

telstar



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

ISSUE 233 APRIL 2001

New York Makes Another Attempt at Ham Antenna Bill

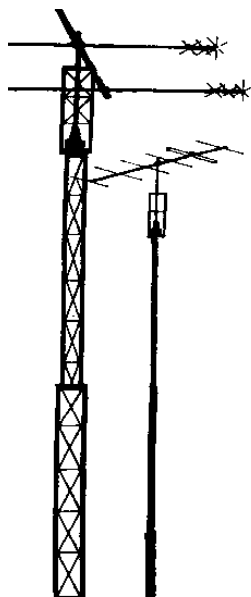
True to their word, supporters of an Amateur Radio antenna bill in the State of New York are back this year with new bills introduced in both houses of the legislature. ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says measures to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into state law have been filed in the Senate as S.2893, with four sponsors, and in the Assembly as A.1565.

If approved, the companion measures would require localities to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas and would prevent localities from restricting antenna structures to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of support structures. The bills have been referred to the Local Government Committee.

An effort to get an antenna law on the books in the Empire State last year failed to make it through the legislative process despite gaining significant support. This year's bills are identical to last year's.

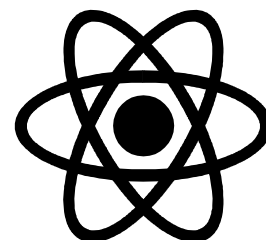
Fallon said he's hoping that support for last year's campaign will carry over to this year's effort, and he's calling on New York amateurs to "help make ham radio history in New York" by getting behind the bills.

In addition to contacting their Assembly representatives and



April Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 5 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.



Special guest speaker will be STARS member Tom Kocalski KC2CAG, who is a Systems Engineering Manager at the West Valley Nuclear Plant. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about what really goes on there!

state senators, Fallon said, hams should contact the two chairs of the Local Government Committee, Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli, Senator Mary Lou Rath, as well as Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno.

The Hudson Division Web page <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org> has a copy of the bill, links to find names and addresses of state representatives, and copies of sample letters.

"As one of the ARRL Directors who has been dealing with this issue for a number of years I am very happy about all the efforts in the other states and now again in New York," Fallon said.

The ARRL Letter 3/23/01

ARRL International DX Contest

A great time was had by many STARS members competing in the ARRL International DX Contest on March 3-4 at the Nike Base Club Station. Conditions were great, and stations were worked all around the world. Come on out and enjoy the fun next time!

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

As some of you know, I missed the March meeting. I do wish to apologize to all of you. I really did want to see WA2HKS's talk, but work had other ideas.

At this month's meeting Tom KB2CAG will give a talk on the West Valley Nuclear Plant, where he works. Tom is employed as a Systems Engineering Manager. I know this has nothing to do with Ham Radio, but in keeping with the theme of our Club, being a learning Club we thought that this would be a good topic.

Next month we have scheduled the National Weather Service, to give a talk on Skywarn. John KA2RFT, suggested to me that we might invite them to speak at one of our meetings. The service has requested to go on first, before our general meeting.

I have a few volunteers to help out at the Nike Base to do some work on the feed lines and some of the wire antennas. Like Jell-O there is always room for a few more helpers. I am just waiting for the weather to warm up and dry up so we can get the work completed. Most likely we will wait for late April or early May.

Did I say MAY? The Dayton Hamfest is only a few short weeks away so time is running out if you plan to attend this event. Several of us are going to travel down together on Thursday May 17th. We are going to meet up at some restaurant then take off from there. I was thinking about the Cracker Barrel in Dunkirk. We would meet for Breakfast then leave at out 11:00am or if anyone wants to join us feel free. Check in on the KE2VW repeater 146.670, pl 107.2 to make contact with the group.

I must report to you, the passing of yet another long time Club member. Dan KE2LD passed away in mid March. As of late, Dan has not been very active, but in the past he never missed a meeting or an opportunity to let his opinion to be known.

I am still looking for a person to take the Chairperson of the Erie County Fair Display. This will be the last call. If no one steps forward then I guess it will fall upon me again this year. It is my opinion that we need new blood to start taking the reins of the Club, with new ideas and new goals. So please give it some thought and talk to me at the meeting or give me a call. It is a little work, but a lot of fun.

Sincerely,
Gary J Zanghi KB2YJ
President

ARRL Merchandise

With Field Day coming up, the ARRL has commemorative Pins \$5, and T-Shirts \$9.95. For anyone interested in these or any other ARRL items I'm planning to put in an order for them on May 4th (the day after our meeting).

If you often see books, maps, hats, etc. that you want but don't want the cost of shipping, or just don't get around to putting in an order, this is a good time to do it.

Shipping will be \$1 dollar per order no matter what, or how many you want. The ARRL's maximum shipping is \$10. Anything more than that collected will go to help supply food for Field Day.

I'll take orders at the April and May meetings, or phone me 947-5011. With the order placed May 4th, it should arrive in about 5 days.

If enough interest is shown, we could plan a few orders a year.

Bruce KC2GJX



Europe Adopts 5 WPM as Morse Code Standard:

The Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations--CEPT--has effectively lowered the Amateur Radio Morse code test speed to 5 WPM for all European countries. The CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), meeting last month in The Hague, adopted a revision of Recommendation 61-02 to include the 5 WPM standard. The European Radiocommunication Office published the revised version of T/R 61-02 this month. The revision, which establishes requirements for the issuance of a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), reduces the Morse requirement from 12 WPM. "In revising what is known as the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02, it has in effect recommended to 44 European countries to adopt the 5 WPM standard," said Wireless Institute of Australia-Victoria President Jim Linton, VK3PC, who closely follows global developments in Amateur Radio Morse code trends. Additional information is available on Linton's Morse code watch site, <http://www.wiavic.org.au/mcw>.

More information on CEPT is on the ERO Web site, <http://www.ero.dk>.

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ARRL Dues

The ARRL has announced that regular membership dues will be increased to \$39 per year effective July 1, 2001.

There is a window of opportunity between now and June 30, 2001 to save on your future ARRL dues. You can renew your membership for 1 to 5 years now at special rates. You can do this even if your current membership doesn't expire until after July 1.

For the biggest savings, you can renew for five years for \$146 (\$29.20/year). That's a \$49 savings over paying the new \$39/year rate. Your savings could be even greater if the dues are raised again during the 5 year period.

If you would like to renew for a shorter period, the ARRL offers 3 years for \$92, 2 years for \$65 or 1 year for \$34. Don't forget that this must be received by June 30 to receive these rates.

The ARRL also offers discounted rates for seniors (65 or older). These rates are 5 years for \$122, 3 years for \$76, 2 years for \$53 or 1 year for \$28.

They also offer family, youth and blind memberships. Call or write for details.

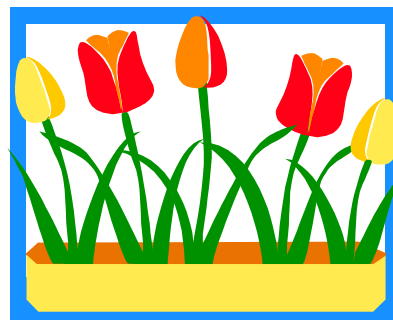


For the ultimate in ARRL membership, you can become a Life Member. You can do this for \$850 up till June 30, 2001. The rate after that time will be \$975. You can pay your Life Member dues in one payment or make 8 quarterly payments (over 2 years).

You can join or renew your membership by calling (toll free 1-888-277-5289 or on the web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/join.html>.

By Terry K200



Weekly Informational Nets Start April 3

Over the past six years, weekly SKYWARN Informational Nets have been held on local repeaters to help keep SKYWARN spotters up to date on recent significant weather events as well as to provide some informal storm spotter training. This tradition will continue this year as the Tuesday evening nets will be held on the 5 various SKYWARN repeaters throughout Western and North Central New York.



The informal nets usually last 15 to 20 minutes and can be very informative to those who don't normally have the time, or the means, to travel to SKYWARN Training sessions. All types of weather phenomena are discussed, especially those that are pertinent to our severe thunderstorm season. Upcoming training sessions and SKYWARN related functions (ie. Hamfest appearances, public presentations, etc) will be announced on the nets, with safety issues also being addressed.

These weekly nets will begin on Tuesday evening, April 3rd, and will run through much of September. The informational nets will be held on the same repeaters that are used for the actual severe weather nets so that you will become more familiar with where to tune during threatening weather. At 7 PM...the Informational Net will be held on 145.31 Attica repeater and on the 147.15 Fulton repeater. At 7:30 PM...the same net will take place on the 147.255 Watertown repeater, and also on the 146.67 Arkwright / 145.11 Bristol linked repeaters.

Please help support your local SKYWARN Program by checking into these nets when time permits. The scripts for these nets can be found on our internet site for those who may want to look back at information that was given in previous weeks.

NWS Buffalo—Spring SKYWARN Newsletter

Find Local Time Around the World

A web page u can find out local time by just clicking the country . The web page is www.isbister.com/worldtime

John K2CF

You Can Find Anything!

The Internet is a gold mine of information on almost all subjects.. Now, it finally includes pictures to answer the question, "Where did STARS Newsletter Editor Terry Rockhold K2OO grow up"?

Yes, you can see actual photographs of Richwood, Ohio, a quiet village of about 2200 people located in North Central Ohio

Best yet, you can see the modest two-story stucco house where the Rockhold family lived on South Franklin St. Even though the house was sold to others when Terry's parents passed away 20 years ago, it still retains its distinctive yellow color. Terry started his interest in radio sitting in the kitchen of this house listening to the BBC and Radio Moscow on an old floor model radio bought for \$5.00 at a street auction.

As a bonus, you can also see the high school that Terry attended as well as the church where he sang an occasional solo.

The URL is: http://www.geocities.com/t2k_us/photos2.htm

While you are at it, check out the web site of Tom Thomas, a close friend of Terry while they were growing up. Its URL is: <http://www.geocities.com/tbtho/index.html> Tom took the photos and also has some interesting stories on his site. Under the Richwood section, you will find story about the Kindergarten Operetta that Tom and Terry starred in during 1953!

STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
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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 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 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.

STARS VE Team Exam

On March 10, STARS VE Team held an exam station at the Grace Lutheran Church. Turn-out was very light with only one candidate showing up. Fortunately, that candidate successfully qualified for a new Technician class license.

VE's who participated in the session included Joe N1EAH, Jim N2SKT, John Sr. KB2VWC, Tom KC2CAG and Terry K2OO.



ARISS Declares ISS Special Event Day April 12

Casual Amateur Radio contacts with the hams aboard the International Space Station have been few and far between. That could change next month when a special event day for ham radio has been declared.

"The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, team has received permission from the ISS controllers to declare April 12 Cosmonautics Day--a special event day for ham radio on the International Space Station," ARISS spokesperson Will Marchant, KC6ROL, announced today.

The ARISS international team is asking the ISS Expedition 2 crew--on a voluntary basis--to run general QSOs over Earth's major land masses to help celebrate Cosmonautics Day, Marchant said. Given the interest expressed by earthbound hams in making a contact with the ISS, the ARISS team also hoping the crew will be enthusiastic about the idea.

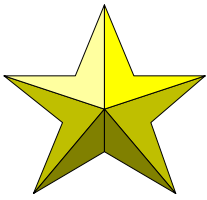
Cosmonautics Day will mark the 40th anniversary of the first human space flight by USSR cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the 30th anniversary of Salyut 1--the first space station, and the 20th anniversary of the initial launch of the first reusable space vehicle--the space shuttle.

Marchant said the crew will be involved with stowage activities on April 12, "so they should have a fair amount of flexibility in adjusting their schedule." Two hams now are aboard the International Space Station--Expedition 2 Crew Commander Yury Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ. Helms already has made a few casual contacts and this week participated in a scheduled ARISS contact with a California elementary school using the station's NA1SS call sign. It's not known if Usachev has been active on the air while over Russia.

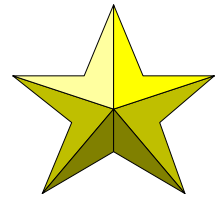
The following frequencies have been announced for ARISS general QSOs: Voice and packet downlink: 145.80 (worldwide); voice uplink: 144.49 for Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific); voice uplink: 145.20 for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa) ; packet uplink: 145.99 (worldwide). The ISS Amateur Radio packet system still is not operational, but Marchant said ARISS has been working with the crew to get it working and hopes it will be up and running by then.

Marchant said that specific operating times and modes for Cosmonautics Day, as well as additional details, will be announced on the ARISS Web page <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

The ARRL Letter 3/30/01



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

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