

NORTH SHORE ARC



Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1
www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc



Volume 8 , Number 1

February 2006

This Week in Amateur Radio

From: Steve VA3SPH

This Week In Amateur Radio (TWIAR) International has a new time on WBCQ!

This Week in Amateur Radio International can now be heard on WBCQ Short wave on Sundays at 5PM Eastern Time (2200 GMT) on 7.415 MHz. The program is still airing Saturdays at 4PM Eastern Time as well.

Details on WBCQ short wave broadcast station can be found here:

<http://www.wbcq.com/index.php>

The program is also available as an audio podcast via the Internet. The episodes are about 1 hour long (AKA fairly large files) so if you have broadband connection to the Internet you can download and play a MP3 broadcast by going to: <http://www.twiar.org/>

An RSS feed of the current and some of the current and past episodes here:

<http://twiar.org/twiarpodcast.xml>

If you use the iTunes program (Macintosh and Windows) you can subscribe and automatically download the episodes here:

<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.wa/wa/viewPodcast?id=74847280>

Seems like a great show and a nice way to hear latest worldwide HAM radio news!

Enjoy!

Steve - VA3SPH

+++++ Suit Sat:

From: Steve - VA3SPH and Margaret VE3BNN

I'm hoping that many of you took the chance to listen for Suit Sat.

Steve put together the information on the chart of the predicted times for close passes to our location in the Durham Region. Freq. 145.990 Mhz

Here is a legend to explaining terms of the prediction chart below.

LEGEND

=====

AOS = Acquisition of Signal (Beginning of the close pass to us)
MAX = Closest part of the pass or Max elevation over the horizon
(The high the number the longer and stronger the signal will be)
LOS = Lost of Signal (End of the close pass to us)

TIME UTC = Coordinated Universal Time (also know as GMT) to get local our time
subtract 5 hours from this!

AZIM = Azimuth or degrees from North.
North is 0 degrees, East is 90 degrees, South is 180 degrees, West is 270 degrees, back around to North at 360 degrees
(to be honest this won't matter much as you will be able to receive the transmission using an omni directional 2 meter antenna)

Note once the space suit is ejected it will follow roughly the ISS orbit but be slightly different and become harder to predict as time goes by. So while these ISS (Internation Space station) predictions below are highly accurate, think of this is as a really good guess on space suits location. After 4 days it is expected the batteries will be deplete, perhaps sooner. Nobody has done this before so lots to learn on this experiment.

PREDICTION CHART

=====

MacDopplerPRO: Satellite ISS
Starting on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 1:00:00 AM UTC.
For Site: Toronto & Durham Region

Date Time UTC Azim Elev Local time + Notes

AOS: 2/4/06 7:24:46 AM	168.6	-1.8	
MAX: 2/4/06 7:28:46 AM	121.0	3.6	2:28 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 7:32:26 AM	81.0	-2.6	
AOS: 2/4/06 8:57:26 AM	221.9	-2.0	
MAX: 2/4/06 9:03:06 AM	126.9	40.6	4:03 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 9:08:26 AM	61.2	-2.2	
AOS: 2/4/06 10:32:46 AM	261.7	-1.8	
MAX: 2/4/06 10:38:26 AM	351.9	29.5	5:38 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 10:43:46 AM	57.9	-2.6	
AOS: 2/4/06 12:09:06 PM	291.3	-1.0	
MAX: 2/4/06 12:14:26 PM	10.8	16.9	7:14 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 12:19:26 PM	69.5	-2.8	
AOS: 2/4/06 1:44:46 PM	303.3	-0.9	
MAX: 2/4/06 1:50:06 PM	28.2	27.2	8:50 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 1:55:26 PM	96.3	-2.6	
AOS: 2/4/06 3:19:46 PM	299.4	-1.7	
MAX: 2/4/06 3:25:26 PM	197.9	47.9	10:25 AM in the morning
LOS: 2/4/06 3:30:46 PM	134.5	-2.5	
AOS: 2/4/06 4:55:46 PM	279.3	-1.9	
MAX: 2/4/06 5:00:06 PM	227.0	4.7	12:00 (Noon)
LOS: 2/4/06 5:03:46 PM	185.2	-2.3	

And Margaret found this good link showing the launch of Suit Sat:

<http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/videos/news/20060204p2g00m0dm007000c.html#>

+++++

Membership Cards.

Our Membership Secretary is asking that those members who haven't received the information on their membership cards please see him at the next meeting or drop him an email. :

Also our Membership Secretary is asking all Club members to email him with an updated emails address. We're getting a significant number of bounce-backs or returns. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Remember to update your your RAC number too.

+++++

From The Chair in the Shack:

In the last week I took delivery of Icom's latest wow-radio, the IC-7000. After playing with it for several days, I've realized something that we all should know but choose to ignore. Regardless of price, most of today's rigs perform beautifully and the latest and greatest will be hard put to improve on already remarkable performance.

Yup, this rig, like my IC-746 pro has lots of bells and whistles and it really is better than what I've had. All the same, I took my 706 to the cottage last summer in spite of having a "better" rig and it worked fine.

I don't ask any of you to believe that a new whiz-bang radio is an expensive, but not awfully cost effective way to enter the hobby. You have to experience it for yourself and then you may remember my musings. I've had the opportunity to work with radios from the early 1990's through the latest and almost all picked up stations equally well and got pretty much the same reports from the same antenna. Now the question is "What really makes these radios worth more?".

Size:

This can be important if you plan on moving the radio or using it mobile.

CW:

Full break-in operation can be easier with some of the newer rigs - but I don't use CW.

Filtering:

The latest rigs in my stable allow continuous width control over filters and dual pass-band shift. Cool, but the really expensive rigs use roofing filters that can make working a weak station only 3 kHz from a strong one really easy. Not quite so with variable filters, however good.

DSP inside the AGC loop:

Pretty good at notching heterodynes and reducing noise without pumping by strong neighboring signals. I like it but can often live without it. Keep in mind that digital signal processing often results in weird tone and sound while removing "noise".

They say a fool and his money are soon parted and this fool is a good example. I wouldn't miss the excitement of the newest rig for anything but then I'm a bit of a fool. Today's basic rigs in the \$700.00 range are spectacularly good for the money with features not found on expensive rigs of the early 90's. If you are looking for a second or even a first rig, don't just jump at the first used one you can afford, no matter how good its reputation. Even cheap modern rigs can make expensive classics look shabby. Bear in mind that some of the really admired rigs no longer have parts available and they are aging quickly.

Rigs have never been so cheap comparatively. I'm not giving up my new ones - they do have some neat features. Just the same, I like even the least expensive rigs found in the stores. Oh yes, I forgot, the IC-7000 is noticeably quieter (about one s unit) compared even to the IC-746. I guess it was worth it even if I don't usually work anyone I can "just" hear - you see, they are often using amps and couldn't hear me anyway.

73 de Pete, VA3PWH

+++++

I just missed a QSO with Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I almost feel like the rig should be on whenever I'm in the house. The band was shutting down on 20M just as I was starting up. Go figure!!! I've been trying to spend time listening to CW trying to build my ear. A good friend sent me a link to a CW site that seems to work quite well. Here's the link: <http://www.w8kc.com/stream.asx>

This way you can bring CW with you right to the computer. Neat eh?

On the radio front, my shack is temporarily set up on the table saw (again). I've been trying to copy CW on HF. I'm getting better at it too. I'm seriously looking into a keyer for a bit of practice with my paddle before I key up the rig on CW. Any suggestions on makes and models would be gratefully received.

In the January / February TCA we're challenged to build something this year. I think it's a great idea. I've been looking for ideas for a shack that will be something other than a temporary setup on the table saw. I've seen some dynamite shacks belonging to Club Members. To say that I'm jealous would be an understatement. I'm thinking about a rolling cabinet that I can maneuver out of harm's way so that the other work can get done. If you have any ideas, I'd like to hear them.

Remember the Club commitments to community service this year. There are many opportunities for you to serve your Club, your community and have fun too.

Your humble scribe
Ken
VE3RMK

+++++

Improve Your Mediumwave Reception



The original Select-A-Tenna used for the past 28 years by hundreds of thousands of satisfied customers. Model 541 produces a signal gain of +30dB when used with most AM radio receivers which have internal ferrite rod antennas. This passive device requires no wires, no batteries, no plugs, etc.

It works by simply placing it next to your radio and tuning the knob to the same station frequency as your radio. The Select-A-Tenna functions by concentrating the radio station signal energy in the near proximity of the 541.

Model 541 Reg. \$89.00 Sale \$78.97

Model 541M works just like the 541 described above but features a jack so that you can connect it to a radio with a mediumwave antenna connection. You can also connect the jack to a long wire and ground for a huge boost in performance. **Reg. \$109.00 Sale \$98.97**

The powerful and versatile 541S features active circuitry for an extra 10dB gain and a fine-tune control for ease of adjustment. It includes a probe for coupling the boosted signal to hard-to-access ferrite antennas as found on home stereo receivers. Will work in situations where others won't! **Reg. \$289.00 Sale \$258.97**

MFJ-16C06 Six-Pack Ceramic Insulators



MFJ 16C06 6-pack ceramic insulators. Can be used as an end or centre insulator. These insulators will not arc over, even under full legal power. Molded ridges give extra-long voltage path to prevent high voltage breakdown. 2.5" length x 1" diameter. 1/4" holes.

Reg \$7.00 Sale \$4.97

Looking for a Shortwave Receiver?

We have a wide selection of Grundig, Sangean and Kaito display models on sale right now. Please visit our used page or call our store for details.

Garmin iQue M-5 PDA/GPS Receiver



It's a PDA and a full-featured GPS! Featuring the latest Microsoft® Pocket PC software, Windows Mobile™ 2003 Second Edition, the iQue M5 supports portrait/landscape screen orientation for easy viewing of documents, videos, and web content. It's powered by a 416-MHz Intel® PXA 272 microprocessor, and it also provides the user with 64 MB of RAM, 64 MB of ROM and data

back-up protection. The embedded Bluetooth® transceiver allows the user to establish a personal-area network with computer systems and Bluetooth-enabled devices such as mobile phones, other PDAs, and printers. Check e-mail and view documents then sync seamlessly with your laptop. Featuring a built-in basemap of North and South America and Puerto Rico, the iQue M5 shows major highways, thoroughfares, railways, lakes, rivers, and borders. The MapSource City Select CD-ROM is included, so users can download detailed street-level map data, look up more than five million points of interest (POIs), and navigate to any address in the U.S. and Canada.

Newly Overhauled Only \$619.00

Grundig S350R



An exceptionally sensitive analog receiver with digital display. Finds weak and unknown stations easier than most digital radios.

- AM/FM/Shortwave
- High sensitivity
- Long battery life
- Analog receiver with digital display
- Loud rich audio with treble and bass controls
- Clock with sleep timer
- Wide/narrow bandwidth switch

We are now stocking the later version of this radio which features a timer defeat mode.

Full 1-year parts and labour warranty!

Refurbished S350. Now only \$49.97

All items subject to availability. Sale pricing in effect until Feb 28th, 2006.



SALES & SERVICE INC.

A family-run business since 1993!



EXTENDED Hours Now in Effect
Mon - Fri 9-6 Sat 10-4



1380 Hopkins St., Unit 10 Whitby, Ontario L1N 2C3

Tel: (905) 665-5466 Fax: (905) 665-5460

contact_us@durhamradio.com

