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Our Cover

On December 12, 1961, an Amateur Radio satellite dubbed OSCAR 1 launched into space aboard a Thor Agena rocket, leading to the creation of the Amateur Satellite Service. The satellite was built, quite literally, in the basements and garages of the Project OSCAR team. The total out-of-pocket cost (not including material donations) of OSCAR 1: Only \$68, including the \$1.15 spring from Sears that was used to eject the satellite from the rocket. Today, more than 100 amateur satellites — from those the size of a spacesuit to 10 cm cubes — have followed in OSCAR's orbit. The article beginning on page 80 celebrates 50 years of Amateur Radio satellites and those who have contributed to the Amateur Satellite Service.

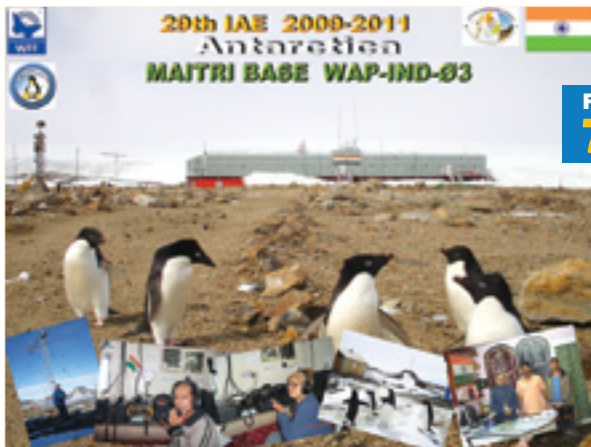
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