

telstar



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

ISSUE 248 AUGUST 2002

Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will present the Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest and Exposition on Sunday, August 4, 2002. 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 2002 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.

LARC is going all out to make this a great hamfest. This 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 \$7, and outdoor flea market sellers will pay a \$5 per vehicle charge.

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

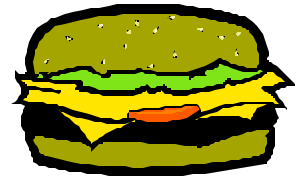
Brennan Price, an ARRL Accredited Speaker, will host an informal discussion and lecture indoors. He will check QSL Cards for awards and DXCC, including cards that normally can not be checked in the field.



August Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 1 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 their favorite dish (finger foods, appetizers, desserts, etc.) 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.

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.

Erie County Fair Display

Volunteers are needed to fill shifts for the amateur radio display at the Erie County Fair on August 8-18. 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 Jack Cullum KB2ESM at 662-7075 (jacknmarie@att.net), Keith Patterson KC2DGC at 649-3403 (terabyte@sprintmail.com) or Bob Koster KA2WYE at 649-7272 (rkoster@buffnet.net).

You do not have to be a STARS member to volunteer.

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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 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

Hello to all. Hope everybody's enjoying the great weather we're having. August is here already, and we know that the Erie County Fair is coming. We are still looking for volunteers to man the Exhibit. Contact Keith KC2DGC, Jack KB2ESM or myself for available times if you can help. And don't forget to visit our club exhibit/station when you are at the Fair.



Everyone that attended the July meeting held at the Nike Base had a great time talking about Field Day.

Our August 1st meeting will be held at the Nike Base HF station located on Lakeview Road in the Town of Hamburg. This meeting is our annual picnic. The Club supplies hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. If you wish to bring a favorite homemade dish please feel free, it's always nice to try out some special homemade recipe. Last year, club members brought items to sell so if you wish to do that this year feel free to. Family and friends are all invited. You may want to bring extra lawn chairs or blankets with you for sitting around and rag chewing.

The Lancaster Hamfest is August 4th. It has always been a great time, and STARS will have an informational table. For more information on the Internet connect to <http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net> or contact Luke Calianno N2GDU at 716-634-4667

And as always from your board, and myself, this is YOUR club, get involved.

Thanks and 73's
Bob Koster KA2WYE

John McKnight KB2NMP (SK)

STARS member John McKnight KB2NMP became a Silent Key (SK) on Sunday, July 28, 2002.

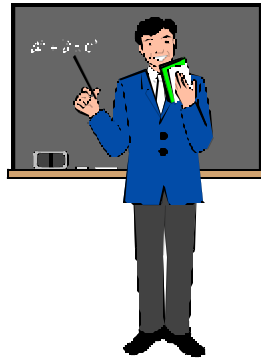
Visitation hours will be 2 to 4 PM and 7 to 9 PM on Wednesday, July 31 at the Smith-Weismantle Funeral Home, 271 E. Main St., Springville, NY. The funeral will be on Thursday, August 1 at 2:30 PM.

John will be missed by his family and friends.

Beginner Ham Radio Classes

STARS and ARATS will be co-sponsoring beginner ham radio classes this fall. The course will be designed to teach the students what they need to know to pass their Technician class license exam. The classes are open to everyone.

The instructors for the course will be STARS and ARATS members Terry Rockhold K2OO and Jim Livingston N2SKT.



The classes will be held in Cheektowaga to try to make them convenient for people in both the north and south parts of Greater Buffalo. They will be on Monday evenings from 6:45 PM to 8:45 PM beginning in September.

People who are interested in attending the course are requested to call Terry at 656-0865 by August 30 to register or for more information. Tell your friends!

STARS VE Exam

STARS VE team held an examination session on July 13 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hamburg.

Of the 4 candidates served, 2 qualified for new Technician class licenses and 2 earned an upgrade to General class.

VE's who conducted the exams included John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Jim Livingston N2SKT, Tom Kocialski KC2CAG and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

A new schedule for STARS VE Team examinations for 2002-2003 will be released shortly.

STARS is an ARRL Special Service Club!



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73, DAVID KB2LCR
 Owner

WHOLESALE PRICING WITH AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN

ARRL Receives Homeland Security Training Grant

The ARRL will receive a \$181,900 homeland security grant from the US government to train Amateur Radio operators in emergency communication. The League was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs. The grant, from the Corporation for National and Community Service special volunteer program, will provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training to 5200 volunteers nationwide, starting in 2003.



"ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and is the national leader in emergency communications by volunteers who operate their own equipment on their time at no cost to any government, organization, or corporation," said the July 19 announcement from Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. The ARRL plans to revise and update the emergency communications curriculum to incorporate additional elements of emergency preparedness and homeland security.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was extremely pleased by the news. "This adds legitimacy to the public service work Amateur Radio has been doing for years," he said.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, applied for the funding in May, inviting the Corporation for National and Community Service to become "a partner with the nation's oldest volunteer radio communications organization."

"I think this is an extraordinarily exciting day for Amateur Radio that the role of Amateur Radio in homeland security is recognized at the highest levels of government," Hobart said upon learning of the grant. The League's grant application characterized Amateur Radio as "the bedrock of communications when other outlets fail."

Citing Amateur Radio's response in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Hobart said the federal grant "will help continue our work in providing public service and to protect lives, homes, businesses and our frequencies, as we have for decades."

The League had sought a three-year grant of \$541,750. The \$181,900 grant covers the first year's direct program costs. The proposed budget includes the cost of a project coordinator who would be responsible for overall fiscal management of the grant.

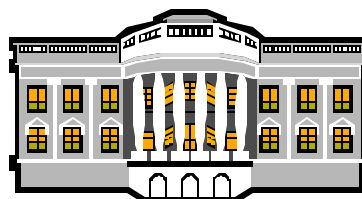
ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was pleased that the League would be able to extend its Amateur Radio Emergency Communications program to thousands of amateurs who might otherwise not be able to afford the program. "We hope all who are interested will get on board," he said.

The grant announcement said that "expanding the opportunities for Americans to participate in meaningful volunteer service" is at the heart of President George Bush's USA Freedom Corps, of which the Corporation for National and Community Service is a part.

"We are deeply grateful to Tom Ridge and to the Corporation for National and Community Service for providing Amateur Radio with a unique opportunity to serve our country," Hobart said.

In June, the ARRL and United Technologies Corporation announced a partnership to provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 250 Connecticut amateurs.

The ARRL Letter 7/19/02



STARS Board of Directors

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions in 2002 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. A schedule of dates for the next year will be released shortly. 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 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.

Voss Cites ARISS' Value In Senate Testimony

International Space Station Expedition 2 crew member Jim Voss got in a few good words for Amateur Radio when he appeared June 19 before the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. A retired US Army colonel, Voss cited the value of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program in helping to inform and educate youngsters about space exploration and life aboard the ISS as well as to demonstrate scientific principles. ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

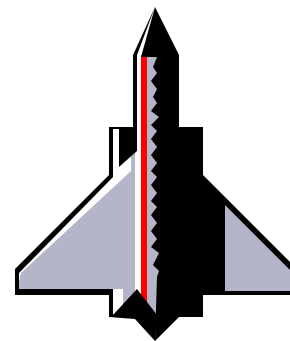
Voss said ARISS "offers the opportunity for students to experience the excitement of space flight by talking directly with crewmembers of the ISS via Amateur Radio." Voss also cited the enthusiastic comments of Allen White, WB4MIO, who helped to coordinate Voss' ARISS contact with Admiral Moorer Middle School in Alabama. "There is

no way I can adequately describe the excitement this created in our school and community," White wrote in a letter to Voss. "I think this was the most exciting educational event of the year for these students."

Although not an amateur licensee, Voss participated in several ARISS school QSOs from the controls of NA1SS, the ARISS station, during his duty tour aboard the ISS. The other Expedition 2 crew members were Crew Commander Yury Usachev, RW3FU, and Susan Helms, KC7NHZ. The crew spent 167 days in space aboard what Voss called "a permanent orbiting classroom that brings education and research out of textbooks and into real life."

Voss said the in-flight education programs like ARISS "use the unique environment of space to inspire the next generation of explorers." Taking advantage of technological tools that include Amateur Radio, he concluded, "students are able to study and explore Earth from space, learn about life aboard an orbiting laboratory, and conduct demonstrations that illustrate scientific and mathematical concepts."

The ARRL Letter 7/19/02



Greater Buffalo Hamfest

(Continued from page 1)

You want food? How about an all you can eat pancake breakfast starting at 6 AM. They also will be serving lunch with hot dogs, Italian sausages and more.

STARS will be defending their 2001 title in 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.

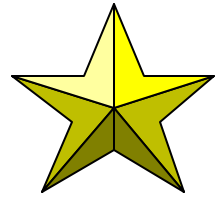
There will also be a VE test Session at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest & Exposition/WNY ARRL Section Convention. All exam candidates are asked to contact: Bill Klepser WB2AIV at 716-839-3525 to register or Email Test registration :wb2aiv@arrl.net The test will begin at 9:30 AM in the main building. Walk-ins will be allowed (space permitting) but it is advisable to register in advance.

There will be a talk-in station on LARC's 147.255 (+600) repeater (PL 107.2 Hz).

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 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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