

telstar



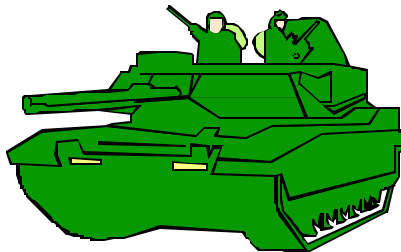
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 237 AUGUST 2001

Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will present the Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition on Sunday, 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 hamfest.

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.

The outdoor flea will open at 6 AM and the indoor vendor building will open at 8 AM.

General Admission tickets will be \$6, and outdoor flea market sellers will pay a \$4 per vehicle charge.

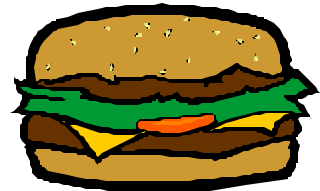
There will be outdoor demonstrations including military vehicles, weather balloons, hover crafts and firematic dragsters.

Dan Miller K3UFG an ARRL Accredited Speaker will host informal discussions and lectures indoors.

AUGUST MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 2 at the club's Nike Base club station (1.75 miles east of Route 20 on Lakeview Road). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

After a brief business meeting, we will have our annual mini-cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks will be provided by the club. We ask the members to bring finger foods, appetizers or desserts to share.



There also will be a mini flea market, so bring your items to sell out of your car! Bring your own tables.

The meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on.

Erie County Fair Display

Volunteers are needed to fill shifts for the amateur radio display at the Erie County Fair on August 9-19. Shifts are available in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Time is getting short! We need to hear from you now!

This is a great opportunity to introduce amateur radio to the public in a very positive light. You get to talk to people about your hobby and also to play a little radio!

For more information or to volunteer, contact Gary KB2YJ at 549-8476 (kb2yj@aol.com) or Keith KC2DGC at 649-3403 (terabyte@sprintmail.com).

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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).

From Your President

For those of you who missed the field trip meeting to the Channel 4 transmitter, you missed a good one. Just how often do you get to write your name on the top of a 1000 foot tower? Clint N2FMM did his usual great job as our tour guide, explaining of all the changes that are going on up there at the transmitter. We went through 15 lbs of hot dogs and a lot of soft drinks, so no one went away hungry. Thanks to Judy N2TEZ, the weather was great.

Our August 2nd General meeting will be at the Nike Base, no rain date. This will be our Annual summer Club Family picnic, so come early and stay late. Try out our new 160 meter antenna, "donated by John K2CF" and our new 40 meter antenna as well. For those of you who wish to set up a table and sell your goodies get there early and grab a good spot. Remember to bring a lawn chair with you if you wish to sit and chat.

If you saw the E Mail reflector message last week about the Fair sign up list, then you know that sign up for this year's Erie County Fair has been disappointing. We only have about 1/3 of the shifts covered, which is not enough to do a minimum coverage. If the interest is not there for this year, then we will just not proceed with it any further. Remember this is your Club.

LARA is having their Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest on August 5th. We should help support LARA as this will be our last local Hamfest for the year. If you have not heard yet, Rochester has pulled out of doing their September hamfest this year.

In trying to catch the wind, we had the award set for March. STARS gave an award to John Jarnot KC2BSI in appreciation for all of his time and efforts that were put into painting and general fix up to the our Nike Base Station building.

One last mention, we had to do some changes in the Board. Rick KD2QV citing personal comments and duties with his job, Rick had to resign his position as Vice President. I want all of you to remember that Rick has served our Club well for the past 2 1/2 years, but just could not get us the attention that is needed. The new VP is John KB2VWC. Filling in as a Director till the end of the term in December will be John N2OY.

I hope to see all of you at our August Meeting, until then 73's

Gary KB2YJ
President

Ellicottville Children 1st Fest

A special children's event is being held in Ellicottville, NY. It is the Annual Ellicottville Children 1st Fest. The dates are August 18th and 19th, all day each Day. The activities are Parade, Amateur Radio Station, Petting Zoo, Talent Show, Fashion Show, Art Show, Radio Controlled Model Airplanes, Toys, Kites, Dolls, Boats, Trains, Horses, Yo-yo's, Hands-on Exhibits, Ice Cream Making, Chalk Walk, Story Book Characters, Dancing, Music, Balloons, Clowns, Jugglers, Games, Museum Exhibits, Educational, Story Telling, Bikes, Robots, Airplane Rides, and many others. The Amateur Radio Station has a separate donated tent right in downtown Ellicottville, with an excellent antenna set-up. It is being organized by Club Member Evan Evans, AA2AA, an Ellicottville resident and STARS Member. We welcome any and all members and families to this event. We could also help with the station activities in order to help bring young people into Amateur Radio.



For Information, call 699-5544. or www.ellicottville.com/childfest

Technician License Classes

The Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas (ARATS) and the University of Buffalo Amateur Radio Club are co-sponsoring Technician license classes beginning September 10, 2001.

The classes will be held on Monday evenings at the University of Buffalo's North (Amherst) Campus. They are open to all interested in amateur radio.

To register for the classes or for more information, contact Terry Rockhold K200 at 656-0865 or by e-mail at k200@bigfoot.com.

STARS VE Team Exam

The STARS VE Team held an exam session at the Grace Lutheran Church on July 14. At this session, quality was emphasized over quantity. In other words, one candidate showed up, and he passed his Technician Class exam! You can't argue with a 100% pass rate!

VE's helping with the session were John, Sr. KB2VWC, Joe N1EAH, Dan W2CQX and Terry K200.

A new schedule for exams during 2001-2002 will be announced once approved.

DCI World Championships

While it has nothing to do with amateur radio, I couldn't resist telling you about a great event that is coming to Buffalo this month. Drum Corp International (DCI) is bringing the World Championships for drum and bugle corps back to Buffalo at Ralph Wilson Stadium from August 6-11. Buffalo also hosted the World Championships in 1990 and 1995.

These championships will showcase some of the top high school and college musicians from the United States, Canada, and several other countries. Corps from Japan and Taiwan will be participating.



The smaller Division II and III corps will be competing Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday brings Individual and Ensemble competitions and the finals for the Division II and III corps. Thursday, Friday and Saturday bring the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals for the larger Division I corps.

The biggest crowd always shows up Saturday night for the Division I finals. The top 12 corps from the semifinals will be competing that night, with the final 5 shown live on PBS TV.

The best value comes Thursday for the quarterfinals. The same top 12 corps competing Saturday night will also compete on Thursday night. However, the best seats for Saturday night cost \$75, while the best seats for Thursday only cost \$20.

This is great clean-cut entertainment for the whole family. If you get a chance, go out and see the fun! For more information, see <http://www.dci.org/events/world/>.

ARRL Petitions For New 60-Meter Ama- teur Band

A petition filed this week by the ARRL could result in a new high-frequency band for US amateurs. The ARRL has asked the FCC to allocate 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis.

The League told the FCC that the new 60-meter band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters. "There are times on certain paths when a frequency in the 80-meter band is too low, and a frequency in the 40-meter band is too high for reliable ionospheric propagation," the ARRL said in its petition. The ARRL said the propagation gap can hamper communication between the US and the Caribbean during severe weather emergencies.



The ARRL Board of Directors approved the proposal at its July 20-21 meeting. The FCC has not yet invited public comments on the petition. Even if the petition finds favor with the FCC, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

As proposed by the ARRL, amateurs General class and higher would be permitted to operate phone, CW, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific subbands were proposed.

The ARRL said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40. If the new band is approved, hams would have to avoid interfering with—and accept interference from—current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL's petition cites the success of the League's WA2XSY experimental operation in the 60-meter band, carried out since 1999, which confirmed its communication reliability.

"An amateur allocation in this band would improve the Amateur Service's already exemplary record of providing emergency communications during natural disasters when

even modern communications systems typically fail," the ARRL concluded.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz>>.

The ARRL Letter 7/27/01

New York Cell Phone Law

The widely reported New York bill banning the use of hand-held cell phone while driving should have no effect on Amateur Radio mobile operation, according to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. "There is no ambiguity in the bill," he said. The bill, A.9280, was signed into law recently by Gov George Pataki, a former amateur. It requires cell phone users to use hands-free devices when calling. The measure specifies "mobile telephone" use, and defines a "mobile telephone" as a device used by subscribers to a wireless telephone service. That, in turn, is defined to specify a commercial two-way wireless telecommunications service that accesses the public switched telephone network. The bill also specifies "using" as holding the mobile telephone "to, or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear." The new law will be phased in starting November 1. It calls for fines of up to \$100. The measure also calls upon the New York Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to study the effects of the use of mobile telephones "and similar equipment" in conjunction with the operation of a motor vehicle and report back to the legislature in four years. The full text of the measure is available on the New York legislature's Web site <<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A09280&sh=t>> . A similar measure requiring hands-free cellular telephones recently passed the Rhode Island legislature.

The ARRL Letter 7/6/01

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 in 2001 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. A new schedule of dates will be announced once approved. 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 Hal at 832-0031 or Bill at 716-839-3525.

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.

Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, Wearing Field Day Pin Proudly Aboard ISS

International Space Station Expedition 2 crew member Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, is proudly wearing her ARRL Field Day 2001 pin in space. The pin was ferried up to the ISS on the recently completed shuttle Atlantis mission and presented to Helms by crew member Jim Reilly. Helms not only has been an outstanding participant in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts, she also took it upon herself to run the first Field Day operation from space.



"We were so impressed with Susan's abilities on the air that we wanted to give her a little recognition for her efforts," said ARISS International Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

The pin came with a formal letter of presentation that cited Helms' "pioneering efforts as a Field Day contester." Carolyn Conley, KD5JSO, of NASA reports Helms was "thrilled" to get the Field Day pin and glad to learn that her participation was appreciated.

Using the ISS US Amateur Radio call sign NA1SS, Helms joined in the annual ARRL Field Day fray June 23-24, working several dozen stations. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, has said that NA1SS contacts will count for Field Day credit, but they will not count for satellite bonus points.

The ARRL Letter 7/27/01

Greater Buffalo Hamfest

(Continued from page 1)

You want food? How about a mouth watering pig roast! Sandwiches and dinners will be served starting 10:30 AM. They also will be serving breakfast, corn on the cob, hot dogs, cold pop and bottled water and hot coffee.

There will be a Club Championship contest pitting amateur radio clubs in Western New York against each other in friendly competition. Other contests include the Most and Gaudiest Mobile Antenna Array and a 2 Meter Fox Hunt. There will also be hourly drawings for door prizes.

The American Red Cross will be set up from 8AM to 1PM at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest/WNY ARRL Section Convention. August 5th, Main Transit Fireman's Grounds

Any individuals interested in donation blood at the hamfest are asked to email:

Kari eawfk@aol.com
to request a donation time slot

Donors must be at least 17 yrs old, weigh more than 110 LBS and have not donated in the past 60 days.

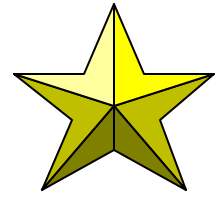
There will also be a VE test Session at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest& Exposition/WNY ARRL Section Convention.

All exam candidates are asked to contact: Hal Cameron at 716- 716- 832-0031 or Bill at 716-839-3525 to register
Email Test registration :wb2aiv@arrl.net

For more information on the hamfest, check out <http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/>.



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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