

# telstar



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

ISSUE 232 MARCH 2001

## LF-to-LF Transatlantic Amateur Contact is History

Amateur Radio history was made this month when amateurs in Canada and the UK completed what appears to be the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, managed the LF feat using extremely slow CW that featured 90-second-long dits and 180-second-long dahs. The two-way contact took two weeks to complete.



"We are the first to do a two-way QSO on LF across the North Atlantic as far as I am concerned,"

Kayser said. "We are the ones who put the stakes in the ground; others will build on what we have done."

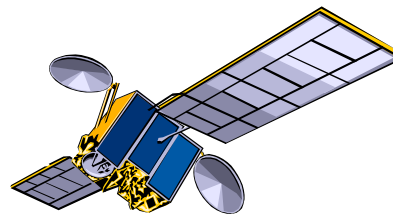
The VA3LK-G3AQC contact began February 5 and was completed February 19 with the reception and confirmation of VA3LK's report by G3AQC. Kayser said the participants agreed in advance to a "firewall" between them for the duration of the contact and that all QSO information was exchanged over the LF radio link.

Mayhead said it was clear from the outset that, because of the relatively short band openings, he and Kayser would have to spread the contact out over several days. "It was not easy," he said. "I stayed up late most nights--3 AM on one occasion--changed blown fuses in my transmitter six times, and reconfigured my receiver to include a narrow filter because of interference that was desensitizing it." Kayser says he once had to climb the tower supporting his wire antenna in total darkness.

The UK has authorized amateur operation on 136 kHz, with special authorization and strict limits on radiated power. While Canada has not yet authorized general Amateur Radio operation on 136 kHz, Kayser and a few other Canadian

## March Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 1st 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.



This month's guest speaker is Ted Ertel WA2HKS. He will talk about his amateur radio satellite gateway located here in Western New York and about amateur radio satellites in general. He will also show a short video of the launching of the Phase 3D satellite (now referred to as AO-40).

Come on out to see us!

amateurs have received special authorization to experiment there.

Reception of weak LF signals typically is done using spectrographic software like ARGO or Spectran. Signals are transmitted using dual-frequency CW--or DFCW--or very slow-speed CW, also known as "QRSS." Using their particular brand of QRSS, Kayser calculated that it took nearly 70 minutes for him to send his call sign. "Certainly the information rate will improve," he said.

"We did the best we could with what we had to work with over the last two weeks."

G3AQC and VA3LK were using a combination of commercial and surplus equipment at their respective stations. G3AQC estimated his effective radiated power at 350 mW, while VA3LK said he might have been at the 5 W ERP level.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

The ARRL Letter 02/23/01

## 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

Every month I always have a tough time getting this report started, but not this month. I have a lot to talk about.

Lets start out with this month's Guest Speaker, Thanks to Jim Livingston N2SKT, who helped make the arrangements to bring Ted WA2HKS to our March meeting. As some of you may know Ted has set up a satellite gateway on his UHF repeater 444.000. He will also have a video of the latest Amateur satellite to be launched. I could tell you more, but come to the meeting to find out all about how you can work through the bird with your own radio.



Next up is the Dayton Hamfest; this year the event will run from May 18 to 20<sup>th</sup>. Most of the seasoned Hamfesters have already made reservations, but fear not, there are still a lot of rooms in the area that are available. As I have written in the past, this is one event that you do not want to miss. From the Buffalo area it is about a 7 hour drive to Dayton. 6 hours if I drive "HI HI". I can tell you all this, "if it's related to ham radio it WILL be at Dayton".

Next thing to remind you of is Field Day. We will need to get out to the Nike Base as some as the weather breaks. Time and this past winter has taken it's toll on some of our antennas and feed lines. Currently the 40 meter dipole is down, and on my last trip up the tower I noticed that time has deteriorated some of the feed lines. The Board has approved the funds to replace the coax and other hardware so sometime shortly we will have a work party to do some repairs. All help is welcomed.

And that brings us to the Erie County Fair Exhibit. We will be making offers to the other clubs again this year as we did last year. I would like to update the Exhibit this year and bring it more up to speed with 2001. Like PSK31 and some of the other new modes. If we are going to attract new people to the hobby, we need to make it look more modern. I am looking for someone to Chair the Exhibit. As the Club President, I will continue to meet with the Fair people and do the legal stuff, but I wish to have someone



(Continued on page 5)

## Award Presented to Greg Young KE2VW

At STARS February club meeting, President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ had the privilege of presenting a beautiful plaque to STARS member Greg Young KE2VW in recognition of the outstanding efforts that Greg has made to Amateur Radio in Western New York during the last 10+ years.

Greg served as STARS President during 1992 and 1993 and then again in 1996. He was previously voted a STARS life member by the club.

Greg was the SysOp for the STARS KE2VW packet BBS for many years and generously provided all of the equipment to make it one of the finest in the country. He also worked with other local hams to establish and maintain a packet backbone system in Western New York.

In 1994 Greg volunteered to chair the committee which re-established the STARS amateur radio exhibit at the Erie County Fair after a lapse of several years. Greg continued to serve in this role for many years helping to introduce amateur radio to thousands of Western New Yorkers.

At great personal expense and time Greg established the KE2VW repeater currently located in Arkwright, NY. This wide ranging repeater provides coverage for SKYWARN, local nets and hams throughout the area.

Greg also served as STARS VE Team liaison and has taught many amateur radio licensing classes.

Oh yes, Greg is also a doctor and is a devoted husband and father.



**Photo above:** STARS President Gary KB2YJ (left) presents the award to Greg KE2VW. Photo by Rick KD2QV.

The inscription on the plaque presented to Greg KE2VW reads as follows:

GREG YOUNG  
KE2VW  
THE  
"HAM'S HAM"

THIS RECOGNITION IS GIVEN TO HIM IN APPRECIATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT AND DEDICATION, HIS PROFESSIONALISM, HIS LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ABILITIES, HIS NUMEROUS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, AND HIS UNPARALLELED GENEROSITY, ALL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND BETTERMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO IN WESTERN NEW YORK DURING THE FINAL DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

January, 2001

## Driver Training Classes

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, STARS will be holding a Safe Driving Course at the Hamburg Youth Center. This class is will be about 8 hours long starting at 9 am. The Club will spring for a lite lunch and have it delivered. This course is being brought to us via the AARP, so you must be age 50 or older to attend. You may also bring anyone else with you that is interested, they need not be a Club member or a Ham. The cost of the course is \$10 per person. You will receive a certificate that will give a 10% reduction in your car insurance for 3 years and remove 4 points from your drivers license.



If you have any questions or want to get signed up for the class, please contact me or John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC at 649-5933.

To hold this class we need at least 15 people, so please do not delay in signing up.

73's  
Gary KB2YJ  
549-8476

# Ohio Ham Stacking Up FCC Sanctions

Already under a short-term renewal sanction imposed last year for alleged deliberate interference, an Ohio ham now is being prohibited from all but VHF and the 30-meter band as a result of similar infractions.

The FCC notified General licensee Jeffrey J. Pipenur, WA8IKW, of Vandalia, on February 7, that his Amateur Radio license was being modified to prohibit operation on all HF bands except 30 meters until February 10, 2004. The FCC's action comes in the wake of continued allegations of deliberate interference on the part of the licensee.

Last March 1, after considering Pipenur's response to earlier FCC allegations of "deliberate interference, poor Amateur practice, and operation contrary to" FCC rules, the FCC set aside his renewal grant and renewed his license for one year. In his response, the FCC said, Pipenur did not deny the activity, apologized, and consented to the short-term renewal.

Pipenur's one-year renewal was granted with the condition that his license would be renewed if there were no further violations. Last November, however, the FCC confronted Pipenur with additional monitoring information and complaints alleging that he had deliberately interfered with ongoing amateur communications on 75 meters as recently as last September and October.

At that point, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth had threatened to designate Pipenur's license for a revocation and suspension hearing. Instead, Pipenur agreed to avoid a hearing and settle the matter by letting the FCC modify his license to restrict his operation to frequencies above 30 MHz with the exception of the 30-meter band.

Hollingsworth told Pipenur that his renewal would be granted with the restrictions stipulated. But he warned Pipenur that this was his last chance to avoid more serious sanctions.

"Please understand that if there are any substantial violations of these frequency restrictions or Commission rules during this three-year period ending February 2004, we intend to proceed towards revocation of your license for your station and suspension of your operator license for the remainder of the term," he said.

The ARRL Letter 02/ 09/01

# QRZ.COM

Many of you may have purchased CDs from QRZ which contain callsign information. They are usually attractively priced at hamfests. Strangely enough, the same company has a website (<http://www.qrz.com>) which offers an amateur radio callsign database which can be searched for free. The free on-line database is even superior to that on the CD in that it is constantly being updated with new/changed data from the FCC.

The QRZ.COM website also offers many other features such as forums, swapmeet, radio mods, shareware, polls, practice amateur radio exams, ham clubs, etc.

A new feature is a state-by-state census summary of numbers of amateur radio operators by license class. The census as of February 24, 2001 revealed the following information:



There were a total of 711,659 amateurs in the US (including possessions). The percentage breakdown by class showed: Extra 13.45%, Advanced 12.74%, General 19.50%, Tech Plus 15.14%, Tech 31.20% and Novice 7.96.

California leads the nation by far with 108,735 hams representing 15.28% of the nation. Second went to Texas with 43,456 or 6.11%. Florida claimed third with 42,101 or 5.92%. New York came in fourth with 31,313 or 4.77%.

If you have internet access, check out this website. I think you will enjoy it.

By Terry K200

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



## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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.

## From Your President

*(Continued from page 2)*

else run it. If you think you have what it takes to be the Fair Exhibit Chairperson, please send or bring your request to the STARS Board for consideration.

One of the really cool things about being the President is that I get to hand out an award now and then. At the February meeting, we gave out an award to one of the great leaders in our local Ham Radio Community. Greg KE2VW received an award from our Club for his unselfish contributions to our hobby. Please look else in this newsletter for the inscription.

I hope that March comes in and goes out like a Lamb this year, I think we all need a break from the weather.

See you all at the meeting,

Sincerely,  
Gary KB2YJ  
President

## Code-Free Technician Ticket Turns 10

Valentine's Day, February 14, marked the 10th anniversary of the elimination of the Morse code requirement to obtain a Technician license. For the first time, starting on February 14, 1991, applicants could obtain an Amateur Radio license in the US without having to take a Morse code examination. The ARRL was among several petitioners for a codeless license--quite a controversial issue at the time.

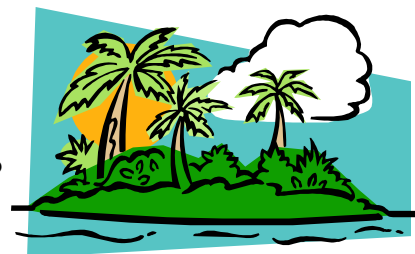
In putting out the welcome mat to the new class of Amateurs in his "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial in the February 1991 QST, ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, predicted that five years down the road, "our first codeless amateurs will be providing personnel and leadership in local public service communications efforts from coast to coast." That prediction turned out to be right on the money. The Technician license has proved popular over the years, and Technician and Tech Plus licensees far outnumber other license classes today.

The ARRL Letter 02/16/01

## D68C DXpedition at 126,000 Qs & Counting:

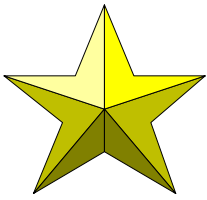
The D68C DXpedition to Comoros reports logging more than 4650 QSOs in the recent ARRL International DX Contest (CW), probably topping the current the Africa multi-two record by a significant margin. D68C has been active on 30, 17 and 12 meters as well as on 14 and 28 MHz RTTY and PSK31. The D68C will not do any satellite operation, as originally planned.

The team reports occasional high noise levels on the lower bands. "We are working all we can hear. Sometimes it is really hard to hear anything at all with all the static," said John Linford, G3WGV.



As of February 20, the team had 126,000 QSOs in the log, and Linford said he anticipates when all is said and done, the D68C operation will hold several new records, including total number of QSOs.--John Linford, G3WGV

The ARRL Letter 2/23/01



# 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**