

Historical Achievement for Amateur Radio and the Mir Space Station!

By Don Miller, W9NTP

The rewards of success are now a reality for a group of Experimental Amateur Radio Operators and are currently being shared around the world!

Almost 2 years ago an idea was discussed among Don Miller, W9NTP, Farrell Winder, W8ZCF, Hank Cantrell, W4HTB, Dave Larsen, N6CO and Miles Mann, WF1F, about the possibility of putting a small, lightweight Amateur Radio SSTV System aboard the Mir Space Station. On Saturday, Dec 12, 1998 exciting rewards were received after obtaining, assembling and getting the equipment aboard Mir. Beginning around 17:25 UTC a series of perfect pictures were recorded, 3 of which are shown here:

The 1st picture shows Cosmonaut Gennady Padalka (Flight Engineer aboard Mir) with the SSTV equipment in the background. This equipment was sponsored by Tasco Electronics, Kenwood Corp, PictureTel Corp, Apple Computer, and assembled by W9NTP, W8ZCF and W4HTB .

The 2nd picture shows both Flight Engineer Gennady Padalka and Commander Sergej Andeyev aboard Mir in front of the camera.

The last shot is a typical picture being received from the Piroda Module showing a part of Mir and the Earth in the background. A very detailed history and narrative of the evolution and progress of this story can be found at the MAREX(NA) web at: http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/7355/sstv_proj.htm

Initial tests were set up



on 145.985 MHz FM, being shared with the Mir PMS frequency. At the conclusion of tests, the frequency set aside for SSTV from Mir is 437.975 MHz(+/- Doppler). SSTV Mode is

Robot 36, pictures every 2 minutes, with the possibility of 720 pictures/day.

Earth Stations should now be able to become closely acquainted with the Mir Space Station and share in the excitement of receiving pictures from Outer Space. Schools who schedule contacts with Mir will especially benefit in educational aspects by being able to see who is actually speaking to them.



Left: picture 1, above: picture 2.

