

telstar



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

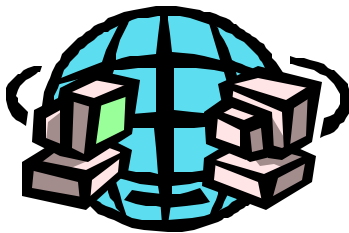
ISSUE 249 SEPTEMBER 2002

Internet Program Links Hams Around the World

I recently began to use a software program for hams that is fun and, best of all, free! The name of the program is EchoLink. This program uses the Internet to allow hams around the world to talk to each other utilizing their computer's sound card and inexpensive computer microphones.

No, it isn't as good as having your own HF station and talking over the airways. It may be, however, the answer though for those hams who live in apartments or other locations where they can't put up outside antennas. It also could be used by hams who don't have the financial resources to afford an HF station. Don't worry, it won't replace amateur radio!

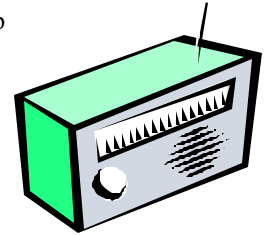
Who can you talk to over EchoLink? Well, as I write this article, the station list is showing the following on-line station counts: United States, 276; United Kingdom, 48; Canada, 28; Sweden, 12; Spain, 10; Germany, 9; Italy, 6; Brazil, 6; Australia, 6; Netherlands, 5; France, 4; Argentina, 3; Belgium, 3; New Zealand, 3; Switzerland, 3; Lebanon, 2; Slovenia, 2, and 1 each from Barbados, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Venezuela, St. Lucia, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia and South Korea. These numbers change constantly as stations connect and disconnect from the EchoLink servers.



I was told about EchoLink by Gerald ZL2WAG from New Zealand. Gerald and I became friends about 4 years ago when we met using a program called Internet Phone. One major problem with this program was that anybody could use it, and it seemed like most were looking to talk about sex! We both had drifted away from Internet Phone, and now we are back chatting again over EchoLink.

September Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We will be talking about our summer activities such as the Erie County Fair Display, hamfests, etc. We also will look forward to the upcoming fall events.

Our program will include a video entitled "Getting Started in DXing". STARS director Scott Barto KB2KOL will also present a short talk on DXing and contesting.

EchoLink is strictly for use by hams. You provide your name and call sign, and these are verified before you are allowed to connect to their servers. This is necessary because EchoLink can not only allow you to talk to other hams at their computers, but it can also let you talk to hams using equipment at their end to link their computers to their VHF/UHF radios they are using or even to local repeaters in their area. If you want, you can set up similar links at your end too.

EchoLink may be downloaded free from the site: <http://www.echolink.org/el/>. Then, follow the setup instructions, and you soon will be talking to other hams. If you are running a firewall program like ZoneAlarm or if you are like me and running Windows XP (which turns out to have a built-in firewall program), you should read their FAQ on Firewall Solutions to find out what settings you need to make.

If you have any problems, give me a call (656-0865), and I will use my limited experience to try to help you.

Terry K200

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

Now that the Erie County Fair 2002 is over, it is time to acknowledge and thank all the people that helped out. First and foremost is Jack KB2ESM, our Chairman, (A SPECIAL THANKS) Keith KC2DGC our Co-chairman, Board members Scott KB2KOL, John KB2VWC, and Son, John N2OY. An outstanding job was done by all the members who helped set up the display then took many shifts, filled in where needed, passed out tickets and educated the public about the amateur radio service. My personal thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Below is a list of the volunteers who helped out at the Exhibit this year. Several members worked 2 even 3 straight shifts to help out: KG4KQW, KC2GJX, KB2VWA, KC2AYK, KB2VWC, KB2KOL, KB2ESM, KC2DGC, KB2JDB, N2OY, KC2FYV, KC2FYW, KC2HJU, K2RWG, KC2GZD, W2IV, KC2IUJ, WB2KFL, N2DNR, K9KVN, KC2CAG and KC2FOI. (If I have missed anyone, I apologize. Please contact me, and I will make sure you are listed in a future edition!)



All and all, it was a very good showing of the Amateur Radio Service and the things we do. We had over 100 Amateur Radio operators sign in, from as far away as the West Coast. We handed out flyers for Classes and answered many questions about Ham radio in general. Also, former STARS members who have moved out of town stopped by to say Hello and rag chew a bit. It was a good 10 days and worth the effort to educate the public about this service, that we call our hobby.

73's

Bob 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).

Vanity Call Signs

If you are interested in obtaining a vanity call sign, you should check out the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Headquarters web site at <http://www.vanityhq.com/>.

They have lots of information on what call signs are available or will be coming available soon. They also cover all the rules and procedures to apply for your new vanity call sign.

Technician License Classes

STARS and ARATS will be co-sponsoring beginner ham radio classes starting on Monday, September 9th, at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library on Losson Road in Cheektowaga. These classes are designed to teach the students what they need to know to pass their entry-level Technician class license exam.

Based upon pre-registration, this year's class members will again be very diverse. We have some current school students who are 12-14 years old. One of the others told us he was a radio operator in World War II. This shows that amateur radio can be a great hobby for those of all ages.

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

It is not too late for people to sign-up for the classes. They should call Terry at 656-0865 as soon as possible.

ARRL Atlantic Division Elections

The ARRL has announced that in the Atlantic Division (including the WNY section), incumbent Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN of Saegertown, Pennsylvania, will face Anthony Gargano N2SS of Sewell, New Jersey.

Vice Director Bill Edgar N3LLR is among those facing no opposition.

In the divisions where there is competition for director or vice director, ballots will go out to all ARRL members on record in the division as of September 10, 2002. Ballots will be mailed by October 1 and must be received back at ARRL Headquarters (via the ARRL's auditor) by noon on November 15, when they will be counted and the successful candidates announced. Candidates running unopposed are declared elected.

New terms of office begin January 1, 2003.



1720 Military Rd. Suite 200 Kenmore, NY 14217
 Phone: 716-447-7000 web: www.us-itek.com

Come visit our fully stocked showroom
 Call for our free catalog

Wholesale distributor of quality PC products.

NOTEBOOKS



WIRELESS NETWORKING



PORTABLE STORAGE



MEMORY



MULTIMEDIA



CASES

320 W Mid ATX.....\$27
 320 W ATX w/ USB....\$45

VIDEO

TNT2 16 MB AGP.....\$29
 TNT2 32 MB PCI.....\$45
 SiS 32 MB AGP.....\$29
 GF4 Ti 4600 128MB...\$329
 GF2 MX400 64 MB...\$56
 GF4 MX440 64 MB...\$94

USB HUBS

4 PT BUS POWER...\$13
 4 PT SELF POWER...\$25

HARD DRIVES

40 GB IDE 5400.....\$77
 40 GB IDE 7200.....\$83
 60 GB IDE 7200.....\$104
 80 GB IDE 7200.....\$110

CD/DVD

16x DVD-ROM.....\$47
 32x10x40 CD-RW.....\$59
 40x10x40 CD-RW.....\$69
 52X CD-ROM.....\$27

CABLES

SERIAL to USB.....\$20
 CAT 5 NETWORK 25' ...\$9

MEMORY

128 MB PC 133.....\$22
 256 MB PC 133.....\$51
 128 MB PC2100 DDR...\$43
 256 MB PC2100 DDR...\$65
* ram prices subject to change

ACCESSORIES

COOLING FANS

SOUND CARDS

PROCESSORS

MAINBOARDS

KEYBOARDS

OPTICAL MICE

SPEAKERS

Custom systems built to your specifications.



WHOLESALE PRICING WITH AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN



73, DAVID KB2LCR
 Owner

Pop Star Lance Bass Passes Technician Test As Part Of His Quest For Space

Lance Bass of the pop singing group 'N Sync is still hoping to travel to the International Space Station in late October through Russia's "space tourist" program. Bass passed his Technician license examination August 30 at an ARRL-VEC test session, and, if all arrangements can be worked out, ham radio could be a part of his space visit. He has not yet been issued a call sign.

In the US this week for training with NASA, Bass worked with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) volunteer team, which included Nick Lance, KC5KBO, ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Carolynn Conley, KD5JSO--the Amateur Radio integration manager at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston.



"I will be staying in contact the whole time I'm up there," Bass said during a NASA-hosted Web chat with students across the US August 29. "I'm getting my ham license this week--that's one of my goals this week--so I can talk to different schools around the world via ham radio. That'll be a lot of fun." An audience of youngsters ranging in age from 9 to 12 from Pearl Hall Elementary School, Pasadena, Texas, also joined Bass in the Johnson Space Center studio to ask questions face-to-face.

Bauer said Bass knows the rules and regulations and that the ARISS team also supplied training on the ARISS hardware and operations from space. "We gave him some sessions where he could listen to typical QSOs on orbit and school group contacts from the ground; he is now well versed on what to expect." Bass also received training with the ham radio hardware during his Russian training stay.

At this point, however, nothing is finalized to ensure that Bass will get on the air from the NA1SS/RS0ISS ham station on the ISS. Daily discussions continue between members of the ARISS team and Celebrity Mission LLC--the group handling Bass's affairs. If all goes well, the stage may be set for Bass to communicate with the Amateur Radio community from space this fall. Bass would be part of a three-person Soyuz "taxi crew" that will blast off from Kazakhstan on October 28.

At 23, Bass would be the youngest person ever to travel into space. A remaining potential roadblock still appears to be completion of financial arrangements with Russia, which has claimed that it had not received a promised payment from Bass's organization. At one point, Russia even halted Bass's training, but he was subsequently permitted to resume. The round-trip ticket price has been generally estimated to be in the vicinity of \$20 million, but all sides are keeping mum about the exact cost.

For more information about the International Space Station, the Expedition 5 crew and the taxi crew of which Bass will be a member, visit the NASA Human Spaceflight Web site <<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>>.

The ARRL Letter 8/30/02

Florida Man Imprisoned, Fined For Deliberate Interference

Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo will spend a total of 15 months in federal prison--including two months already served--and pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. He'll also spend a year on supervised probation following his release, during which he cannot own radio gear or firearms. Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on eight misdemeanor counts. The sentence is believed to be a record for convictions of this type.

"It's sent a shock wave across the Amateur Radio and CB communities in South Florida," said Ed Petzolt, K1LNC,

(Continued on page 5)

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 a test session on September 14 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

(Continued from page 4)

who was among the amateurs targeted by Flippo and who testified at his trial. "The CB guys are running for cover. You can buy an illegal CB amplifier pretty cheap right now," he quipped. Hams were surprised by the severity of the sentence.

Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley imposed the sentence August 29 on Flippo, of Jupiter. He had been found guilty June 19 of four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. Flippo has remained in custody since the guilty verdict and underwent a psychiatric evaluation prior to sentencing. The judge also said he wants a full financial disclosure from Flippo, who may face other legal actions unrelated to his radio operation convictions.

At the sentencing, Flippo reportedly wept, said he'd turned over a new leaf and claimed he was sole support for his wife and two daughters. None of his family members was in the courtroom for the sentencing, however. The judge was not persuaded, telling Flippo, 60, that he was old enough to have considered the consequences of his actions. Hurley

also alleged numerous incidents of perjury during the course of Flippo's testimony during his June trial, which ran six-and-one-half days. The jury took about a half hour to determine that he was guilty on all counts.

According to trial testimony, Flippo primarily had targeted members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.



Flippo had faced a maximum of eight years in prison—one year on each count—and up to \$80,000 in fines. Available opinions were mixed on whether the sentence Hurley imposed was appropriate. Petzolt, who assisted the FCC in gathering evidence and, at one point, had his car rammed by Flippo's vehicle, said he felt Flippo should have received at least three years.

"I thought it was a slap on the wrist," said Petzolt, the 1999 ARRL International Humanitarian Award winner who also testified at the trial. John Criteser Jr, KC4JLY, agreed. "I think he should have gotten more—at least five years," Criteser said outside the courthouse. Other amateurs who attended the sentencing session, including Jupiter-Tequesta club member Bert Moreschi, AG4BV, were satisfied with the penalty, however.

Last year, Flippo was convicted in state court of criminal mischief—also a misdemeanor—after ramming Petzolt's vehicle. He was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered him to dispose of his radio equipment. A ban on possessing radio gear also was a condition of his federal bond, which Hurley revoked during the trial.

Federal authorities arrested Flippo in July 2000. The criminal charges of which he now stands convicted covered violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. The defendant already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment.

Hurley ordered Flippo immediately back into custody to start serving his sentence. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

The ARRL Letter 8/30/02



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

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