

# **Acceptable Use Policy for the AMSAT Public Mailing Lists**

*January 5, 2010*

The **AMSAT Bulletin Board** (AMSAT-BB) public mailing list carries general AMSAT information and discussion. The purpose of this mailing list is to provide a forum for general discussion of any satellite-related topic.

The **Space Amateur Radio Experiment** (SAREX) public mailing list contains information and discussion pertaining to amateur radio operation on manned space missions, including the Space Shuttle, Mir (formerly), and the International Space Station. The name is leftover from the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) aboard Space Shuttle flights. It is now mainly concerned with ARISS operations aboard the International Space Station.

There are also regional AMSAT public mailing lists (e.g., AMSAT-DC, AMSAT-Florida, and AMSAT-NE) and numerous private mailing lists (e.g., Board of Directors, Officers, AO-51 operations, etc.).

Anyone can read the messages posted on any of the public mailing lists, and many people from around the world do so. Our audience includes AMSAT members, board members, and officers. At any given time, the readers may also include amateur radio operators, shortwave listeners, minors, potential financial donors, potential launch providers, officials from other amateur radio and satellite organizations, officials from international space agencies, and equipment suppliers and manufacturers. Since the archives of the public mailing lists are available on the AMSAT website, the contents of individual messages are easily found using common search engines.

Because of this wide readership, AMSAT insists that messages posted on its public mailing lists conform to this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

## ***Acceptable Content***

We embrace diversity of opinions and values. In order to preserve a constructive environment, we do insist that messages contain appropriate content and are respectful of the members and readers of the list.

All posts should include the author's first name and call sign, or full name if not currently licensed.

In general, messages for the AMSAT mailing lists should be related to amateur radio satellites. Examples of on-topic posts include:

- Announcements of general interest, including but not limited to AMSAT news, meetings, satellite availability, and DXpeditions.
- Technical discussions, including the physics of space flight, modulation techniques, satellite design, RF path loss calculations, noise figure, etc.

- Inquiries and suggestions about choosing equipment, learning operating techniques, and troubleshooting problems.
- Discussion of AMSAT plans and policies in ways that foster better understanding of the opportunities, trade-offs, and limitations that AMSAT faces, and constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Posting of amateur radio satellite-related equipment and software available for sale.

### ***Unacceptable Content***

Strong disagreements on issues are inevitable, but the AMSAT mailing lists are not the place for exchanges which become spiteful, unproductive exchanges. If you must have a heated exchange, it should be conducted privately and not in public on a mailing list.

We define unacceptable content as anything that is:

- Illegal
- Insulting, abusive, harassing, or threatening
- Knowingly false or misrepresentative

### ***Enforcement of this AUP***

Access to the AMSAT mailing lists is a privilege and not a right. While these rules cover most common situations, they cannot anticipate everything. Consequently AMSAT reserves the right to take any actions it deems appropriate to ensure these forums are not disrupted or abused.

Violators of this policy may be subjected to manual moderation or have their ability to post messages suspended. Violators may or may not be warned prior to enforcement.

If you feel that you've been unfairly blocked from the list, you may appeal your situation in writing to:

The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation  
Attention: AMSAT-BB  
850 Sligo Avenue, Suite 600  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Your letter of appeal will be forwarded to the VP of User Services and the Director of Electronic Communications for consideration.

AMSAT  
The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation