*A*mateur *R*adio on the *I*nternational *S*pace *S*tation

ARISS PR Report

June 2009

Rosalie White, K1STO

Committee has done no "official" work.

In June 2008, Ken Pulfer stepped down as chair, still remains on committee. No one has stepped in to the chair position.

ARISS PR Committee members and ARISS volunteers have taken on PR work without the committee structure.

- Ken outlined stakeholders
  - General Public
  - Space Agencies
  - General Amateur population
  - IARU societies and AMSAT societies
  - Educational organizations (ie National Science Teachers Association

Ken pointed out:
- ARISS name is now well established and recognized
- Web site is available in all ARISS regions' languages except Russian
- Occasionally local news people cannot distinguish between ARISS and a space agency. Occasionally news people don't include ham radio in the story. Guidelines to local amateurs on aiding local news people would help.

- Most school contacts fairly well publicized
- However, we need…
  - a way of encouraging and thanking local school ham teams for their PR efforts
  - Review and update some pages of web site
- Guidelines are needed, both to help amateur teams supporting a school contact, and those who would like to generate news items about other ARISS projects.
- The PR committee should consider making recommendations on what might be done to keep pace with the world of new communications today – blogs, etc
- In the US, Will and Rosalie review all draft article for accuracy – other ARISS regions may do the same.

- Communications with various offices (ie PR, Education, technical) in space agencies is not uniform. NASA and ESA are in the loop, CSA improving a little.
- IARU Region 1 has created ARSPEX (Amateur Radio Space Exploration) a dedicated working group that Gaston chairs, covering all ARISS activity in Region 1 (Europe, Africa, Middle East, Northern Asia-Russian Federation). Gaston circulates a newsletter on Region 1 ARISS events; it is posted on the Region 1web pages: http://www.iaru-r1.org/ IARU Region 2 and 3 leadership could do more to encourage national ham societies to be part of ARISS.

Thanks to ARISS volunteers who work on PR—

- **Kenneth for upcoming QSO reports**
- **The IRLP and VOIP volunteers who work very steadily – see report**
- **Mentors who assist local hams with garnering local media stories**
- **Rosalie's information sharing with ARRL resulting in stories in The ARRL Letter and on the ARRL Web site**
- **Those who write for the AMSAT Journal and AMSAT web pages**
- **Rosalie's articles in QST**
- **Gaston's information on the ARISS-Europe web pages and ESA web pages**
- **Tim who prepared news releases.**
- **Volunteers who send information on media hits or do interviews, ie, Rosalie's work with the Ohio Department of Education for their web story on ARISS**
- **Upcoming work by Keith and Rosalie with NASA for a possible future NASA web story**
- **NASA news stories**

2009 ARISS VOIP Report

by Graham Lawton, G7EVY on
behalf of the ARISS Audio Feed Team

ARISS Audio Feeds (June 2008 to May 31 2009)

In the past year, ARISS Team members have continued to work to expand the use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). With losing Dieter, KX4Y, as a Silent Key, some data between June and October 2008 has been lost. Since then 29 contacts have been broadcast using EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) formats. 23 of those contacts are from 1 January 2009 to 31 May 2009. The ARISS Team is aware that there has been a hardware problem prohibiting IRLP from being used recently.

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Audio being fed to IRLP and EchoLink can be received in these ways:

- Directly from the location of the contact (ie school or college) using a direct telephone link.
- Via a pre-arranged telebridge
- Using a Skype (VoIP) originated call
- EchoLink or IRLP transmitted directly to the appropriate servers from the location of the contact
- Using audio acquired from a live video/audio feed on a website (with permission)

VOIP Report

It is not possible to count the number of people listening to a radio broadcast but EchoLink allows us to see details of some listeners who are directly connected to the Servers we use to distribute the feeds. In the last year we saw a *minimum* of 363 listeners from 36 different countries on EchoLink alone. There can be many uncountable listeners connected to 'link' stations and 'repeaters' around the world.

To help increase the listener numbers, a bulk email is sent a few days prior to a contact, reminding addresses that the QSO will be transmitted on EchoLink and IRLP. The list currently contains 100 recipients, all who have asked to be included on the mailing list.

VOIP Report

Experiments using D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio – a digital voice and data protocol) have recently been carried out with success and it is hoped that as the price of D-Star equipment reduces, and more repeaters come on line, we can increase the audience even further. We will continue to move ahead as the technology advances.

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- The ARISS Audio Feed Team is currently comprises of 6 members located in various time zones (Canada, USA, England, Australia and Japan).

- end of VOIP report-

Who can chair the committee?
Who can be on the committee?