

# telstar



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

ISSUE 245 APRIL 2002

## STARS Field Day 2002 Thoughts

Well, fellow STARS members...it's that time when we must decide the fate of this year's Field Day. I was licensed at the age of 12 in 1990, and shortly thereafter, I became a STARS member. I have only fond memories of Field Day – "The Greatest Weekend of the Year" – as I once called it. A time when members would head out into a field, Friday night or Saturday morning, and begin erecting a bunch of antennas and operating equipment. Members all came with their preferred erecting device to test out, be it the bow and arrow, the sling-shot, the fishing reel, or the ever-famous shimmy up the tree. This was where most of the excitement was – this was where most of the learning took place. The camaraderie and fraternity was so visible. Many years we even had an RV to take a break in, and if we were lucky, a meal prepared for us. Of course, you can't forget sitting around the campfire listening to acoustic guitar music. All of this fun, and I haven't even mentioned the actual operating. It was tough to budge my way in because there were many members that wanted to rack up points for the club.



In my opinion, what I have described is what the "spirit of Field Day" is all about. Field Day is meant to be a drill to see if you would be prepared in a true emergency – with a whole lot of fun along the way. I understand the point of view of the skeptics that believe if we had a "real" emergency, we would mobilize and head to the Nike Base and

### April Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 4 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 our normal business meeting, we will be having our mini flea market at this meeting. Unlike many flea markets, there is no charge for setting up a table (provide your own) to sell goods. This is strictly a service provided by the club.



So, come on out and buy, sell or just browse around!

communicate from there. This may very well be the case – but we can operate ANY contest ANY time of the year from the Nike Base. Field Day is the one contest when we can go above and beyond, to test our knowledge and preparedness. What if our building was destroyed – what if our tower fell over. Would you know how to erect a half-wave dipole, or a vertical with ground radials? How about stringing up a random wire, and tuning it with a manual antenna tuner to get yourself on the air? If you ever attended a traditional STARS Field Day, you would have learned all of these things and much, much more over the course of one weekend. I learned more at Field Day than I learned all year round.

I feel that this year, Field Day should take place at a park, or in a field. Glen Meadows Park or Chestnut Ridge Park would be two possible locations. However, what we need are you, the members to participate. My estimation is that we would need a crew of at least 6 members to set up, to tear down, and to make sure that the club equipment was safe throughout the night. I know going to the Nike Base is the "easy" thing to do. But is easy necessarily the way it would be in a real emergency? Just because Field Day has

(Continued on page 5)

## 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.



## From Your President:

A Very Happy Easter Season and Spring Break to All.

Just a short note to everyone this month. One thing I know for sure is these 80+ hours at work the last 3 weeks are giving me a bad case of spring fever!. We lost our amplifier for the repeater and as you read this it should be back on line and working well. That last wind storm we had, the wind blew down my 2 HF antennas and stretched to the breaking point the coax cable on my VHF/UHF Ranger antenna. I had to switch feed lines around to get back on VHF \UHF and restring my G5RV Jr. back up to my chimney for HF. Goes to show emergency preparedness is always a good thing. As I lost power for a short time I had back up lighting and a HT with a magnet mount antenna on my refrigerator.



Again I am going to call for volunteers to help get things moving with the club. There are lots of talents and skills urgently needed and I know lots of you have those needed talents. I am also going to appeal to all our members to try to get our membership numbers up. You may know some one who was a member in the past and has not renewed or someone new who may benefit from club membership.

I going to repeat what I said last month about being an active club member, we gain your experience and you gain the knowledge of other members. This month's program is an opportune time for you to bring your excess amateur radio gear and try to swap or sell it in our April Club Meeting/ Swapfest (or Mini-Hamfest if you like) After the business meeting we will set up tables (free) and you can swap, sell or socialize.

73's and see you all there !.

Bob Koster KA2WYE

## 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).

## 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.

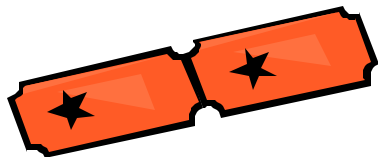
Gather the "stuff" you really don't want from your shack and convert it into cash! For a table or for more info, contact Kevin WA2FKV at klutz@buffnet.net.

## Attend STARS Meetings & Win Prizes!

The Board of Directors of STARS, VALUES your membership; we value your ideas, we value your participation, and we especially value YOU, the members. We want the club to soar to new heights, be pro-active, and not just move along status quo. To achieve this, we need YOUR INPUT! This is why we have embarked on a whole new venture – to give something back to you, the members.

For each club member in attendance at a regular general membership meeting, the club treasury will put in \$0.50 per head into a raffle pool.

Prior to the December 2002 Christmas Party, the accumulated money will be totaled, and raffle prizes will be announced.



For each meeting that you attend, your callsign will be put into the drawing. Therefore, the more meetings that you attend, the better the prizes will be, and the better your chances will be for winning a prize! Membership attendance will ultimately determine the quality and number of prizes raffled off.

For example, if you attend 10 meetings this year, (by the way, we've been keeping track since January 2002) you will essentially be boosting the "prize pool" by \$5.00 at no expense to you, and you will have 10 chances to win great prizes at the Christmas Party! In other words, you will have a much better chance of getting some nice prizes than the club member who only shows up for 1 or 2 meetings.

This is the board's way of encouraging you to come to meetings and give your input. We want to say "THANK YOU" – we want to give something back to our active members.

So why not stop out to the next STARS meeting. You surely have nothing to lose, but you do have a lot to gain. Let's make OUR club the greatest club in Western New York! See you there.

73's  
Scott Barto  
KB2KOL

## Local Nets of Interest

Everyday:

11 AM, 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM 146.640 - (Western District Net)

Monday:

7 PM 146.910 - (RAWNY Information Net)

7:30 PM 147.255 + (LARC Information Net)

Tuesday:

7 PM 146.835 - (Interlink Information Net/Swap Net)

Thursday:

7:30 PM 147.090 + 107.2 pl (STARS Information Net)

8:30 PM 146.955 - (ARATS Information Net)

Saturday:

10 AM 3.925 +/- QRM (WB2EZU Memorial HF Net)

Sunday:

9:30 AM 28.380 +/- QRM (Interlink Ragchew Net)

7 PM 146.670 - 107.2 pl (WNY Emergency Net)

8 PM 146.820 - 88.5 pl (LARA Information Net)

8:30 PM 146.625 - (NCARC Information Net)

Compiled by Scott Barto KB2KOL

## STARS VE Exam

STARS VE Team conducted VE exams on Saturday, March 9. There were 6 candidates served with 1 upgrading to Extra, 1 upgrading to General, 1 upgrading to Technician with HF, 1 new Technician with HF and 1 new Technician.

STARS members serving as VE's included John, Sr. KB2VWC, Jim N2SKT, Judy N2TEZ, Rich K2KRB and Terry K2OO.

# STARS Silent Keys Information

Name	Call Sign	Date of Death	Photo?	
Norm Jones	KD2KK	May 15, 2000	Yes	STARS is gathering information on former members of STARS who are now Silent Keys. We intend to put this information on STARS club web page.
Frank Modzelewski	WG2H	May 10, 2000	Yes	
Al Buetler	K2DWI			
Bob Ward	K2PPK	November 7, 1995	Yes	
Ernie Beetow	WB2GIM			
Dan Hunter	KE2LD		Yes	
Dr. Jerry Ferraro	W2TKQ			
Val Ogera	K2KQC/N2LJG			
Sherwood Sipprell	K2HL			
"Shorty" Comstock	WB2CS			
Jess Nero	AA2UM			The information at the left is what we have been able to gather so far. If you can fill in missing information or correct any errors or if you can give us information on people that we might have missed, we would greatly appreciate it.
Matt Gorski	NS2M			
Hap Cole				
Dick Haungs	W2UJR		Yes	
Ralph Chaney Sr.	WA2CHZ			
Al Soboleski	W2QIL			
Ken Haas	K2YKE			
James Linnan	KA2NQG			
Michael Harrer	KA2ZNA			
John Michaels	KD2WB			
Mike Pullutro	N2ETH			The Photo? Column indicates members of whom we have been able to obtain pictures. We are looking for pictures of others that we could scan into the computer and place on the web page also.
Warren Heerdt	N2INA			
Vincent Jurca	N2VBL			
Elwyn Guest	W2BLO			
Donald Fitzgerald	W2CUV			
Bob Johnson	W2WVC			
Guz Guzanski	WB2EZU	January 28, 1999	Yes	
Gene Metzger	KE2LO	June 19, 1999	Yes	
Leo Carr	KB2TIY	March 23, 1999	Yes	

## General Class Theory Course

The General Class Theory Course being co-sponsored by STARS and ARATS began on March 20 at the Greenhaven Library in Tonawanda. The course is being taught by STARS & ARATS members Terry K2OO and Jim N2SKT.

So far, 18 people are participating in the course. About half the class were in the Technician class held last fall. The other half have held Technician class licenses from one to several years. About half have already passed the 5 wpm code test.

The class will conclude on May 20 with a VE exam.

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Past President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VVC
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 5/11 & 7/13 in 2002 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Ne wton 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](mailto: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.

## SKYWARN Nets Resume

SKYWARN spotter nets will resume in April. However, nets will only be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Net times remain the same: 7:00PM on the 145.31 Attica and 145.15 Fulton repeaters and 7:30PM on the 146.67 Arkwright and 145.11 Bristol repeaters (linked) and the 147.255 Watertown repeater.



The first net will be Tuesday April 9th. All amateurs are welcome to check in. Non-amateurs are also encouraged to tune in on their scanners to listen to these nets for updated spotter information, training sessions, safety tips, and weather reviews.

NWS Buffalo SKYWARN Newsletter 3/30/02

## Easter Bunny Sayings

Don't put all your eggs in one basket!  
 Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day!  
 All work and no play can make you a basket case!  
 Keep your paws off other people's jelly beans!  
 The grass is always greener in someone else's basket!  
 The best things in life are still sweet and gooey!

## Field Day 2002

*(Continued from page 1)*

been at the Nike Base for two years does not mean it needs to be like that forever. Let's move ahead instead of just being satisfied with status quo. Instead of reminiscing about how great the club used to be, and how active the members were, let's make it great again! Field Day was meant to be a drill to prepare for the worst case scenario. Would you be ready? After the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, I can't imagine having "The Greatest Weekend of the Year" any other way. If you would be interested in having Field Day in the traditional manner, please contact a board member and express your interest and willingness to help out. 73's and God Bless.



Scott Barto  
 KB2KOL

## 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).

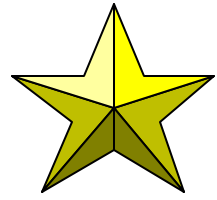
If you often see books, maps, hats, etc. that you want but don't want the cost of shipping, or just don't get around to putting in an order, this is a good time to do it. Shipping will be \$1 dollar per order no mater what, or how many you want. The ARRL's maximum shipping is \$10. Anything more than 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](mailto: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



# 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

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