

telstar



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

ISSUE 234 MAY 2001

Help Make Ham Radio History in New York

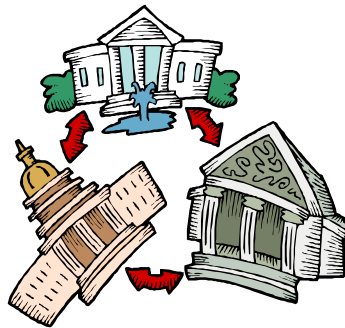
By Bernie Fuller N3EFN
ARRL Atlantic Division Director

We have a real chance to enact a law in the State of New York that we believe will solve most of our "tower problems."

We came very close to getting our bill passed last year. Our bill made it through three committees in the Assembly last year before time ran and the session ended. Our bills, A. 1565, and S 2893 will enable amateur radio operators to put up effective antennas without long, costly battles with their local governments to get a building permit.

We need to point out to legislators that Amateur radio operators provide an emergency communications network that is disaster-tested and robust. We provide this service free of charge to the citizens of New York, a service that would require many millions of tax dollars to replace. A key element of a radio amateur's capability to communicate is a small radio tower but high enough to ensure effective communication.

Let them know that federal law already requires that reasonable accommodation be made for these amateur radio support structures that serve the public interest; however local town, municipalities and radio amateurs cannot easily bear the burden of resolving local disputes over what is "reasonable." This delays replacing key elements of the amateur radio emergency network. Hundreds of thousands



May Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership are required.



Our program for the evening will be on SKYWARN and will be presented by personnel from the Buffalo Office of the National Weather Service (NWS). This is a great chance to get training in how amateur radio operators can assist the NWS by reporting local conditions during weather emergencies through the SKYWARN program. This month the program will precede the business meeting.

of dollars in legal, court and expert witness fees are spent annually to resolve these matters.

Ten states have already acted. Therefore, it is in the interest of the citizens of New York State that there be enacted into law specific guidance regarding the minimum height below which local government and municipalities cannot restrict amateur radio antennas.

Unless you send this message and persuade your New York State Assemblyman and Senator to cosponsor or support Assembly Bill A 1565 (Tocci) and Senate Bill S2893 (Volker, Larkin, Maziarz, McGee) New York hams won't have a chance at an effective antenna!

Contact your Assemblyman and tell them about the benefits of Amateur Radio to your local community, the state of New York and the nation. Also write to the important Local Government Committee Chairpersons, Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli, LOB 621, Albany, NY 12248, and Senator Mary Lou Rath, 817 LOB, Albany, NY 12247. Please send a letter or QSL card to Speaker of the Assembly, Sheldon Silver, LOB 932/CAP 349, Albany, NY 12248, and to Senate Majority Leader, Joseph L. Bruno, 909 LOB, Al-

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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).

Missionary-Ham, Infant, Die When Plane Is Downed In Peru

A missionary from Michigan, killed after the plane in which she was a passenger was shot down last week in Peru, was an Amateur Radio operator. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, identified the dead as Veronica "Roni" Bowers, 35, and her infant daughter, Charity, seven months. Roni Bowers was KD4CKM, a Tech Plus licensee.

The Cessna 185 float plane ditched in the Amazon River after being fired upon. Bowers' husband, Jim, and their son, Cory, 6, were not seriously injured in the incident. Jim Bowers is KD4CKN, a General licensee. Pilot Kevin Donaldson was shot in the leg in the incident but survived.

The Bowerses, from Muskegon, Michigan, had been serving in Peru since July 1993. News accounts say the Peruvian Air Force shot down the plane carrying the missionaries in the Amazon jungle April 20. The Peruvian military said it opened fire after the pilot ignored warnings to land, but that claim is disputed.

A communiqué from the Peruvian Ministry of Defense said that the Peruvian Air Force "deeply regrets the loss of human life." It said its actions were part of its anti-drug operations procedures. Reports say a US military aircraft associated with anti-drug trafficking operations first spotted the Cessna but told the Peruvians the plane might be legitimate.

An investigation continues. Funeral services for the mother and infant were set for April 27 in Michigan.

The ARRL Letter 4/27/01

New Ham

Joseph Barnack qualified to become a new ham on April 7 by passing his Technician class exam. His new call sign is KC2HWC.

Joseph is the son of STARS member Mark Barnack N2LAB. Joseph is also a STARS member.

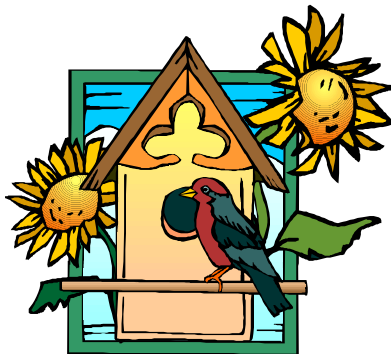
Congratulations Joseph and welcome to the hobby!

From Your President

Spring has sprung, thank goodness!

I have a lot to say this month, so you might want to go get something to drink to get through it.

As a start, with the better weather knocking at our doors and we will start repairing the winters damage to our antenna systems. Please remember to "BE SAFE" think before you go up or climb onto anything. Be careful of power, phone and cable lines. Antennas can be a great conductor and YOU the ground rod.



For those of you that attended the April meeting I do not need to tell you that I missed it. My wife was in the hospital having Gall Bladder surgery. It was a hurry up and get it out scenario that needed to be done STAT. I do promise, that God willing and the creek don't rise, I will be at the May meeting.

At this writing there is only a few weeks until the Dayton Hamfest. Several of us are going to travel there together on Thursday May 17th. We are going to meet at the Cracker Barrel restaurant at the Dunkirk/ Fredonia exit about 9 am. If you wish to join the convoy please feel free to join us. Look on the KE2VW repeater 146.670. We will depart about 10 am and should arrive in Dayton area about 6 pm.

This months Guest speakers will be from the National Weather Service, they will discuss the S KYWARN program. With spring just around the corner, we can be a part of the SKYWARN system. With a little training, you will know just what to look for in cloud formations and weather patterns and how to report them to the NWS. As I keep saying GET INVOLVED. I have been a part of this many, many times, and it is a great service and can be fun also. I have had 2 lap tops donated to the Club. At this month's board meeting we will decide what to do with them. One is a 386 and the other is a 486. If the board wants to sell them then, it will be first come first serve. As a disclaimer, you can check them out but they are in as, is condition.

Take a sip of your drink, so now comes the boring stuff.

The Internet although a great tool has taken it's toll on the Ham radio hobby. Our ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Bernie Fuller N2EFN sent all the Club leaders a message about Club memberships totals dropping. He sited a Club at 2 years ago had over 450 members. Last year there was a 50% drop in renewals. Even STARS renewal is not what I would have liked to see. I ask all of you, "what can we do as a Club to urge members to renew or for people to join?"

As the month of May approaches, I am starting my second half of my third term as your President. As some of you know, I do not have plans to seek a forth term. It has been a great experience and pleasure being your President. It is my wish that I have made some sort of contribution to the Club and Ham Radio.

As the Presidents that have past before me, each one has left his own mark. John KA2RFT pushed for the learning aspect of our hobby, Bob WA2IQX rebuilt the Nike Base station and upgraded our HF station. Bill N2GAO was big on FM communications. Greg KE2VW brought us into the digital age, and during his leadership we saw our ranks grow to 280 members. Terry K2OO spearheaded Bike Treks and Walk a Thon's and had a good business outlook for the Club. Tony KB2OUT was able to draw people into his weekly nets and get them to talk on the radio instead of just listen.

It is now time for the next generation of Club leaders to step up and take charge. What we at STARS need now is a fresh outlook to the future, a new direction to travel in. So I ask you, are you the one who is willing to take over the reins of the Club and lead into the future and give back a little to Ham Radio?

I ask you, are you the new blood that this Club needs? I can make this promise to whomever succeeds me as President. I will be there to assist you as you take the reins of the Club. To act as a guide and council but not to try to run from the background. You all have a few months to think about it and step up. As an Army Dill Sergeant once told me, YOU CAN LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY.

One more thing to start nagging you about is the Erie County Fair Exhibit. At this writing I still do not have an answer from the Fair as to if we still have a spot. If we do, I am going to need people to commit to working the Exhibit, and we will need help from other Clubs as well but more on that next month.

See you all at the May meeting,

Sincerely,
Gary 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



Gil Boelke, W2EUP SK

I am very sorry to be the bearer of some very bad news.

I just received a telephone call from a friend of W2EUP's informing me and the club that Gil passed away. He apparently had a heart attack and it was very sudden and unexpected.

The woman who called me said there will be an obituary in tomorrow's (Thursday 4/26) Buffalo News.

There will be a wake Friday in West Seneca. The funeral home name she was unsure about, so check the News for the location. The funeral will be 11 AM Saturday but I was not given the location.

Check your papers and I will also have updates on the BARRA web page (<http://barra.hamgate.net>) for those outside of the area and/or don't receive the News.

73,

Doug KA2WFT
BARRA VP
Newsletter Editor

NYS Law

(Continued from page 1)

bany, NY 12247. Get your relatives, friends and neighbors to do the same. Please, ask everyone you know to tell his or her state representatives to support the bill. We need thousands of letters to be effective!

Check <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org> for more information and sample letters.

Tell your legislators about our long proud history of public service and tell them we need this antenna law so that we can continue to do our important emergency communications job with no cost to the state. Write a letter. Make a phone call. Send an E-mail.

Here is a sample letter.

Your address _____ date _____

Dear Assemblyman or Senator,

I am an amateur radio operator and resident in your district. Please help us amateur radio operators to continue to provide emergency communications to New York State residents by either cosponsoring or supporting Assembly Bill A 1565-A (Tocci) and Senate Bill S 2893-A (Volker, Larkin, Maziarz, McGee).

Amateur radio operators provide an emergency communications network that is disaster-tested and robust. We provide this service free of charge to the citizens of New York, a service that would require many millions of dollars to replace. We are, in many ways, like volunteer firemen, but we

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STARS Board of Directors

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

Ham Helps His "Elmer" in Health Emergency:

Kansas Section Emergency Coordinator Joseph Plankinton, WD0DMV, reports that a new ham in his section recently got to return a favor for the amateur who'd helped him get his license--his "Elmer." On April 5 Conrad Lauck, KC0JUV, of Topeka was enjoying a QSO on a local repeater with his old friend Wayne Peterson, KB0AMY, 55 miles away in Horton. Both hams are blind, and Peterson is a diabetic. During the contact, Peterson mentioned that he was not feeling well, and, as the conversation progressed, his speech began to slur. Finally, Lauck heard Peterson key his microphone but not speak, and he knew his friend was in trouble. He contacted authorities in Horton to check on Peterson, who apparently had suffered a health emergency. An ambulance was called, and the crisis was averted.

The ARRL Letter 4/27/01

NYS Law

(Continued from page 4)

respond to communications emergencies rather than fires. Amateur radio is a voluntary, non-commercial communications service. A key element of a radio amateur's capability is a small radio tower high enough to ensure effective communication. This law will help make sure that state amateur radio operators continue to do this job. Cell phones and the Internet go down in storms and power outage but amateur radio does not.

Federal law already requires that reasonable accommodation be made for these amateur radio support structures that serve the public interest; however local towns, municipalities and radio amateurs cannot easily bear the burden of resolving local disputes over what is "reasonable."

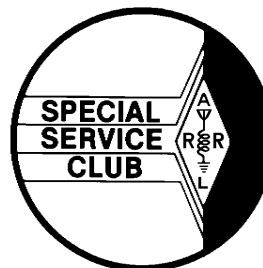
This delays replacing key elements of the amateur radio emergency network. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal, court and expert witness fees are spent annually to resolve these matters. It's not fair to expect volunteers to bear this financial burden. Ten other states have already enacted legislation to remedy the situation.

Therefore, it is in the interest of the citizens of New York State that there be enacted into law specific guidance regarding the minimum height below which local government and municipalities cannot restrict amateur radio antennas. This bill does that. Thank your for your support of amateur radio, a hobby that allows me to help my neighbors when they need emergency communications.

Yours truly,

Your name and callsign

See <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org> for the latest info



STARS is an ARRL Special
Service Club



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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