

telstar



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

ISSUE 253 JANUARY 2003

Marconi Day Celebrations

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi--using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system--transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via land line and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, are working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore to organize the celebration. The special event will take place at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, which is near the original Marconi site. Operation will include several amateur modes, including SSB, CW, FM, digital and satellite.

Marconi Radio Club President Robert J. "Whitey" Doherty, K1VV, says operators will be on the air 24 hours a day from January 11 through January 19. "We have a half dozen operators who will live at the station for the full period," he said. The special event station will open to the public from 9 AM until 5 PM EST (1400-2200 UTC).

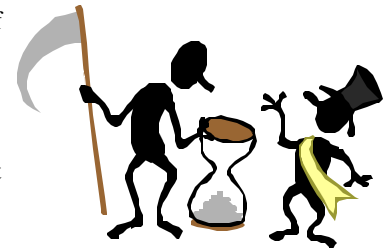
An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact--the first of the new year with US students--is to be scheduled during the weeklong celebration. Doherty says that selected students from three Cape Cod high schools will speak via KM1CC with a member of the new Expedition 6 ISS crew. 1.

Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, is scheduled to attend the a reenactment of the groundbreaking wireless

January Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 2nd at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Get caught up on all of the amateur radio activities going on around Western New York and in our club. Start the New Year out right!



A program on an Amateur Television (ATV) repeater is planned.

So, why don't you stop by and see what is going on and take a little time for some eyeball ragchewing!

Did You Renew Yet?

Your dues to renew your 2003 STARS club membership are due on January 1. Did you remember? If we receive them in time, your 2003 membership card and repeater codes will be included with your February newsletter.

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



If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email or regular mail.

(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 lot going on this month but lets first start out with wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Our regular membership meeting will take place on January 2, 2003. We will have a lot to cover so please try to come out and attend as we need your input to make this the very best Amateur radio club in Western New York.



Early next month we will be participating in the town of Hamburg's Sno-Fest which will take place on February 1st and 2nd, 2003. Please try to come out and support the club at this special event at our Nike Base site.

I would like to get more of our club members involved in ARES/RACES this year and to schedule an ARRL Emergency Communication class or a FEMA Incident Management class to that end. The American Red Cross and other public safety groups offer these courses. If there is a great amount of interest in this, I'm sure we could do it at a local school or fire hall. This is a great opportunity to show the public what were all about and get good PR for our club.

On a bit of a different note, I would like to address a amateur radio subject I'm sure a lot of club members may not know about, the reinstatement of Kevin Mitnick N6NHG. Kevin was at one time the "greatest computer hacker in history" his exploits are legendary Hacking and stealing software at Sun Microsystems, Digital Equipment Company, Novell, Motorola, Nokia and Southern California University. It took many computer security experts and FBI agents 3 years to catch him.

I am glad to see that the FCC has reinstated his Amateur License, mainly because I believe we need people with the technical skill to really provide some "improvement in technology in the amateur radio service". Kevin has shown that he has been rehabilitated enough to be relicensed by FCC law Judge R.L.Sippel and hopefully Kevin will become a useful member of our Amateur Radio brotherhood.

Happy New Year to All

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).

LARA Hamfest & Auction

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will be holding their 42nd annual Hamfest and Auction on January 25th.

They will be using a new location of the South Transit Fire-hall, Transit Road (Route 78) at Ruhlman Road, Lockport, NY 14094.

Setup for vendors begins at 6 AM. The Hamfest will be open to the public between 7 AM and 11 AM. The auction will run from 11 AM till done. Auction vendors must be there for the auction.

Flea market tables will be available for \$5.00 per 8 foot table. Items at auction will pay LARA a 10% commission up to a maximum of \$10.00. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 free. There will be plenty of free parking. Food will be available: hot dogs, hamburgers, beef on weck, donuts, coffee and pop.

Talk-in will be on W2RUI/R on 146.82/146.22 MHz (output/input).

For information call Duane Robinson W2DLR at 791-4096 or e-mail w2dlrham@aol.com.

Thanks!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin K9KVN for his donation of a RASCAL sound card interface to the kids at the Gowanda Amateur Radio Club. Kevin no sooner won this item at the holiday party raffle before he turned around and graciously offered it to the kids. Thank You.



I would also like to thank Paul WB2KFL for his continuing support to the kids. Paul made his second monetary donation this year, along with some "odds and ends" supplies. We all really appreciate it.

73's. Scott KB2KOL

VE Exam Fees

The ARRL/VEC has announced that the 2003 test fees for all VE exams conducted by ARRL/VEC coordinated teams, including the STARS VE team, will be \$12.

Therefore, the new test fees will be in effect for the next STARS VE exams scheduled for Saturday, January 11 at the Grace Lutheran Church, McKinley Pkwy at Newton Rd. in Hamburg.



2003 STARS Officers and Directors

Pictured at left are: (Front Row, l to r) John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Vice Pres.; Bob Koster KA2WYE, President; and Keith Patterson KC2DGC, Secretary. (Back Row, l to r) Bruce Settlemyer KC2GJX, Director; Scott Barto KB2KOL, Director; and Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, Treasurer. Not pictured: Judy Levan N2TEZ, Financial Secretary.

New Technician Class Question Pool Released

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Technician class (Element 2) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2003, and must be used to generate all Technician written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The newly revised pool released this week by the QPC includes significant efforts to present the pool in a more friendly and understandable fashion for beginners while maintaining appropriate emphasis on safety, rules and operating procedures," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "The Technician syllabus was completely revised during 2002 to allow for the revamping of the new question pool."

The new Element 2 question pool contains 511 questions--up from 385 in the April 2000 release that occurred around the time of Amateur Radio restructuring.

The new question pool, available on the Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>>, includes all questions and answers as well as graphics related to the questions for Element 2.

The FCC rules (§97.523) require each question pool to contain at least 10 times the number of questions required to appear on any examination drawn from that pool. QPC Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, says the QPC has attempted to apply that same "10 times" principle to each subelement.

Neustadter said "insignificant changes" to the Element 2 syllabus were made as they became obvious, although they were not specifically highlighted in this week's release.

VECs have a certain amount of flexibility with the format of their examinations. Outside of the fact that questions, answers, distracters and related graphics must appear as they do in the question pool itself, "the manner of presentation is not interpreted to be of impact to Amateur Radio as long as clarity of presentation is preserved," Neustadter said.

On behalf of the QPC, he also thanked all amateurs who assisted in the effort to revise Element 2. In addition to Neustadter and Jahnke, members of the Question Pool Committee are Fred Maia, W5YI, and John Johnston, W3BE.

The Question Pool Committee now will turn its attention to developing an outline for the General class (Element 3) question pool, which will be revised during the fall of 2003. The QPC has put out a call for input by January 31, 2003, to

the Element 3 syllabus and question pool. Commenters may address specific Element 2 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail <qpc@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter 12/6/2002

Kid's Day Is January 4!

The next Kid's Day is Saturday, January 4, 2003, from 1800-2400 UTC. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, is a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, Amateur Radio event. Now entering its ninth year, Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants for each running.



Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people--licensed or not--to enjoy Amateur Radio. It gives youngsters on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It's also intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

Activity for Kid's Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>> takes place on 20, 15 and 10 meters--and perhaps on local 2-meter repeaters. It's an opportunity to introduce youngsters to the magic of ham radio and perhaps spark a lifelong love for the hobby.

(Continued on page 5)

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
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	Bruce Settlemyer	KC2GJX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 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

ARATS will be holding test sessions 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.

Kid's Day

(Continued from page 4)

The suggested exchange for Kid's Day is first name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Suggested frequencies are 14,270 to 14,300, 21,380 to 21,400 and 28,350 to 28,400 kHz, and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page <http://www.arl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation and assistance of the BARC.

The ARRL Letter 12/27/02

Nike Base Club Station Key Holders As of 12/24/2002

Due to the theft of certain equipment at the STARS Nike Base Club Station, the locks to the building have been changed. If you need to get into the club station, you should contact one of the following people.

1. KA2WYE	BOB KOSTER	649-7272
2. KB2VWC	JOHN CRAWFORD, SR	649-5933
3. KC2DGC	KEITH PATTERSON	649-3403
4. KB2ESM	JOHN CULLUM, JR	662-7075
5. KB2KOL	SCOTT BARTO	648-1435
6. KC2GJX	BRUCE SETTLEMYER	947-5011
7. K2CF	JOHN DILIVIO	822-1572
8. KA2RFT	JOHN LEITTEN	648-0341
9. K2OO	TERRY ROCKHOLD	656-0865
10. KB2YJ	GARY ZANGHI	549-8476
11. KA2MGE	GERRY MAIRA	934-3776

Marconi Day

(Continued from page 1)

transmission on January 18, when KM1CC will transmit the text of Roosevelt's original message to King Edward VII.

KM1CC QSL card requests from US amateurs (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) go via Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. DX stations are invited to QSL via the W1 QSL Bureau.

Additional details are on the Marconi Radio Club Web site <http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>.

The ARRL Letter 12/27/02





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 7:30 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
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k200@bigfoot.com