

SEITS

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OCTOBER MEETING

The next meeting is Sunday, October 3, 1999, at the Southeast Iowa Hamfest in West Liberty, Iowa. I do not know what time they have us on the schedule, but past experience says it should be either 9 or 10 am.

This is just about the last hamfest that we all try to get to in the area for the season. The weather can be a real question for this one, especially since so much of it relies on the flea market. Anyway, we hope to see you there!!

Apologies and Explanations

Apology first!

Last month I made a really big goof on the newsletter, and I want to apologize for it. Almost everywhere in the newsletter (at least in the articles I wrote) including the banner and meeting announcement I wrote "August". Well, as we all know it was SUPPOSE to say "September". And I completely missed it until Pat Apple pointed it out to me at the meeting!!

And an Explanation!

Mary Beth and I have not had a day off from work in the last two weeks, so the time to devote to the newsletter has been extremely short. This is what happens when you both work road construction and things get behind schedule. We both regret the skimpy newsletter (ok, newsSHEET) this month. The good news is that the days are getting shorter and they won't let us lay asphalt in the dark!!! So you should see a return to a much larger newsletter next month!!

de KE0BX

LINKED REPEATER ID BOARDS READY

Thanks to the hard work of Frank Apple, W0GWK, and Jerry Cooper, WB0PLZ, the first of the link IDer kits are ready. If you have heard the morse letter "O" from the Ottumwa repeater, this was the prototype. The goal is to install them on all link radios on the system so you can identify the repeater that the user is on.

These new second generation boards feature adjustments for tone, speed, and input level. Interested repeater owners should contact Frank directly at fpapple@inav.net

ARISS INITIAL HARDWARE FLIGHT DELAYED

The recent grounding of the US space shuttle fleet will delay launch of the initial station hardware for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. But pre-launch processing of Amateur Radio equipment bound for the ISS remains on schedule.

The gear had been scheduled to launch in December aboard STS-101. With the shuttle launch hiatus, it now won't go up at least until late January and probably not until February. NASA managers said this week that additional delays could result from the effects of Hurricane Floyd.

NASA grounded the shuttles to allow a detailed inspection of electrical wiring on the entire shuttle fleet. The inspections come in the wake of problems during the July launch of the shuttle Columbia, when astronauts and ground controllers struggled with power failures in computers controlling two of the orbiter's three main engines. According to news accounts, the shuttle was one short circuit away from an emergency abort.

So far, inspectors have found dozens of electrical defects on shuttles Endeavour and Discovery. Comprehensive inspections of Columbia—the oldest orbiter—and Atlantis—the one that will carry the initial ham gear to the ISS—get under way later this month, NASA says. With a scheduled Leonids meteor shower hiatus and holiday breaks already factored in, STS-101 won't go until January 22 at the very earliest.

The internal amateur hardware was delivered in July, and the ARISS antenna hardware is due for fall delivery to be stowed aboard STS-101 for flight. SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL said of the STS-101 launch "Everything is pretty much on schedule as far as the ham radio hardware is concerned," Bordelon said. "There is no impact to our schedule. We're just moving along."

For more information on ARISS, visit <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~ariss/ariss.html>.

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