

"DRUMLINS RUMBLINS"- DECEMBER 2023

WE'RE meeting at the WAYNE COUNTY SECOND FLOOR EOC ROOM

Wayne County Public Services Building 7227 Rte 31 Lyons NY 14489

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH MEETING START 7:30PM

REMEMBER: The front door and the EMO entrance will be unlocked from 6:30-7:30pm.

So arrive in this time period for an easy entry.



*****YOU HAVE A LITTLE LEEWAY TO GET IN UNTIL 7:55PM!

2ND ANNUAL DARC HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 20th-Wednesday-7:30 EMO COMMS ROOM



BRING A FRIEND, XYL, YL, YM!



YES! WE'RE HAVING A PIZZA PARTY AGAIN TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS FOR OUR DECEMBER MEETING !!
We're having special drawings for prizes too, of which here are examples only:



kits



HT

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

So bring your taste buds and leave your wallet home as this FREE but Tris will still have her scones too!!!



(Yes!) RSVP: KC2TNJ H: 315-986-8589 leave a

message on the "machine" or email: tinker@rochester.rr.com (Give us an idea for pizzas, goodies & drinks for the party.)



WINTER TIME !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sorry to say, that “**Eskimo dandruff**” will be falling pretty soon on a regular basis as the temperature lowers and lowers and the day get shorter and shorter. As I am typing this November newsletter, the van had the first frost on the windshield and windows this morning. This is the latest I can remember having a frost so late!

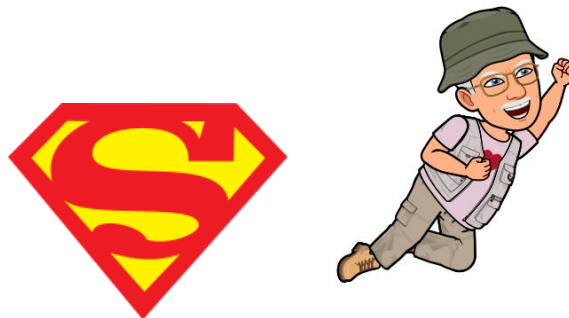
BAD WEATHER! WATCH THE CLUB EMAIL FOR MEETING CANCELLATIONS!!!!!!

I have at least all the Pumpkin Patrol DARC members’ cell numbers in my cell directory. If for some reason you can’t get to an email device you may text me on my **cell number** (315-871-8767), beforehand. I will get on the 685 (The leaves are gone.), and 745 **repeaters** for **announcements** at least on the half hours, too. There is nothing important enough for a DARC meeting for any members to go out in nasty WX.

During times of bad weather and driving conditions, keep an ear on the local repeaters in the area. Who knows there may be a ham needing help.

PRESIDENT’S KORNER

To start off, may all of you DARC members, your families and friends have a HAPPY HOLIDAY and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! It is hard to believe that Bill, KD2DNO, had his last “President’s Korner” in the Drumlins Rumblins. Even though I have requested some DARC member to slow down the time, I have heard nothing from anyone. Someone told me there was a **Superman** movie where Superman reversed the earth’s rotation to save a damsel in distress. But that is the movies! They make everything look easy.



I was very pleased Jeff, N2MKT, suggested in the November meeting to make our last December’s pizza party fun night an annual event. Thanks, Jeff. So for heaven’s sake pay attention to this December’s newsletter’s invitation to contact **Rich, KC2TNJ**, if you are coming and how many are coming. I sent out a couple of notices ahead of time. (Right, Rich? I was a good boy and listened to you. Hi hi. Rich is the left part of my blank left side brain! No joke.)

December has been a very busy month for the QTH here. I am ready for a slower paced January 2024. Watch the ARRL contest site as the contesting season will start once again in the New Year. I know Jeff, N2MKT, and Steve, KA1CNF, are getting excited for the 2m contest in January. Your DARC BOD is ready to service and help you for 2024. 73 & 88

Hi Dave,

Per UR request HR are the results of SRD 02 Dec 2023.

Log is below delete anything you don't need/want. Some **DUPES** are listed in the log..

Activity from 1427-2345 UTC 02 Dec 2023.

Number of NWS offices => 05

Number Radio Amateurs => 58

Number of states => 14

Number of countries => 01 Canada

Per states

ME => 02

PA => 13

WI => 01

NY => 19

VT => 02

NJ => 04

CT => 03 (**WX1AW** included)

VA => 04

MD => 03

OH => 02

MI => 03

DE => 01

WV => 01

GA => 01

CAN => 04

Email from Harold: No luck on 2 meter. But did make contacts using WinLink.

73's

Harold Cheetham

W2HJC

Lloyd and Harold, TNX for your info on your SKYWARN Recognition Day COMMS. I am envious of your having some fun.

Harold, I was impressed with your WinLink contact! As much I try to understand and set up WinLink (MARS wants to get into it, too.), I am totally confused. Yea, I am easily confused. Hi hi.

TNX, Lloyd, for taking my harassment positively. Hi hi. (Lloyd's screenshots continue below after KB2NCI.)

From **KB2Nci**, Tom, from the SIARC "**Smoke Signals**" December newsletter:

This past Saturday was Skywarn Recognition Day to acknowledge the participation in the program as Severe Weather Spotters. Many National Weather Service offices around the country were on the air from 7pm Friday to 7pm Saturday. **I was able to operate some of the time and made 16 contacts. Most notable was a very long distance contact with KB2FSB in Palmyra, NY (hi) and a NWS station in Virginia where the operator was from Ontario County. You never know who you will contact!**

TS	Call	Freq	M...	Snt	Rcv	Pfx	Name	Comment
2023-12-02 14:27	WX1GYX	7195.00	LSB	57	57	K	Stephanie	ME 44F P CLDY
2023-12-02 14:38	WX3E	7181.00	LSB	59	59	K	DAVE	PA 48F OVCST
2023-12-02 14:48	KF3DJ	7178.00	LSB	59	59	K	RON	PA 48F M/CLDY
2023-12-02 14:49	AG9G	7178.00	LSB	48	55	K	DWIGHT	WI 15 P/CLDY
2023-12-02 15:10	KB2DRI	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	ALAN	NY 46F FOG/M/CLDY/RAIN
2023-12-02 15:25	KB1NHQ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	MIKE	VT 40F/CLDY/FOG
2023-12-02 15:31	KD2BEN	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	RICHARD	NJ 42F/CLDY/FOG/LT RAIN
2023-12-02 15:33	K1TAY	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	ROGER	CT 47F/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:33	WX2BGM	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	MARK	NY 47F/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:36	KD2YHZ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	RAY	NY 47f/LT FOG/ LT DRIZZLE
2023-12-02 15:39	KD2BTD	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	CHARLES	NY 44F/OVCST/MISTY
2023-12-02 15:40	W3P	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	JOHN	NJ 50F/CLDY/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:45	VA3OZ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	VE	DENNY	ON CAN. 32/SNOW/
2023-12-02 15:46	NO3V	7189.00	LSB	58	59	K	FRED	PA 40/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:48	WB1DQT	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	BILL	CT 47F/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:51	K2MKS	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	MELODY	NY OVCST/FOG
2023-12-02 15:54	KB2ACH	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	KATHY	NY 45F/OVCST/LT/RN
2023-12-02 15:59	K2MKS/K...	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	DAVE T...	NY 45F/OVCST
2023-12-02 15:59	N3SSH	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	WALT	PA 54F/DREARY/OVCST
2023-12-02 16:02	N2VPS	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	GREG	NY 43F/OVCST/FOG
2023-12-02 16:06	WX9IWX	7189.00	LSB	48	35	K	SCOTT	IN 44F/CLDY/FOGGY
2023-12-02 16:22	N3UTG/M	7189.00	LSB	57	56	K	KEVIN	PA 50F/CLDY/FOGGY
2023-12-02 16:25	KB3ZQJ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	JOE	PA39F/CLDY
2023-12-02 16:26	K4PHM	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	RICK	VA 53F/M/CLDY
2023-12-02 16:28	W3JOE	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	JOE	PA 54F/CLDY
2023-12-02 16:31	N3AWP	7189.00	LSB	55	35	K	ANDY	MD 50F/FOGGY
2023-12-02 16:38	W3ETO	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	ED	PA SKYWARN #163101 45F/LT FOG
2023-12-02 16:44	WX1GYX	7189.00	LSB	58	58	K	JERRY	ME 41F/CLDY/FOGGY
2023-12-02 16:46	KB2NCI	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	TOM	NY 41F/CLDY/FOG
2023-12-02 16:51	N2JAS	7189.00	LSB	59	57	K	FRED	PA 56F/P/CLDY
2023-12-02 16:56	N8TRH	7189.00	LSB	46	55	K	DAVE	OH 58 F /P/SUNNY
2023-12-02 14:38	WX3E	7181.00	LSB	59	59	K	DAVE	PA 48F OVCST



(You can help contribute to the newsletter too.)

TS	▲ Call	Freq	M...	Snt	Rcv	Pfx	Name	Comment
2023-12-02 17:06	N8ZZF	7189.00	LSB	56	33	K	PAT	MI 27F/OVCST
2023-12-02 17:13	KE2BKV	7189.00	LSB	55	55	K	JIM	NY 44F/CLDY/LT DRZLE
2023-12-02 17:15	N2IK	7189.00	LSB	57	57	K	WALT	NY 51F/CLDY
2023-12-02 17:15	N9UMD	7189.00	LSB	57	58	K	CHRIS	DE 53F/MISTY/FOG
2023-12-02 17:17	VE3FYK	7189.00	LSB	59	59	VE	HAROLD	ON CAN 10C RAINY/FOG
2023-12-02 17:18	KD2HJW	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	PAUL	NY 45F/CLDY
2023-12-02 17:20	KA3YJU	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	CHARLIE	PA 44F/FOGGY
2023-12-02 17:25	N8LGJ	7189.00	LSB	58	59	K	BOB	MI 39F/FOGGY
2023-12-02 17:49	N20A	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	DAVE	NY 42F/FOG/LT RAIN
2023-12-02 17:53	KZ3H	7189.00	LSB	48	59	K	DON	MD 37F/ON-OFF RAIN
2023-12-02 17:58	KD2ZJK	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	LOREN	NJ 55F/CLDY
2023-12-02 18:02	N2YYC	7189.00	LSB	59	57	K	HOWARD	NY 57F/CLDY
2023-12-02 18:08	N2BLT	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	SCOTT	NY 42F/LT DRIZZLE
2023-12-02 18:12	KB3GTN	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	PETER	MD 50F/OVCST
2023-12-02 18:19	KC2MZW	7189.00	LSB	58	57	K	NEIL	NY 47F/DRZL
2023-12-02 18:24	N8HGL	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	BOB	WV 56F/CLDY
2023-12-02 18:29	N2FW	7189.20	LSB	58	56	K	JOE	VA 50F/P CLDY
2023-12-02 18:30	KC2S3N	7189.00	LSB	59	55	K	STEVE	NJ P/CLDY
2023-12-02 18:32	WX2BGM	7189.00	LSB	59	57	K	RICK/TOM	NY 50F/M CLDY
2023-12-02 18:35	KD2VRZ	7189.00	LSB	48	57	K	JEFF	NY 47F/DRIZZLE
2023-12-02 18:37	VE30DY	7189.00	LSB	48	59	VE	JIM	ON CAN CLR
2023-12-02 18:41	VE3WGY	7189.00	LSB	59	59	VE	BARRY	ON CAN 5C/CLDY
2023-12-02 18:42	K04JMT	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	JOHN	VA 60F/OVCST
2023-12-02 18:54	NB2FUE	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	DAVE	PA 52F/SUNNY
2023-12-02 18:55	K1XV	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	RAY	VT 37F/CLDY/MISTY
2023-12-02 18:58	WX1AH	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	SIERRA	CT 55F/OVCST
2023-12-02 19:00	NB2IMB	7189.00	LSB	59	55	K	TOM	NY 43F/CLDY
2023-12-02 19:02	KD2QAQ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	GARY	NY 41F/HVY OVCST
2023-12-02 20:13	WX8WIL	7189.20	LSB	48	59	K	PAUL	OH 55F/P SUN
2023-12-02 20:33	KF3DJ	7189.00	LSB	59	59	K	RON	PA 48F/M CLDY
2023-12-02 22:55	WX4RHK	7270.00	LSB	59	59	K	GLEN	VA 57F/RAIN
2023-12-02 23:16	WX3PIT	7214.00	LSB	59	53	K	BILL	PA 50F
2023-12-02 23:45	WX4PTC	7285.00	LSB	48	48	K	JACK	GA CLDY/64F



RACES-ARE DECEMBER 2023



WARECS NETS: ALL NETS WILL BE ON THE WA2AAZ REPEATER ON 146.745 UNTIL ?????

AS YOU CAN READ BELOW! THE **WARECS NET** WILL TAKE A HOLIDAY BREAK UNTIL **JANUARY 7th**. Enjoy the time off!

This is time of the year RACES can take the biggest break from the Sunday night 2m nets. This goes for the Ontario County as well. **Faithful RACES ops**, thank you from Rus, N2IZV, and myself for taking time out of your busy skeds to help with the Ginna drills, especially, and taking Sunday evenings to train on the nets. Yes, I sure would like to see more op checking into the WARECS net but I understand. Remember my XYL is always saying, "You got a radio nets this evening?" I would to see more ops take NCS or ANCS on nets. I can help you if you wish to volunteer. KB2FSB, Lloyd, I thank for especially helping me out at last minute changes to my sked. Hi hi. Lloyd would rather be on a CW QSO. Hi hi.

FLMSG: 4.0.20

File Form Template Config AutoSend Utilities Help

ARRL radiogram file: WARECS_0021_DEC_17_2023.m2s

Message Records

SVC ☐ *NR 21 *PREC ROUTINE HX hx *STN ORIG KB2KBY CK 20 ck

PLACE OF ORIG WAYNE EMO TIME FILED 1303 *MON DY DEC15

*TO WAYNE RACES TEL: OP NOTE:

☒ Standard Format ARL MSG

TXT:
 DRILL THERE ARE NO ONTARIO
 AND WAYNE RACES NETS DECEMBER
 24 AND 31 HAPPY HOLIDAYS
 AND NEW YEAR BE SAFE

SIG: TAYLOR BAO BASTEDO OP NOTE:

☐ Comp OLIVA-4/500 429 bytes / 1 m 52 s

ARQ Send NOT CONNECTED



FYI-The author of **Echolink**, Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, has released a **web based version**: For those who might prefer to run Echolink (single-user mode) directly from within a Web browser, rather than installing an app, this edition is now available, in its 0.x release:

<https://echolink.org/webproxy/elweb.html> Please see: [FAQ - EchoLink Web](#)

A few functions which are currently missing may be added in the near future.
 Note that this app is currently not formatted for mobile screens.

Thanks to the Beta group which reviewed this app in September.

KB2NCI and the SIARC "HEALTH and WELFARE NET"



943 NETS BY DECEMBER 29th

(I think I counted right. Hi hi.)

STILL GOING STRONG!!!. Kudos, Tom! Get acquainted with some of our SIARC friends and the surrounding counties. **Thank you, Tom, for being so patient and sacrificing your time.**

Tom's SIARC health and welfare net is open to all hams that can hit the **146.820 repeater (tone 110.9)**, either mobile or from your QTH. Just listen to Tom's or the NCS's instructions always given first as the net starts like we all know as hams and used to a SOP. So listen for the SOP at the beginning of the net. Only the third Wednesday of the month, the SIARC meeting night, is there no net. (I try to check in once or twice a week.)



Repeater Report Nov 2023 (EMAIL 22NOV2023)

146.685- has been working better after new cans, better isolation, no crackling noise. Andrew has reported a weird noise but couldn't quantify where that was coming from.. it could have come from a data pixel issue from the internet while talking with Fred from Australia. Thanks to George for the new cans, and the new antenna... Hoping the new antenna will help with coverage.. I have been able to bring the repeater up in Henrietta with 5 watts and my voice was audible over the summer... Had to reboot the link a couple times.- Working on a web switch at my QTH to remotely cycle the power to the link from my phone, should have this working shortly.. Repeater is putting out **90 watts out!**

146.745- A/C was fixed with new fan, but then saw shed temp was high a week later, found the tank filled with water, it was draining correctly. 745 battery system worked as Tom KB2NCI was trying to use the repeater for Phelps festival, tail will say battery if the repeater is on battery.. Worked good for Pumpkin Patrol etc... The temp reading has been a little erratic... don't be concerned if it reads 199 F, not quite sure why sometimes it reads ok and other times it doesn't. **75watts out**

224.900- someone from Spencerport has been connecting the repeater to the 220 net on Friday nights... He sent me an email over the summer and I have listened into the net a couple times... I could find the email or I'd give more info... You can tell I'm getting older.... But this machine has done very well, and covers a large of the county well. **55watts out**

444.750- has been getting little use, which is sad really.. I just went to the hill and discovered the laptop hard drive has failed, and the reason why wires-x is down... If a computer savy person wants a project, and replace a hard drive/ load some software would be appreciated!! **60-70 watts out**

443.250-Power Amp failed, finals replaced.... Circulator has been re-added, Rx tested good,

Dashboard was updated over the summer .

Working with Russ N2IZV to fix a network issue with allstar on 745 to ensure that we can link this repeater with 685 for the **eclipse**... etc. Thanks Russ !

Hopefully I didn't forget anything, we could do a work/ repeater party if anyone wants to and fix the computer -which was labeled RACES4.

Jeff-N2MKT

Full moon calendar 2023: When to see the next full moon



The next **full moon** will be on **Tuesday Dec. 26 at 10:33 p.m. (0333 GMT on Dec 27)**, but the moon will still appear full the night before and after its peak to the casual stargazer.

[December's full moon](#), is also known as the Cold Moon, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac.



Florida Hams Make Contact 100 Miles Apart via 10-Meter Repeater... in Switzerland.

When 10 meters is open, amazing things can happen. Lu Romero, W4LT, knows that well. He said, "When 10 is open, I often venture up into the top of the band to see if there is any FM activity. I've always liked to use 10 FM, especially when conditions are marginal to observe the Faraday phase distortion on signals. Before FT8, 10 FM was always a good way to discover where the band was propagating to in addition to the beacons. If you hear FM (especially repeaters) operating, then the propagation is really good!"

At around 1500z on October 23, 2023, the band was open. Romero stated that he went to the top of the band and "found multiple signals in both simplex and via repeaters."

"Usually, I receive a repeater in New York City, KQ2H, one of the strongest signals I can get down here in Florida when 10 is open, but today there was another strong signal [of] 10 kHz above it," he said.

Using a FLEX-6400 at 75 W and the C32XR beam at 108 feet that he maintains for the [Tampa Amateur Radio Club](#), he heard an ID through the splatter from the KQ2H repeater. "It was [HB9HD in Switzerland](#)! I set up for split and reduced power to 75 W on the Flex and gave the repeater a kerchunk." Romero was able to contact a Swiss ham, Rene, HB3XVR, on the repeater's 70-centimeter link.

Then, on October 31, again around 1500z, Romero tried the repeater once more. "I found the repeater full quieting, even stronger than it was on October 23, and with no QRM from KQ2H, so it was clean and easy to copy!"

For the heck of it, I called CQ several times on the repeater. I received no callers, but finally, I received a signal that was fading up and down. I called again and that signal stopped fading for a while, and I was able to work David, WA3LXD, over the HB9HD repeater. After a little while, his signal settled down, and David asked me what my QTH was, and I told him I was in Tampa. He laughed and said we worked each other 'the hard way,' because he was in Ocala, about 100 miles to my north," said Romero.

As Solar Cycle 25 continues to rise toward its peak, **amateurs can expect** to encounter **more exciting propagation**, especially on the 10- and 6-meter bands. In this case, the signals traveled roughly 9,800 miles round trip. Your mileage may vary.



Tower 1 of the Tampa Amateur Radio Club, with the Force 12 C31XR antenna, second from the top. [Lu Romero, W4LT, photo.]

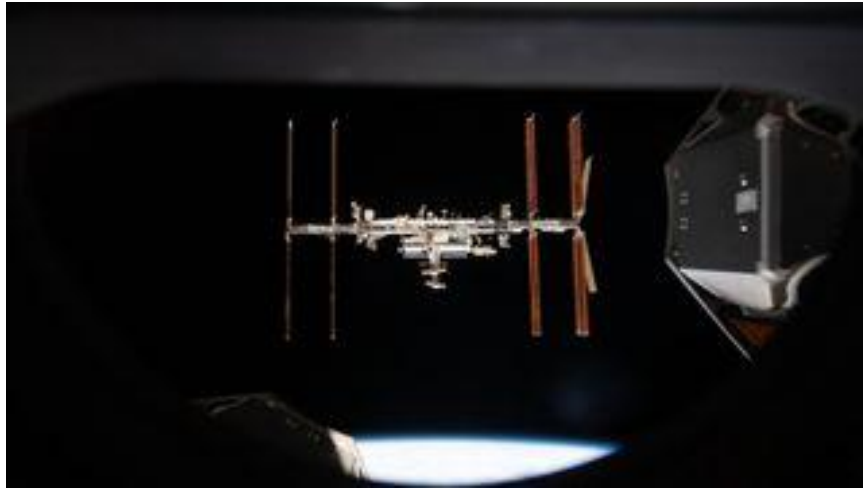


A Google Maps display of the nearly 5,000-mile distance each leg of the QSO traveled.

As the **ISS** turns 25, a look back at the space laboratory's legacy

By [Conor Feehly](#)

The ISS just celebrated its 25th anniversary — soon, the station will be hanging up its boots.



Hurtling through space at 17,500 miles per hour, the International Space Station (ISS) circles the entire globe roughly once every 90 minutes — which amounts to 16 sunrises and sunsets every 24 hours. At any point in time, the station is home to no less than seven international crew members, with the station's living and working areas amounting to the size of an average six-bedroom house.

The [ISS](#) has undoubtedly become an iconic piece of human history, and [on Nov. 20](#), NASA celebrated the station turning 25. This anniversary in particular feels a little bittersweet because the station itself is set to be [decommissioned](#) by 2030, as the structure will become too fatigued around then to be able to house astronauts safely. So, with an expiration date being placed on humanity's foothold in space, it's worth talking about what we've learned and why it matters.

In an obvious way, the ISS has been pivotal in the development of space hardware. For engineers, the station has provided the unprecedented challenge of creating a habitat in [low Earth orbit](#) that can safely host a semi-permanent population of people. Microgravity conditions, the threat of [space debris](#) collisions and harmful [cosmic radiation](#) also create a novel environment in which scientists had to solve logistical problems.

And because of those solutions, the ISS has provided an opportunity for humans to test new technologies that could one day be used during longer, farther crewed ventures to other areas in the solar system and perhaps even deep space. But while the ISS has clearly been a source of technological innovation, maybe more importantly, it has allowed us to understand how being in space affects people.

The human body evolved on the surface of the [Earth](#), so it's built to stay on Earth. Space presents a new set of challenges. For example, astronauts on the ISS have to spend two hours a day exercising to stave off muscular atrophy, as their bodies do not have to continually work against gravity on the surface of the planet thereby deteriorating their strength.

"From the ISS programme, NASA has learned really what happens to the human body in zero-G over long duration flights. When we go to Mars we'll be committing those people to a long duration mission, so it's imperative to know what that's going to do to their bodies," Brain Ferry, commercial crew programme mission manager at NASA, said in a statement.

Living on the ISS also presents a number of psychological challenges for astronauts. Isolation, a lack of privacy, and a high expectation working environment can all contribute to quite difficult working conditions. Studying the psychological effects of living and working in space on the ISS has helped researchers understand what people will need to thrive on longer voyages into deep space.

At the eventual conclusion of the ISS programme, the station will be ["deorbited" in a controlled manner](#), where the entire station's facilities will break up and vaporize as the units enter Earth's atmosphere. Any possible remnants of the station that reach the Earth's surface will land in a remote part of the ocean.

Over the course of its lifetime, thousands of engineers, computer scientists, researchers and astronauts from all corners of the world have all contributed to the functioning and flourishing of the ISS. This station, in a sense, therefore transcends scientific achievement. It serves as an important symbol of what can be achieved when countries put aside their differences and work towards a common goal. -----



IT IS A WONDERFUL LIFE: (Sorry, this is one of my favorite movies and actor too.)

In our fourth installment of Christmas In Context we're going to look at the background and fallout if what has become a classic Christmas film, "**It's A Wonderful Life**", and how it helped destroy a director but possibly saved an actor.

When actor Jimmy Stewart (right) left Hollywood in early 1941 to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps, he had no idea what it was going to end up doing to him. When the U.S. entered the Second World War, Stewart ended up in the European Theater as a bomber pilot, and would fly 20 combat missions, steadily rising through the ranks. But these missions took a toll on him, and, suffering from nightmares and anxiety, the highly decorated Stewart was pulled from flying status and given a command job.

When he returned to the United States following the war, Stewart just wanted peace and quiet. His memories of the war plagued him, and he considered leaving show business and returning home to Pennsylvania to help run the family store. That was until director Frank Capra (left) approached him with a script. Capra had served in the U.S. Army during both World Wars, spending the second war making films for the government. Wanting to break free of Hollywood's big studios, Capra and a few other directors formed a new studio, Liberty Films.

It was the hopefulness of the story that appealed to the shell-shocked Stewart, and the cleanness and charm of the story that appealed to Capra. Stewart hadn't acted in a film in years, but it was "It's A Wonderful Life" that brought him back to Hollywood, and even helped him make some small peace for himself with his wartime experiences. It was a role he needed to play: a man with demons inside him who finally sees a light at the end of the tunnel. But the film more or less flopped. When "It's A Wonderful Life" was released in December of 1946, the critics were divided, calling it everything from overly sentimental to excellent.

Audiences were lukewarm. Having just come through a catastrophic world war most Americans rebelled against the cheesy sentimentality that had marked many Hollywood productions before and during the war. Many found George Bailey unreliable (although most agreed on the power of Stewart's performance), and saw the happy ending as improbable and overly convenient. The film lost more than half a million dollars and helped bankrupt Liberty Films. Not only that, but it was attacked as having "Communist leanings" by a U.S. government commission, and that, combined with Capra alienating so many people during its making, helped push the film into obscurity. And there it may have remained, if it weren't for the fact that it's copyright was allowed to lapse (more or less, but that's an incredibly

confusing story) in 1974. Suddenly television stations had a public domain Christmas movie that they could play ad nauseam, which helped push the film firmly back into the national consciousness.

At the time it was released, Stewart's dramatic portrayal of George Bailey drove him back into the limelight as one of Hollywood's best leading men, and he continued to act in more and more roles. Importantly, he also found the strength to stay on with the military, eventually rising to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. But Capra's life became rocky after the release of the film. After running afoul of the House Un-American Activities Committee, he was denied reenlistment during the Korean War (mostly because he was too old) and was denied clearance for a government job. Capra retired from directing in 1964, but he did receive many recognitions for his work, and he lived to see "It's A Wonderful Life" embraced as a Christmas classic.

When people watch the film today, most are unaware of the incredibly turbulent context that plagued so much of its existence, seeing not its commercial failure or the controversy it generated, but rather only the message that its shell-shocked leading man and its independent-minded director intended.



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR: Hopefully there will more articles next month. Remember, anyone can email me article and/or pictures of interest for all to read.

