

telstar



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

ISSUE 241 DECEMBER 2001

2002 Club Elections

The 2002 STARS club elections were held at the November club meeting.

The following are the winners of the election:

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Financial Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2 Year Term)	Scott Barto	KB2KOL

These people plus Terri Karr KB2TRS (a Director in the second year of her two-year term) and Gary Zanghi KB2YJ (as Past President for a one-year term) will make up the 2002 STARS Board of Directors.



December Meeting

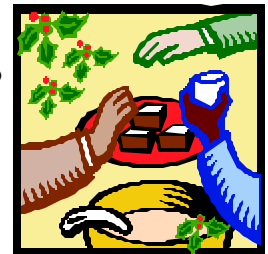
This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 6 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership are required.

Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our new club officers for 2002 .

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. Members are also invited to set up "for sale" tables.

Also, please remember to bring donations for our Food Drive. See article on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you there!



2002 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2002!

You should complete the form included with your November newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email.



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).

Time To Go

This will be my last column as your President, as of the end of the December meeting, Bob KA2WYE will then take over the job. In the next few paragraphs I give you a State of the Club from when I found it, to when I pass it on to Bob. I will state this, as the past President it is my job to assist the new President not act as a road block.

At the October 1998 Board meeting our treasury was at an all time low, very low. At the October 2001 Board meeting we had 5 times the money. Even with the membership down from past years. As the new President I took a look at the past spending and put a stop to it. Expenses like, misc repeater expenses from \$25 to \$40 a month, stamps, paper, printer cartridges. We now E Mail our newsletter The Telstar to many of you. This saves the Club a lot of money every year. This has made it possible for us to spend our money elsewhere.

Now let talk about where the savings went. Our Icom 735 HF radio, was ok but had problems. We had it look at locally, but it could not be repaired. Instead of throwing more money into it, we took a 2 year loan from a member and purchased Icom 765. Through cost cutting measures and by selling salvaged computer equipment we repaid that loan in a few months. We also fixed the trim on the Nike Base and painted it inside and out. The Town did take notice of our efforts and put a new roof on the building, at no cost to us.

Lets look back at Donations. With my contacts at work, I was able to get 3 pick-up truck loads of electronic stuff from my Employer. The better stuff we sold, most we gave away to local schools. It was reported to me the kids had great time tearing into them, cleaning and rebuilding them and getting them working again. Many less fortunate families in our area got their first computer from STARS, and for that we should be proud. We have also had a couple of equipment donations from the estates of SK's, which also helped out. We did have to put a stop on some donations, because of I did not want to turn our Club into a dumping ground for trash. Then once we ended up with it, we had to dispose of the trash, and I got tired of making midnight dumpster runs. Let alone the legal disposal problems.

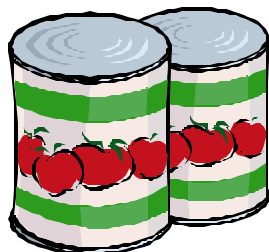
THE REPEATER: This has been the most sensitive subject of my term as President. As a disclaimer, I believe that what was done to the repeater was the best job some people knew how to do. After I took office, I got a call from the Engineering at Channel 4. The new chief Engineer wanted "that mess in the corner cleaned up or get it out of here" that mess were our repeaters. Most of you saw the video that we took of before the rebuild, Those of you that have gone to

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STARS Food Drive

Since the attack on 09/11/01 donations have poured in many relief efforts to help everyone affected by the disaster.

Many local organization are now feeling the strain of those donations going to the W. T. C. help fund and not staying here.



At the November meeting, we discussed helping out a local outreach center that will help out some needy families right here in the South Towns.

John KA2RFT, one of our past Presidents suggested St. Peter and Pauls outreach program. It is a non denominational Center, so our small donation will got to all that need help right here in the South Towns.

Here is a partial list of needed items. Cereals, pancake mix, jelly or jam, noodles and cheese, all pastas, tuna fish, bagged rice, dried beans, soup mixes, spaghetti sauce "canned," or any other non perishables that you can think of.

I JUST KNOW, no one will bring any exploded cans or out of date items.

For everyone that brings several items, you will receive a raffle ticket for a Ham Radio related item. The Town of Hamburg has given us a lot with the use of the Nike Base, so it's our turn to give a little back. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE help out. Lets pack the house on meeting night.

Be grateful for all that you have and give a little.

Sincerely,
Gary KB2YJ
Your Future Past President

VE Session

The STARS VE team held an exam session on Saturday, November 10. Once again we had a small turn-out with only one candidate, but, fortunately , she successfully passed her test to earn a new Technician license.

VE's who served at the exam session were Dan W2CQX, Tom KC2CAG, John Sr. KB2VWC and Terry K2OO.



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Seasons Greetings To All

As your President-elect, I would like to thank all who voted at the November meeting . I would also like to wish all members and their families a Happy Holiday Season from myself and on behalf of the club.

In light of the events of September 11, I would encourage all members to get involved in some aspect of public service in Amateur Radio to help keep the Nation Prepared.



Also, please come to the December Christmas Party and enjoy a night of Food, Fun and Fraternity.

See You All There!

Bob KA2WYE

CQ World Wide CW Contest

Members were busy Thanksgiving weekend competing in the CQ World Wide CW Contest at STARS Nike Base HF Club Station.

Operators were: Scott KB2KOL; John K2CF; Gerry KA2MGE; Bruce KC2GJX; and John Jr. N2OY.

Our score was approximately 150,000 points. We are unsure of the exact total because the logging program did not give us credit for some multipliers - Gerry is currently working on this.



Some DX worth mentioning: Cyprus, San Andres Is. Fernando de Noronha, Galapagos Is., Morocco, Burkina Faso, Ascension Is., Japan, Estonia, Moldavia, and Guatemala

A good time was had by all - wish we could have seen more op's stop out. We may be planning to work the ARRL 160 meter CW contest December 7-9. Also, the ARRL 10 meter phone and CW contest is December 15-16.

Scott Barto KB2KOL

Editor's Note: Apologies to Bruce KC2GJX for listing his call sign wrong for the CQ World Wide SSB Contest article last month.

Help Requested

Terry,

Could you please put a little note in the upcoming Telstar asking the members if they have either a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer or a Kent Iambic Paddle that I could test out. I've heard great reviews about both of those keys, but I've never used either. I've only used a Bencher. I don't want to put out a lot of money for a key that doesn't have the best "bang for the buck." I'm currently in the process of getting an HF station back on the air, and that is the last piece of equipment that I need to purchase. Any feedback would also be greatly appreciated. You can catch me at the December "Christmas Party" or drop me an e-mail - bart0977@adelphia.net.

Thanks a lot & 73's
Scott - KB2KOL

Lockport Amateur Radio Association Hamfest/Auction

SAVE JANUARY 26th, 2002 FOR W.N.Y's POPULAR MINI-HAMFEST AND AUCTION

Location- Eagles Hall, 6614 Lincoln Ave, Lockport, NY
Setup time for vendors 7:00 AM
Public admitted 8:00 AM
Auction starts at 12:00 noon
Flea market tables \$5.00/8' table
Entrance to event \$5.00/ under 12 free
Food is available
Talk-in 146.820 (-600) PL 107.2

To reserve your tables contact the Hamfest/Auction Chairman: Duane Robinson W2DLR at 716/791-4096 or W2DLRHAM@AOL.COM The tables are being reserved now so don't wait till you find they are all gone.
Bob Radmore N2PWP

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Past President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Director	Terri Karr	KB2TRS

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 1/12, 3/9, 5/11 & 7/13 in 2002 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 Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lancaster ARC Club House, 525 Pavement Road, Lancaster. For information on Lancaster exams, call Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031 or Bill Klepser WB2AIV at 839-3525.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on at 10 AM on 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4 & 6/1 in 2002 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 (evenings) or 278-3830 (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM days).

PROS will be holding test sessions at 10 AM 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 NW2I at 652-8178.

Some exams do not allow walk-ins, so make a reservation.

One American Soldier

A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand dune.

"One American soldier is better than ten Taliban". The Taliban commander quickly sends 10 of his best soldiers over the dune whereupon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence.

The voice then calls out "One American soldier is better than one hundred Taliban". Furious, the Taliban commander sends his next best 100 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gunfight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.

The American voice calls out again "One American soldier is better than one thousand Taliban". The enraged Taliban commander musters one thousand fighters and sends them across the dune. Cannon, rocket and machine gun fire ring out as a huge battle is fought. Then silence. Eventually one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the dune and with his dying words tells his commander: "Don't send any more men, its a trap. There's two of them." Submitted by Jay KF2JY

Time To Go

(Continued from page 2)

the Ch 4 transmitter site on our field trips you have seen a well organized, consolidated repeater system. This has made Ch 4 very happy. We have had some problems with the auto patch and a noise that comes and goes.. Most likely we always will have the noise as long as we are at that site. Do to no ones fault the 2 meter repeater was never coordinated at the Colden location. I took a lot of heat from some people about the need to listen to our local repeater council. Well I will say to those people, take notice that some repeaters are in trouble because of violation to Council guide lines and have received notice from the FCC. To the credit of the past Repeater chairman and his great writing skills, and my contacts with other area repeater owners we were able to get our repeater coordinated even tho we are not outside the 100 mile limit. This 100 mile limit is set up so repeaters on the same frequency do not interfere with each other.

Like it or not we are stuck having to use a PL on our repeater, and it can not be removed. If it is we lose our coordination and our frequency pair and then they are up for grabs by anyone. I know there is a long waiting list .

I wish to thank Paul WB2KFL, for taking ownership of our two fund raising raffles. Paul's efforts brought in nearly \$1500 to the Club's treasury. Thanks Paul.

Dave WA2TVT, who ran a membership drive for the Club, that netted us many new members. I am also grateful to Dave for his council during my early days as the President.

To Judy N2TEZ and Jack KB2ESM for keeping me on the straight and narrow when things got a little out on control.

This being December this is also our annual Christmas party and clean out the shack flea market. If you have anything to sell trade or give away this is the time to do it. But do to the lack of table space please bring your own table. The Club will supply pizza and soft drinks. We hope that some of you can bring your favorite finger foods too.

SO it is with a heavy heart I bid you goodbye as your President, it has been a great time and thanks to all of you that have helped out over the past three years, that I did not mention.

One final BIG THANK YOU to my wife Valari, for her understanding and support "YOU ARE THE BEST"

Sincerely,
Gary J Zanghi
KB2YJ
President



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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