
telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 227 OCTOBER 2000

STARS 2001 CLUB ELECTIONS

Nominations for STARS 2001 club officers will be held at the October club meeting on October 5. Elections for these offices will then be held at the November club meeting on November 2.

STARS Members may vote in the annual election of officers via absentee ballot. If you can't make the meeting you still are allowed to vote. Please follow the easy steps listed below.

Procedures for Members Voting by Absentee Ballot:

1. Request an absentee ballot by phone, e-mail, packet, or mail in sufficient time to receive the ballot by mail and return it by mail so that it is received no later than the November Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2000. (N2TEZ suggests Oct. 23 as deadline for making requests.)

2. Request absentee ballots from the Membership Chairman:

Judy Levan, N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043
Phone: 684-6673
E-mail: fcstr59@msn.com

3. Note that: Absentee ballots cannot be used to vote for members nominated at the November Membership Meeting, but will have space for write-ins. To prevent tampering, absentee ballots may only be returned by mail, and may not be hand-carried to the meeting by someone else. Members who mail-in an absentee ballot may attend the meeting and vote in-person, but only after their unopened absentee ballot is

October Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be discussing a variety of topics relating to club operations.

We will also be taking nominations for 2001 club officers. The elections for next year's club officers and directors will then be held at the November club meeting.



The guest speaker for the evening will be the Local FCC Field Office Director Dave Viglione.

Please note: Mr. Viglione will make his presentation BEFORE we conduct the business meeting, so please arrive on time!

turned in half and returned to the voter in-person.

Voter confidence in the STARS election procedures is very important. So that you know your ballot will be handled properly, the Election Committee will follow these guidelines.

Procedures for Membership Chairman and Election Committee:

If requested The Membership Chairman will mail absentee ballots to members in good standing, at their address of record. The Election Committee will prepare absentee ballots immediately after the October Membership Meeting.

Absentee ballots will consist of a mailing envelope, and an unlabeled inner envelope containing a voting slip. The vot-

(Continued on page 5)

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual Dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$10.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month) plus the \$5 initiation fee for a total of \$15.50.

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors at the business meeting. The applications are then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members should send their ARRL renewal memberships to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!



Club Nets

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

STARS VHF net will be off the air during this summer. The second week in September it will return on a new day—Wednesday at 7:30 PM on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 output/input—PL of 107.2 Hz) It will then be on weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Look for it then!

From Your President

I am going to start out this months column with a safety message. As the winter winds start to make their call on Western New York, we will be closing up our homes and bracing for the next few months of cold weather. If you have not had our heating system inspected you may want to have a service company come in and do a complete check. For added safety, if you do not have any, purchase a Carbon Monoxide detector or two. Install one in the bedroom area and one near the furnace. Also do not forget to set your clocks back at the end of the month and replace those smoke detector batteries.

This months program I have scheduled the Local FCC Field Office Director Dave Viglione. Mr. Viglione will be going on before the meeting, "at his request" so come early and have your questions ready. I have asked him to discuss the new way the FCC is handling the Amateur radio licensing, enforcement, both local and across the country what is coming up for the Ham Radio Community in general.

The auto patch has been giving some of you a message, etc "you must first dial a carrier access code". This is a phone company problem, NOT our equipment. We have been working with them, the last few months trying to straighten out the problem. If you have ever had a phone problem you know just how slow they are to admit that it is their fault. If any of you are still having problems please contact me, and let me know what number you tried to dial and whether you used an auto dial slot or direct dial.

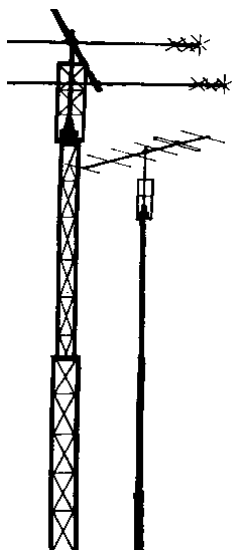
Pumpkin Patrol 2000. This year this annual event has been moved from a STARS Event to an Ares/Races Event. All STARS members that are going to help out this year, I would like to pass along a Safety reminder. Make sure that when you pick a place to park that you can be seen by traffic from both directions. With the new moon on October 27th it may be a very dark night that night so keep your lights on. You may also want to use reflective triangles in front and behind your vehicle. Maybe the event director can find a source for them or find a sponsor to supply them for your safety. Make sure that you can be seen.

October is also the month that we nominate members for the offices in the Club. We will take nominations for, one Board of Director 2 year term, Membership Chairperson / Financial Secretary, Secretary, Treasury, Vice President and President. If you think that you want to get involved in the Club, you can have someone nominate you or you can throw out own hat into the ring.

Sincerely,
Gary KB2YJ
President

VHF Academy 2000 -- Rochester, NY

The Rochester VHF Group is sponsoring a one-day immersion into the world of VHF and above operation. Saturday, November 11, 2000 is the date for VHF Academy 2000. Spend the day at The Academy learning about VHF Propagation, Satellite Operation and VHF Contesting Strategies. Two more sessions on that day will deal with a technical treatment of equipment performance measurement and a hands-on lab in which Cadets will be able to actually build their own high-performance Rover antenna!



The day will begin at 8:30 am with a continental breakfast and end at 3:00 pm. By signing up early, The Rochester VHF Group will provide a full tuition (no cost to attend!).

Additionally, a lunch will be provided (also at no cost). By signing-in at all five sessions throughout the day, you will also qualify for a one-year free membership in the Rochester VHF Group, with members-only access to their website (where you will be able to download the latest issues of The VHF Journal, the club newsletter).

Free VHF Academy attendance is open to any person, licensed or unlicensed, that is presently not a member of the Rochester VHF Group and who signs-up prior to November 5th. The academy will be held in the Rochester suburb of Greece, New York and is easily accessible by I-390. More detail to come.

Interested? Visit the Rochester VHF Group website at: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org> for more information and an eMail link. Otherwise, drop a note to express your interest to academy@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org.

New Ham

Alex Clark (who is the 8 year old youngest son of Jay Clark KF2JY) now has his Technician class license. His new call is KC2GVO.

Alex is excited about being on the air, wants to join STARS, and is working on his code in order to get on HF.

Congratulations Alex!

Pumpkin Patrol 2000

Amateur radio operators around the state of New York will be participating in Pumpkin Patrol 2000 on Halloween evening. They will be helping the New York State Police by watching over bridges along the New York Thruway and other major highways and reporting any acts of vandalism that they observe to the police.

Pumpkin Patrol 2000 in our local area will be sponsored by ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services), a national public service organization coordinated by the American Radio Relay League. The patrol is open to all, you do not need to be a member of ARES to participate. All you need to help is a 2 meter radio and an amateur radio license with 2 meter privileges. A car would be helpful but not necessary depending on the weather. Participants at bridges will be coordinated through a controlled net. Some people also help out from their homes by monitoring on scanners and other radios



The patrol will be discussed at the ARES/RACES meeting beginning at 7:00 PM on October 9 at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, located on Broadway Ave., just east of Union Road (behind the Cheektowaga police station).

For more information or to sign up for the event, phone or fax the coordinator for Erie County, Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT at 992-2011 or email him at kb2out1@aol.com or kb2out@juno.com. Bridges are assigned on a first-come-first-served basis, so call ASAP.



STARS is an ARRL Special Service Club!

Dayton 2000

Part II

By Bruce KG2IC

With the hour getting late, we covered the station with tarps and called it a night. The next morning Jerry N2QLS and I arrived on site at 6:00AM to commence operations. Dale KW1I was already in place working the Military Radio Net, and in a few moments the Dayton Hamvention AM Festival Station commenced formal operation.

Operation started out slow, but soon a mini pileup ensued, and we all worked diligently to log all the stations that wished to contact us. We even managed to somehow copy a SSB station that called us on 20meters. Every now and then a fellow AMer would stop by, offer moral support, or be pressed into service as the operator while we took a break.

I could tell you about the many and varied on-air QSOs I enjoyed, but I became fascinated another facet of the operation that was occurring off air. I received special satisfaction when an old timer sat down next to me, and mentioned that he had the same lineup, DX-100 and NC-300 at home, but had not had them on the air in years. He confessed that he did not realize that anyone "still operated AM". I assured him that not only is AM alive and well, we would welcome him back on the air. Before he left, he put his hand on my shoulder and assured me that he would be "dusting off the gear tonight". There were many stories like that from both young and older hams. Something about the fine sounding audio seemed to draw them in. A warm atmosphere permeated about the station during our two days of operation, compliment with a great deal of handshaking, introductions, reminiscing, and promises to be back on the air.

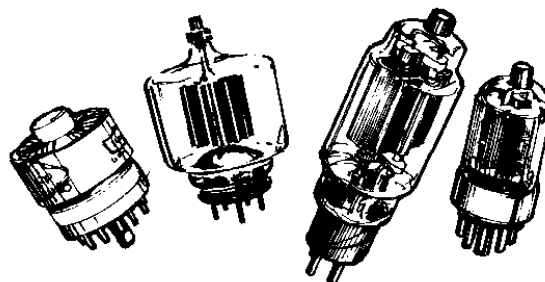
I am delighted to report that despite some initial concerns, not one instance of interference was encountered, nor was a harsh word spoke during the entire event. The AM community was at it's best, both on and off the air. I even had an operator from the W1AW special vent station compliment our group on the operation.

One of the highlights of the operation was a visit by Riley Hollingsworth; otherwise know as the "Special Council for Amateur Radio Enforcement". Present at the station during Riley's visit was Tim WA1HLR. I introduced Tim to Riley, and lively conversation soon ensued. I was surprised to hear Riley mention that he not only was a fan of vintage gear, but also in fact owned several Hallicrafters units. It was Tim, along with several others who questioned Riley on his feelings about AM operation. Surprise again, he liked it, and felt it was important that others, especially those who maliciously QRM AM operations, understand and know this. He spoke about the need to better inform the amateur community of the need for tolerance, and to not make the amateur spectrum a "wasteland" of foul language and behavior.

As the cliché goes, all good thing must come to a end, and the end for the first AM Festival station came about 6PM Saturday evening. With several pages of log filled with AM contacts, the thought of many enjoyable QSOs, both on and air, were still ringing in my ears. Dale KW1I was on the air Sunday morning with his Elmac, and managed to add even more contacts to our logbook. The total count was seven pages of the log filled; nearly 175 stations worked from throughout the eastern US.

There are so many people who make this effort a success: Barry and Electric Radio for their promotion and sponsorship. Dale KW1I for his unwavering support, and devotion to the cause. Jerry N2QLS for his help with the DX-100 and support gear. Bill K2LNU and Tom W2KBW for their help during many late nights of on-air testing sessions. Mike WN3B for being the "channel master" and keeping our frequency clear of QRM. Bill WC3K for keeping up the QSO when pileup began to lag. Jeff Engel from B&W for his antenna donation. And finally thanks to the Dayton Hamvention staff and especially to Jim Graves for believing in us, and allowing our efforts to go forward.

Just wait until you see the lineup we have for next year!



STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Paul Julyan	WB2KFL

President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ may be reached at K2yj@aol.com or by calling 549-8476

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 10/14 and 11/11 in 2000 and 1/13, 3/10, 5/12 and 7/14 in 2001 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM; Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registering will reduce time at exams. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT at 992-2011 or Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on 10/18, 11/15 and 12/13 in 2000 at the Aurora Middle School, Lancaster, NY. For information on Lancaster exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 10/7, 11/4 and 12/2 in 2000 and 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5 and 6/2 in 2001 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik at 694-9738.

Most sessions except for STARS non-hamfest exams, do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

STARS Club Elections

(Continued from page 1)

ing slip is identical to those used for voting in person at the meeting. Another pre-addressed return mailing envelope will be included in the package. For positive identification, it will already have the member's name and address in the return address position. The ballots will be returned to, and held by, a trustworthy club member who is not running for an office. Before voting begins, the names of those who mailed-in absentee ballots will be called to see if they are present, and if so, action will be taken to prevent duplicate voting. Either tear in half their absentee ballot and return it to them, or do not give them an in-person voting slip.

The Election Committee will tabulate the votes from absentee ballots and in-person ballots and report the results to the membership. Absentee ballots will remain sealed until in-person voting has been completed and the votes are about to be tabulated. At that time, the sealed, unmarked inner envelopes will be removed, placed in a pile, and shuffled so that it is not possible to tell who they came from. Only then will the enclosed voting slips be removed, included with the in-person voting slips, and the votes tabulated. The above will be done by Election Committee members who are not currently running for an club office.

Phase 3D Set For Halloween Launch

The next-generation Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite is set for launch on Halloween! The launch agency Arianespace said that in addition to Phase 3D, an Ariane 5 rocket would attempt to orbit the PAS 1R communications satellite and two other payloads, STRV 1C and STRV 1D, on Tuesday, October 31. The launch will take place at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

AMSAT-Germany Executive Vice President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, who's heading up the launch campaign, was a bit more tentative about the launch date. He called October 31 "the start of the launch window" and said it was the earliest date on which the launch could take place.

AMSAT officials were encouraged by the successful September 14 Ariane 5 launch that placed two communication satellites in orbit. A launch using an older generation Ariane-4 rocket is scheduled for October 7.

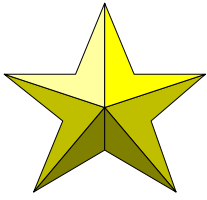
Guelzow reports launch preparations for the October 31 Ariane 507 Phase 3D flight officially got under way September 18 in Kourou and are proceeding "on target." Guelzow is pinch hitting for Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, who was unable to make the trip.

AMSAT News Service says the RUDAK computer team, the RF team and members of the electronics team from AMSAT-NA already have completed their work and returned home. Electronics team members from Europe this week were wrapping up their tasks and preparing to leave. Five of the six bays around the satellite's circumference have been secured for the final time; the sixth bay has been prepared to load fuel. Thermal blanket additions have also been completed. Final tests have been made on several detectors—such as the sun sensor—and the solar cells were being mounted on the satellite and will be connected to the battery chargers.

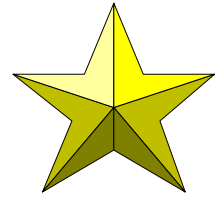
Once everything is ready, the rocket and the satellite payload packages it will carry will be integrated in the Spaceport's Final Assembly Building.

Guelzow reminded operators planning to use Phase 3D after launch that it could be a few months after launch before Phase 3D is ready for routine operation. The actual time depends on several factors including orbital parameters and the work needed to nudge P3D into its final elliptical orbit. Guelzow said that satellite operators worldwide "can rest assured that every effort will be made to initiate operations at the first possible opportunity consistent with flight operations."

The launch team has established a Web site that includes photographs of the team preparing the satellite. It's at <http://www.amsat-dl.org/launch/>. For more information about Phase 3D, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org/>.



STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input, with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 out/in, with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 107.2 Hz.)

CLUB PACKET

The STARS KE2VW BBS, located in Colden, NY is accessible on 145.61 MHz or 145.65 MHz (indirect) by typing: C BBSVW, using 1200 baud. Or connect using 19.2K baud on 441.050 MHz (direct)

Using a telephone modem, you can reach the STARS KE2VW BBS by calling 537-9334.

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATIONS

The club Nike Base HF Station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena. The station is operated on most Saturdays between 1 and 3 PM local time. A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.wb2elw.com>

STARS

Terry W. Rockhold K200
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k2oo@bigfoot.com