

# SARA email Newsletter – Feb and Mar 2006

## SUITSAT-1 IS SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength.

"The outreach, press requests and visibility of SuitSat were absolutely amazing and appear to be unprecedented for a ham radio event," Bauer said. "While the press requests are just now starting to wane, we expect that you will continue to see SuitSat status reports and pictures in magazines, Websites and other literature over the next few months." The more than nine million hits at the SuitSat Web site attest to the level of interest in the SuitSat-1 experiment, Bauer noted, calling the tally "quite impressive indeed!"

"One great positive that came from these issues is that it challenged the ham radio community worldwide to improve their station receive capabilities so that they could pull every bit of signal from SuitSat," Bauer remarked.

Bauer says reports that SuitSat-1 was non-operational and that the battery was frozen shortly after deployment are false. "This never occurred," he stressed. "As the telemetry has shown, temperatures within the suit were a somewhat comfortable 12-16 degrees C during the entire mission."

The AMSAT/ARISS team already is looking forward to a SuitSat-2. "Correcting the signal strength issue would be a top priority for this flight," Bauer said. "So would be a longer-term power generation device, like solar arrays."

Although no longer transmitting, SuitSat-1 could continue orbiting Earth for another 70 to 120 days, depending on atmospheric drag, Bauer said.

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/>> and on the SuitSat Web site <<http://www.suitsat.org/>>.

3Y0X DXpedition logs more than 87,000 contacts

This month's 3Y0XDXpedition to Peter I Island managed to put 87,034 contacts into its logbook during two weeks of operation before it shut down February 19 at 1813 UTC. The lucky last contact was with K8LTG. The 3Y0X DXpedition surpassed the 82,000 QSOs achieved by A52A (Bhutan), but it fell a bit short of the 96,000 contacts logged by K1B (Baker Island). The 22-member 3Y0X team, headed by led by Ralph Fedor, K0IR, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE, now is safely aboard its ship, the DAP Mares and plans a stop in the South Shetlands on the way home. Because of its remote location in the Bellinghousen Sea near Antarctica and the severe weather conditions, Peter I has been activated but rarely and remains one of the most-wanted DXCC entities. For additional information, visit the Peter I DXpedition Web site <<http://www.peterone.com/>>.

## DX Data

KENYA, 5Z. Mike, OM2DX and Palo, OM2NW are QRV from Nairobi as 5Z4/homecalls until March 6. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL 5Z4/OM2DX via OM3JW and 5Z4/OM2NW to home call.

GUYANA, 8R. Ken, K7ZUM and Craig, AH8DX will be QRV as 8R1ZUM and 8R1EA, respectively, from February 28 to March 7. Prior to the upcoming ARRL DX contest, look for activity mostly on RTTY and the newer bands. 8R1EA will place an emphasis on 160 meters before and after the contest. QSL to home calls.

MALTA, 9H. Members of the Texas DX Society will be QRV as 9H3W, 9H3DX, 9H3V, 9H3RY, 9H3WF, 9H3UO, along with two other 9H3 calls, from March 1 to 8. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They will be active in the upcoming ARRL DX contest as 9H3DX. QSL all calls via W5PF.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Aniko, HA5TAA will be QRV as 9M2/HA5TAA from Tioman Island, IOTA AS-046, from February 27 to March 12. She will be active mainly on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

TAIWAN, BV. Mike, K0PY will be QRV as BW2/K0PY while on work assignment here. Activity is on the low end of 40 and 20 meters using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

BAHAMAS, C6. Bill, NE1B is QRV as C6AWB from Chubb Cay, IOTANA-054, until March 3. He will be active in the CQ WW 160 Meter SSB contest as well. He will also be active from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, from March 3 to 5.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Lee, DT8A is QRV from the Korean King Sejong Station on King George Island. QSL via HL2FDW. KERGUÉLEN ISLANDS, FT5X. Gil, FT5WL plans to be QRV as FT5XP on February 27 and 28. QSL via F4EFI.

FRENCH GUYANA, FY. Steve, MW0ZZK and Florent, F4CYZ are QRV as TO7IR from Royale Island, IOTA SA-020, until February 27. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via IZ8CCW.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Kasimir, DL2SBY will be QRV as HB0/DL2SBY from February 25 to March 4. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. Operators JW8AJA, JW9DFA and JW9VDA are QRV until March 1. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL JW8AJA and JW9VDA via LA9VDA and JW9DFA via LA9DFA.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. Joachim, WP3F will be QRV in the CQ WW 160 Meter SSB contest. QSL via OK1DOT. BULGARIA, LZ. To commemorate the 128th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan Contest Club will be QRV as LZ128LO from March 1 to 31. QSL to LZ1KZA.

SURINAME, PZ. Steve, MW0ZZK and Florent, F4CYZ will be QRV as PZ5ZZ and PZ5CY, respectively, from February 28 to March 8. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters. QSL via IZ8CCW.

DODECANESE, SV5. Willi, DJ7RJ will be QRV as SV5/DJ7RY from Kos Island, IOTA EU-001, from February 27 to March 18. Activity will be on the lower bands. QSL to home call.

KALININGRAD, UA2. Members of the UA2 Contest Club will be QRV as RK2FWA in the CQ WW 160 Meter SSB contest as a Multi Op entry. QSL via DK4VW.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Look for special event stations AX3MCG and AX3GAMES to be QRV from March 1 to 31 during the 18th Commonwealth Games being held in Melbourne. Activity will be on all bands. Individual Australian amateurs may substitute the AX prefix during the games period. QSL both calls via the VK3 bureau.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Jim, G3RTE and Phil, G3SWH are QRV as VP2V/G6AY from Aneгада Island, IOTA NA-023, until March 1. Activity is primarily on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB, and possibly 160 meters CW. QSL via G3SWH.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Desecheo Island, K3LP/KP5 and N3KS/KP5, from December 16 and 17, 2005.

## **Space Weather News for Feb. 22, 2006**

<http://spaceweather.com>

AURORA SURPRISE: Sunspots have been scarce lately, but that doesn't mean solar activity is nil. A solar wind gust hit Earth's magnetic field on Feb 19th, sparking auroras of exceptional beauty over far-North America. Visit [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com) to view pictures of the storm taken from Earth and Earth-orbit.

SPACE STATION MOON MOVIE: An amateur astronomer has recorded the finest movie to date of the International Space Station gliding in front of the moon. Watch the video at <http://spaceweather.com>. This week and next, the space station will perform a series of bright passes over North America. Would you like to see it? Sign up for Space weather PHONE: <http://spaceweatherphone.com>.

## **Contest Corner**

ARRL International DX Contest--Phone, 0000Z Mar 4 - 2400Z Mar 5. Frequencies: 160 - 10 meters. Categories: SOSB, SOAB (HP >150W, LP, QRP <5W), MS, M2, MM. Exchange: RS + State or Province or Power (KH6 and KL7 count as DX). QSO Points: 3 pts/QSO. Score: QSO points x DXC Entities (DX counts states + provinces). For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/contests>. Logs due Apr 4 to [dxphone@arrl.org](mailto:dxphone@arrl.org) (Cabrillo format only) or DX PHONE, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"--RTTY/AMTOR/FACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 1100Z -- 1700Z Mar 4. Frequencies (MHz): 28.050-28.150, work stations once per mode. Categories: SO, SWL. Exchange: RST + serial number. QSO Points: 1pt/QSO. Score: QSO points x DXCC entities + WAE countries + JA/VE/Wcall districts (all counted only once). For more information: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm>. Logs due 4 weeks after the contest to [dl9gs@darc.de](mailto:dl9gs@darc.de) or A. Schlendermann DL9GS, Postfach 102201, D-44807 Bochum, Germany.

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship--sponsored by the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UJARL) from 2200Z Mar 4 - 0159Z Mar 5 (Low Bands - 160 and 80 meters - two separate 2 hour periods) and 0800Z - 1159Z Mar 6 (High Bands 40 - 10 meters). Categories: SOAB, SOSB, and MO. Exchange: Two letter regional abbreviation (see Web site) and serial number. Start serial numbers over for High Band portion. QSO Points: 2 pts/QSO and 10 pts for each new region. For more information: <http://www.ucc.zp.ua>. Logs due 5 Apr to [krs@model.poltava.ua](mailto:krs@model.poltava.ua) or George Ignatov UT1HT, PO Box 87, Kremenchug-21, Ukraine, 39621.

Spartan Sprint--CW, sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society from 0200Z -- 0400Z Mar 7 (Monday evening in the U.S. - times will change during Daylight Savings Time, see Web site). Held on the first Monday of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 (QRP calling frequencies). Categories: SO. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, and power output. Score: "Skinny" division--total QSOs / total station weight, "Tubby" division--total QSOs. For more information: <http://www.ARSqrp.com>. Logs due on Wednesday after the contest at noon via the ARS Web site.

## **Around the State**

The Forty-Sixth Annual Acadiana Hamfest will be in Rayne on March 10 and 11. During the ARRL Forum I plan to present many Emergency Communications Commendation certificates for the good work during last year's hurricanes. For the latest hamfest updates, visit <http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>

The Sixty-Ninth Annual Baton Rouge Hamfest will be a "Junk in the Shade" affair on May 6 in Baton Rouge at the Highland Road Astronomical Observatory. Visit [www.brarc.org/](http://www.brarc.org/) or email Ed at [ad5jv@arrl.net](mailto:ad5jv@arrl.net) for more details.