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# telstar



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

ISSUE 251 NOVEMBER 2002

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## 2003 Club Elections

At the October club meeting, the following individuals were nominated to run for 2003 STARS club officers and directors:

President Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Secretary Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Financial Secretary Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2-year term) Bruce Settlemyer	KC2GJX

The election for these offices will be held at the November 7th club meeting at the Hamburg Youth Center.

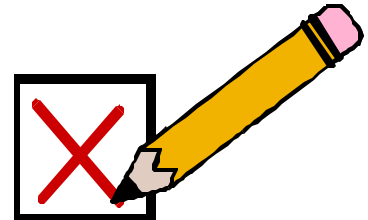
In addition to these nominated candidates, there will be lines for write-in candidates on the ballots.

The winners of the above contests plus Scott Barto KB2KOL, who will be serving the second year of his two-year term as Director, will make up the 2003 STARS Board of Directors.

## November Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, November 7th 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 is required.

This is a very important meeting as we will be voting on officers and directors for 2003. It is vital that we get a good attendance at this meeting so that the vote will reflect the wishes of as many members as possible.



This is your chance to come out, see some old friends, and cast your ballot to help determine the future of our club! We hope to see all of you there!

## Time To Renew

We have included a 2003 renewal form with this newsletter. Why not take time right now to fill it out and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the November club meeting.



STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

## 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

Not very much to report to you this month in the way of news, Don't forget on November 7th STARS will hold it's election of officers for the year 2003. Make sure you come out and vote and enjoy the time with your fellow hams. Refreshments will be served.

Recent events call for us to be ready and willing to serve as a backup communication resource for local and state officials in the event of some unforeseen event so I urge everyone to always be ready.

I also like to wish everyone and their families a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

This is the time of year we can stop and reflect for a little while, thinking of all the things that we can be thankful for. Some people believe this is an easier and less stressful time than the holidays to come, so do the 3 R's ... rest, reflect, relax and enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.



73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

## PROS Swap Meet

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society, PROS, will be having it's 2nd annual Swap meet on November 9. This starts at 8 AM until 2 PM. Admission will be \$2 at the door. The admission price gets you a raffle ticket for a new 2-meter HT from Radio Shack of Arcade.

If you have equipment to sell, there will be a fee of \$5 for inside and \$3 for tailgaters. There will also be refreshments available downstairs.

This swap meet will be located on Savage Road at the Sardinia Historical Society building in Sardinia. This is accessible from Route 16 or Route 39 and the 219 expressway. The talk-in will be the 145.39 repeater.

For any further info, call Gary at 716/592-9554

# World Missionary Radio Service

Kelly Coleman, co-founder and president of Blessings For Obedience (BFO) Ministry, will be speaking at Armor Bible Presbyterian Church in Orchard Park on Friday, November 8th at 7 PM.

BFO assists Christian missionaries and organizations with communications. For the past 16 years, BFO has been operating daily amateur radio nets. They have had over 40,000 people in 120 countries participate in these nets. Missionaries and others can check into these nets for prayer, fellowship, phone patch assistance and emergency traffic handling.

BFO provides radio equipment for missionaries as well as communication training and technical support. BFO is also involved in setting up low to medium power Christian FM and AM broadcast stations in remote areas of the world where radio stations do not exist.

For more information, contact Doug Jones N2HPS at 662-7398.

# Technician Class License Course

The Technician Class License Course being co-sponsored by STARS and ARATS is now in it's final stretch run.

The course, which began on September 9 at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library in Cheektowaga, has covered FCC rules and regulations, operating procedures and practices, radio-wave propagation, electrical principles, circuit components and practical circuits.

The students will finish off their studies covering signals & emissions, antennas & feed lines and RF safety. They will have an evening for practice exams and final preparation. The course will conclude on November 25 with the ARATS VE Team giving the students their license exams.

At this time, there are 21 active students in the course. STARS & ARATS members Terry Rockhold K200 and Jim Livingston N2SKT are the instructors.

We will shortly be able to welcome lots of new amateurs in our community!



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WHOLESALE PRICING WITH AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN



73, DAVID KB2LCR  
Owner

# Great Savings For You - 10% Back To The Club!

Here's a special offer for both you and the STARS club. Club member, Craig Andersen K1CRA has announced that for each purchase club members make at The K1CRA Radio WebStore, the club will receive 10% of the proceeds. Not only is this an important financial opportunity for the club, but it represents an exceptional STARS club benefit for its members.

Craig says, "Generally, you'll pay too much for common ham accessories. Particularly if you try to find them locally." The K1CRA Radio WebStore's goal is to make high quality, more commonly used items like connectors and hardware readily available and at great prices. New products are added weekly and the more common RF connectors are in stock for immediate delivery. And, if not currently stocked, most other RF, audio or general wiring connectors and adapters are available on request. The store can also provide tie-wraps, zip wire, heat shrink tubing, fuses, and many types of mobile/portable antenna mounts. Everyone is encouraged to request quotes for items not currently in the catalog or to suggest items they would like to see listed.

The flag-ship products offered by The K1CRA Radio WebStore are the liquid plastics manufactured by Performix. Long known for their versatility, Plasti-Dip and Liquid Electrical Tape are simply the best products for sealing antenna connections and weatherproofing outdoor wiring. Liquid Tape, which comes in a self-applicator can and four colors, is a fast-drying dielectric coating ideal for sealing connectors and worn coax. Plasti-Dip, available in can or spray, comes in 5 colors or clear. Both products are permanent, yet remove completely and without mess from non-porous surfaces. Use Plasti-Dip to protect, seal or coat just about anything even color code and put new handle grips on tools! But be careful, Plasti-Dip is a lot of fun and can be highly addictive!

To order, visit [www.k1cra.com](http://www.k1cra.com). For the club to receive it's 10% contribution, place your call and the word "STARS" in the "Other Info" address field. Normal shipping is calculated automatically but can be eliminated for those willing to pick up their product in Orchard Park. Local delivery may also be arranged for just \$3.00. For more information call Craig at 716-662-7840 or e-mail to [craig@k1cra.com](mailto:craig@k1cra.com).

# "The Tower Is Up!" NY Antenna Battle Finally Pays Off

A New York amateur who credits both the limited federal preemption PRB-1 and the ARRL with helping him win approval for an antenna support structure on his property, now reports his new tower is up. Fred Fitte, WA2MMX, spent months trying to gain the necessary approvals from the Town of Kinderhook. He saw his new tower become reality in late September--more than a year after his zoning battle began.

"I was finally able to erect my 50-foot self-supporting tower with the help of my local ham buddies who have supported me through the fight," Fitte said recently. Some VHF and UHF antennas already are up on the tower, and an HF tribander is in the offing.

The Town of Kinderhook would not allow a ham radio antenna support structure in excess of 35 feet without a variance. "PRB-1 is what saved my bacon," said Fitte. PRB-1, spelled out in the FCC Amateur Service rules under §97.15(b), requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication. Fitte finally got a building permit last May after what he called "a really ugly battle"--winning approval of his request to erect a 50-foot tower on a 3 to 1 vote of the town's Zoning Board of Appeals.

Among those who had helped Fitte in his battle with the town was ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who says WA2MMX's situation "was not your run-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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

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# CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest

The STARS Nike Base club station was active the week-end of October 25-27 as STARS members competed in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest, the biggest international SSB DX contest of the year.

The STARS team included Keith Patterson KC2DGC, Gerry Maira KA2MGE, Scott Barto KB2KOL, John Dilivio K2CF, Bruce Settlemyer KC2GJX, Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, Kevin Retzer K9KVN, Bob Mueller KC2JZE and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

STARS station performed great during the contest, and the STARS operators were told by many contacts that STARS had a good signal into their part of the world. That really picks up the spirits! The team was able to break through most pile-ups on the first or second try.



The team took advantage of the differing propagation properties of the bands from 10 meters to 160 meters to reach into all parts of the world. STARS team worked 70 countries on 10 meters, 65 on 15 meters, 74 on 20 meters, 14 on 40 meters, 12 on 80 meters and 2 on 160 meters.

Some of the countries worked included Niger, Senegal, Dem. Rep. of Congo (note - formerly known as Zaire), Morocco, Benin, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, South Shetland Islands, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Chatham Island, Bealeu, Mariana Islands, Guam, East Kiribati, Ogasawara, South Cook Island and many, many others!

The STARS team's final score was 472,842 points (unofficially). A total of 540 QSO's were made over the weekend.

In total, 110 different DXCC countries were worked in 31 different CQ zones.

Why not come on out to the next contest and do a little operating yourself? The world is out there waiting to hear from you!



John K2CF, Keith KC2DGC, Bob KC2JZE and Bruce KC2GJX enjoy the contest at the Nike Base.



Scott KB2KOL and Gerry KA2MGE take their turns at the mike.



Bruce KC2GJX and his wife Dori take a break. They provided some great chili for the crew to eat during the contest.

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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.

## International Space Station Fan Club

If you are interested in amateur radio from the International Space Station (ISS), check out the ISS Fan Club web site at <http://www.issfanclub.com>.

They have information on frequencies used, how to QSL the ISS, packet radio from the ISS and lots more. They even have a real-time map of where the ISS is located at the current time.

There are lots of stories and reports to keep you up-to-date on what is happening on the ISS and forums so you can ask questions.

## New York Tower Case

*(Continued from page 4)*

of-the-mill ham tower case." As Fallon explains it, Fitte ran into problems after he moved approximately 300 feet into a new development and filed for a building permit for a tower 10 feet shorter than his old one.

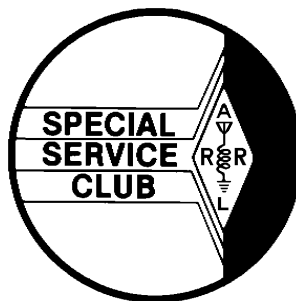
"His first hearing, only days before the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, did not go well," Fallon said, adding that Fitte "was shocked at the hostile response from his new neighbors."

What followed was a series of seven hearings over nine months, during which he confronted several hostile neighbors, aided by a local attorney and a medical doctor. The neighbors attacked the proposed support structure as a health and safety hazard and an aesthetic blight that would lower property values. Their attorney also wanted the town to require WA2MMX to move his antennas outside the development.

"Fred, with a lot of help from his friends, finally prevailed," Fallon said. Fitte and his wife, Terry, hosted a celebratory "thank you" picnic over the September Labor Day weekend for friends and expert witnesses who had helped. Only his attorney, Al Millus, WB2EQR, was unable to attend.

In addition to Fallon, among those who did turn out was ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who voluntarily attended five of the hearings to present testimony. Dr George Wilner, K2ONP, the head of the Hematology Department at Albany Medical Center, attended one hearing session to debunk the issue of potential biomedical hazards. One friendly neighbor—a real estate appraiser—came forward to put to rest the claim that Fitte's antenna would lower property values.

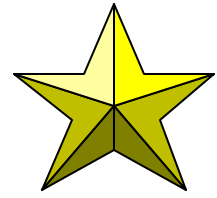
The ARRL Letter 10/25/02



STARS Is  
An ARRL  
Special  
Service  
Club



# 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

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