

TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER Jan 30, 2010

Welcome to 2010 one and all. The 2009 Christmas Party was held at the residence of N9XMU on Dec 12, 2009 with the following members present W9MM, N9LIE, K9YLI and KC9CGW. The pot luck dinner was excellent as always and lots of good fellowship followed. K9YLI reported a total of \$162.86. in the Club Treasury, 2010 dues need to be mailed to K9YLI. An election of officers was not held due to a lack of a quorum. A Raffle of used gear was held and every one went home with something for the Ham Shack. The February meeting will be held at Main Street Cafe in Bloomer at 7 PM, Feb 2nd please come and enjoy. Again I would like to thank our Guest Columnist WB9WKT for the following information on the ISS. Hope to see you Tuesday. 73 N9XMU

You can hear the International Space Station (ISS)

This summer the crew size on the ISS has grown to 6 permanent crew members. With such a big crew size the crew members now have more personal time in which to view the earth or "play radio". Here on earth we can listen for the astronauts with our 2 meter radios.

Program 145.800Mhz into your radio or scanner and you may hear the astronauts when they pass over. The ISS has a 2 meter repeater on board (that has been turned off for the last few months now), its downlink is 145.800. The astronauts also use the radio to make 2 meter contacts with the downlink also being 145.800Mhz. On a pass with an elevation of 40 degree's or better you should have no problem hearing them when they transmit. This is not normal day to day ISS to Houston Mission Control, this is Astronaut free time CQ CQ CQ.

Get your account set up on <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Go down on the left column to "SATELLITES". Then click on "Radio amateur satellites 24 hour predictions (all passes)" and go down the list to see when the ISS will be in our area. Listen in on 145.800Mhz at the time and you just may hear the astronauts calling CQ or making a school contact. Or just program the Freq. in and put your radio in scan mode.

Here is a snap shot of the heavens-above screen:

date	start	end	max alt	alt	az	downlink
12 Oct	07:05:21	07:11:08	07:08:13	62	SSE	145.800 FM

On Oct. 12th at 7:05CST it started its ISS pass over Chippewa Falls with a max altitude of 62degrees--it was in the South South East when it was 62 degree's up at 7:08:13 CST. It ended its pass at 7:11:58CST. Remember that 90 degrees is directly over head and 10 degree's is right at the horizon. Start and End times are when its at 10 degrees alt. You can click on that individual pass and it will give you the exact direction of travel.

One other bit of useless information---we have a local boy up there inside the space

station. Astronaut Jeffery Williams of Winter Wisconsin is currently an active crew member of Expedition 21. Mr. Williams will be the commander of the crew come November and will be up there for 5 more months.

As long as I'm talking useless information--Currently working in Mission Control in Houston Texas is local Chippewa Falls native Justin August. Justin is part of Mission Control that takes care of day to day ISS communication and trouble shooting. Pretty cool.

Any other question just let me know. WB9WKT