
telstar



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

ISSUE 242 JANUARY 2002

ARRL Study Panel Recommends Eliminating Novice Bands

On the basis of nearly 5000 survey responses, the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the Novice CW subbands and allow Novice and Technician with Element 1 credit licensees to operate CW on the General 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The committee's complete report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration during its annual meeting in January. The committee's determinations were based on opinions expressed by 4744 respondents to an ARRL Novice Spectrum Study survey launched in June. Those expressing their opinions included ARRL members and nonmembers. Nearly 61% of those responding were Extra class licensees.

The committee, chaired by ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has been studying the status and usage of the Novice/Technician Plus HF bands with an eye toward determining what changes to usage of that spectrum might be needed now that the FCC no longer issues new Novice licenses.

The survey offered possible refarming options for each of the bands involved—including no change at all. Generally speaking, the predefined options proposed retaining Extra class CW subbands on the affected bands, setting aside expanded CW reserves for all license classes except

(Continued on page 4)

January Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 3rd 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.

We are working on setting our Youth Center station back up again and hope to start working with the kids once again. We will talk about what this will require and will tour the station at the meeting.

Please note that we are still looking for the over-achiever who was wishing a little too hard for a white Christmas for Buffalo!



Did You Renew Yet?

Your dues to renew your 2002 STARS club membership are due on January 1. Did you remember? If we receive them in time, your 2002 membership card and repeater codes will be included with your February newsletter.

Why not take time right now to fill out the renewal form included with your Nov. newsletter and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the January club meeting.

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 or regular mail.



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: A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A Very Happy Holiday Season to all the membership and the best wishes for the New Year to you all and your families.

First and foremost, I would like to personally thank Gary Zanghi KB2YJ our past president for his past 3 years of service to the club and hope that he will remain very active on our board of directors for 2002. I would also like to thank all our board members for unselfish service to our club, especially Judy Levan N2TEZ and Jack Cullum KB2ESM who have served our club loyally for many years, and not to forget our tireless Telstar editor Terry Rockhold K2OO.

As this is being typed, I am finishing my Christmas shopping and getting ready for the big day. I'm listening to the Manhattan Transfer Christmas Holiday album, the "Snowfall" song but still no snow outside. (Editor's note: Needless to say, Bob got his snow!!)

I was reminded of full page picture advertisement in a late 1960's "Men's Bunny Magazine" (I found it cleaning out a remodeled room at work, but I only read the articles and looked at the advertisements). It was a November or December issue. I remember it was a cognac ad, and it featured a gentleman and his wife or significant other enjoying an adult beverage and a roaring fire in a remote log cabin in the middle of a snow storm. In the picture there is a Christmas tree off to one side and a bearskin rug in front of the fire (some of you may have seen this one, it was very cozy scene indeed).

No doubt your wondering, what's this have to do with Ham radio? Well, the point here is they were prepared, maybe just for that evening but prepared and that's the theme of my message. The old boy scout motto BE PREPARED! We in amateur radio, in light of the events of September eleven, know we must be ready to serve our community, state and our country.

We here in Western New York have had a bit of luck with extra training from our experience in emergency communications with blizzards, ice storms and the like. It doesn't take a lot, an extra car battery charged can power a Handy-Talkie for days and maybe even a week plus on low power, even better a deep cycle battery can power a modern High Frequency radio transmitting medium and long distance communications for hours and hours, monitoring for days, CW and low power for a week. So the first step in prepar-

(Continued on page 3)

Technician Class Training Course

ARATS, STARS and the University of Buffalo ARC sponsored a Technician Class training course which began on September 10 at the University of Buffalo's North campus in Amherst. The class was drawn from all over the Greater Buffalo area and ranged in age from 11 to 77. Most of the people had thought about being a ham for many years, but they hadn't been able to get through the process on their own.

The first night was used to introduce the students to the various aspects of amateur radio including repeaters, hamfests, DXing, Field Day, public service communications, etc. Then, the next nine nights were devoted to covering FCC rules and regulations, operating procedures, propagation, electronics, circuits, antennas, feedlines and RF exposure guidelines. The eleventh night had the students taking two practice exams, structured just like the real tests that they would be taking the following week.

On November 26, the ARATS VE team, assisted by two members of the STARS VE team, conducted the FCC exams for the students. Out of the 15 students who had attended half or more of the classes, 14 qualified for their Technician Class licenses on their first try! The final student is expected to be passing their test shortly. Three more students had to miss many of the classes because of work or family problems, but may be qualifying for their licenses after a little more self study.

The instructors for the classes were Terry Rockhold K200 and Jim Livingston N2SKT, both of whom are members of ARATS and STARS. Joe Mure KB2VXE, who is the President of the University of Buffalo ARC and also an ARATS member, arranged for the classroom and welcomed the students.

Consideration is being given to holding a General Class training course in 2002. More about this to follow!

VE Exam Fees

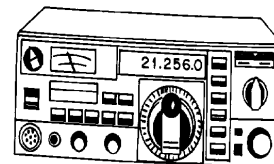
VE exam fees for those tests administered by ARRL/VEC teams including STARS VE team will remain at \$10 for the year of 2002.



LARA Hamfest & Auction

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will be holding their 41st annual Hamfest and Auction on January 26th.

They will be returning to The Eagles Hall, 6614 Lincoln Ave., Lockport, NY. From Transit Road Rte. 78, proceed east on Lincoln Ave. 2 miles to the Eagles Hall on the south side of Lincoln, just across from RiteAid.



Setup for vendors begins at 7 AM. The Hamfest will be open to the public between 8 AM and noon. The auction will run from noon till done. Auction vendors must be there for the auction.

Flea market tables will be available for \$5.00 per 8 foot table. Items at auction will pay LARA a 10% commission up to a maximum of \$10.00. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 free. There will be plenty of free parking. Food will be available: hot dogs, hamburgers, beef on weck, donuts, coffee and pop.

Talk-in will be on W2RUI/R on 146.82/146.22 MHz (output/input).

For information call Duane Robinson W2DLR at 791-4096 or e-mail w2dlrham@aol.com

From Your President

(Continued from page 2)

edness is to get involved by checking into the club nets on VHF or HF. This is an excellent way to practice the great skills we possess as amateur radio operators. In the coming months I'll expand on the theme of emergency communications and will even try to get some classes formed to further our skills and education of this most important aspect of our "HOBBY" Not only can this hobby be exciting and fun, it can on occasion be a real life saver.

Happy New Year 2002

Bob Koster KA2WYE

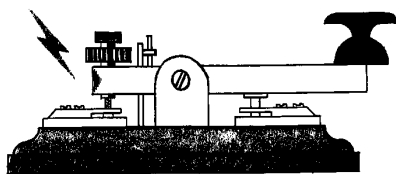
Novice Bands

(Continued from page 1)

Technicians lacking Element 1 credit, and dividing the remaining spectrum into expanded phone segments for General, Advanced and Extra class operators. A guiding principle was that no class of licensees would lose any privileges as a result of reforming.

The committee recommended expanding the phone bands in accordance with the most popular of the survey choices offered--three for 80, 40 and 15 meters and two for 10 meters. Here's a summary:

* On 80 meters, nearly 40% of those responding opted for a plan that would extend the US phone allocation to 3700 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire subband, and with Advanced and General class subbands starting at 3725 and 3800 kHz respectively.



* On 40 meters, nearly half of the respondents picked the plan to extend the primary US phone allocation to 7125 kHz, with Extra and Advanced licensees allowed on the entire segment and Generals from 7175 kHz and up. (The committee's report suggested no changes to the special allocations for amateurs on certain Pacific or Caribbean islands and in Alaska.)

* On 15 meters, again, nearly half of those responding wanted the US phone allocation extended to 21,175 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire allocation, and Advanced and General subbands beginning at 21,200 and 21,250 kHz respectively.

* On 10 meters--where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already may operate CW, RTTY and data from 28,100 to 28,300 kHz, nearly 55% of the respondents favored a plan to retain the US phone allocation from 28,300 to 29,700 kHz and to extend CW access to Novice/Tech Plus operators to 28,000 kHz--an additional 100 kHz. The current Tech Plus 28,300 to 28,500 kHz phone segment would be retained.

The committee's report says that if the ARRL Board adopts the plan, the League should include any request to the FCC to implement the changes within an omnibus filing encompassing other issues, rather than as a separate petition. Consideration of any necessary ARRL Band Plan changes would follow ultimate FCC approval.

The ARRL Letter 12/21/01

Ohio Ham Sentenced In Police Radio Jamming Case

Kenneth Kelly, WT2FBI, has been sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty of attempted disrupting public service--a fifth-degree felony in Ohio.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says Kelly did not appear by October 30 for requested retesting, and his license will be canceled.

Kelly had been indicted on a felony charge of disrupting public service by allegedly jamming and talking on the Middletown, Ohio, police radio system in July. He had been held in the Butler County jail pending sentencing.

The assistance of members of the Dial Radio Club--who did some direction finding and also taped Kelly's legal transmissions on 2 meters for comparison with the voice showing up on the police frequencies--was instrumental in solving this case.--Ernie Howard, W8EH

The ARRL Letter 12/14/01

STARS Member Featured

STARS member Greg Young KE2VW was featured in an article in the Buffalo News (12/19/01 page B1) in an article titled "Doctor of lights." The article talks about the great Christmas light display that Greg has built at his house over the last 20 plus years. There was a picture of Greg and his wife Diane in front of their display.

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 call ahead and make a reservation.

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Released

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee has released a revised and expanded Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2002, and must be used to generate all Extra class written examinations administered on or after that date. It replaces the Extra class question pool released April 15, 2000--the day Amateur Radio "restructuring" became effective.

The new Element 4 pool expands the number of questions by more than 20 percent--806 questions--as opposed to 665 in the current Extra class pool, and it contains more technical material. More than half of the questions cover electrical principles, circuits, signals and emissions.



The 50 questions in an Extra class examination are drawn from the question pool consistent with FCC rules and according to a formula that specifies the number of questions to be asked from each of nine topic areas. Applicants must correctly answer at least 37 questions to pass.

The new Element 4 question pool is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>>. The just-released Extra class question pool remains valid through June 30, 2005.

The Question Pool Committee now will turn its attention to developing an outline for the Technician class (Element 2) question pool. A draft Element 2 syllabus is scheduled for public release and comment next spring. The QPC invites suggestions for the Element 2 syllabus and question pool revision.

Questions and comments about the QPC's work can be directed to, Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, w4ww@arrl.net; ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, vec@arrl.org; Fred Maia, W5YI, w5yi@w5yi.org; and John Johnston, W3BE, johnston.john1@worldnet.att.net

The ARRL Letter 12/7/01

Tune Up the Radio and Turn on the Kids

Are you ready? Here comes Kid's Day! On Saturday, January 5, sit down at your radio, tune it up, then share it with the younger generation. Let them talk about Pokemon, school, games, Harry Potter, computers, friends and other kid stuff, while you manage the technical aspects and just watch and listen for a change. Kid's Day is always lots of fun for all ages, and it's a terrific opportunity for parents, clubs and individual amateurs to show youngsters what great fun ham radio can be. For more information about Kid's Day, visit the Kid's Day Rules page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/ead/kd-rules.html>>.





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

Terry W. Rockhold K200
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k200@bigfoot.com