

# telstar



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

ISSUE 229 DECEMBER 2000

## 2000 Club Elections

The 2000 STARS club elections were held at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> club meeting. The election drew a great crowd with members voting on the floor and other members voting via absentee ballots.

The following are the winners of the election:

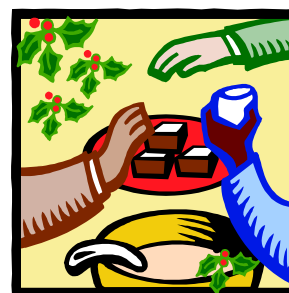
President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Financial Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2 Year Term)	Terri Karr	KB2TRS

These people plus John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC (a Director in the second year of his two-year term) will make up the 2000 STARS Board of Directors.



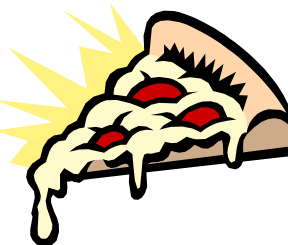
## December Meeting

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



Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our new club officers for 2001.

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. Members are also invited to set up "for sale" tables.



We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2001 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2001!

Members should complete the form included with your November newsletter and bring it along with their dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email.

## 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 meets on Wednesday at 7:30 PM on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 output/input—PL of 107.2 Hz).

## From Your President

With the first real snow storm of the 2000 - 2001 winter now over we can start to dig out and get back to business as usual. 25 inches of snow in less than 8 hours was a real kick in the pants for the Buffalo area. I understand that an Emergency net was started on the KE2VW repeater. This net handled information and was able to assist in moving people and needed supplies around to the Buffalo area Hospitals. To all those who helped out, YOU are the spirit of HAM radio and deserve a hearty THANK YOU. I was not able to be of any help seeing how I was entrapped at my wife's office for 2 days, but that's another story.

Bob KA2WYE, had a great idea about starting an Education Program for the Club, I for one think that it is great idea. How about it Bob, would you take ownership of the project and get it rolling? One other area that I am looking for help, I need someone to head up booking guest speakers or demonstrations for our meetings. It is not that hard and it would help me out a lot. Anyone interested please contact me. Currently we will need speakers for January, February, April, May, September and October 2001. Like I keep saying, get involved.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a regular general meeting followed by the Installation of the Officers elected at the November meeting. Then it will be on to our Annual Holiday party. As in years past the Club will supply Pizza and soft drinks, if you wish to bring some of your favorite munchies, please feel free to do so. Also at this meeting many members take advantage of a crowd and set up a for sale table. If you want to set up your own for sale table, please feel free to do so. You may want to bring your own table, and come early to set up.

I will keep this month's column short, but to add this personal note. It is with great pleasure to me that the members have elected me once again to be the President of STARS. I am looking forward to another great year with the Club and the activities that we have throughout the year.

In closing, I wish to remind all of you to keep your Holiday travel plans off the radio; it is not wise to give out your schedule for all to hear.

From my wife Valari and myself we wish everyone one of you a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,  
Gary J Zanghi KB2YJ  
President

## ARES/RACES Activated As Buffalo Is Briefly Buried

They say that when it rains it pours--or, in the case of the upstate New York snow belt recently, when it snows, it snows! The Erie County Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service found themselves literally snowed under just before Thanksgiving



when more than two feet of "lake effect" snow covered the greater Buffalo area like a big, heavy winter blanket. More than two dozen amateurs volunteered to help

their community through the severe weather that struck November 20.

Karl Weir, N2NJH--who's ARES Western New York District Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer for Erie County--activated an emergency net, and an informational net was brought up on another area repeater.

"At this point, the City of Buffalo and suburbs of Amherst, Cheektowaga and Lancaster had received 24.3 inches of snow in less than 24 hours," Weir said. Traffic was at a standstill, and hundreds--perhaps thousands--of schoolchildren found themselves stranded on buses, while many others were still stuck at their schools.

"Dave [Quagliana], K2MTW, was one of the teachers stranded with about 30-plus students at Buffalo Public School #28 who checked into our net," Weir said.

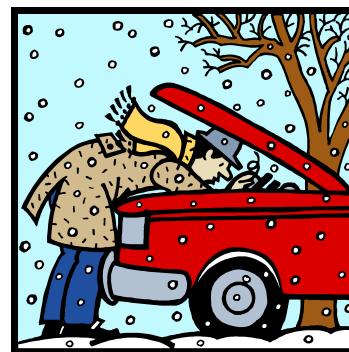
By Monday evening, Buffalo and Erie County were declared disaster areas, and motorists were banned from the roads as first-response emergency crews hit the highways. Stranded school buses were evacuated, and several shelters

were opened.

ARES was activated at 7:30 Tuesday morning in Erie County. Because he was snowbound, Assistant Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer Eugene Kremzier, N2OBW, had to handle net control duties from his home. Weir says Erie County emergency services activated RACES with a specific request to garner as many 4x4 vehicles as possible and to establish a ham station at the county emergency operations center.

With a station established at the EOC, Weir said, "our first order of business was to take Red Cross people to examine the shelters and make any critical deliveries of food and medication."

The Millard Fillmore Hospital was happy to accept the assistance of three ham-driven 4x4s and an additional ham volunteer to assist in transporting medical staff, Weir said. In addition, he escorted Red Cross officials delivering medications to stranded residents.



By 4:30 on the afternoon of November 21, road crews had begun to open up major highways in the affected area to remove abandoned vehicles. And ARES and RACES stood down at the end of a very long Tuesday.

Winter doesn't arrive until December 21, but Buffalo will be ready.

The ARRL Letter 12/1/00

## STARS VE Exam

STARS VE team held an exam session on Saturday November 11 at the Grace Lutheran Church. Six candidates were served including one handicapped ham. As a result of the tests, two hams upgraded to General Class.

Thanks go to the following VE's: Jim N2SKT, Dan W2CQX, Joe N1EAH and Terry K2OO.

STARS VE team's next exam will begin at 9 AM at the Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. At Newton Rd.) on Saturday, January 13.

## Big Winner!

Pat Thompson, daughter of retired ARRL WNY Section Manager Bill Thompson W2MTA, recently won \$500,000 on Regis Philbin's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

Going for \$125,000, Pat was not sure about the answer to the question, "What comedian was known as the 'King of One Liners'?" Pat asked to call her dad as a "life line", and he told her the correct answer, "Henny Youngman."

Pat passed on the \$1,000,000 question dealing with world population.

## Limited AO-40 Use Possible In Near Future

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says plans are in place to make AO-40 available for a limited period of general amateur use "possibly within a week or two." Launched November 16, the next-generation Amateur Radio satellite formerly known as Phase 3D remains for now in a geostationary transfer orbit while initial house-keeping and checkout procedures are under way. The satellite's final high elliptical orbit will not be established for another nine months.

Just when and how the "limited operation" will occur is up to the ground controllers, Haighton said. The provisional operation would involve "one or two bands at a time," he said. Since the satellite's solar panels will not be deployed until AO-40 is in its final orbit, full power will not be available.



Details of the limited test period will be announced via AMSAT bulletins and via the AO-40 telemetry beacon on 2 meters, which also is transmitting text messages. (For more information on receiving AO-40 telemetry, visit the AMSAT-NA "AO-40 Telemetry" page, <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/ao40/ao40-tlm.html>.)

In a bulletin released Monday, AMSAT stressed that the Phase 3D/AO-40 controllers were closely monitoring the power budget and the satellite's current orbital parameters. "These two areas will be among the most important factors that determine what happens with P3D in the near future," the AMSAT bulletin said.

From all indications, most AO-40 systems are working properly at this point, with the possible exception of the 70-cm transmitter. According to a status report from Phase 3D Project Manager Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, "a problem with the 70 cm transmitter" led controllers to shift the telemetry downlink from 70 cm to 2 meters (145.898 MHz). Meinzer said AO-40's two 2.4 GHz transmitters were operated and are okay.

Haighton said the most likely configurations for the limited test period would be Mode U/V (Mode B)--70 cm up and 2 meters down--and Mode L/S--1.2 GHz up and 2.4 GHz down, SSB and CW.

AMSAT says there's still a lot of work to do until AO-40 will be fully ready for general Amateur Radio use. AO-40's geostationary transfer orbit puts it some 500 km from Earth at its nearest point, and 35,000 km at the farthest.

AMSAT says that AO-40's attitude is being changed to prepare for the first motor burn. Meinzer's report says the 400-Newton motor will be used to put AO-40 into a 50,000 km apogee. The first orbital maneuver should be completed in a few days. Other orbital adjustments will follow over the next 270 days.

AO-40's solar panels will not be deployed until the satellite is in its final orbital configuration. Once that happens, the satellite should become available for full Amateur Radio use.

## ARRL VEC Anticipates \$10 Test Fee For 2001

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC plans to set its test fee for calendar year 2001 at \$10. The current fee of \$6.65 is based on a provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a \$4

cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. More recent legislation removed this cap. An FCC announcement of changes in its rules, reflecting the change in the law, is expected toward the end of the year.



ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was envisioned

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 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 [Kb2yj@aol.com](mailto:Kb2yj@aol.com) or by calling 549-8476

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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 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.

## Pumpkin Patrol 2000

We had another successful Patrol this year and I would like to say thanks to all of you that were involved. There were a total of 31 people who participated in this year's event. We had NO incidents to report.

Special thanks go out to Greg KE2VW for the use of the 146.670 (Main) repeater also Dick WB2JPQ and John K2XZ for the use of the InterLink system as a backup.

You should have already received your certificates from the New York State Police. If anyone has not yet received their certificate please let me know. I can be reached by e-mail, phone or radio

Radio 146.835- PL 88.5 if on  
Phone 992-2011  
e-mail KB2OUT1@AOL.COM

Looking forward to Pumpkin Patrol 2001  
Thank You  
Tony J. Balas Jr.  
Coordinator for Erie County Pumpkin Patrol

Editor's Note: Many STARS members participated and represented the club well.

## Shepherd Makes First Casual QSOs From ISS

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program has announced that Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, made the first casual Amateur Radio contacts from Space Station Alpha last week. Details were not available.

Shepherd reports that he was able to take a few minutes out of his busy schedule last Friday, November 17, to engage in contacts with a few lucky hams. Before then, the only Amateur Radio contacts involved engineering test passes between the ISS and Russian and US amateur facilities.

ARISS spokesman Will Marchant, KC6ROL, says that with the recent arrival at ISS of a Progress cargo craft, the crew will have to redouble its work pace. The space shuttle Endeavour STS-97 mission to the ISS will launch November 30, so the Expedition 1 crew will continue to put in some long hours preparing for its arrival. Endeavour is carrying a large new solar panel for the ISS that will permit the station to be fully powered for the first time.

More information about Amateur Radio on the International Space Station is available on the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. --ARISS news release

The ARRL Letter 11/24/00

## ARRL Test Fee Increase

*(Continued from page 4)*

at the time Congress set the original cap. "We're doing the data entry for all new and upgrade license applications that are handled by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners," Sumner explained. "Originally, we simply reviewed and organized the paperwork and the FCC staff did the data entry. The current system is better for the applicants because they get their licenses faster, but it's also more costly for us."

Jahnke said a \$10 ARRL VEC test fee will be formalized as soon as the FCC gives the word that it has made the necessary adjustments to Part 97 to bring it in line with the updated Communications Act. As soon as that happens, the ARRL VEC will make a formal announcement to establish the new fee. Until then, ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants at the 2000 test fee rate of \$6.65.

The ARRL Letter 11/24/00



# 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 WEB PAGES

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

## 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.

# STARS

**Terry W. Rockhold K200**  
**4805 Transit Road #1903**  
**Depew, NY 14043**  
**(716) 656-0865**  
**k200@bigfoot.com**