

GREENFIELD INDIANA ARISS CONTACT INFORMATION

Greenfield Central High School with the help of the Hancock Amateur Radio Club had an excellent ARISS QSO with Frank Culbertson on October 16, 2001 at 19:44:30 UTC. Unlike most schools, Greenfield used its own permanent satellite station to make the contact with Culbertson. Contact started just as soon as the ISS came over the horizon and continued for the entire pass with only one drop out that lasted about 20 seconds. This was a major media event for Greenfield and resulted in a front-page article in the Greenfield Daily Reporter. There was also media coverage by WISH channel 8 TV news, WFMS FM Indianapolis, WRGF Greenfield, and video coverage on the Greenfield Cable Channel. Gary Stouder - K9SG coordinated the local effort with Mr. Gary Wynn - KB9YNK, the chairman of Technology at Greenfield Central High School, and the Hancock Amateur Radio Club - W9ATG. Joey Johnson, a local teacher who had spent two weeks at the Russian Space Center several years ago, coordinated the student selection and questions.

The school has a very modern **Ham Radio Station** located in the school technology area. It consists of a Yaesu FT-847 transceiver, Nova for Windows computer satellite tracking program, a Yaesu elevation azimuth rotator system, and circularly polarized satellite antennas on a 35-foot tower. The system was assembled from school funds, donated equipment, and lots of donated time from Hancock Amateur Radio Club members. Several students are involved in a ham radio class at school and make satellite contacts on FO-20 and FO-29 on a regular basis.

These are the students and the questions that they asked Frank Culbertson.

1. *Kate Summers - 8th Grade*

What do you do in your free time for enjoyment while up in orbit?

2. *Kierra Leary - 6th Grade*

Is being an Astronaut what you expected it to be?

3. *Michael Duncan - 12th Grade*

How are your activities affected by weightlessness?

4. *Bryan Leonard - 12th Grade*

What do you miss most about being separated from the Earth?

5. *Ryan Rangel-Scott - 9th Grade*

Is it difficult to maintain your physical condition while on the space station?

6. *Jordan Sirosky - 9th Grade*

Do you have any special protection from meteors or orbiting trash?

7. *Calvin Welling - 9th Grade*

What is the most difficult part of working with Astronauts from other countries?

8. *Tyler Shrank - 6th Grade*

Have you fixed any broken parts on the Space Station or on a satellite?

9. *John Fields - 7th Grade*

What are some of the tools and instruments that you use on the ISS?

10. *Aaron Smith 6th Grade*

What are some of the interesting Earth Landmarks that you can see from the ISS?

11. Justin Davis 6th Grade

How many hours did you spend in Simulators before your trip to the ISS?

12. Zach Henney 6th Grade

Do you miss your family and how do you stay in touch with them?

13. Ashley Beeker 6th Grade What changes or additions are you making in the ISS during your stay?

14. Joe Bodkin 6th Grade

How long did you spend training for this mission?

15. Rachel Smith 5th grade

What other missions have you been on?

16. Katie White 5th grade

Hello.

17. Gabe Bottom 5th grade

Hello.

18. Jessie Wilkerson 5th grade

Hello.

Frank started off by telling us that his wife was a Hoosier and that two of his children were Purdue Boilermakers and that he had strong ties to Indiana. He told us that he could see the 500 racetrack from space and could see Indianapolis very well from space. He ended by encouraging the students to work hard in school and make good grades so that they could enjoy their dreams later in life.

We as a group would like to thank the ARISS program for allowing us to participate in this wonderful program. A special thanks goes to Charlie, AJ9N for mentoring us, and to NASA, AMSAT, and the ARRL for making it happen. This was a life-changing event for some of the young students that participated in the program. For me it was ham radio at its best.

Thanks Gary Stouder - K9SG