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Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) for the Media:

Today's Event:

Local Amateur Radio operators will use their equipment and skills to track the International Space Station (ISS) as it passes overhead. While the ISS is above our local horizon, the attendees will be able to use Amateur Radio to talk directly with one of the astronauts aboard the ISS. The ISS will be above our horizon for 10 to 15 minutes. The audio from the ISS will be best when they are at their highest point above the horizon (usually the middle of the pass); the closer to the horizon the ISS is, the more static the audio will have.

What is ARISS?

ARISS is a joint venture by NASA, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) to facilitate communication via Amateur Radio between astronauts aboard the International Space Station and schools and communities around the world. ARISS programs excite and motivate students in a one-of-a-kind presentation and exchange.

ARISS program goals are:

- Inspiring an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) subjects and in STEM careers among young people.
- Providing an educational opportunity for students, teachers, and the general public for learning about wireless technology and radio science through Amateur Radio.
- Providing an educational opportunity for students, teachers, and the general public for learning about space exploration, space technologies and satellite communications.

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur, or "Ham," Radio, is a popular service and hobby in which federally licensed participants operate communications equipment. There are over 700,000 licensed amateurs and nearly 2,300 ARRL-affiliated Amateur Radio clubs in the United States. Hams talk to each other across town, around the world, and even into space without the need for normal communications infrastructure, such as cell phone networks or the Internet. Amateur Radio is regularly used during natural disasters to help local emergency and served agencies (such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and state and local governments) respond when normal communications methods are disrupted. The Amateur Radio community is a great source of electronics experimentation, public service, and fun.

Based in Newington, CT, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the advocate for Amateur Radio in the United States and around the world. 2014 will be ARRL's 100th anniversary.

More information on the ARISS program can be found at www.arrl.org/ariss.
More information on Amateur Radio can be found at www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

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