ARRL Big Project, ISS/STS Mission Audio, etc.) The main channel, 9010, is assigned for ARISS contacts.

Established a Internet Web Site to support “Discovery” Reflector

In order to support the activities hosted by the 9010 “Discovery” Reflector we saw a need for a web site that could be visited by interested parties. We will be continuing to develop both the Reflector and the web site over the next few months. During the last few school contacts we have been providing an audio stream to the site using “Shout Cast”. It’s proven to be very clear and adds yet another avenue for distribution. The web site address is www.discoveryreflector.ca.

In conclusion, I hope that this information will help you in your presentation.

73,

Wayne, VE1WPH

