

# *St Clair Amateur Newsletter*

**December 2019**

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

[www.scarc.net](http://www.scarc.net)

Club Repeaters: 147.120+ / 224.120- / 444.625+(pl 127.3) / 442.275+ (pl 127.3)

## **Club Officers**

President – Randy Bastian  
KC9MZ (618) 235-1444  
Cell (618) 973-6379  
[kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net)

Vice Pres – Michael Petz  
KA9HNT (618) 688-2050  
[ka9hnt@gmail.com](mailto:ka9hnt@gmail.com)

Secretary –Tip Klamberg  
N9MVX (618) 670-1502  
[n9mvx@yahoo.com](mailto:n9mvx@yahoo.com)

Treasurer - Bob Thurgood  
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847  
[wa9tug@arrl.net](mailto:wa9tug@arrl.net)

Sgt at Arms - Dan Campos  
KD9ADB (618) 236-1509  
[daniel.campos@charter.net](mailto:daniel.campos@charter.net)

Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan  
KD9BLA  
[highonharmony@gmail.com](mailto:highonharmony@gmail.com)

## **VE Test Coordinator**

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

## **Repeater Committee**

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ  
Gary Valentine, N8GIL - emeritus,  
John Sundstrom, WA0LIS -  
emeritus

## **Emergency Comm Committee**

Curtis Williams, W5DTR

ARES/RACES Directed Net is  
normally conducted by  
Gene Kramer, WA9TZL  
(Tuesdays following the Club “on-  
the-air” meeting.)

## **Over 50 Attend Club Christmas Party!**

We had a very nice Christmas party at Eckert's restaurant! Good food and great friends. Thanks to Jim, KD9BLA, and Larry, K9LWW, for coordinating the party, Martin Rueter, KE0QWG, for the great presentation on Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, Eckert's restaurant for providing the projection screen, and to Heil Sound, (Bob Heil, K9EID) for donating the attendance prize – a BM-17 headset!



KC9MZ photo



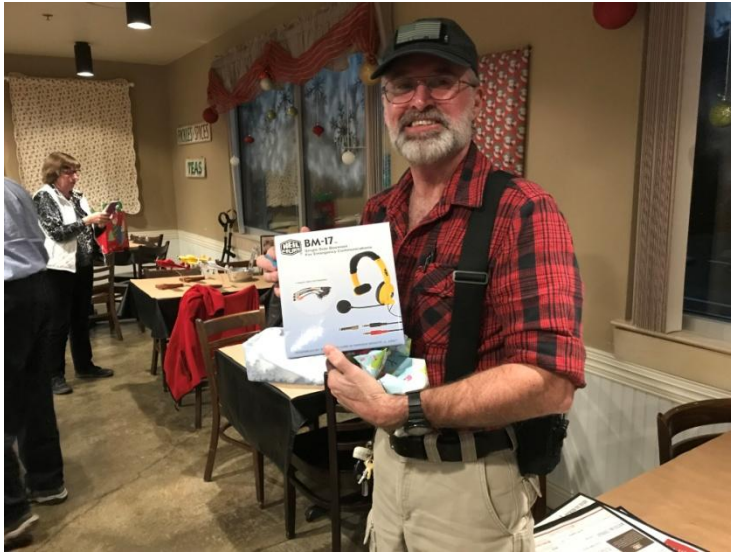


Gary Rueter, KE0QWG, gave a presentation on SATERN, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. KC9MZ photo



KC9MZ photo





Gary, K9RWE, had the winning ticket for the Heil BM-17 headset.

K9LWW photo



Caroler Wright also won an attendance prize.

Caroler is Dean's, K9JDW, wife.

KC9MZ photo

## For Sale

### Kenwood TS-450 and Astron RS-30 power supply.

This transceiver is very clean, original box, manuals. I've tested the output on each band and its 100 watts or so. Audio sounds good on station receiver. This rig does not have the auto tune unit.

The power supply has a broken rocker switch which selects volts or amps on the built in meter. It looks like the Kenwood was bought to replace a malfunctioning Ten-Tec and never used. The owner went into a Home, both \$450.

Veritas V-754 SWR and FS meter. This is one of those small SWR meters from the late 1970's, offered by so many brand names. Good condition, missing Field Strength antenna. \$20.

Call Randy, KC9MZ, 618-235-1444, or email

## Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

ARRL Straight Key Night, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 0 hours UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL RTTY Roundup, 1800 UTC January 4<sup>th</sup> through 2359 UTC January 5<sup>th</sup>

ARRL January VHF Party, 1900 UTC January 18<sup>th</sup> through 0359UTC January 20<sup>th</sup>

Winterfest, January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Collinsville, <http://winterfest.slsrc.org/> for tickets and info

January 24<sup>th</sup> Many Forums at Gateway Center starting at 8 am

Friday night 5 pm DX and ARRL Banquet at Genesis Catering, 2651 Telegraph Rd, St. Louis MO

January 25<sup>th</sup> Hamfest 8 am – 4 pm

Contest College Gateway Center 1pm

**Meeting Date, Time and Location:** This month's meeting will be on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Belleville Fire House #4. The meeting starts at 8:00PM. Many start to gather at 7:30PM. We will have testing before the meeting at 7 o'clock. Hope to see you there....

**New Members:** New applications should be submitted to the Sgt. at Arms. Applications will be vetted by the Sgt. at Arms and will be brought forward for a vote at the next monthly meeting after being submitted. We look forward to meeting/greeting any new member because to grow our club, we must find people that love to talk (should not be too hard) and that would love to be on the radio. So putting the two together can make a dedicated enthusiast for HAM Radio. We welcome all new members and prospective members and thank them for their interest in Ham Radio.

There have been a couple of satellites that have come back from the dead in recent years. One of the most interesting to me was highlighted on the ARRL website in November. After AO-7 was thought to have failed a group of Poles fighting for Solidarity used AO-7 for an underground communications system. I've included the first part of the article in the back of SCAN. If you go to the website you'll need something like Google toolbar to translate the web page to English. I hope you enjoy reading about it.

### Happy 45th Birthday, AMSAT-OSCAR 7!

ARRL Latest News 11/20/2019

The world's longest-lived satellite, AO-7, turned 45 years old this month. It was [launched](#) on November 15, 1974, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. After nearly 7 years of service, AO-7 was thought to have reached the end of its life in June 1981 due to battery failure, and a [premature obituary](#) appeared in the *AMSAT Satellite Report*.

In an interesting footnote, although AO-7 was thought to be nonfunctional after 1981, [it's been reported](#) that the Polish Solidarity movement used AO-7 to pass messages in 1982, while Poland was under martial law.

Twenty years later, on June 21, 2002, G3IOR reported hearing "an old-style CW beacon" from an unknown OSCAR near 145.970 MHz. It didn't take long to identify the satellite as AO-7, which remains operational and well-used while it's in sunlight.

To celebrate AO-7's 45th birthday, AMSAT plans to auction a set of gold-plated AO-7 cufflinks and a 50th Anniversary AMSAT lab coat (size 42R). The auctions are now [live on eBay](#) and will conclude shortly after 0200 UTC on November 26, 2019. AMSAT reports that 100% of the proceeds will go toward Keeping Amateur Radio in Space. — Thanks to AMSAT News Service <http://www.arrl.org/news/happy-45th-birthday-amsat-oscar-7>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everybody!

Here are some shorts:

Thank you, Bob Heil, K9EID, for donating the attendance prize for the Christmas party – a BM-17 headset.

Dues come due January 1<sup>st</sup>, please see Bob, WA9TUG.

January starts the process for election of club offices. If you would like to nominate someone or run for offices yourself, please let the Sergeant at Arms, Dan, KD9ADB know.

Some operating events you might look at – Straight Key Night, January 1 from 0 hours UTC through 2359 UTC, RTTY Roundup, January 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, and the January VHF Party 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. These are ARRL events, so they are on their site under Contests.

Hope to see you at the meeting or on the air.

Remember to send anything you might have for SCAN to [kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net).

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

PS There will not be an “on the air meeting” or ARES net Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.



Please patronize our supporters!

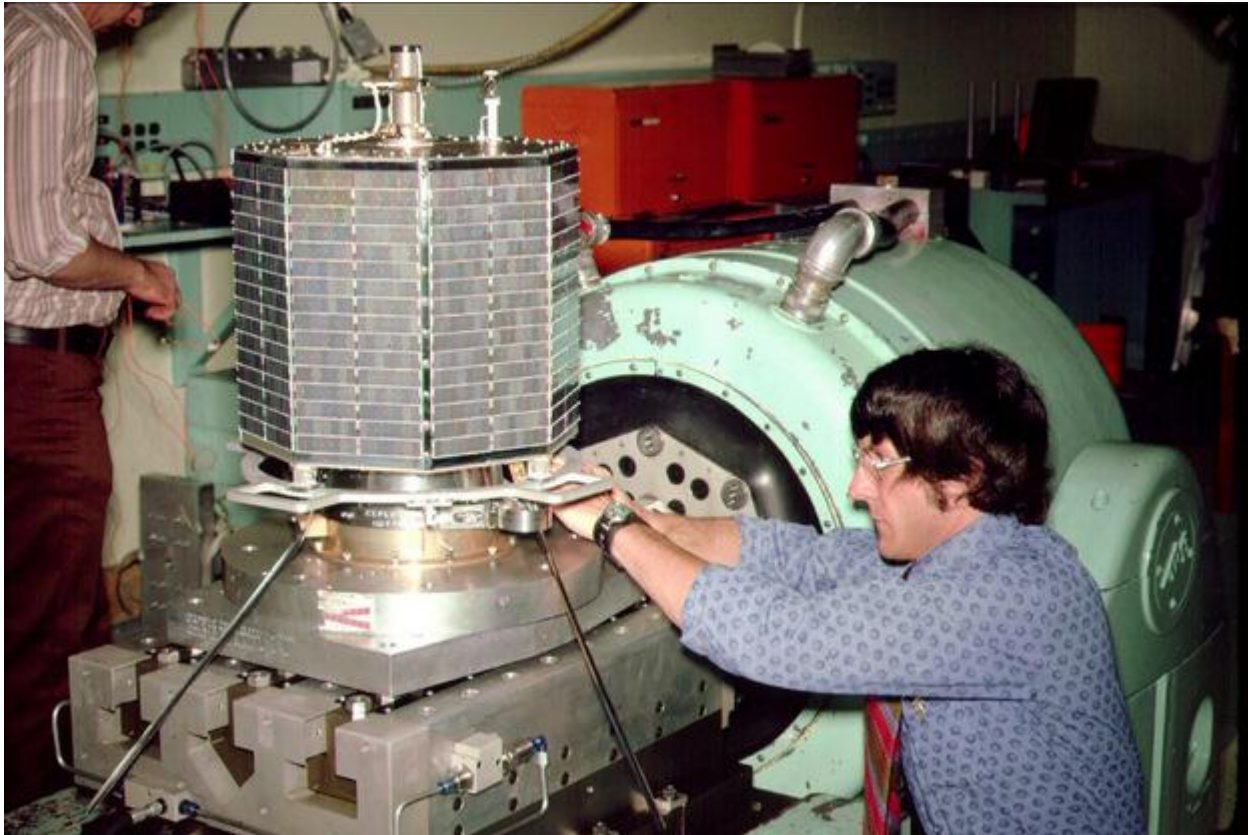




Friday, May 15, 2015 (19:00)

## How Fighting Solidarity used the satellite to build a communications system

Underground martial law, related to Fighting Solidarity, was able to use satellite communications. The OSCAR 7 satellite, which orbited around the orbit, was considered damaged.



OSCAR 7 satellite prepared for vibration test - archive photo from [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org)  
/ *INTERIA.PL*

The imposition of martial law was associated with the imposition of hundreds of bans aimed at paralyzing any independent activity. Some of them were to bring about limited contact between communities and individual people. From December 13, 1981, Poles were not allowed to leave their place of residence and stay outside the walls of their home or workplace between 22 and 5 (students from all schools were temporarily banned from staying outside the home, e.g. between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.).

**Indestructible print of the "solidarity" underground. Jelly and pasta "Komfort" defend the conspirators**



From the first hours of the imposition of martial law, the goal of the Polish People's Republic was to deprive all organizations independent of the authorities of any information. Despite the massive actions at the underground polygraphic points, it was not possible to silence the underground. Thanks to the idea ... [read more](#)

Although from May 1982, the curfew was suspended for short periods, and the bans on leaving the permanent place of residence were relaxed in the summer, this condition lasted until the end of 1982.

On December 13, 1981, the Military Council of National Salvation established official censorship of correspondence, ordered the phones to be turned off and, under the threat of the most severe sanctions, obliged all owners of any radio broadcasting equipment to deposit it in the Internal Affairs Offices. For example, all amateur radio clubs have been stripped of such equipment.

## **"Space" shortwaves**

Immediately after MO and SB commandeered even the most primitive walkie-talkies that were previously at the disposal of e.g. scout teams, the electronics connected with Solidarity pushed to the underground began to construct new radio equipment.

Above all, the Wrocław University of Technology was very active here, from the seventies dealing with, among others selling the "Lower Silesian Bulletin". There were also amateur radio enthusiasts among them.

After hours, they carried out their work in workshops and laboratories of the home university or in underground TV repair plants. In the event of an invasion of militia or SB officers, they were usually not able to distinguish the devices used to learn or repair TV sets from the emerging transmitters, intended for independence activities.

It should be remembered that at that time, Zomom, Esbek, Armenians, policemen and other officers of the Ministry of the Interior or Ministry of National Defense were allowed to make searches in an unlimited range of searches in each room, without the need for any formal order.

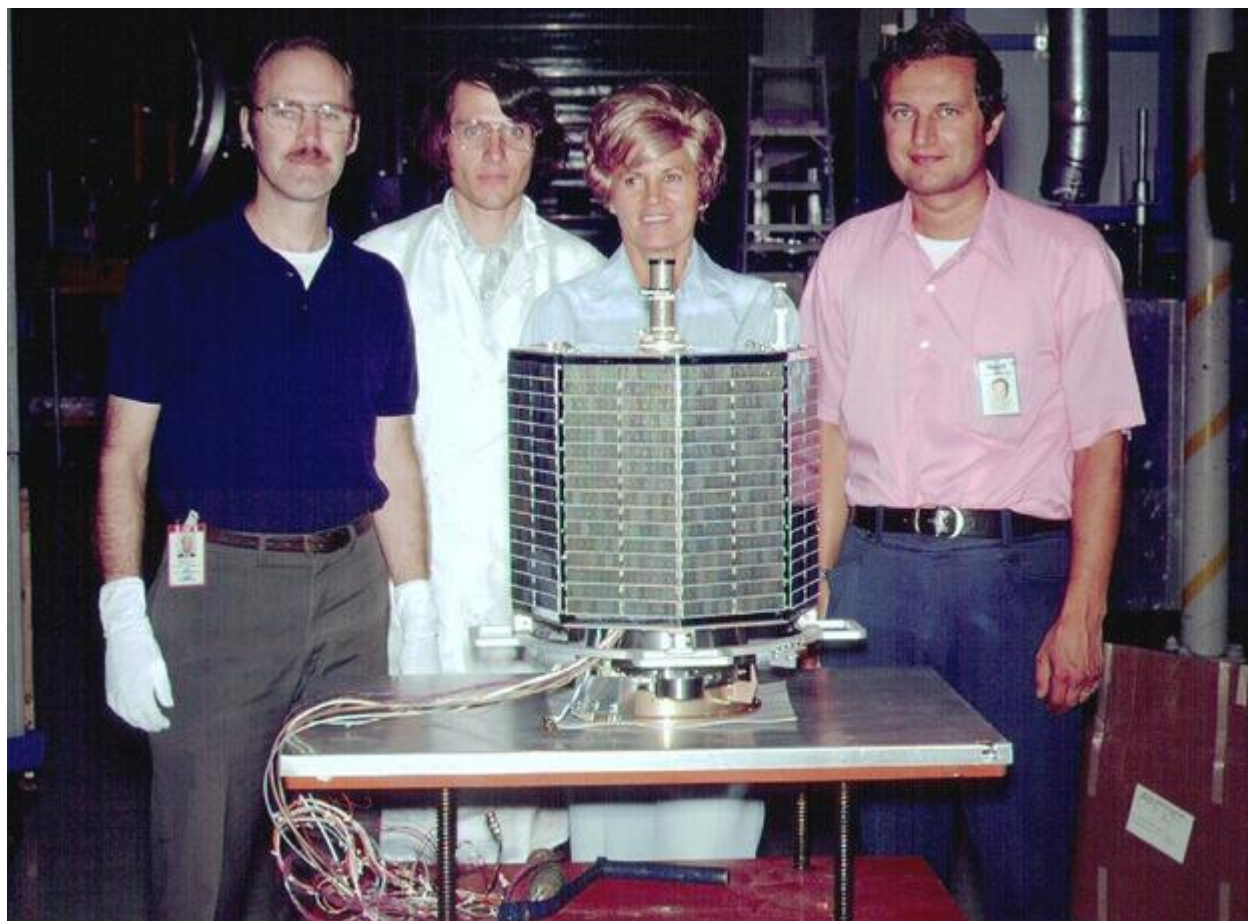
The work of conspiratorial electronics was carried out in several directions. The earliest devices were used to eavesdrop on frequencies used by MO and SB. As early as January 1982, a group of scientists belonging to the publishing and distribution structure of RKS NSZZ Solidarność Lower Silesia led by Kornel Morawiecki carried out the first attempts to broadcast an underground radio station on the air.

One of the interesting ideas was connecting to the electric wires network of the Municipal Transport Company. The goal was to use the entire traction network of Wrocław trams as one big antenna. Technically it is possible, but in practice underground radio stations later used other solutions.



Another task was to create radio connections, thanks to which underground structures from various Polish cities could communicate with each other. Already in December 1981 about the events taking place in Poland, Wrocław radio hams informed their foreign colleagues who hid some of their equipment from being commandeered.

Such activity, however, was associated with a high risk - long messages, broadcast in Morse code, facilitated the tracking of senders using mobile bearing stations.



The creators of the OSCAR 7 satellite Dick Daniels, Jan King, Marie Marr and Perry Klein from Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation - photo source: [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org) / *INTERIA.PL*

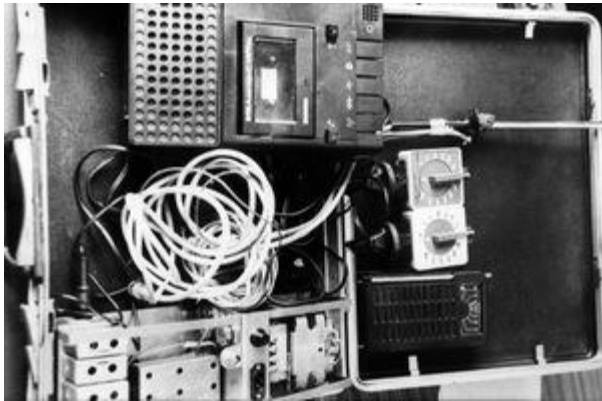
In the spring of 1982, at the time coordinating the reconstruction of the secret plant cells of NSZZ Solidarność, Tadeusz Świerczewski and the "three doctors" (Kornel Morawiecki, Zdzisław Ojzyński and Jan Pawłowski) decided to attempt to establish communication with underground Solidarity from the Tri-City and with Western friends via a telecommunications satellite. In the realities of the time, the idea seemed irrational, but at the time, the futuristic concept proved to be a very sensible direction.

### **Reviving a dead satellite**

Wrocław electronic engineers knew that on November 15, 1974, together with the satellite for meteorological forecasts HOS 6, Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio was also placed in space - in short OSCAR (the seventh in the series, so bearing the number 7).

One of its functions was the transmission of signals broadcast by amateur radio operators. Unfortunately, after six years of operation, the OSCAR 7 batteries were damaged and in mid 1981 the functions of this artificial satellite were turned off.

## The beginnings of solidarity counterintelligence



The structures of NSZZ Solidarność and other organizations, pushed into the underground as a result of the imposition of martial law, had to struggle with the communist apparatus of violence, which had a large number of well-trained and well-equipped special services. Almost every underground ... [read more](#)

According to some sources, the Solidarity Fighting organization in the summer of 1982 was to receive news that OSCAR 7 was still operational. This information was to be received by persons living in Poland, associated with the Government of the Republic of Poland in Exile still active in London. Such people were to belong, among others Dr. Zdzisław Ojrzynski.

According to other people associated with this project, the hams from Kornel Morawiecki's circle simply assumed that OSCAR 7 might still be able to transmit a signal, despite previous battery damage.

However, it is undeniable that the activists of Fighting Solidarity in the early summer of 1982 already had shortwave equipment capable of using such a satellite connection as OSCAR 7.

The first attempts to launch a communication channel based on an artificial satellite have already been successful. Theoretically, a "dead" satellite transmitted a signal. At a time when no one had ever dreamed of the Internet and telephones were a rare good and controlled by the communist regime, a new form of communication between Poles fighting for freedom in remote cities and with people supporting them from abroad, proved to be very useful.

## War in the ether

Satellite communications - after the underground launching of illegal radio stations and the permanent listening-in of all radio frequencies used by the SB in Wrocław and the surrounding area - was another great surprise that Fighting Solidarity gave the services of the Jaruzelski regime.

People suspected of having relations with the Fighting Solidarity organization detained by the SB were convinced of this. The interrogated were threatened with information that broadcasting messages via an American artificial satellite exhausts all the hallmarks of espionage, for which the people's authorities do not hesitate to punish with death sentences.

Despite their best efforts, SB has never found the trail of "space radio". Due to the fact that most people directly involved in satellite contact are already dead, it is difficult to assess the scale of use of this communication channel.

It is known that in August and September 1982, numerous information was sent from Wrocław regarding dramatic mass protests and street fights. These messages were received, among others in London by the first foreign representation of Fighting Solidarity, led by the closest friend Kornel Morawiecki - physicist dr. Tadeusz Warsaw.

In the autumn of 1982, information about another, great wave of repression of a new nature flowed west this way - calling for closed units of the army for an indefinite period (using martial law) thousands of men suspected of having links with the underground.

It is also known that via OSCAR-7, the Solidarity Fighting Structures from Upper and Lower Silesia and the Coast kept in touch with each other.

The issue of the use of artificial satellite by Fighting Solidarity several years ago was recalled by several memoir and scientific publications. The news also reached foreign amateur radio enthusiasts. Based on them, in 2002 the ham radio Pat Goven, codenamed G3IOR, decided to check whether OSCAR 7 could still transmit a radio signal. It turned out that yes - OSCAR 7 "still broadcast"!

**Andrzej Kołodziej**

Czytaj więcej na [https://nowahistoria.interia.pl/prl/news-jak-solidarnosc-walczaca-wykorzystala-satelite-do-zbudowania,nId,1734550#utm\\_source=paste&utm\\_medium=paste&utm\\_campaign=other](https://nowahistoria.interia.pl/prl/news-jak-solidarnosc-walczaca-wykorzystala-satelite-do-zbudowania,nId,1734550#utm_source=paste&utm_medium=paste&utm_campaign=other)