

Georgia on My Mind - First Edition - May 2018

The Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) event has begun and runs through Friday this week. The MCV is an annual event where federal, state, county, and other entities participate in practice emergency events to learn and hone their capabilities and skills. Several Amateur groups from Georgia are also involved in this activity. Some Amateurs will run a special events station during the evening hours. The ARISS event happens this Thursday. Read on to learn more.

====> MCV SPECIAL EVENT STATION::

A special events station W4V will be on the air in the evenings from 6pm to 11pm May 1st through May 3rd from 6 pm to 11 pm.

- Special Event Station Call Sign: W4V
- Dates: May 1st to May 3rd – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Time: 6 pm to 11 pm
- Frequencies: 3.975, 7286.5, 14.250

====> TALKING TO THE ASTRONAUTS THURSDAY::

Mill Springs Academy Talk to Astronauts on International Space Station

Amateur Radio Connects Students and Crew as ISS Orbits Overhead

Alpharetta, GA – April 24, 2018 – Students at Mill Springs Academy (MSA) will talk with astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) via Amateur Radio. This particular Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, window of contact will be Thursday, May 3 at 11:47am. Students will be speaking with NASA Astronaut Scott D. Tingle who has been on the ISS since December. The entire MSA community will gather in the school's gym for the contact. This chat between the orbiting astronaut and the students at Mill Springs will last only about 10 minutes since that is the length of time the International Space Station will be in the air space above Mill Springs. (The ISS travels at about 17,500 miles per hour.)

Mill Springs Academy has extended an invitation to Joe Lockwood, Mayor of Milton, as well as to several schools in the area including: Hopewell Middle, Whitewater High, Fulton Academy of Science and Technology (FAST), and Swift School.

Earlier this year, students had the opportunity to submit a question they would like to ask an astronaut on the ISS if they had the chance. A committee of North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) members met and selected the 21 'best' questions from those submitted. Three of those top questions came from students in England. The Mill Springs Amateur Radio Club has established a relationship with a radio operator in England who works with students at a couple of schools there. When Mill Springs was notified they had been granted this ARISS, he was invited to ask the students he works with to submit their questions, too. Students from Mill Springs will ask the questions submitted by their English counterparts during this ARISS. Amateur radio operators in England plan to be listening in, too.

Amateur radio is part of an enrichment class at Mill Springs Academy. The 'hams' at MSA have formed an official amateur radio club. This activity is part of the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) Program, which promotes learning opportunities as part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative.

Members of the local amateur radio club, the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL), have been very helpful in helping to develop MSA's radio program and will be responsible for the technical arrangements for this event. They will also set up a series of educational activities related to amateur radio for students and guests to get involved with before and/or after the actual ARISS contact.

About Mill Springs Academy

Mill Springs Academy is a values-based educational community dedicated to the academic, physical and social growth of those students who have not realized their full potential in traditional classroom settings. Visit www.millsprings.org for more information and get timely updates about our school via Twitter (@millspringsacad) and Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/ MillSpringsAcademy/](https://www.facebook.com/MillSpringsAcademy/)).

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.

====> OPTIONS FOR MONITORING THE ARISS EVENT::

Go here for live video and audio stream during contact:

<http://dcy.us/ARISS>

It will start no later than 11:45, possibly as early as 11:15.

Audio only options:

145.47 Sweat Mountain repeater, EchoLink node 560686

Echolink / repeater audio will begin as close to contact time as possible.

EchoLink is available for the iPhone, Android phones, and Windows-based operating systems.

ARRL Georgia Section

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