

telstar



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

ISSUE 230 JANUARY 2001

Area School to Contact International Space Station

Second and third ARISS contact schools named:

Schools in Virginia and New York will be the second and third schools to attempt Amateur Radio contacts with the Expedition 1 crew of Space Station Alpha, the International Space Station. Armstrong Fundamental Elementary School, Hampton, Virginia, and Jan Sheldon Elementary School, Varysburg, New York, hope to complete contacts in January as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS--program.



The QSO with Armstrong School is tentatively scheduled for January 4 or January 5. The Sheldon School QSO is tentatively scheduled for the January 15-19 time frame, but all school QSO schedules are subject to change. The first ARISS school contact between Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and youngsters at Burbank Elementary School in Burbank, Illinois, was completed December 21.

The ARRL Letter 12/29/00

Editor's Notes: Sheldon Elementary School is located in Varysburg approximately 15 miles east of East Aurora. Varysburg is at the intersection of 20A and 98. This announcement came out just prior to our going to press. We have not heard anything locally about this contact or who the amateur radio operators assisting the school with the contact are.

January Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 4th at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



The program for the meeting is not determined at this time.

Why not come out
and join us as we begin our great new year?

Did You Renew Yet?

Your dues to renew your 2001 STARS club membership were due on January 1. Did you remember? If we receive them in time, your 2001 membership card and repeater codes will be included with your February newsletter.



Why not take time right now to fill out the renewal form included with your Nov. newsletter and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the January club meeting.

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 or regular mail.

STARS continues to be the largest amateur radio club in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

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

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Holiday season. At our annual Christmas party on December 7th, we had over 75 members and guests. It look to me that everyone had a great time and I do not think that anyone went away hungry.

Now the New Year / Millennium is here we at STARS can start looking forward to another year of Club activities. In January there are a couple of contests that can be run from out Nike Base station. In February the Town of Hamburg is having their annual Snow Fest, and this year it looks like we are going to have the snow for it. We will have the Base open from about 10 am to 3 PM both days of the Festival. Anyone who wants to help out, OR just come over and operate the HF station, so "COME ON DOWN".



I am still looking for ideas for speakers or programs for 2001. At this writing we do not have anything scheduled for January or February. If you can help out with filling some of the slots in the upcoming months it would really help out, we need your ideas.

One upcoming event that helps beat cabin fever is the annual Lockport auction on January 27. I really think we are going to need it this year. In most cases dues alone can not keep a club running. We all need to support the local Clubs in their fund raising ventures.

Fund raising, that rings a bell. This year we are going to have subscriptions to World Radio to raffle off once again. It is a great little magazine and worth a buck or two. We also get free advertisement for our Club so it is a win/win for the Club and our members.

The 146.670 repeater has had some problems lately and I gave the OK for some of the nets to be run on our repeater 147.090. This is the least that we at STARS can do to help out Greg KE2VW until he can get his repeater back up and running.

With all the Holiday rushing around and the bad weather you may have forgot to send in your renewal for 2001. We are very proud of all the services that the Club has to offer YOU the members. One of the best newsletters that I have seen, a contest quality HF station, a summer picnic, Christmas party, Field Day activities, two repeaters, all for \$21 a

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LARA Hamfest & Auction

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will be holding their 40th annual Hamfest and Auction on January 27th.

They will be at a new location: The Eagles Hall, 614 Lincoln Ave., Lockport, NY. From Transit Road Rte. 78, proceed east on Lincoln Ave. 2 miles to the Eagles Hall on the south side of Lincoln, just across from RiteAid.

Setup for vendors begins at 6 AM. The Hamfest will be open to the public between 7 AM and noon. The auction will run from 12:30 PM till done.

Flea market tables will be available for \$5.00 per 8 foot table. Items at auction will pay LARA a 10% commission up to a maximum of \$10.00. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 free. There will be plenty of free parking. Food will be available: hot dogs, hamburgers, beef on weck, donuts, coffee and pop.

Talk-in will be on W2RUI/R on 146.82/146.22 MHz (output/input).

For information call Duane Robinson W2DLR at 791-4096.

2001 STARS Club Officers & Directors

In the picture at the bottom of this page, John Leitten KA2RFT prepares to swear in the 2001 STARS Club Officers and Directors.

Appearing in the photo from left to right:

John Leitten KA2RFT Election Committee Chairman

Rick Doherty KD2QV, Vice President

John Cullom, Jr. KB2ESM, Treasurer

Judy Levan N2TEZ, Financial Secretary

Gary Zanghi KB2YJ, President

Keith Patterson KC2DGC, Secretary

Terri Karr KB2TRS, Director

John Crawford, Sr. KBVWC, Director

Photo submitted by Rick Doherty KD2QV.



Reset Restores AO-40 Transmission

Merry Christmas, AMSAT--AO-40 is back! Following a 12-day silence, AO-40 once again is transmitting telemetry. In response to an L-band command sent Christmas Day by command station ZL1AOX, AO-40 resumed transmitting on 2.4 GHz. Software was reloaded to permit telemetry transmissions on 2401.305 MHz. Some problems remain on the satellite, however.

"Recovery of AO-40 continues, and some housekeeping tasks were performed by the command stations to improve and stabilize the situation," said Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of the AO-40 team. Guelzow says new software routines were loaded successfully to restore the battery-charge regulator system and other housekeeping functions. "We will now start a detailed analysis of the situation," he said.

Telemetry transmissions from AO-40 ceased December 13 while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-Newton propulsion system following an initial orbital shift. Some observers feared the satellite had been irreparably damaged. Guelzow says ground stations now have regained control of the satellite. Ground controllers hope the telemetry might yield some clues about what went wrong aboard the satellite to make it stop transmitting.

After onboard software watchdog routines failed to restart beacon transmissions automatically, a full reset command and an initialization block to switch on the S2 S-band transmitter were sent via L-band.

Guelzow said telemetry revealed that some temperature sensors have failed and some current sensors indicated incorrect values, but solar sensors seemed to be working fine. The good news was that AO-40's power situation--in particular the battery voltages--looks nominal.

Guelzow said additional software would be loaded in the next few days and the various uplinks checked out before any attempts are made to turn the 2-meter transmitter back on. "Clearly, we need more time to analyze and understand what has happened here," Guelzow said. He said that while there are no indications that the 2-meter beacon transmitter has failed, ground controllers don't want to risk losing communication again. "So for the next days the spacecraft will continue to be transmitting on S-Band only," he said.

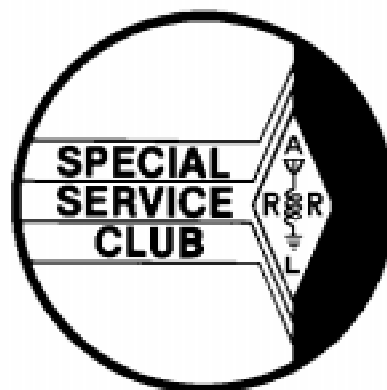
Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC said AO-40 command stations "will continue to follow a conservative philosophy" with a primary goal of not causing additional damage while retaining as much evidence as possible to analyze what made the beacon transmissions stop.

On December 22, AMSAT proposed holding an inquiry into the incident that led to the loss of communication with AO-40. A letter from AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, said "AMSAT believes that it is in the best interests of our organization to determine all the facts surrounding this incident and to make sure that a similar situation cannot happen again either on AO-40 or on a future satellite."

The ARRL Letter 12/29/00

Exam Fee Increase

ARRL/VEC has announced that effective January 1, 2001 the exam fee for VE tests conducted under their program will increase to \$10. They stated that this increase would allow them to break even after several years of losses.



STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Terri Karr	KB2TRS

President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ may be reached at 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 the third Wednesday of each month 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.

PROS will be holding test sessions on the Third Saturday of the month at the Old Sardinia Town Hall, Savage Road off Rte. 39 in Sardinia, NY. For information, contact Pat Murray at 652-8178.

Some exams, do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

Hams Help Continues In Ice Storm Emergency

Ice storms this week have caused power and telephone outages and hazardous driving conditions in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, and more bad weather was on the way. Amateur Radio Emergency Service nets have been activated on HF and on local repeaters to handle emergency traffic and to support public safety and relief agencies. Several deaths have been attributed to the severe weather.

President Clinton has declared a state of emergency in Oklahoma and Arkansas. At week's end, hundreds of thousands still were without power, and many still had no telephone service--even cellular systems were out. Utility companies were saying it might be a week or longer before power could be restored.

Hams also have been locating and assisting the many stranded motorists. South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, says an estimated 200 Texas hams have been pitching in. At one point, ARES members helped with com-

munication after hospital telephones were knocked out; they also got a generator going after one hospital's emergency power system failed.

Hams also have been supporting relief activities of the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Baptist Men's Kitchen as well as state police. The Red Cross has opened shelters to assist those stranded by the inclement weather or left without utilities.

At Taylor's urging, the FCC asked the amateur community to cooperate in recognizing the existence of a voluntary communications emergency and to stay clear of 3870 to 3878 kHz to accommodate the Texas ARES Net. The Net has been on 7285 kHz during daylight hours. Taylor said he requested the voluntary declaration because the nighttime emergency and tactical traffic net frequency on 3873 kHz was being subjected to apparent intentional QRM.

Taylor said Thursday that his latest concern was possible flooding in South Texas from runoff in the north and west. Hams were preparing to monitor levels on several rivers in that part of the state, he said.

In Arkansas, Amateur Radio reportedly served as the only link between the state capital and DeQueen, a city in southwestern Arkansas that was particularly hard hit by the latest ice storm. The state suffered another ice storm in mid-December. Arkansas Section Manager Roger Gray, N5QS, says a TV report credited Amateur Radio with facilitating communication between Gov Mike Huckabee and the mayor of DeQueen. Residents in up to a dozen counties reportedly have lost power, telephone service and water.

At week's end, the storm that affected the US Southwest was moving eastward and expected to join another system to create blizzard conditions in the Northeast.

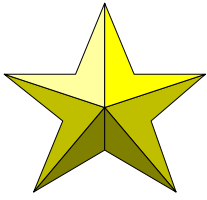
From Your President

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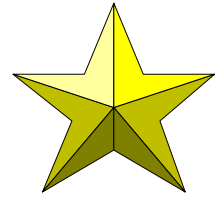
year. It is my wish that all of you keep supporting the Club and to also get involved. Just as a closing this may be your last Telstar, if you dues are not renewed soon. The repeater codes will be changed February 11th, so do not wait much longer.

I want your ideas for this upcoming year, so please feel free to make suggestions, this is your Club.

Sincerely,
Gary J Zanghi KB2YJ
President



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

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