



JULY MEETING (THURSDAY, 7/11/2019 7 PM)

**Nike Base Clubhouse,
2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.**

Due to Independence Day falling on the first Thursday of the month, the July meeting will be held on July 11th, at the Nike Base. Bring your favorite lawn chair.

The club picnic will be August 10th. Check the August Telstar for more details.

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WE GOOFED

It was brought to our attention that the **June 2019** edition of *Telstar* had an error. The first picture on page 4 incorrectly identified the people in the bucket of the ladder truck. The correct bucket occupants were **Joe Claus, KB2JDB** and a Hamburg firefighter. The reporter responsible for getting this article wrong has been reprimanded, and suspended for an 11 month period. If ewe sea sum thing wee did knot get rite, lettuce no at

wb2elw@verizon.net



A couple more photos of Joe KB2JDB (with firemen) at a recent tower work party. Top photo is at the top of the 80' tower. In the bottom photo Joe is mounting the UHF repeater antenna with a new bracket, at 100' up.

FIELD DAY SUMMARY

By Don Niles, K2PMC (FD co-chairman)

In 2016 our score was 6972, which is the highest since 2006 when I joined STARS. Our 2019 claimed score is 104 points below that. In 2016 we operated Class 3E and placed 2nd in the country in that class. This year we operated Class 4E. It will be interesting to see where that score puts us in the new class.

Other than an electrical mains problem that was corrected prior to the start of FD, I am not aware of any other problems during the event. The software ran without a hitch. The new filters really made things easier. Being able to use the PRO67B concurrently on multiple bands was outstanding. At times I could hear some interference from another of our radios. But, it was always at a low level and didn't hamper my operating.

Results:

CW Contacts: 1092

SSB Contacts: 611

FT8 Contacts: 132

Total Contacts: 1835

Points from contacts: 6118

Bonus points: 750

Total claimed score: 6868



Don, K2PMC operating one of the CW stations at Field Day (photo: KA2MGE)

FT8 OPERATION AT FIELD DAY

By John Leitten, KA2RFT

Field day 2019 is now in the books and it was a lot of fun. I had my first time use of FT8 mode. I have looked at other digital modes of communication and in my mind they had their short falls. Not that they would not work, they just had one thing or the other that was a deal breaker for me. I should say at this time everything I say here is personal and should not be used as setting a gold standard. I have no real problem with other modes. They just do not float my boat. I am not an expert on digital modes. Jon AA2CC did an excellent job of setting up the FT8 station for FD, which required an additional program installed on the computer.

For field day, FT8 is just what you want. It is not for chit chat. As Jack Web would say " just the facts ". The exchange for FD is Call, class, location. We were "WB2ELW 4E WNY". WB2ELW is the ham radio call for the South Towns Amateur Radio Society (STARS). 4E means we had 4 stations on the air for the 24 hour period, running on emergency power. WNY means we are operating from Western New York.

You pre load macros into the software before the event starts. Starting with CQ FD WB2ELW. Your last Macro would be 73. There is a ton of info on how use FT8 on the internet. The coolest thing about FT8 is it can copy stations way down in the mud. So far down you can't hear them. This makes it a great mode for poor band conditions like we have now. Also, you use low power like 20 watts. Seeing as FT8 in some hams minds is a "not proven mode", the FT8 station was given the least active bands to operate on during FD. That is giving CW and SSB the "hot" bands. So what, when you get lemons you make lemon aid. Let FT8 do all the work. That is what it does. FT8 is 90% automatic. All you need to do is start it by clicking on a station calling CQ or you call CQ. FT8 takes over at the end and 73 has been sent by both, then a logging window pops up for you to click on to log the contact. Then you can start again. Call CQ or click on a station calling CQ.

FT8 is not the fastest mode. It takes about 45 to 60 seconds to make a call once you have a hook up. The hook up does take time just as calling CQ on SSB or CW. The station ending FT Again ! FT8 does the same thing and it makes sure what was copied was the same thing as sent.

Hard to believe we worked 10 meters. We were getting station after station. What a ball. I have to get my home station set up so I can run FT8. Talk about arm chair operation. Also make sure my clicking finger is in good shape.

NEW TELSTAR EDITOR

By Gerry Maira, KA2MGE

This is my first issue of the Telstar as your new editor. I'm sure it's going to be an interesting job and probably not an easy one. I will try to maintain the high standards of my predecessors and keep the Telstar interesting and a good source for information.

A little about myself.. I was first licensed in 1981 and I joined STARS in 2000. I operate mostly on HF, using CW, SSB & digital modes. I like chasing DX as well as rag-chewing. My other main hobbies are photography and collecting old landline/radio telegraph keys.

The last issue included a very good article on the importance of member contributions to the Telstar. I hope I'll be hearing from a lot of you with material or even regular columns to contribute. It will help a lot by adding material and variety for our readers.

73, Gerry KA2MGE

MORE FIELD DAY PHOTOS

Taken by Gerry, KA2MGE



Paul WA2DII (L) and Jon AA2CC (R) at the FT8 station.



L to R at the FT8 station: Paul WA2DII, Jon AA2CC and John KA2RFT



Wil AC2VA (L) and John K2CF (R) at the SSB station



Scott KB2KOL (L) and Al WA2TTT (R) at the SSB station



Scott KB2KOL at one of the CW stations. Just above Scott's left shoulder you can see the combiner that allowed radios on 15, 20 and 40 meters to operate simultaneously with the HF beam antenna. It also has a port for 10 meters.