

telstar



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

ISSUE 254 FEBRUARY 2003

Shuttle *Columbia* Lost

On Saturday, February 1, 2003, the space shuttle *Columbia* broke up high over the state of Texas with the loss of all seven astronauts aboard. Three of the crew were amateur radio operators.

The STS-107 crew, headed by Commander Rick D. Husband, also included Pilot William C. McCool and Mission Specialists Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI; David M. Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel B. Clark, KC5ZSU, Michael P. Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon—a well-known Israeli Air Force pilot.

Tim Lewallen KD5ING, the PIO for the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio

Club in East Texas reported on Saturday that their ARES group assisted students from the Stephen F. Austin State University Geographical Information System to locate and catalog shuttle debris. ARES volunteers also are following up on NASA-provided telemetry and radar information that indicates where debris might be found, Lewallen said. The ARES group is coordinating the entire effort, Lewallen said, adding that the recovery and cataloging effort was expected to continue for several more days. The search area—estimated unofficially at hundreds of square miles—includes



February Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, February 6 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

This month's program will be presented by STARS officers Bob Koster KA2WYE and Keith Patterson KC2DGC. They will be talking about many digital modes like PSK31, MFSK16/32, SSTV, SCMS and RTTY which can be ran using the sound card in your computer and a simple interface to your transceiver. They will also have copies of applicable software programs available.



Why not come out and visit us? You might also want to see if you could give a ride to one or more hams who may not have transportation to the meeting or who have gotten out of the habit of coming.

Don't Let Us Lose You!

If you have renewed your 2002 membership, your membership card and repeater codes have been mailed to you or will be shortly. If you haven't renewed, this will be the last newsletter that you will be receiving.

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 February 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.

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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 the President

A Happy Ground Hog day to all of the membership. Hopefully we will have less than 6 more week of winter, and winter is on the way out and spring is just around the corner. Some of us may have thoughts about repairing the winter damage to our station feed lines or antennas. I had a few different thoughts. I was thinking about what we are as a group, are we really just Amateur's? Well, the only way that we are amateur is as athletes in the Olympic class who don't get paid. We would be better classified as Non-paid professionals.

So then how do we go about recruiting and gaining new members into the amateur radio ranks? I was thinking what the hobby means to me. How would that translate into a public relations sort of statement? What do we Amateur Radio Operators do? Maybe something on the order of providing training experimental and demonstration activities, for the advancement of radio and electronics. We also encourage the interchange of information relating to the use, purpose, design, construction and development of radio, electronics and similar apparatus and devices. Remember many of the advances in the field of communication came from the Amateur Radio service. Don't we coordinate and promote the general welfare relating to such sciences, but we do it not for hire or gain. Yes, but there is much more. Don't we promote administrative and legislative action in the relation to the hobby and then carry on such educational recreational activities for the benefit of those interested? Again yes to the above. One other thing we should not forget is the social aspect. Oh yes the social aspect, the rag chewing, the team work that makes things like field day work out so nicely. All these things and more are what the hobby is to me.

Is Amateur Radio just a hobby or a profession that is unpaid. This is a question we should focus on. This is what sets us apart from all other hobbies. A good example would be a volunteer fireman. He does the same job as a professional but receives no direct payment. A person involved in ARES/RACES is very much like a volunteer fireman involved in helping the community; but, instead of fighting a fire, we provide the emergency communications for the fire police or other public department. So therein lies the mission we as Amateur Radio Operators must promote. The idea that although what we do maybe classified as a hobby it is much more that that it's a public service that we have been trusted to provide to the general public. We are a Public Service and Resource that can be used by and for the public good.

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

General Class Theory Course

ARATS and STARS will co-sponsor a general class theory course beginning Monday, March 3. The instructors will be ARATS and STARS members Terry Rockhold K2OO and Jim Livingston N2SKT.

The course will be held at the Greenhaven Public Library which is near the intersection of I-290 and Niagara Falls Blvd. The course will run one night a week for ten weeks with the final night being the VE Exam. Most classes will be on Monday evenings. The hours will be 6:45 to 8:45 PM.



The course is open to all hams. Those interested in attending the course should call Terry at 656-0865 by February 21 to pre-register or for more information.

The Greater Buffalo "Winter" Hamfest

February 23, 2003

Sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Location: Main Transit FD Hall
6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY
Only 1 mile from NY State Thruway I 90 exit 49
Talk-in 147.255 MHz PL 107.2

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast !

Opens at 7:30 AM
Admission : only \$6
Tables: \$10

Hamfest web site <http://larc.hamgate.net>

General Info & Table Reserv by phone: Jim (716) 542-4201

Table reservations:
http://larc.hamgate.net/GBWHF_Table_Information.htm



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GF4 MX420 64 MB...\$75
GF4 MX440 64 MB...\$78

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40x10x40 CD-RW.....\$59
48x10x48 CD-RW.....\$65
52X CD-ROM.....\$28

CABLES

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

MEMORY

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256 MB PC 133.....\$40
128 MB PC2100 DDR...\$45
256 MB PC2100 DDR...\$80
* ram prices subject to change

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73, DAVID KB2LCR
Owner

HAMBURG SNO-FEST

The Town of Hamburg Recreation Department sponsors the annual SNO-FEST, Hamburg's favorite winter weekend carnival. This family orientated event was scheduled for February 1st and 2nd at the Lakeview Road Recreation Area (NIKE BASE). This years featured event was a Buffalo Sabres Alumni game.

The Sno-fest also offered free public skating, cross country skiing, hay wagon rides, snow mountain tubing, face painting, mascot visits, snowshoeing and more.

STARS had our club house open from 10 AM to 4 PM both days to demonstrate amateur radio activities. Many hams stopped by for a rag-chew.



Participating in STARS demonstration at the Hamburg SNO-FEST were Larry Shannon K2KVS, Bob Lehning WA2YSJ and Rich Budzynski KI2X.

VE Exam

The STARS VE Team held a test session on Saturday, January 11.

Four candidates were served, and all left with the new license or upgrade that they were trying to achieve. Two qualified for new Technician class licenses and one pre-1987 Technician qualified for an upgrade to General. An 11 year old boy (with dual citizenship) came down from Hamilton, Ontario to claim an upgrade to General.

VE's assisting with the session were John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Scott Barto KB2KOL, Dan Rozek W2CQX and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

Frank Lennert K2JYC SK

Frank Lennert, K2JYC passed away on Wed. January 29th, 2003. He was a member of STARS and was the morning anchor on the 146.670 machine. He will be missed by many. More information can be had on the KE2VW 146.67 repeater (PL=107.2).

73, Frank

Mark Wolf W2MAW

BARRA Auction

The Annual BARRA Ham Radio & Electronics Auction will be held on Monday, February 17, 2003, at the St. Bartholome ws Episcopal Church at Brighton & Fries Roads in Tonawanda, NY (Across from Kenmore East High School).

Doors open at 6:45 PM and the Auction begins at 7:30 PM.

Auctioneer again will be the popular Bob "Dutch" Dutschman K2JGI.

There will be a \$1.00 per person donation. Refreshments will be available. There will be a raffle for a VCR, DVD Player and cash prizes.

Everyone is invited to buy and sell such things as ham radio gear, scanners, computer equipment, parts, books, CBs, test equipment and more.

For more information, see:

[Http://barra.hamgate.net](http://barra.hamgate.net)

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
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	Bruce Settlemyer	KC2GJX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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.

Used Computer Needed

I am looking for someone who would be willing to donate a used computer for the benefit of an elderly ham radio couple who have limited financial means. If possible, we would like to get a computer with a Pentium 133 MHz processor or faster. We might be able to use a computer with a slightly slower processor.

If you have a computer to donate or for more information, please contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865.



Shuttle *Columbia* Lost

(Continued from page 1)
densely forested regions

Robin Haighton VE3FRH, President of AMSAT, released the following statement, "It is with great sadness that I have learnt of the *Columbia* disaster. AMSAT has always been a strong supporter of the Shuttle program and of ARISS. We have had many interactions with the astronauts who have fearlessly ridden the shuttle into space, currently several are AMSAT members and supporters.

On this sad occasion on behalf of the Board of Directors, officers and members of AMSAT I wish to send our deep sympathy to the families, relatives and friends of those who undertook this *Columbia* mission, their understanding of the risks taken on this and other missions did not prevent them from performing at the highest level and unfortunately paying the ultimate price.

To our friends at NASA, we at AMSAT send our understanding and our sympathy, knowing that the exploration of space and carrying out important experiments for the benefit of humanity will continue to be your mission."

A special, private memorial service will be held Tuesday at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. President and Mrs George W. Bush will attend the mid-day ceremony. "This is a private ceremony for family members, friends, and invited guests, along with NASA employees and contractors," NASA said. The service will be carried live on NASA Television and available via the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/>.



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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