



Sixth Graders Speak to Astronaut Via Ham Radio Station N2SJ

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Special points of interest:

- **Astronaut Col. Doug Wheeler answers students questions at the Norm Wesler Memorial Amateur Radio Station of the NYC Center for Space Science Education a great Success**
- **Planning for NYC Ham Radio afterschool program proceeds**



EXPERIENCING THE MAJIC
OF SHORT WAVE RADIO
AT N2SJ

N2SJ helps NASA with communications training.

It was truly a sight to behold. Fourteen 6th graders lining up for a chance at the microphone of Amateur Radio Club Station N2SJ at the New York City Center for Space Science Education in Lower Manhattan for a chance to speak to Astronaut Doug Wheelock KF5BOC as part of a training contact on behalf of NASA. The Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association has supplied the Manhattan Challenger Learning Center in New York City with an amateur radio station. We have used this in the past to allow New York City Public School students visiting the Space Science Center on the Lower East Side of Manhattan to monitor live astronaut communications during NASA shuttle missions. We were very pleased to receive an email from Kenneth Ramson, N5VHO at NASA asking us to

participate in an astronaut training session on January 21, 2010. In preparation for astronaut amateur radio communications with students from the International Space Station, during training simulations, astronauts in Houston schedule contacts with students via Amateur Radio in order to simulate the communications they will be having while in orbit. On this day two school contacts were scheduled both with Challenger learning centers, one in Alaska and one via Club Station N2SJ at the New York City Center for Space Science Education. The students prepared questions for Col. Wheelock. Following a test run a week earlier, N2SJ using a local IRLP node 4184 (K2QQ) logged into the Discovery Reflector 9010. As the time of the contact approached we had our students monitoring our local



IRLP node frequency and you could imagine their excitement as a call from K5BOC came booming in for N2SJ. Each student started with their name and asked their question including "How much supplies do you bring? How do you sleep? And, "Are you bored when you take off?" Astronaut Wheelock fielded all the questions quite adeptly, the connection was very good with excellent audio so it was very easy for the students to hear all the responses.

Camp Ramah Campers Earn Ham Radio License

Two campers received amateur radio licenses through Club Station N2SJ at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. During summer 2009 the Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association once again provided Camp Ramah with an Amateur Radio Station and Training Program. Approximately twenty campers were signed up for this program which included hands-on experience with short wave, (multiple bands) along with

VHF and UHF communications. Campers even got to monitor orbiting satellites. One camper who had received his technician's license in 2008 upgraded to general (along with his dad) in 2009. Another camper received his technician's license after only three weeks of study! The Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association would like to thank PEARL, Putnam Emergency Amateur Repeater League, for their tech-

nicul assistance along with their VE team that administered the examination to the campers. We are very fortunate to have an active local Amateur radio club so committed to our campers.

Our own camp station, N2SJ, has been enhanced by a donation of equipment made by Etta Wesler W2ETA from the radio collection of her late husband Norm Wesler K2YEW; a prominent Amateur Radio enthusiast from Long Island.

Ham Radio at Space Science Center in NYC



Ham Radio Station named for Norm Wesler K2YEW (SK)
Made possible by generosity of Etta Wesler W2ETA

The staff of the New York City Center for Space Education videotaped the entire contact. Prior to the contact the students received an introduction to Amateur Radio. All of the students will receive a DVD documenting their contact with Col. Wheelock, a copy of the Hello ARRL video and a leaflet on how to become and how to obtain their amateur radio licenses; many students indicated they would like to go on to receive their own amateur radio licenses.

We worked closely with Katherine Brown, Director of Development at the New York City Center for Space Science Education to coordinate this event. In

addition, we would like to thank Bradley Feldman, KK2QQ for use of the IRLP node that he administers and for his help and advice in ensuring a successful contact. The students and staff at the New York City Center for Space Science Education all enjoyed the contact and we have been told by NASA that we can expect another call in the future for further school contacts.

The Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association is indebted to Etta Wesler for her generous donation from the Estate of Norm Wesler (SK). It was Norm's dual band two-meter Kenwood radio that we used for this contact.



PRACTICING MORSE CODE @ N2SJ



Visit to ARRL headquarters Sponsored by Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association

New After School Ham Radio Program

The Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association is planning an After School Ham Radio Program at the New York City Center for Space Science Education. There is significant need in New York City for after school programs servicing middle school students. Our goal is to allow participating students to become licensed Ham radio operators. At this time funds are not available through the Board of Education so we need to embark on fundraising in order to keep the Space Science Center open after-hours. It is our hope

to raise funds to be able to offer this program in the fall of 2011.

Our after-school program would be held at the New York Center for Space Science Education and combine elements of space and satellite communications with public service aspects of Amateur Radio

Donations for educational programs can be made to the Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association which is a 501(C)3 tax exempt organization.

The Amateur Radio program is brought to Camp Ramah by the Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association.

We are indebted to WPIX and the Tribune NY Foundation for their support of our educational programs.

The Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association is non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to education through amateur radio.

Campers monitor the low earth orbiting communications satellite AO-27



Studying Morse Code in camp Amateur Radio Program Through the Steve Jacobson Memorial Amateur Radio Association: