

telstar



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

ISSUE 244 MARCH 2002

ARRL Board Adopts Modified Novice Band Re- farming Plan

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to reform the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended reforming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15 meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recom-



March Meeting

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

This month's featured speaker will be STARS member Keith Patterson KC2DGC. He will be talking about PSK-31 and other sound-card based digital modes. There has been great interest in these modes the last couple of years in the amateur radio community.



Come on out and see what's going on with the club!

mendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified refarming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

The ARRL Letter 2/25/02

Field Day 2002

The ARRL Field Day 2002 rules and packets now are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>> as Adobe PDF files (ASCII files will be updated by next week). The ARRL has adopted rule changes affecting Field Day, including the addition of a "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station, which replaces the Novice-Technician station. Field Day 2002 will mark the first in which stations throughout the Americas have been invited to participate. All International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries--North and South America--may take part in Field Day, which takes place June 22-23 this year. For more information, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, contest@arrl.org.

The ARRL Letter 2/15/02

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 who are joining ARRL for the first time or who are renewing their membership after a lapse of two years or more should send their ARRL membership forms 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! STARS no longer benefits from normal yearly renewals, so they should be sent directly to the ARRL.



Club Net

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 Information Net is held on the second and third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 PM on the STARS 147.090 MHz repeater (107.2 Hz PL tone needed).

From Your President

Last month newsletter's emergency preparedness information became almost an eerily premonition of things to come. We all know about the heavy snow and ice storm that knocked out power to many areas of Western New York for days. I think almost all of us knew someone who was left with the loss of electrical power. This one weather event affected thousands of households. Again we learned how we must always be prepared. In all large scale emergency incidents that affect us, we must have a team to help coordinate things and direct us on what to do next. That's where we need YOU. Every time you get involved with a club event, you become a person who can take charge of a situation.



When we volunteer, we become a student, learning through a real experience and the understanding of the realities that it can teach us. Mistakes made help us develop and grow to become more proficient the next time we have a similar experience. We also gain a understanding of group dynamics and leadership. All of these are important real world skills we can use day in and day out.

That gets me to the next stage in preparedness. I want YOU to volunteer, through volunteering we can grow and develop the skills that can help others and ourselves during a disaster. And the biggest reward to volunteering is knowing you helped to save a life, prevent damage to property or just had been useful by being there for others. As the months go on and we have different club events, please try to volunteer for at least one event or function. Examples are Field Day, the Erie County Fair, Club Picnic, or a public service event the club may be involved in. Come help at the meetings with coffee, sign in sheets or any place you feel comfortable. Its your club, help make it the best.

By being an active club member we gain your experience, and you gain the knowledge of other members. All skills and education are passed on and become a vital part of OUR club. I wish to thank you all in advance for donating your time and experience to the advancement of amateur radio and the STARS club

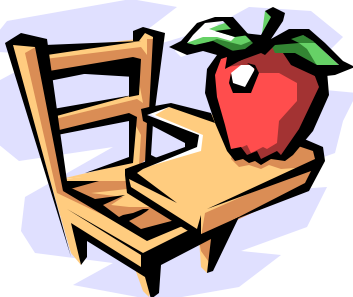
Bob Koster KA2WYE

General Class Theory Course

STARS and ARATS will co-sponsor a general class theory course beginning March 20. The instructors will be STARS and ARATS members Terry Rockhold K200 and Jim Livingston N2SKT.

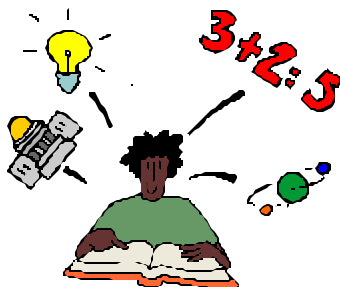
The course will be held at the Greenhaven Public Library which is near the intersection of I-290 and Niagara Falls Blvd. The course will run one night a week for ten weeks with the final night being the VE Exam. The first two classes will be held on Wednesday nights and then the remaining classes will be held on Monday nights. The hours will be 6:45 to 8:45 PM.

The course is open to all interested hams. For more information or to pre-register, please call Terry at 656-0865 or email him at k200@bigfoot.com.



Technician Class Theory Course

Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will start a Technician Class theory course on Thursday, March 7. The class will run 10 weeks. For more information, contact Scott KB2TRQ at 895-6948.



Wanted

Looking for an inexpensive power supply of 12 Amps or greater for a retired couple just getting into ham radio.

If you have one for sale, please contact Terry K200 at 656-0865 or at k200@bigfoot.com for more information.

ARRL Merchandise

With Field Day coming up, the ARRL has commemorative Pins \$5, and T-Shirts \$12.95. For anyone interested in these or any other ARRL items I'm planning to put in an order for them on May 3rd (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 March, April and May meetings, or phone me at 947-5011 or e-mail me at kc2gix@arrl.net. With the order placed May 3rd, it should arrive in about 5 days.

If enough interest is shown, we could plan a few orders a year.

Bruce KC2GJX



Telstar by E-mail

For several years we have made the Telstar available to club members by e-mail, if they chose to receive it that way. This has allowed the club to recognize significant savings.

We have used a plain text format for the e-mail version of the Telstar which conveys all the words but doesn't contain the graphics or pictures in the printed version.

We now have the capability of e-mailing members a full graphical version of the Telstar. The file will utilize the Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf). To view this, you will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software which can be downloaded at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>. You will be able to view and print out the Telstar in full color.

If you would like to start receiving the Telstar by e-mail rather than by US mail or if you would like to change from receiving the plain text version of the e-mailed Telstar over to the Adobe Acrobat version, contact Terry K200 at k200@bigfoot.com.

Of course, the Telstar can still be viewed on the club's website (www.wb2elw.com) in plain text or full graphical versions.

FCC Completes Georgia ARRL VEC Exam Session Audit

The FCC has wrapped up an investigation into apparent irregularities at five ARRL VEC-sponsored Amateur Radio examination sessions in Georgia during 2000 and 2001. As a result of the probe, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth said that several examinees would be called back for Element 1 (Morse code) retesting. In addition, the ARRL VEC has discontinued volunteer examiner accreditation for all but two of the VEs involved. According to standard procedure, all VEs who might have been involved were suspended after the FCC investigation began last year.



"We have reviewed the examination documents and all relevant information, including that provided by the volunteer examiners and applicants," Hollingsworth said in a February 12 letter to ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. Jahnke called the apparent irregularities to the FCC's attention last June. The issues involved both exam sessions and instructional classes.

Initially focusing on the May 19, 2001, examination session in Statesboro, the FCC audit was expanded to cover the activities of the same group of VEs at Georgia test sessions in Claxton on February 19 and April 15, 2000, and in Statesboro on May 27, 2000, and February 17, 2001.

In a letter last summer to ARRL VEC, Hollingsworth said test session documents and other information indicated "alarming discrepancies in testing procedures." He said information before the FCC suggested that volunteer examiners at the May 19 Statesboro session used identical exam question sets and Morse text at several recent exam sessions in apparent contradiction of Amateur Service rules that prohibit administration of a "compromised examination." Hollingsworth also said it appeared that test candidates "had been shown or had access to" the Morse code answer key and that some VEs had taught classes using the same test editions later given at actual examination sessions.

Hollingsworth said that as a result of the FCC probe, eight examinees who obtained licenses as a result of the tests would be called in for Element 1 (Morse code) re-

examination, if they have not already re-tested.

The ARRL VEC has withdrawn accreditation for volunteer examiners responsible for the testing sessions at which alleged irregularities occurred as well as those of VEs present at a February 10, 2001, instructional class. The examiners are Ellie Waters, W4CJB; Cheryl L. Waters, W4CLW; Joanne D. Sharpe, KF4WFN; John W. Sharpe, WA4BE; Joseph A. Horne, N4ZAJ; George B. Grant, KF4WPU; Robert T. Jernigan, W4RTJ; Kathy L. Lanier, KD4MVY; Charles M. Aulick, KF4MLT; and Lawrence A. Lewis, K4RRR.

The ARRL VEC reinstated two VEs suspended during the audit--Charles F. Roberts, AI4A, and Marshall R. Thigpen Jr, W4IS.

Meanwhile, the FCC has yet to complete an audit of an ARRL VEC-sponsored examination session in Trumbull, Connecticut, last May. Eleven VEs remain suspended in that probe. The FCC is looking into whether one applicant had access to a Morse code answer key or submitted an answer sheet completed prior to the examination.

The ARRL Letter 3/1/02

RAWNY Flea Market

RAWNY will be holding a flea market at their April 9th General Meeting at the Church of the Nativity, corner of Thorncliff and Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda, NY, starting at 8:00 PM.

Gather the "stuff" you really don't want from your shack and convert it into cash! For a table or for more info, contact Kevin WA2FKV at cklutz@buffnet.net.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Past President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. 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 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 Peter Orendorf AB2KG 662-0096 or e-mail him at fouroz1@aol.com

ARATS will be holding test sessions on at 10 AM on 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 Exercise Program

Dear Friends,

I thought I'd start the New Year by letting you in on a little secret I've found for building up my arm and shoulder muscles. I do it 3 days a week. I start by standing outside behind the house and, with a 5 pound potato sack in each hand, I extend my arms straight out to my sides and hold them there as long as I can.



After a while I moved up to 10 pound potato sacks, then 50 pound potato sacks, and finally I got to where I could lift a 100 pound potato sack in each hand and hold my arms straight out for more than a full minute!

Next, I started putting a few potatoes in the sacks, but I would caution you not to overdo it at this level.....

Amateur Radio Volunteers Supporting Olympics

Following months of planning and coordination, Amateur Radio is supporting the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, which got under way in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 8. Ham radio volunteers are assisting with security and remain available to provide back-up communication.

"The amateurs involved have assisted numerous local and federal agencies to develop a unique system that covers the entire Wasatch Front Area, providing communications to reach numerous Olympic venues 24 hours a day," said Utah ARRL Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP. "Amateur Radio will be there should any of the primary frequencies fail or become unavailable."

According to Parkes, Utah Section Emergency Coordinator John Mabey, W7CWK, and Brent Thomas, AC7H, from the State of Utah Comprehensive Management Office began working on this effort over a year ago. A special public safety organization--Utah Olympic Public Safety Command (UOPSC)--was created by the various local and national public safety organizations that provide the security necessary for the international event. Mabey, along with Davis County EC Hall Blankenship, KC7RAF; Kirk Boman, KD0J; Ed Cole, KB7EC; and Mike Youngs, KK7VZ, headed up the Amateur Radio effort to provide emergency backup communication for the Olympic Security Command.



"UOPSC has now involved more than 200 Amateur Radio volunteers in Utah to support this critical security effort," Parkes said. In addition Amateur Radio volunteers are staffing a number of Olympic Security Command centers assisting local and national public safety organizations.

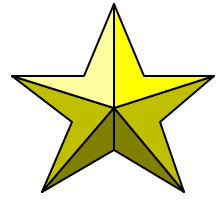
Nevada SEC Paul Cavnar, NN7B, says hams in his state remain on standby in case they're needed to help with communications. Cavnar said hams in Nevada, Idaho and Northern California also are prepared to assist in the unlikely event of a mass evacuation of the Winter Olympics site.

"The hard work and dedication by all these Amateur Radio operators will certainly contribute to a very successful and safe Winter Olympic Games," Parkes said.

The ARRL Letter 2/15/02



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 some 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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