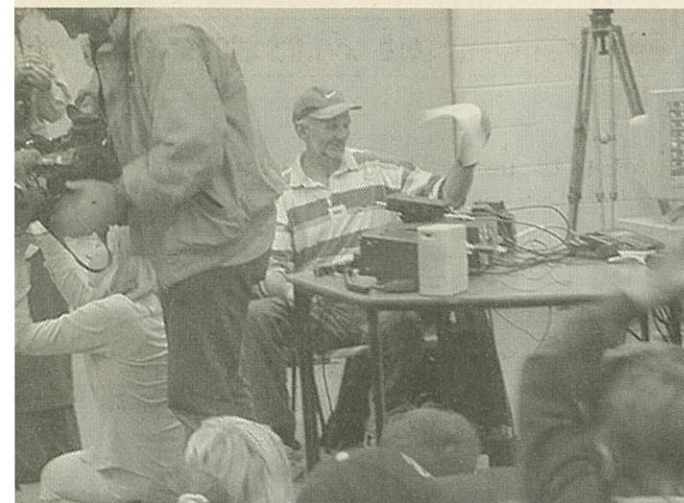




Success!

far away that we could use and many visitors found the website of interest. We needed confirmation (for our own peace of mind) of the pass details as we had to adjust the elevation on the main 4 x 4 crossed Yagi antenna manually. A simulated practice "live" run through with me listening to the kids ask their questions from my car was done to confirm they all spoke loud and clear enough.

With at least 130 people in attendance including members of the media nestled around the radio gear, we were ready for the contact scheduled to commence at 13:27UTC (7:27 local). About 5 minutes prior to the scheduled contact, Tony VK5ZAI addressed the crowd of eager onlookers and listeners via the speaker phone and explain the ARISS educational program and express our

computer could not believe how long the last 2 minutes seemed to be.

At exactly 7:26:32 The call went out, "NA1SS, NA1SS this is VK7KHZ Zeehan Primary School, Zeehan Tasmania do you receive OVER..."

Nothing heard, with total silence through the radio loudspeaker. Tony VK5ZAI responds around 10 seconds later through the speaker phone "Call him again I think he heard you"

"NA1SS NA1SS this is VK7KHZ..." etc.

"VK7KHZ this is NA1SS I hear you loud and clear OVER"

"NA1SS this is VK7KHZ we also hear you loud and clear, may we start our questions OVER"

"VK7KHZ you can start the questions OVER"

Following is the list of questions from the Zeehan Primary School;

1. This is Natasha Board – *How long do you stay on the ISS before returning home* OVER

2. This is Dylan Bramich – *How often do you get to talk to your family* OVER

3. This is Jamie Keogh – *What is the hardest thing about working in zero gravity* OVER

4. This is Daniel Mackrell – *What is it like to walk in space* OVER

sincere appreciation to ARISS, AMSAT, NASA and WORLDCOM for their support.

With less than two minutes to go before our scheduled contact, total silence fell on the room. Two very anxious amateurs, Bill sitting with microphone in hand and myself poised with fingers on the

5. This is Emma McKenzie – *What do you do in your spare time, are you able to watch TV or listen to radio* OVER

6. This is Tristan Nankervis – *What type of food do you eat in space and how is it prepared* OVER

7. This is Michael Turner – *What happens to your rubbish, is it bought back to Earth for disposal* OVER

8. This is Tahana Beamsley – *What, for you is the most anxious part of space travel, Lift-off or re-entering the earth's atmosphere* OVER

9. This is Natalie Maine – *How do you prepare your body for your return to Earth* OVER

10. This is Thomas Brooke – *What happens if something goes wrong and you have to evacuate the ISS* OVER

11. This is Melissa Campbell – *What types of Space experiments are you involved in on the ISS* OVER

12. This is Naomi Duggan – *How do you sleep in zero gravity* OVER

13. This is Ashleigh Docherty – *Why do you have to wear the Space suit only when you are outside the Space Station and at lift-off & re-entry* OVER

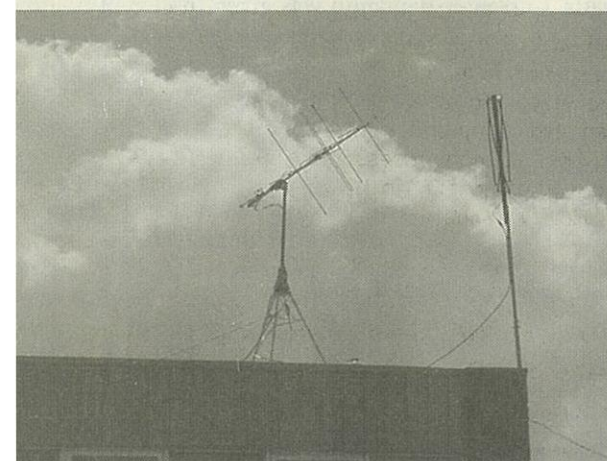
Station Close

"NA1SS this is Thomas Lynd... On behalf of the students of Zeehan Primary School and Grade 5/6 teacher Miss Weidenhofer I wish to say thank you for this exciting opportunity to speak with you, we wish you well and we will be watching with interest your return to Earth. This is VK7KHZ - OUT"

We were fortunate there was time to ask all 13 questions, receive answers and for Thomas to close the station. Total unedited wave file showed that the contact had been 10 minutes and 26 seconds. The grade 5/6 Zeehan Primary School students and everyone else in the hall had been given the opportunity few people in the world have, of being involved in a live contact with Carl Walz on board the ISS. The contact was hailed as an outstanding success as the room was filled with applause from the excited crowd!

For those interested pictures and a copy of the audio file can be found at: <http://www.vk7ax.tassie.net.au/spectrum/ZeeISS.htm>.

ar



Zeehan ISS Antenna

Shortening Screws

A screw of the length required is often unavailable which leads to the use of a longer screw which needs to be shortened. This is an increasingly common problem as most hardware is packaged in what are regarded as a few common sizes. Shortening a screw can produce a result which is less than ideal when you need to use the shortened screw. In the In Practice column of Ian White G3SEK in Rad Com December 2001 a method of shortening a screw using only basic tools was given.

The method requires the use of two steel nuts. The nuts are run onto the screw with the outer nut being adjusted to the required length. The inner nut is used to lock the outer nut in position. The screw with the two nuts is now held in a vice with fibre jaws. Don't use the steel jaws as they will damage the screw head as they grip. This is shown in Fig 3a.

The unwanted length can then be removed using a small hacksaw. The face of the outer nut provides a cutting guide. Then file the end of the screw and the nut flat with a small file. The outer nut can now be removed. The nut will be a little stiff but will be removed without too much trouble. It will have raised a lip on the end of the thread in the process. See Fig 3b. Use a needle file to remove the lip which is sharp and a hazard. Clean up the start of the thread with the needle file. Now remove the second nut and if stiff screw it back on and clean up the thread some more until the nut can be removed with ease.

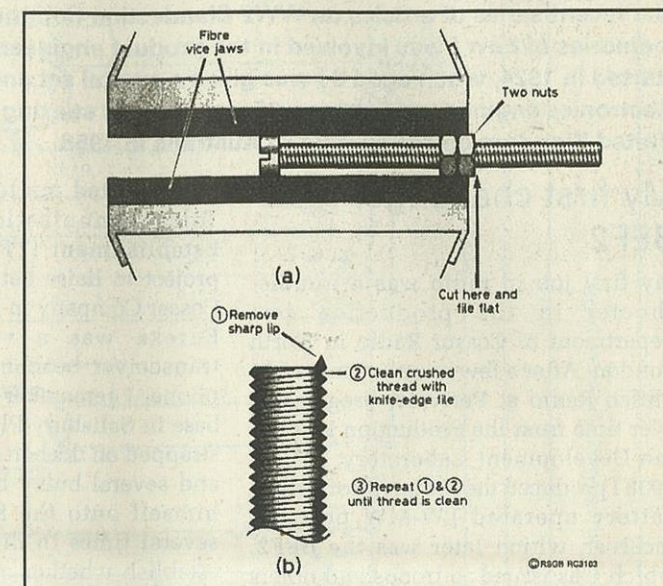


Fig 3. (a) Gripping Screw for Shortening. (b) Restoring Cut Thread with Needle File.

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This little tuner is fully automatic and covers all HF bands. It's an ideal companion for the Yaesu FT817. It's super compact, (127 x 216 x 32 mm) and weighs less than 0.5 Kg.

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* Note these kits are supplied at board level only. Other kits are complete with enclosure

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All kits include easy to follow step by step assembly instructions. You supply the soldering iron and basic tools.

All kit products can be supplied fully assembled and tested.

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