

Communications to the past

WA4CHQ this is WA4BUE calling. Do you copy?

With about 50 visitors watching at the Godspeed Communications Center in the New World Pavilion at Jamestown Festival Park, Quality Assurance Specialist Richard Siff communicated with the Godspeed.

The Godspeed is a replica of the historical 67 ft. sailing vessel that sailed from London, England to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, bringing the first permanent English settlers to the New World. There are 12 crewmembers and an amateur radio operator on the 1985 voyage.

Siff, an amateur radio operator (call letters WA4BUE), is part of the volunteer communications team established by the Williamsburg Amateur Radio Club to maintain daily contact with the Godspeed from Jamestown.

On June 28, Richard received 7 messages from the Godspeed and sent 8 messages from the Jamestown Foundation. Messages related to ship and crew conditions, location of the ship and weather conditions. The wife of one of the crewmembers spoke directly with her husband from the Communications Center.

Today the Godspeed is ported in Puerto Rico, waiting for the end of the Hurricane Season before sailing the last leg of her journey.

"To be in contact with the Godspeed is like being a part of the past," said Siff. "Just being a part of such a historical journey gave me the feeling that 'I was really there.'"



Richard Siff

To belt or not to belt-7 Questions

Why should I wear a safety belt? I don't drive fast. I'm a safe driver.

You may be a good driver, but are you and your passengers safe? Just try a few of these questions.

1. Most fatal car crashes occur: (A) on the expressway, (b) on vacation or business trips away from home, (C) on short trips within 25 miles of home.
2. Each year, one out of every: (A) 20 drivers is involved in an accident, (B) five drivers is involved in an accident.
3. One out of every _____ people born in the U.S. today will die in a motor vehicle accident. (A) 200, (B) 100, (C) 60.
4. The impact of a 30 mph crash is like: (A) jumping off a three story building, (B) jumping off a 12 foot ladder, (C) running headfirst at full speed into a brick wall.

So how could safety belts help.

5. Safety belts reduce the chance of serious or fatal injury by: (A) 60% (B) 30%
6. Without a safety belt, the force of some impacts can throw you as far as: (A) six car lengths, (B) 15 car lengths.
7. If a driver remains inside the car in a major crash instead of being thrown free, his/her chances of survival are: (A) 25 times greater, (B) 10 times greater, (C) 10 times less.

The Answers:

1. C. It may surprise you, but three out of four crashes resulting in death occur within 25 miles of home. So it's important to buckle up for even a short trip.
2. B. You probably think your chances of being in an accident are pretty slim. But statistics prove that you have one chance in five of being in an accident this year. And you can plan on being in one every 10 years.
3. C. Yes, one out of every 60 will die. And one out of every 20 will be disabled as a result of a car accident. Those odds are hard to beat, but fastening your safety belt can help.
4. A. The impact of a 30 mph crash is like jumping off a three story building. Now you can see why half of all fatalities and serious injuries occur at speeds lower than 40 mph. So it's even more important to wear your safety belt at all times.
5. A. You can increase your chances of surviving an accident by 60% if you wear your safety belt. And with the high incidence of accidents today, you need all the protection you can get.
6. B. This may be hard to believe, but without a safety belt you can be hurtled through the air up to 15 car lengths, or 150 feet, by the force of some impacts. That's half the length of a football field!
7. A. There is no benefit in being thrown free. Your chances of survival are 25 times greater if you are held in the car by a safety belt. One quarter of all deaths in car crashes occur because occupants are thrown from cars.

AVIATION DAY

August 19

