



Virginia QSL NEWS

#11

May 12, 2020

**Simulcasting Club Meetings
By Adam Dye N4NT
President, Bristol Amateur Radio Club**

First let me give you a little background on how I eventually got into the simulcasting my local clubs radioactivity. In 2018 I was elected to serve what would be my fourth term as president of the Bristol Amateur Radio Club (VA/TN). I would be returning to this position after a few years of absence from it. When I handed over the reins a few years ago I felt like there were still things I would like to accomplish. One of those things just to increase my club's internet and social media presence. Not just the presence but also the interactivity.

In November 2018 I got the idea of recording one of our weekly 2-meter FM Nets. At the time I didn't plan on recording every single week that I could. My thought process was to offer samples of amateur radio activity to those who might be interested. Another idea was to preserve these activities so that as people pass on we have another way to treasure their memory.

The first recording I made was not live. I simply used my cell phone and recorded the audio of the net and then uploaded it to YouTube. I found an online site that would place a picture into the audio and upload it to YouTube. As time went on, I searched for better more reliable methods to record this activity and put it on to YouTube. For quite some time I was unable to make live recordings, and I just recorded the activity and uploaded it later.

I tried various methods of recording the activity from programming the repeaters frequency into a scanner or some type of receiver and plugging it into the line in of the computer, to eventually using a sound card interface just like you would use with FT8 or PSK₃₁.



As with anything there are pros and cons and I will mention a couple of the cons. If you are a participant in any of the activity in order for you to be heard you either have to bring in an external computer mic which sounds dramatically different and picks up background or use a second radio that is capable of receiving the mode you are transmitting.

Another issue that arises from using a separate receiver or a separate transceiver occurs when you transmit yourself you can actually de-sense your own signal into that other device. There are a few ways to work around this, and I won't mention each one of them here. Instead I will mention what I do.

So after all this trial and error I will now get into how I simulcast amateur radio activity via YouTube. At one time I did this on Facebook Live but as I've discovered not everyone has Facebook; however anyone with an internet connection can make access to YouTube.

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus has taken away our ability to meet in person. Rather than cancel our club meetings all together I decided to use our greatest resource, amateur radio, to conduct our club meetings. Our club meeting was held primarily on our local FM repeater. We do have some members that are out of the range of this repeater.

The first method that I used to simulcast this meeting on the internet was to broadcast it live on YouTube. I have two radios connected to my computer that can interface with the computer sound card (Only one at a time is necessary as the computer does not hear the transmitted voice audio). Both are Yaesu, one is a ftm400 and the other is an ft991a.

I set the ftm400 to the repeater's frequency. Then on my computer I got into my sound settings. I found the sound device for the ftm400. By selecting this I recorded the radios audio with the built-in sound recorder program or using external software to get it onto YouTube. To accomplish this, I used a program that is free called OBS Studio.

OBS Studio allows me to store multiple video and audio sources and toggle them off and on easily. For the video display I used a program called Netlogger. I opened Netlogger and used it to keep track of all those who check into the meeting. I went into OBS Studio under display source and selected Netlogger and that is what will show on the screen.

OBS studio will allow you to store multiple screens, windows and sound sources. OBS will give them generic names. I recommend changing them to describe what they are. Next I selected my sound source if it hasn't done so already.



After that I logged into YouTube and click on the camera icon in the upper-right. I select go live and a screen will pop up allowing me to create a video title and description and place it in a category. It also asks if the video is made for kids. I typically select “No” because it is not made for kids. This will not age restrict the video but it will allow the chat screen to be open.

After everything is set up in YouTube a key is generated that I copied and pasted into the OBS program. I used the OBS program auto-configuration wizard to set this up. Once the wizard has completed, I clicked on start streaming in the OBS program. After a few seconds I looked over at the YouTube screen and I saw my Netlogger program pop up onto the screen. From this point I clicked the “Go Live Button” on YouTube and within a few seconds it started streaming live.

I use two monitors on my computer because this allows me to monitor the chat screen on YouTube as well as the instant messenger screen on Netlogger. I monitor each of these along with the net on the radio. We allow people (licensed amateurs/club members) to check into meetings and nets by proxy on the online services such as YouTube and Netlogger.

During our club's monthly meeting on the air I switch the Bristol-ARC Wires-X room 61243 into analog mode so that anyone logging in that way can participate in the meeting as well.

In order for my own transmission to be heard I use my ft991a to transmit. I've been having issues in the past of killing my own signal into other radios as I was trying to broadcast live or record. I have discovered that the better-quality radios have less of an issue such as the FTM 400. I'm fortunate when I am using my club's repeater that I'm located close to it. This enables me to run minimal power on my transmitter. I also locate both antennas as far away as possible. Another trick that I can use as I can turn my two-meter beam in the opposite direction and that seems to help.

I have also taken care of this problem in the past by using the Wires X Program to transmit on the repeater. I can either go in on a UHF frequency or use direct mode and not put out any RF which would cause interference.



If you use the radio sound card to record the audio you would have to go into the computer itself and adjust the volume. This method seems to give a better-quality audio. I have found that adjusting the input volume to about 75% gives a good clear sound and eliminates any homes that may occur in the line. Using the line-in requires the volume to also be set on the radio. This can cause feedback if you must transmit close to the receiving radio. Or you hear yourself on a half second or so delay. If you're like me it's difficult to speak when hearing yourself on a delay.

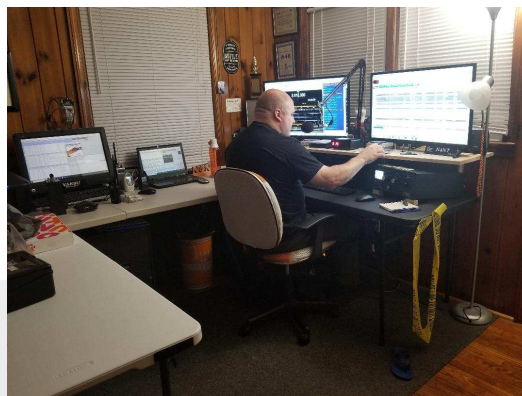
Broadcasting radioactivity started as a club function for me at first. Wanting to feature more content on my YouTube channel I asked a few other groups and clubs if I could occasionally broadcast their nets or gatherings as well. My YouTube channel which is now called Ham Radio Zone has the motto, educate, entertain, and promote amateur radio. The goal is to provide a source of amateur radio activity for either the experience ham that wants to try something new or someone who may be trying to learn about the Hobby and become involved. There are also how to videos on the page as well as activity from HF, VHF, UHF and voice-over-internet modes. The Ham Radio Zone is located at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmBMWxObdM9f2BVOE9YY5Ug>

Thank you & 73 from

N4NT Adam Dye

President Bristol Amateur Radio Club



Adam Dye N4NT Making Life Easier for Bristol Amateur Radio Club members



Contest University Information

Contest University will be held online free via Zoom on Thursday May 14th

www.contestuniversity.com

8:45 Welcome to CTU 2020 from W8CI, K3LR and N9JA

9:00 W3LPL – “Effective Low Band Receiving Antennas”

10:00 W2NAF – “2020 Solar Cycle Update and the HF Response to Ionospheric Storms and Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances”

11:00 N6TV – “Everything You Need to Know About USB and Serial Interfaces”

12:00 Lunch on your own

12:25 K1AR – Memorial reading of the Silent Keys for 2020

12:30 NN1C – “Exuberance and Youth Contesting – Update on What is Going On”

1:00 W0YK – “Digital Contesting Hints & Kinks”.

2:00 K1DG – “Optimizing your Station for Contest Operations”.

3:00 N0AX – “Grounding & Bonding”

4:00 NC0B – “Contest & DX Performance A Complex Subject Today Great RX Performance – TX Limitations”

5:00 W3LPL – “60 Years of Competitive Contesting — the W3LPL Story”

6:00 K3ZJ – Presentation of CQ Contest Hall Of Fame 2020



Time to Ramp Up Ham Radio Public Relations

Does your club have an appointed Public Information Officer? If not, it's time for that appointment to take place. I realize clubs many clubs are small ,and it is the job of someone such as the Club Secretary to handle that work. How is that work defined?

In the next several weeks there will be opportunities on a state and national level to work with the PIO's in Field Day preparations and general training. How will your club tell your Field Day story to the media? Does the PIO have the training to do this job?

This is where the "Buck Stops Here" in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sid Cesar, NH7C, Chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee will be moderating PIC, PIO, SM, and other ARRL Field appointed office training for Field Day. Please write Sid at sid@nh7C.com.

On May 26, I will be co-moderating a Zoom meeting for appointed or designated Virginia club PIO's to discuss Field Day issues in your neck of the woods, future training, and discussions regarding public relations in our Commonwealth. There will be a 2 PM and an 8 PM meeting available. While PIO's only need to attend one(1) meeting, both meetings will be available to attend. Email me a KW4GF@ARRL.net so I can send the PIO a direct invitation. PIO Round Table members will also be invited!



ARRL Field Day Links

In preparation for Field Day, several clubs have been sending these out. I just wanted to make sure everyone had them.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/2020%20FD%20A%20Time%20to%20Adapt%20SP.pdf>

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/Creative%20Approaches%20to%20Field%20Day%202020.pdf>

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2019/ARRL%20Field%20Day%202019%20PSA.mp4>

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/2_1-2020%20FD%20Flier%20-%20What%20is%20FD.pdf

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/2020%20Field%20Day%20Packet\(1\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/2020%20Field%20Day%20Packet(1).pdf)

<http://tiny.cc/fdsd> This is a terrific FD Power Point by Anthony Luscre K8ZT

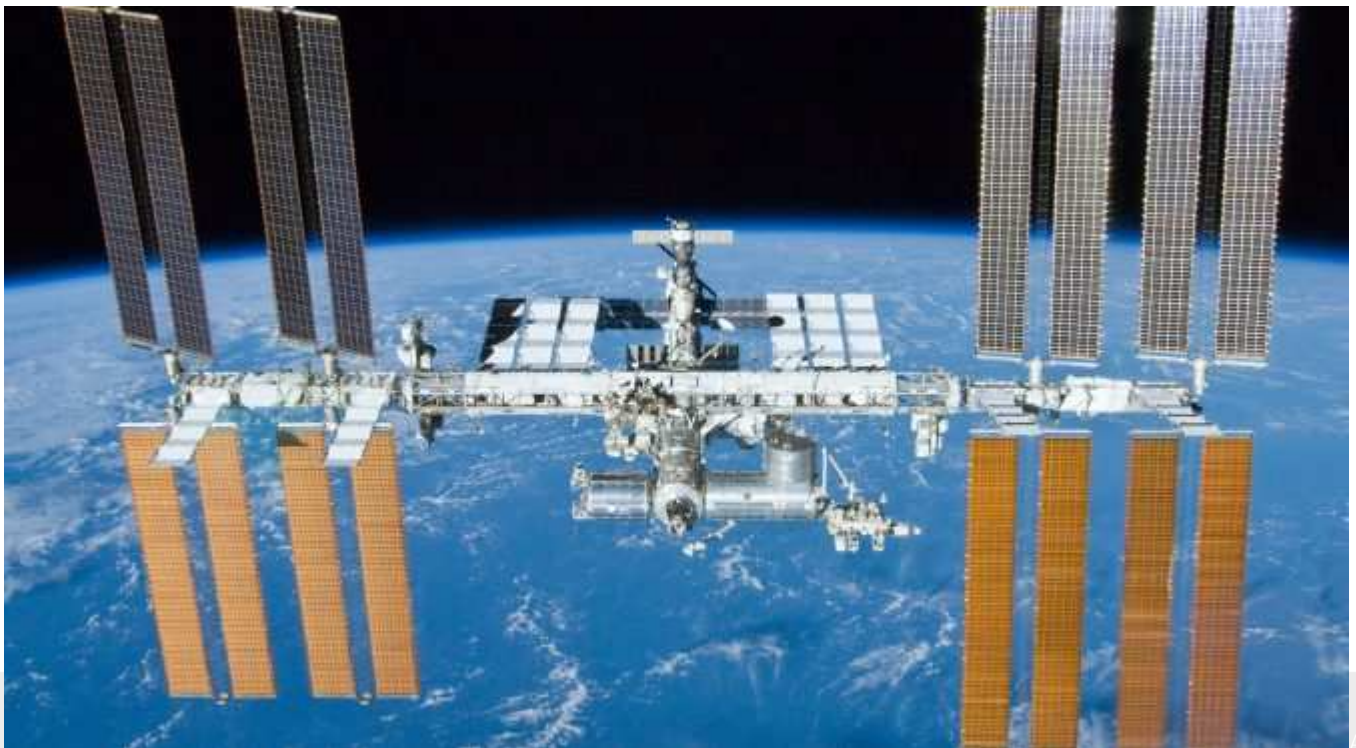
CDC's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Field Day is going to look and feel differently this year! We have risky populations among us, and we must be ever vigilant. I participated in a VE Session last Saturday (May 9th) and everyone was wearing a mask, gloves, social distancing, and winter clothing as the testing was in two large park shelters and the shade of the shelters brought the temperature down from the low 40's to Icicle Range. It was cold, and I learned that ice cream isn't the only

way to get brain freeze. But we adapted. And there were a lot of new Techs, Generals and Extras.

The same will apply for this FD. We will need public relations with our club members as well as the general public. Again, remember, we have populations at risk, and I know hams. Some will not want to miss out. There are ways for everyone to get involved under their own or club calls. Let's commit to educating all or our VA Club member about their options.

Ham Radio and Space: A Precursor for the MARS Generation!



An ARISS CONTACT IN NOVA Thrills Students and Their Teacher,

Kathy Lamont, KM4TAY! Thanks ARISS and Kathy for this NOVA THRILL!



Reprinted with Permission By Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, ARISS Mentor

A DAY OF FIRSTS FOR ARISS

MAY 4, 2020 FRED KEMMERER [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Last Thursday, April 30th, 2020 was a day of firsts for the [ARISS program](#) and for us here. The COVID-19 situation has forced changes to be made in the way that schools and other groups contact astronauts onboard the ISS. The pandemic has also made it impossible to access many of the ARISS telebridge stations worldwide.

We hosted the first ARISS arranged Multi-Point Telebridge contact with students in the Northern VA School Group and Chris Cassidy, [KF5KDR](#) aboard the ISS. The contact was a success and we learned a great deal as we provided in a new format for ARISS contacts.



Ready for Our ISS Contact

We added Telebridge capability to our space communications ground station here in New Hampshire. This involved [adding a telephone patch capability to our station](#) and a UPS to the power supply for our station. With all of the tests complete and the station preparation checked one last time before our schedule contact, we were ready!



ARISS First #2 – New Multi-Point Telebridge Format for ARISS

The COVID-19 situation is preventing most schools from assembling in a group for their contacts with the ISS. ARISS created a new, Multi-Point Telebridge format which allows students and their teacher to participate in a contact with an astronaut aboard the ISS from their homes. The new format created additional audio and coordination challenges among the students who participated in our contact.

We practiced the new format with the students multiple times before our actual contact. As a result, the students did a great job during their contact.

ARISS First #3 – Inaugural ARISS YouTube Livestream

With the help of Steve Rys, [KB1VYD](#), ARISS created a live, multi-sourced video feed of the pre-contact program and the actual contact with the ISS.



Pre-Contact Program (Playing on the laptop in the foreground)

The live stream included audio from our station, the Moderator for the contact (John Kludt, [K4SQC](https://www.k4sqc.com/)), Chris on-board the ISS, the students, and Kathy Lamont, [KM4TAY](https://www.km4tay.com/), their teacher.

Here is the link to the YouTube video of all the participants. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/Cu8I9ose4Vo>

The video portion of the program included videos that explained how the contact was arranged and works, a live video of our antennas as they tracked the ISS, the student's questions, and a view of the ISS track as it passed overhead.

The live YouTube video stream went extremely well and was well received by over 300 viewers during our contact making it the most widely enjoyed firsts for ARISS on this day.

First #4 – Chris Cassidy's First Contact From The ISS



Our Astronaut, Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR



The Northern VA School Group contact was Chris' first from aboard the ISS. Chris had trained for the contact on the ground before his flight to the ISS.

Unbeknownst to Chris and the rest of us, there had been a reconfiguration of the radio equipment we would be using for our contact on the ISS. As a result of this, Chris had trouble getting the Amateur Radio for our contact going on the ISS. We did not make contact with him until some time after the ISS was over our location.



Calling the ISS for our contact

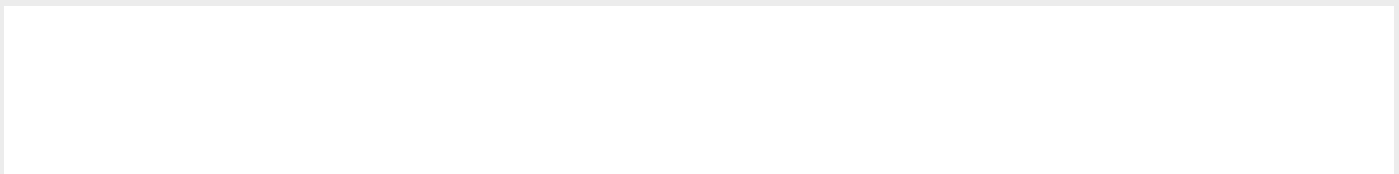
Once we got the problem sorted out, Chris came through loud and clear. He was able to answer several of the student's questions before the ISS disappeared over the horizon.

What Comes Next

Our contact proved the effectiveness of the new ARISS Multi-point Telebridge format. It also proved-in the operation of our Telebridge Station here in New Hampshire. This was a great outcome given all of the Firsts for ARISS that were involved.

Additional Telebridge stations around the world will be hosting school contacts using the new format in the near future. We are looking forward to continuing to support the ARISS program via additional Teleridge contacts from our station.

Fred, [AB10C](#)



Manassas Hamfest Canceled

By Theresa Heartney KG4TVM

The Ole Virginia Hams are sad to announce that they have cancelled the 2020 Manassas Hamfest. This was a very difficult decision to make but we feel it was needed for the health & safety of our club members and attendees. We will miss seeing everyone in Manassas but there is always hope we can go to Berryville in August.

We had club elections at our February meeting and elected a new President - Jay N4QT. That was our last meeting we had due to COVID. So in April, Jay set up an online meeting and our club had our first on line monthly meeting. Just a few little glitches but it worked! So we are going to try it again this month.

New River Valley ARC Sponsors

“Audie Murphy Special Event”

SPECIAL EVENT: May 30th from 1300Z to 2200Z Audie Murphy, sponsored by the New River Valley (VA) Amateur Radio Club. 3.860, 7.262, and 14.262 MHz, operating from Brush Mountain, VA on the Appalachian Trail near the Audie Murphy Memorial. QSL Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Drive, Christianburg VA 24073.



Judi's YL Corner

I thought I'd start off with dessert because life is uncertain! All my recipes are developed for a healthier lifestyle due to my health conditions. If this goes over well; the next recipe will be my own development of Cauliflower Pizza. It will also be more complicated. OR another simple recipe would be Tomato Soup from ripe tomatoes

Banana Ice Cream

- **one frozen banana**
- **two tbsp honey**
- **one inch of almond milk**

Place all ingredients into blender. Do not over blend or you will have banana shake!

Judi N4JDI

**What is your club doing? Please let me know and I'll publicize it.
Ham are getting back on the air!**





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