

# telstar



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

ISSUE 250 OCTOBER 2002

## STARS 2003 Club Officer Elections

Nominations for STARS 2003 club officers will be held at the October club meeting on October 3. Elections for these offices will then be held at the November club meeting on November 7.

STARS Members may vote in the annual election of officers via absentee ballot. If you can't make the meeting you still are allowed to vote. Please follow the easy steps listed below.



Procedures for Members  
Voting by Absentee Ballot:

1. Request an absentee ballot by phone, e-mail, or mail in sufficient time to receive the ballot by mail and return it by mail so that it is received no later than the November Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2002. (N2TEZ suggests Oct. 28 as deadline for making requests.)
2. Request absentee ballots from the Membership Chairman:  
Judy Levan, N2TEZ  
120 University Blvd.  
Depew, NY 14043  
Phone: 684-6673  
E-mail: fcstr59@msn.com
3. Note that: Absentee ballots cannot be used to vote for members nominated at the November Membership Meeting,

## October Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be discussing a variety of topics relating to club operations.

We will also be taking nominations for 2002 club officers. The elections for next year's club officers and directors will then be held at the November club meeting.



We won't be having a speaker for the evening, so this will leave lots of time for eyeball ragchewing!

but will have space for write-ins. To prevent tampering, absentee ballots may only be returned by mail, and may not be hand-carried to the meeting by someone else. Members who mail-in an absentee ballot may attend the meeting and vote in-person, but only after their unopened absentee ballot is torn in half and returned to the voter in-person.

Voter confidence in the STARS election procedures is very important. So that you know your ballot will be handled properly, the Election Committee will follow these guidelines.

Procedures for Membership Chairman and Election Committee:

If requested The Membership Chairman will mail absentee ballots to members in good standing, at their address of record. The Election Committee will prepare absentee ballots immediately after the October Membership Meeting.

Absentee ballots will consist of a mailing envelope, and an

*(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.



## 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

Wow... Its Halloween already?. It seems like the summer months just flew by this year. Let me start out this October article with a message from a former active firefighter and currently an exempt fireman (Your Humble President) in support of National Fire Prevention month. As the fall begins and the soon to fellow winter months start to make their seasonal visit on Western New York, we will be closing up our homes and preparing for a few very long months of cold weather. Do a quick check around the house and look for any fire hazards like oily rags, papers, trash near heaters or hot water tanks. Remember to set your clocks back near the end of the month with the old saying "fall back spring forward", and replace those smoke detector batteries. You may want to have your heating/air conditioning system inspected by an expert as an extra safety measure and if you do not have any you may want to purchase some carbon monoxide detectors. Install one in the bedroom area and one near the heating unit.

October is also the month that we nominate members for the offices in the Club. To be nominated, they must be a member in good standing for at least one full year and be 18 years of age. We will take nominations for, one Board of Director 2 year term, Membership Chairperson / Financial Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. If you think that you want to get involved in the Club, you can have someone nominate you or you can contact our election ballot committee chair Craig Andersen K1CRA and tell him you are interested in running for office.

Pumpkin Patrol 2002. This year's annual ARES/RACES (former STARS) Event will take place on October 31 and ARES is looking for help, All STARS members that wish to help out this year please contact [Karl Weir - N2NJH](mailto:Karl.Weir@arrl.net) (email [n2njh@arrl.net](mailto:n2njh@arrl.net))

The anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001 reminds us how much in a short period of time that our lives have changed. Threats from weapons of mass destruction are a constant possibility, Our local ARES/RACES and Emergency Service groups participate in practice drills that use skilled amateur radio operators to supplement auxiliary communications, If you would like to help please volunteer for ARES/RACES membership. Whatever the future holds for the amateur radio community, we must remember that we are an "AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE" and not just a hobby. We should be ready and willing to offer our assistance wherever and whenever needed.

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

# Technician Classes

STARS and ARATS are cosponsoring classes designed to teach the students the material that they need to successfully pass their Technician class license exams.

The classes began on September 9 at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library on Losson Road in Cheektowaga.

So far, the students have been covering FCC rules & regulations and operating procedures. They will go on to study radio wave propagation, amateur radio practices, basic electronics, signals & emissions, antennas & feed lines and RF safety. Twenty-four students have attended the classes to-date.

Instructors for the classes are STARS & ARATS members Terry Rockhold K2OO and Jim Livingston N2SKT.

The classes will end on November 25 with VE exams so that the students can qualify for their Technician class licenses.

# PROS Swap Meet

Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual PROS swap meet. This will be held on November 9 at 8 AM until 2 PM. They will be raffling off a Radio Shack 2m. HT as a door prize and having a 50/50 cash prize as well.

The cost to get in the door will be a measly \$2. The tables will be available for inside vendors for \$5 and \$3 for tailgaters. There will be refreshments available downstairs as well.

The location will be the Sardinia Historical Society building on Savage Rd. This is accessible from Rt.16 or Rt.39. Signs will be posted at Rt. 16 and Genesee Rd. and Rt. 39 and Savage Rd.

They will use the 145.39 repeater for talk ins. Please set the date aside and come out and meet some of the faces that you hear on the radio.

Contact person will be Gary Tillinghast KB2YAA by phone (716) 592-9554



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<b>SPEAKERS</b>	

WHOLESALE PRICING WITH AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN



73, DAVID KB2LCR  
 Owner

# Grounding Part 1

In the September 2002 QST, I saw a question on grounding in "The Doctor is IN" section from STARS member John Mosley N6MZN.

This prompted me to dig out the article that I wrote a couple of years ago and submit it to the Telstar Editor for a republication. I adjusted it slightly from the original, so please give it a reread.

With many of you upgrading to the General or Extra class, this will bring you to the world of HF operation, and a new type of RFI problems.

You may ask if I have any training in the area. Well, I was trained in the service as a Power Generation Specialist. I was in charge of setting up and running a launch site for Pershing Nuclear Missiles. This included wiring and grounding with 440 volt 60 and 400 cycle power all of the launch sites and maintenance on all other systems.



I will try to give you some do's and don'ts when it comes to installing HF antennas, grounding and etc.

When it comes to grounding, most of us cannot afford to do it to specs. That is burying a 12-foot square metal plate 10 feet down and attaching ground rods to each corner. So, we try to do our best with just stakes and wire.

There are two types of grounds, electrical and RF. A good electrical ground may not be a good RF ground. When installing the ground to the shack, you must use a good, and in my opinion, solid copper ground stake at least 6 to 8 feet long. You must try to keep the runs to your ground stake as short as possible. When too long, they can radiate harmonics and cause RFI. You can get by this by using heavy shielded wire or coax.

If you chose to use any kind of shielded wire, you must solder a capacitor rated at .001 uf at 1000 volts between the shield and center conductor. This isolates the center wire from spurs and bleeds off any RF to ground. This method works very well on 6 and 10 meters.

There is also some thought to attaching to your stake a bare wire which is 1/4 wavelength of the frequency that you are operating on or an offending frequency. Let's say that you

are having problems on 75-meter phone. Then you would want to run a bare wire from your ground stake out about 65 feet.

If you have copper or the old galvanized piping in you house, you may want to run a separate ground wire and stake. Also, you may want to bond all of your joints to give you a good solid connection throughout your house. This will help to bleed off any harmonics to ground instead of radiating them. If installing more than one ground stake, you will have to check the impedance between them. The standard is less than 5 ohms between them, so if you can not achieve that then you will need to increase the conductivity of your ground stake.

Just remember that if you live in a new home your gas and water service lines past your meters may be plastic pipe, not a very good ground.

The conductivity of the ground and the ground stake is also very important. Just because you pound a stake into the dirt does not necessarily mean that you have a good ground. If you have low moisture or if your property is shale, you may want to consider watering your ground stake. This can be accomplished in any number of creative ways. With a post hole digger, sink a 4 to 6 foot hole near your ground stake, then put a piece of 3 to 4 inch pvc pipe in it "Don't forget a cap for the top". Then back fill around the hole with small stones, and fill it with water until it can not take anymore. You may also try to run the discharge of your sump pump. Others also may want to consider running the discharge of your water softener.

Sincerely and 73's  
Gary KB2YJ

## 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 10/12 and 11/9 in 2002 and 1/11, 3/8, 5/10 and 7/12 in 2003 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](mailto:fouroz1@aol.com)

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 10/5, 11/2 and 12/7 in 2002 and on 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3 and 6/7 in 2003 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738.

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.

## Nike Base Club HF Station

Coming up the weekend of October 25-27 is one of the biggest international DX contests, the CQ World Wide SSB contest. This is a fabulous opportunity for hams to work countries all over the globe.

STARS members are looking at activating the club's Nike Base Club HF station for the big contest. If you are interested in participating, contact Scott Barto KB2KOL at 648-1435 or [bart0977@adelphia.net](mailto:bart0977@adelphia.net).

Come out to do some operating or at least to watch the others and do some ragchewing.

There is construction work going on in the area of our station, so watch out for the construction equipment, some of which was parked right in front of our club house this week.

## ARRL Elections

This year there will be an election for the position of ARRL Atlantic Division Director. This is an important election since this is the position that holds the vote representing ARRL members for our division when the ARRL board meets.

The current ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN from Saegertown, PA will be running against Tony Gargano N2SS from Sewell, NJ.

Fuller's election web site is <http://www.bfdin.net/n3efn>. Gargano's web site is: <http://www.n2ss.com>.

Ballots will go out to all ARRL members on record in the Atlantic 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.

Statements from the two candidates will go out with the ballots and can also be viewed at their web sites. Due to space limitations, they will not be reproduced here. Both candidates have requested support from our club members.

## STARS 2003 Elections

*(Continued from page 1)*

unlabeled inner envelope containing a voting slip. The voting slip is identical to those used for voting in person at the meeting. Another pre-addressed return mailing envelope will be included in the package. For positive identification, it will already have the member's name and address in the return address position. The ballots will be returned to, and held by, a trustworthy club member who is not running for an office. Before voting begins, the names of those who mailed-in absentee ballots will be called to see if they are present, and if so, action will be taken to prevent duplicate voting. Either tear in half their absentee ballot and return it to them, or do not give them an in-person voting slip.

The Election Committee will tabulate the votes from absentee ballots and in-person ballots and report the results to the membership. Absentee ballots will remain sealed until in-person voting has been completed and the votes are about to be tabulated. At that time, the sealed, unmarked inner envelopes will be removed, placed in a pile, and shuffled so that it is not possible to tell who they came from. Only then will the enclosed voting slips be removed, included with the in-person voting slips, and the votes tabulated. The above will be done by Election Committee members who are not currently running for an club office.



# 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 7:30 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**  
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**(716) 656-0865**  
**k200@bigfoot.com**