



**Doc # 19**

## **Amateur Radio on the International Space Station**

### **Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**

**July, 2020**

**Submitted by:**

**The 2020 ARRL ARISS Committee,  
VD Tharp, Chair**

## **ARISS Program Summary**

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project is a well-known international partnership that promotes STEM education and Amateur Radio around the world. The ARRL CEO in 1996 tasked ARRL Headquarters staff to meet NASA's challenge to set up one worldwide ISS ham radio team; the staff, working together with AMSAT-NA, set about doing that. The ARRL has been an ARISS sponsor since 1996. The ARRL-led parts of the project successfully including leadership roles, advice to ARISS leaders on items related to FCC regulations, and Public Relations support for the project in addition to education activities related to many school contacts and events. The ARRL ARISS Committee was tasked in January 2019 with improving the ARRL support-part of the project, and with the creation of ARISS-USA in 2020 the committee is looking forward to working together in benefit of both organizations.

Since 1983, international amateur radio organizations have worked with the space agencies to fly Amateur Radio to support educational and ham radio activities on Space Shuttle (SAREX), Mir (Mirex) and ISS (ARISS). Each year, astronauts make hundreds of school contacts from the ISS because of ARISS. The educational activity alone puts Amateur Radio in the picture for students, educators, media, school leaders, communities, and local political leaders. Astronauts have also made thousands of Amateur Radio contacts using FM voice, SSTV and packet.

### **Authorizing Board Motion, Minute 27, January 2019**

Be it therefore resolved: A permanent ARISS committee is created by the Board to develop an interactive relationship with ARISS. Said committee should consist of three members of the Board, with assistance of the ARRL Lifelong Learning Manager and the ARRL Communications Manager as consultants, all to be appointed by the ARRL President. The committee will recommend the framework under which the ARRL will support ARISS to include recommendation of the ARRL representative to ARISS, standardized mission support, operational needs, ongoing mentoring and assistance to local Amateur Radio clubs in support of ARISS contacts, and a standardized set of Public Relations messages to ensure consistency of the ARRL message to ARISS, local Amateur Radio groups and the public at large.

### **2020 ARRL ARISS committee members:**

Vice Director Tharp (Chair)

Vice Director Schilling

Vice Director Nelson

Mr. Kris Bickell (Consultant - Lifelong Learning Manager)

Mr. David Isgur (Consultant - Media & Communications Manager) (first quarter of year)

Ms. Rosalie White K1STO (Consultant - ARRL representative to ARISS)

## **ARRL ARISS Committee Activities from January to June 2020 were:**

The committee exchanged multiple emails via the ARRL email reflector, including a large power point presentation provided by Ms. White to give some background to the new members of the committee.

The committee met, on February 12<sup>th</sup> via zoom, and:

Reviewed the revised art work for banners and approved. (included at end of report)  
Sourced (with the assistance of Bob Inderbitzen) a vendor for the new stand up displays. (The displays are for use at hamfests, conventions, and other venues where ARISS and or AMSAT providing booth space to ARISS, have a presence.)  
Discussion of the reduced budget amount and where and what adjustments could be made for budget year 2020.

Ms. White and VD Tharp discussed, via phone and email, the annual in-person ARISS meeting (this year scheduled at the European Agency in Munich) and various associated costs. Also discussed was who from the committee might travel and participate, representing the ARRL. That meeting has since been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. The ARISS team will hold five online meetings, two to four hours each during late June in place of the in-person meetings.

The committee worked with Ms. White and staff on updating the ARISS advertisement created by ARRL Hq for running in QST in 2016 and 2017; the ad prompted donors to help fund continuing ARISS operations and equipment upgrades and has now been updated and is ready to run in QST or other publications if appropriate space is available. (Ad is included below)

Last year, (2019) the ARRL ARISS Committee wanted to ensure the cooperation between the ARRL PR Committee and ARISS was continued. As a result, Ms. White continued to inform Dave Isgur along with Directors, Vice Directors and Section Managers in the respective sections and divisions where contacts were to take place. Mr. Isgur was also asked to provide aid to the SMS' PIO(s) if needed. (with the departure of Mr. Isgur, the committee assumes Mr. Inderbitzen will assume this role for the time being)

Mr. Isgur received details from Ms. White on eight ARISS media hits; he posted them to ARRL's web page, as follows:

[Florida high school students communicate with astronaut on International Space Station](#)

WFTS-TV ABC Action News

[Making a really long-distance call](#)

The Suncoast News

[RSU 21 students to communicate to outer space](#)

Kennebunk Post

[Local second-graders talk to astronaut aboard the International Space Station](#)

WLWT 5 – TV

**Sycamore students get the chance to speak with ISS astronauts**

WKRC Local 12 News

**96-year-old ham radio operator makes an out-of-this world connection**

CTV News

**Sparkling the Imagination: Students reflect on conversation with ISS Commander Luca Parmitano**

USC Dornsife

**Council Rock High School South Radio Club talks to International Space Station a second time**

Newtown Gazette

**Balloon Racing Hams Send Distance Learning to New Heights**

Nasa.gov, June 11, 2020 (NOTE: this was sent to Mr. Inderbitzen)

For US ARISS contacts, with their large crowds of 300 to 1000, Ms. White asks ARISS mentors to urge schools to show the ARRL video produced by VD Delaney. The ARISS banner including the ARRL diamond are also displayed.

Ms. White and VD Tharp continue to correspond weekly about various subjects and when felt appropriate, to inform the committee and board about upcoming activities and events.

Respectively submitted,

Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX  
ARRL ARISS committee chair

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The national association for AMATEUR RADIO



New revised ARISS Banner

**Inspiration...  
Exploration...  
Experimentation**



**Amateur  
Radio  
on the  
International  
Space Station—**

## **ARISS**

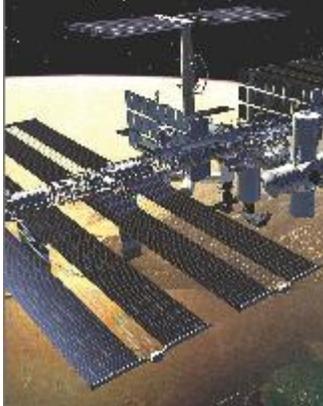
- Licensed hams (like you!) contact the ISS via Amateur Radio voice, packet/APRS, SSTV, and digital TV
- Students interview astronauts in space and learn about life in space, space research, and radio science
- Hams on the ground experiment with space communications
- Amateur Radio supports NASA by providing ISS backup communications

Your donations will help support continuing operations and Amateur Radio equipment upgrades on the ISS.

Receive an ARISS Challenge Coin for a donation of \$100 or more



Go to [www.ariss.org](http://www.ariss.org) and click on "Donate" to help keep Amateur Radio in space!



QST ad to run when "space available"



Typical auditorium set-up for ARISS radio contact has ARRL diamond displayed, ARRL video shown to huge crowds. (ARISS-USA photo)



Interviews lead to media hits listed on ARRL web pages (ARISS-USA photo)