

telstar



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

ISSUE 255 MARCH 2003

Emergency Communication Training Grant

A generous grant from ARRL corporate partner United Technologies Corporation (UTC) <<http://www.utc.com>> will expand reimbursed Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) training to all three training levels and put the UTC grant program on a national level. The three-year, \$150,000 grant will reimburse the cost of tuition to students anywhere in the US who successfully complete ARRL's Level I, II and III Amateur Radio emergency communication courses. An earlier UTC grant covered Level I and II ARECC training for more than 280 Connecticut amateurs.

"This grant plays perfectly into the overall plan and scope of emergency communication for local communities and our nation as a whole," said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. "This will allow us to increase the number of seats offered each month for reimbursable courses." Miller praised UTC's foresight and proactive approach to community involvement. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, said UTC clearly recognizes the importance of emergency communication. "With this new grant, UTC has taken a giant step and renewed its commitment to Amateur Radio, emergency communication and homeland security," she said.

Including the earlier UTC grant and a three-year federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) award of some \$543,000, the ARRL now has secured \$726,000 for emergency communication training. That training, Hobart predicted, "will have an impact on every state in the union." Students successfully completing any level of the on-line Amateur Radio Emergency Communications classes under the new UTC grant will be eligible for reimbursement of their \$45 registration fee.

The ARRL Letter 2/14/03

March Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, March 6 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.

Last month's program (see below) showed members how they could run digital modes such as PSK31, SSTV, RTTY, etc. on HF with inexpensive equipment.



This month's program by STARS members Keith Patterson KC2DGC, Scott Barto KB2KOL and Bruce Settlemyer KC2GJX will continue this theme through a live demonstration of using the same basic equipment and software to run PSK31 and SSTV locally on 2 meter FM and SSB. This way Technicians can get into these interesting modes on frequencies where they have privileges.



STARS Secretary Keith Patterson KC2DGC (above) demonstrated operating digital modes using free sound card software and a simple interface to his radio at STARS February meeting. STARS President Bob Koster KA2WYE passed out CD's of the software to members.

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.

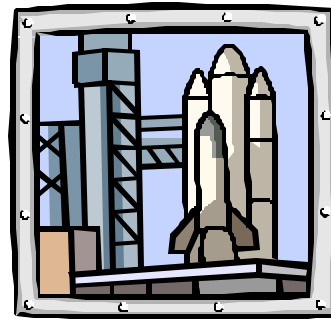
STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

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

Hello To all the membership.

First I would like to again offer my condolences to the families of the shuttle astronauts. We lost not only pioneer explorers but members of our amateur radio fraternal family. 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-Robin. We salute and honor all the astronauts who have fearlessly ridden the shuttle into space. We keep the families of those we lost in our thoughts and prayers.



Again we see our nation threatened by the enemies of freedom and find ourselves with a national threat level of high (orange), even though our government may soon lower the level to elevated (yellow). [Editor's Note: This has now happened.] We for the first time as a nation were told to be prepared. Some of us (including old boy scouts) were a step ahead of the game. In previous articles I have stressed that we as Amateur Radio Operators must always be ready to help and serve the public in times of need. This time our Government released a list as to what we should have on hand to help us cope "just in case". The items on the list should be well known to us as they are from the Red Cross, FEMA and even old civil defense lists with a few additions. If you haven't yet gotten these things make sure you stock up in the near future. Always remember these things all come in handy if we have some bad Buffalo weather.

I wanted to keep it short and sweet this month but there are a few things I would like to quickly touch on. First, remember to try to check into the STARS repeater Thursday night two-meter net. This is an excellent way to ensure your radio is working when you need it. Testing your gear before its needed is always a good idea; and, after the net if you want to try a simplex frequency, you can coordinate before hand on the repeater. These are in keeping with good amateur radio practices. Also, if you know a club or former club member who hasn't been active, try to encourage him or her to become an active member of the hobby again. We need every one to be ready if the call to help is sounded.

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

General Class Theory Course

The General Class Theory Course co-sponsored by STARS and ARATS began with the first class on March 3 at the Greenhaven Public Library in Tonawanda. Seventeen students have registered for the class. They will be covering all the material needed to pass the General Class theory exam.

If you are interested in attending the classes, it is not too late. Call Terry Rockhold K200 immediately at 656-0865, and he will give you all the information.

Nike Base Club Station

Many STARS members had a great time during the March 1-2 weekend operating the ARRL International DX contest. The equipment worked great and STARS put out a big signal around the world. Members also had a chance to do some rag chewing and eat some great food donated by members. Why not come out and join them during the next contest? Everyone is welcome (no experience necessary)!

ARRL Merchandise

With Field Day coming up, the ARRL has commemorative Pins \$5, and T-Shirts \$12.95. For anyone interested in these or any other ARRL items I'm planning to put in an order for them on May 2nd (the day after our meeting).

If you often see books, maps, hats, etc. that you want but don't want the cost of shipping, or just don't get around to putting in an order, this is a good time to do it.

Shipping will be \$1 dollar per order no mater what, or how many you want. The ARRL's maximum shipping is \$10. Anything more than that collected will go to help supply food for Field Day.

I'll take orders at the March, April and May meetings, or phone me at 947-5011 or e-mail me at kc2gix@arrl.net. With the order placed May 2nd, it should arrive in about 5 days. If enough interest is shown, we could plan a few orders a year.

Bruce KC2GJX





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Custom systems built to your specifications.



73, DAVID KB2LCR
Owner

WHOLESALE PRICING WITH AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN






NEW YORK ARRL MEMBERS

We have just learned that our antenna bill - A 63 - is in on the agenda of the Senate Local Government Co mmittee meeting for Wednesday, March 5th. It is important that we let members of that committee know how important that bill is to Amateur Radio in New York. See <http://www.hudson.arrl.org> for more information and a copy of the bill.

Please spread the word on local repeaters and get others to contact their New York State senators quickly.

Please contact the senators listed below via e-mail or telephone before the Wednesday meeting asking them to support the bill A 63 and report it out of committee

See the sample e-mail at the end of this bulletin for key points you will want to make in a telephone message. Please e-mail or telephone the Senate committee members listed below:

Elizabeth O'C. Little, 45th, R-I-C Senatorial District
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren, Washington Counties:
21 Bay Street , Glens Falls, NY 12801
District: 518-743-0968
903 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2811
little@senate.state.ny.us

Mary Lou Rath, 61st, R-C-I Senatorial District
Genesee and part of Erie Counties:
5500 Main Street, Suite 260 , Williamsville, NY 14221-6737 District: 716-633-0331
707 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-3161
rath@senate.state.ny.us

Martin Connor, 25th, D-L-W Senatorial District
Parts of Kings and New York Counties:
250 Broadway, Suite 2011 , New York, NY 10007-2356
District: 212-298-5565
408 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2625
connor@senate.state.ny.us

Caesar Trunzo, 03rd, R-C-I Senatorial District
Part of Suffolk Counties:
NYS Office Building Veterans' Memorial Highway,
Hauppauge, NY 11788 District: 631-360-3236
711 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2111
trunzo@senate.state.ny.us

William T. Stachowski, 58th, D-C-I-W Senatorial District
Part of Erie Counties: 2030 Clinton Street , Buffalo, NY
14206 District: 716-826-3344
604 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2426

stachows@senate.state.ny.us

John A. DeFrancisco, 50th, R-C-I Senatorial District
Part of Onondaga Counties:
804 State Office Bldg. 333 East Washington Street,
Syracuse, NY 13202 District: 315-428-7632
307 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-3511
jdefranc@senate.state.ny.us

Ruth Hassell-Thompson, 36th, D Senatorial District
Parts of Bronx, Westchester Counties:
767 East Gunhill Road , Bronx, NY 10467 District: 718-547-8854
613 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2061
hassellt@senate.state.ny.us

John J. Bonacic, 42nd, R-C Senatorial District
Delaware, Sullivan, parts of Orange, Ulster Counties:
279 Main Street, Suite 202 , New Paltz, NY 12561 District: 845-255-9656
815 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-3181
bonacic@senate.state.ny.us

Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann, 49th, R Senatorial District
Madison and parts of Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga Counties:
801 State Office Building 333 East Washington Street,
Syracuse, NY 13202 District: 315-478-0072
811 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2665
hoffmann@senate.state.ny.us
(Send mail to DISTRICT)

Here is a sample e-mail letter.

Dear Senator ...,

Please support S 63 the "'Jimmy' the Newsagent' Hannell Amateur Radio Antenna Bill" and report it out of the Local Government Committee. We have named the bill after Jimmy Hannell, W2JHO, who passed away suddenly in January of 2003 and who worked very hard to get the bill passed by the Senate last year. The bill is important to

(Continued on page 5)

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
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	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 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.

(Continued from page 4)

Amateur Radio operators across New York State.

The bill is a restatement of federal provision for Amateur antennas

The bill sets a self limiting state-wide standard
The bill will enable hams to have effective antennas with which to perform valuable FREE public service communications in times of need and or as part of Homeland Defense

Amateur Radio has a long proud history of public service to the state and the nation

Amateur radio is always there "When all else fails"

The Senate passed the bill last year

Your name and address

Thanks for your support in this important effort. It is important that these senators here from us before the Wednesday meeting.

73,

Bernie Fuller, N3ENF, Atlantic Division Director
Frank Fallon, N2FF, Hudson Division Director

FCC Proposes Fine For Ham Accused of Intentional Interference

The FCC has proposed fining a Nebraska Technician-class Amateur Radio operator, Scott E. Kamm, N0UGN, of Waterbury, \$12,000 for alleged willful and repeated interference, broadcasting of music and failing to identify with his call sign. The FCC's Kansas City office released the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on January 24.

Responding to complaints of continuing interference on the input of a 2-meter repeater, FCC agents monitored the frequency last December 9. They observed "very strong signals on the frequency 146.31 MHz consisting of music, sound effects and unmodulated carriers" and no station ID. The FCC said the transmissions were "interfering with existing communications in progress" between other amateur stations.

The FCC said it used direction-finding techniques to determine that the source of the signals was Kamm's residence in Waterbury. The next day, an FCC agent monitored the same sorts of transmissions, tracked the source to Kamm's residence, and inspected Kamm's amateur station.

"The agent found an amateur radio transceiver capable of operating on 146.31 MHz," the FCC said. Kamm claimed no transmissions were made from his station and that he used the unit to receive only.

Based on its evidence, however, the FCC Kansas City office determined that Kamm "willfully and repeatedly" violated FCC Part 97 rules "by causing intentional interference, broadcasting music and failing to identify with his station call sign." The FCC determined that the appropriate fine was \$12,000 and ordered Kamm to pay the fine within 30 days unless Kamm seeks a reduction or appeals the proposed forfeiture.

Kamm already has come to the attention of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. He was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth during 2002. Last fall, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Kamm's amateur license based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's license expired last September, and his renewal application has reverted to a pending status while the matter was referred to the Enforcement Bureau.

The ARRL Letter 2/21/03



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