

Let the Games Begin!

Amateur Radio will play many important roles at the biggest sporting event in the world this year.

**By Brian Battles, WS1O
QST Features Editor**



Special Olympics Logo

The biggest sporting event in the world this year is the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Connecticut, and surrounding venues July 1 through 9. More than 700,000 spectators are expected, and there will be 7000 Special Athletes from 140 countries, plus their coaches, families, friends, celebrities, VIPs, heads of state, other "honored guests," and possibly President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, plus 1500 media representatives. Organizers expect worldwide press and broadcast news coverage, and exciting special events, such as a Tall Ships celebration, enormous fireworks display and more.

Ham radio operators have been asked to participate in many phases of this extravaganza. This event isn't officially "sponsored" by the ARRL, but by interested hams with support from ARRL Field Organization officials, members and volunteers from HQ. I'm serving in the volunteer position of Amateur Radio Liaison, to work with the Special Olympics Deputy Commissioner of Telecommunications (Dr Chuck Bruder, N3AGA) to arrange and coordinate ham participation. Here are the "Projects" planned for Amateur Radio:

- Message centers to originate and send free radiogram greeting messages from Special Athletes and the general public, who want to say hello from the Games to family and friends back home.
- Special-event station W1SO (call sign courtesy of Bill Carpenter of Bristol, Connecticut) operated by local clubs and individual amateurs to make HF and VHF contacts with amateurs all over the world, with commemorative QSL cards or certificates available.
- Communication assistance with bicycle races and other road events.
- Voice and possible ATV communication for sailing events.

- ARRL Connecticut Section ARES and Search-and-Report team members standing by in case emergency communication is needed.
- Back-up communication support to key locations during the Games, and help in any unexpected situations.

Most ham radio operators wait their whole lives to take part in an event of this size and importance, and for many amateurs this is their big chance. The Special Olympics requires all 45,000 expected volunteers to be registered in advance so they can be issued necessary credentials and access passes. Also, all volunteers must attend a Special Olympics orientation session. Although by the time you read this, there may not be much time to get officially signed in as a volunteer, if you want to assist with any on-site activity, you're welcome to get in touch to see how you can help.

Helping me as Personnel Manager for Amateur Radio volunteers is Lance Seelbach, N1TAN. Get in touch with Lance at 58 S Quaker Ln, West Hartford, CT 06119; 203-231-7244; e-mail n1tan@hartford.com. He can direct you to the Project Manager for the area you want to help with, and he's keeping a database of ham volunteers.

If you aren't able to attend the Games in person, you can still participate. There will be plenty of NTS radiogram traffic passed to almost every place in North America and elsewhere, and all hams are invited to contact W1SO on HF and VHF. (After the dust settles, I'll have a story and photos to let you know how it all turned out.)

So spread the word and relay this information to anywhere there may be interest (word of mouth, telephone BBSs, packet radio, club newsletters, etc). "Share the spirit" of the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games!

For further information contact Brian Battles, WS1O, Amateur Radio Liaison, 1995 Special Olympics World Games, c/o QST Magazine, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; 203-666-1541, fax 203-665-7531; e-mail: bbattles@arrl.org; packet WS1O@W1EDH.CT.U.S.A.NOAM (AX.25), ws1o@ws1o-2.ampr.org (TCP/IP)

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ON THE INTERNET

WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE

One of the hottest electronic communication developments is the Internet's World Wide Web (WWW), a means of browsing through on-line documents, artwork and data files via a reasonably "friendly" graphical user interface. Thanks to Paul Curtis, N1LNA, of Greenwich, Connecticut, anyone with Internet access to a Web browser (such as *Mosaic*, *NetScape*, etc) can keep up with information, announcements and news updates regarding Amateur Radio support for the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games. There's even an on-line form you can fill out to be included in e-mail news updates or to get information on how you can assist as a volunteer at the site of the Games. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is "www.terrapin.com/hamradio". If you have any questions, please contact Paul Curtis, N1LNA, pc Curtis@novell.terrapin.com.

GROUP MAILING LIST

Access to e-mail is spreading fast, and sometimes it seems like almost all hams have e-mail accounts, at home or through the places where they work. The Ham Radio-Special Olympics Mailing List carries announcements, discussion and questions related to Amateur Radio operators' participation in the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Although it's mainly useful for hams who expect to assist on-site at the Games, anyone with a serious interest, suggestion or question may post messages to this list. Anything you send to the list is "reflected" (ie, widely distributed by being remailed as e-mail) to all current subscribers. Please keep that in mind, and post only items that may be of interest or importance to several or all subscribers; don't send one-to-one messages here—use direct e-mail for that.

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Special thanks to Mike Ardai, N1IST, for setting this up; the list is sponsored by the Boston ARC. If you have questions, Mike can be reached at n1ist@netcom.com. For information on the Boston ARC, subscribe to *barc-list*.