

## Shuttle astronaut talks to Mir station by ham radio

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A Discovery astronaut chatted via ham radio with a cosmonaut on Russia's Mir space station yesterday, marking the first ship-to-ship conversation in the shuttle program.

Astronaut Michael Foale said he was able to exchange only a few words of greeting with cosmonaut Alexander Poleshchuk before losing contact.

"That's better than everybody else has done. Congratulations," Mission Control's Carl Meade said.

The only other time Americans and Russians have talked ship-to-ship was during the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission. Regular on-board radios — and not ham radios —

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