
telstar



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

ISSUE 236 JULY 2001

Ten Years & Counting!

by Terry Rockhold K200
Telstar Editor

This issue marks the tenth anniversary of when I became the editor of the Telstar.

When I joined STARS in 1990, the newsletter editor was Steve Yekich KB2EQV. Steve was also the Nike Base Chairman and had worked hard to make the club station a place where members could gather weekly and play radio or just have an eyeball QSO. What made this so unusual was that Steve was still in high school while he was filling these club positions.



All good things have to come to an end. So, in early 1991 Steve told the club that he would have to step down from being editor since he would be going away to start college. STARS President Bob Witt called for a volunteer to pick up the job. Of course, no one including myself volunteered! I had given it a little thought, but I didn't do anything about it. Finally, I got a call from Bob asking me if I would take the job. I somewhat reluctantly agreed to give it a try.

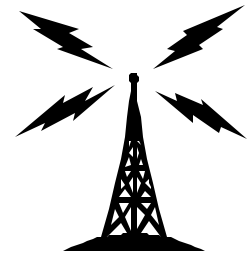
Editing the Telstar has been a real learning experience for me. Having never used a desktop publishing program before, I bought a cheap software program called Express Publisher. I began learning about drawing text frames, importing clip art, linking columns, changing type fonts, and much more. Eventually, I moved up to using the more sophisticated program Microsoft Publisher.

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July Meeting

This month's club meeting will be held on Thursday, July 5 at the Channel 4 Transmitter site on Center Road in Colden. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license are required.

Members will be able to see Channel 4's transmitter equipment as well as STARS repeater equipment. If that isn't enough to get you to attend, how about hot dogs and soft drinks!



Since this will be an outdoor program, bring along your lawn chairs. Also, in case of bad weather, monitor the STARS 147.090 repeater for possible announcements about canceling or rescheduling the event.

So, come on out for an evening of fun and friendship!

GM Creates Web Link To Aid Mobile Installations

In response to a request from ARRL, the General Motors Engineering Center has created a Web link to its official guidelines for installing radio transmitters in vehicles. The Radio Telephone / Mobile Radio Installation Guidelines page is:

<http://service.gm.com/techlineinfo/radio.html>.

Installation guidelines for Chrysler and Ford are reprinted, with permission, in the ARRL RFI Book:

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6834> .

ARRL offers additional information about automotive RFI on its Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rficar.html>.

The ARRL Letter 6/22/01

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

As they say, Field Day 2001 is in the bag. The rain stopped at about 1:30 pm, and we had enough time to put up a 160 meter antenna donated by John K2CF. Bruce N2KTT did the tower work, so I was able to stay on the ground and get everything else going. Keith KC2DGC worked on putting up a tent so some people could sit outside and chat, and a shelter over the front door to keep the rain out. It worked great. My thanks to everyone who helped out with set up and operated. Here are the figures for Field Day, QSO's CW 134, phone 349, total QSO points 1234, bonus points 900. That brings our claimed total to 2134 points.

Now that Field Day is history, we can turn our FULL attention to the Erie County Fair. IF you want to help out,

"NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP". Contact Keith KC2DGC or myself for a prime work shift. Just to let you know, I have contacted the leaders of ARATS and LARA. I have already heard back from them and they are eager to help. With packet being almost a dead issue in this area, we are going to push with the PSK 31. John N2OY has our ICOM 765 receiving and should be transmitting in a couple of weeks. We will have some sheets to hand out on how to get started in PSK 31. I want to push the new age of Ham Radio and see if we can get some new blood into the hobby.



The July 5th meeting will be at the Channel 4 transmitter site on Center Rd in Colden. As in the last 2 yrs we will have hot dogs and soft drinks available. We are VERY fortunate to be able to have access to a commercial transmitter site and be able to see the on-going upgrades and the new tower going up. You can also see your 2 repeaters and the work that has been completed on them. Bring your family, friends and lawn chairs. This has always been a great time

Sincerely,
Gary KB2YJ
President



Batavia Hamfest

GRAM will present their 21st Annual Batavia Hamfest on Sunday, July 15, 2001 at Batavia Downs, 8315 Park Road. Take Thruway Exit 48-Batavia, NY. Gates open at 6 AM.

Admission is still only \$5. The outdoor flea market spots are \$2, and indoor tables are \$10.

There will be big prizes given away with hourly drawings.

They will be serving breakfast plus their famous chicken barbeque for lunch.



Talk-in will be on the 145.285 repeater. Check-in will be on 146.52 simplex. There is usually a prize given away to the winner of a drawing from the check-ins.

Campers and motor homes are welcome after 2 PM on Saturday. Hook-ups are available.

For info, call (716) 948-9679 or e-mail racboyle@iinc.com.

Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will present the Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition on August 5, 2001. It will be held at the Main Transit Fireman's Grounds at 6777 Main St. in Williamsville (about .2 miles west of the intersection of Transit Rd. and Main St.). The 2001 ARRL Western New York Section Convention will be held in connection with this convention.

This should be the largest hamfest held in Greater Buffalo this year. The Buffalo Hamfest which has been held at the Erie County Fairgrounds will not operate on September 22 as previously announced.

LARC is going all out to make this a great hamfest. Their new location is a 20 acre site. There will be plenty of room for a huge outdoor flea market. They plan both outdoor and indoor demonstrations, contests, a pig roast, and more.

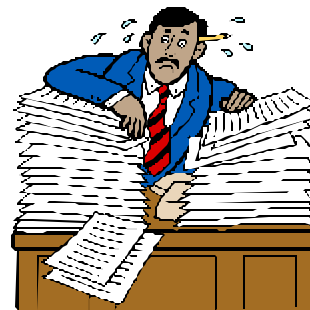
We will include more details in next month's newsletter. Make sure you mark August 5 on your calendar.

VE Test Session

On May 12, STARS VE Team held an exam session at the Grace Lutheran Church. At that session, they tested 14 applicants including students from Potter Road Vocational School.

As a result of these tests, six applicants earned their new Technician Class licenses.

VE's helping with the exam included Jim Livingston N2SKT, Mark Johnston KE2YQ, Joe Prockton N2 BGJ, Joe Lazzaro N1EAH, John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Dan Rozek W2CQX and Terry Rockhold K2OO.



STARS VE Team next exam session will be held on Saturday, July 14 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

Work Party

During Field Day after a couple of hours, our 40 meter dipole went belly up. John KA2RFT wants to have a work party on July 21st to build a new one and install it.

This will be a learning exercise, a "how to" and hands on. John will show us how to compute the length of the dipole, solder it up, find it's resonant frequency and trim it to where we want it.

John is a great instructor, so if you want to learn how to make your own wire antennas for a few dollars instead of spending 5 times the money, come on out to the Nike Base.

STARS Member Honored

At the club's June meeting, STARS President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ presented a certificate and a plaque to Lembit Enders KB2VWA to honor him for his efforts in getting the club's Nike Base Club Station building repainted.



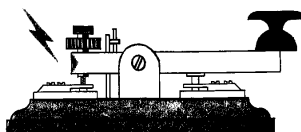
Congratulations, Lembit! We all appreciate your efforts!

Amateur Morse Testing Changes Effective 7/1

New Morse code exam standards go into effect Sunday, July 1, for all Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. The new standards call for Farnsworth character speed in the 13-to-15 WPM range and the end of multiple-choice questions for routine Morse code exams.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators voted last July to set up the revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US after amateur restructuring established 5 WPM as the sole Amateur Radio Morse code requirement.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, points out the required change to the Farnsworth protocol replaces the 18-WPM character speed ARRL VEC has used since 1989. "Standard 5 WPM messages with 5 WPM characters are available as an accommodation," he said. "Standard (non-Farnsworth) speed messages are available upon special request from the ARRL VEC for ARRL VE teams." In addition, the Morse exam audio frequency range should be between 700 and 1000 Hz for routine exams.



Consistent with the revised standards, Jahnke said, ARRL VEC has set 15-WPM characters as its Farnsworth setting and 750 Hz as its audio-frequency standard.

Code practice transmissions from Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will reflect the new Farnsworth standard. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says transmissions using the new protocol will begin Monday, July 2. "Any of our code transmissions at speeds below 18 WPM will drop from 18 WPM to 15 WPM character speed," he said. "We will maintain the standard method at speeds above 18 WPM -- 20 WPM at 20, 25 WPM at 25, etc."

Carcia said the W1AW Web code practice files <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>> also will be changed to mirror the W1AW transmission protocol. ARRL's Your Introduction to Morse Code cassette tapes and audio CDs also have adopted the new standards.

The new Morse examination standards also affect test administration. After July 1, Morse examinees will have to supply fill-in-the-blank answers for the 10-question Element 1 quiz. Multiple-choice type examinations no longer will be acceptable. Under the new testing regime, Morse code examinees must either correctly answer seven of the ten fill-in-the-blank questions or correctly copy 25 consecutive characters.

The ARRL Letter 6/22/01

FCC Orders Two Amateurs Off Most Repeaters

Never say that FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth lacks creative flair in applying enforcement sanctions. Acting in two ongoing cases, Hollingsworth this month notified two Technician licensees that they must stay off all repeaters on the 144, 222, and 440-MHz bands for the next three years.

Hollingsworth invoked Section 97.27 of the FCC's Amateur Service rules to modify the licenses of Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, of Agoura Hills, California, and Joseph Mattern, KG4NGG, of Orlando, Florida. Both licensees have been the subject of repeater-related enforcement inquiries.

Sorensen's restriction was among other actions recently taken in conjunction with the Los Angeles-area W6NUT repeater. In February, the FCC asked Sorensen and Gregory S. Cook, ex-KC6USO, of Chico, California, to respond to allegations that they conspired in making late-night one-way transmissions on W6NUT that originated from Sorensen's station.

In March the FCC accepted Cook's voluntarily surrendered license. For his part, Sorensen, who did not dispute the allegations, wrote the FCC offering to accept a year's banishment from the W6NUT 147.435 repeater "as fair punishment." Instead, the Commission imposed a ban on the use of all repeaters on the three most popular repeater bands for the next three years.

Mattern, who formerly held the vanity call sign WW4WJD

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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.	KB2VVC
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 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. In August, they will have a session be at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest on August 5. For information on Lancaster exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions 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 Sardinia Historical Society Building, 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.

FCC Orders

(Continued from page 4)

as a Tech Plus, was called for retesting last September after the FCC received allegations that the licensee had been using amateur repeaters in his area to solicit traffic reports for his employer, a company that markets the reports. In a reply to the FCC, Mattern characterized his traffic-reporting activities as "a hobby" that earned him very little money. He also agreed to abide by the wishes of repeater control operators who had asked him to stay off their machines.

Mattern failed all elements of last year's retest, but he passed the Technician exam earlier this year, and was granted KG4NGG on May 3. In reaction to numerous additional complaints from Central Florida amateurs the FCC set aside that license grant until the Enforcement Bureau could investigate. Mattern's application was granted on June 8 with the repeater restriction imposed.

The ARRL Letter 6/22/01

Ten & Counting!

(Continued from page 1)

Editing the Telstar is not a one-man job. There have been many people over the years who have submitted articles to keep members informed. I would have to start with the late Guz Guzanski WB2EZU. For many years prior to me becoming editor, Guz had been writing his STARS GOSSIP COLUMN. He continued submitting his hand-written articles each month when he was well into his eighties. STARS Presidents Greg Young KE2VW, Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT and Gary Zanghi KB2YJ have been great submitting their Presidents' Reports. Greg also has submitted many technical articles on packet and digital radio. Paul Wendzikowski WA2IJW contributed some great articles on repeaters while serving as STARS Repeater Chairman. Shane Brady WB2WPM contributed excellent technical articles on antennas, AM amateur radio, DXing, etc. Rick Doherty KD2QV wrote articles on new members and ham trivia. The problem with naming people is that no matter how many you name, you always leave someone out. So thanks to all for submitting articles over the years!

Another important person that I must mention is Marc Fruth N2UBT who is webmaster for STARS club website at www.wb2elw.com. Marc was the person who first developed the website and encouraged us to make the Telstar available there. Each month he takes the files that I prepare and does the work necessary for users to view the Telstar both in text format and in full graphical format in HTML and Adobe Acrobat. He has Telstars archived on the website going back to February, 1997.

We offer our members several ways to get the Telstar. If they choose, we will put them on our e-mail list and send them the text version of the newsletter each month. If they have internet access and want the full graphical version, they can download it from the club's website. Of course, we also offer the hardcopy version of the newsletter via US mail. This system has allowed us to save on printing and postage each month.

I try to offer our members a variety of STARS news, local amateur radio events news, technical articles and national/international news. We really could use some more members submitting articles for publication, even on an occasional basis. If you are involved in club events, how about writing a short article to let the other members know what is going on. Or maybe you want to write an article about your particular interest in some area of amateur radio like ATV, APRS, CW, QRP, or you-name-it.

So, thanks to everyone who has helped with the Telstar over the last ten years!



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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