

# telstar



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

ISSUE 256 APRIL 2003

## STARS Mini Flea Market This Month!

Yes, its that time again! The STARS Mini Flea Market will be held at the our April 3rd club meeting at the Hamburg Youth Center.

Unlike many flea markets, there is no charge for setting up a table (provide your own) to sell goods. This is strictly a service provided by the club.

Here's your chance to convert some of that unused equipment that you have laying around the house (or shack) into real American dollars! Then you could go out and spend those dollars on some new equipment that you might really use! Help support our economy, it really needs it! Buy and sell, it's the American way!

You know you want to see what bargains everyone is going to be bringing. What if you don't come and someone else ends up with your bargain? Could you really live with yourself? Don't take that chance! Be there!

## General Class Theory Course

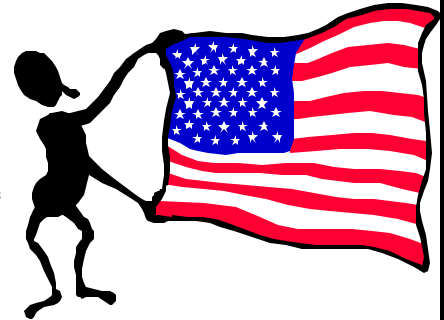
The General Class theory course being co-sponsored by STARS and ARATS at the Greenhaven Public Library has reached the half-way point. We have 15 students diligently working towards learning about FCC rules, operating procedures, radio wave propagation, electronics and circuits, antennas and feedlines and RF exposure guidelines.

We will be bringing in a team of VE's from STARS and ARATS on May 5th to give them their General Class theory exams, and hopefully all will be leaving happy.

Class instructors are STARS and ARATS members Terry K2OO and Jim N2SKT.

## April Meeting

This month's STARS club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 3rd 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 are required.



At this meeting, we will be holding our annual STARS Mini Flea Market. See story at left.

STARS President Bob Koster KA2WYE will also do a demonstration on how to build simple amateur radio antennas.

We had a nice increase in attendance at the March meeting, and we are looking for even more at the April meeting. Check out the story on Page 4 and see how attending the meeting might help you win a great prize!



At STARS March meeting, Kevin Retzer K9KVN demonstrated some of the equipment that he has put together to aid him in being ready to provide emergency communications.

## 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:

As I write the United States and a coalition of nations is at war with the Government of the country of Iraq. Iraq is a country that has one of the worst record of human rights violations there is. This has put us at a high state of alert (Orange), again and Amateur radios operators have been ready and prepared to help.

I received a very informative email from a friend of mine. The message was about monitoring The Iraq War. The message contained a list of frequencies, which I will print here for your information. Frequencies to monitor (in the USB mode) include 4709, 4724, 6712, 6739, 8992, 11175, 11271, 15038 (11175 is a very active frequency most of the time)

Short-wave broadcasts from the Middle East that you can hear with a reasonable antenna include the following. Note that UTC (Universal Time) is 5 hours ahead of EST. Note that because the changing situation in the area these times and frequencies are subject to change; of course checking the frequencies from time to time is your best bet of hearing a broadcast.

Egypt, Radio Cairo on 9900 at 2315 UTC Iran, Voice of the Islamic Republic, Tehran on 9022 at 1030 UTC (also on 9835 and 11970) Iran also on 13730 and 13745 at 1330 UTC. Iraq, Radio Baghdad on 11787 (varies slightly to 11785) at 2000 UTC. Also check 15265, 15375, 15385, 21470 at 1100 UTC. Israel, Kol Israel on 6280, 7475, 9435 at 0500 (also on 11605). Israel also on 15640, 17535 and 6220 at 2000 UTC. Also check 1700 UTC on 17545. At 1900 UTC on 11605, 15615 and 17545. Kuwait (Radio Kuwait) on 11990 kHz at 1800 UTC. Also check 15110 kHz. Syria, Radio Damascus on 12085 (and 13610 frequently) at 0500 and 2000 UTC Turkey, Voice of Turkey, Ankara on 11960 and 12000 at 2100 UTC; on 6020 at 0400 and 2300 UTC United Arab Emirates Radio, Dubai on 13675, 15395 at 0020, 1330 UTC; 15395 at 0030; 0200 on 15395 and 15370. [FYI The email was from Harold Ort (N2RLL) who is the editor of Popular Communications.]

I would like to remind everyone that FCC Rules state as per Amateur radio sub part (A) general provisions & 97.1 the fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles: (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications

In previous articles, I have stressed that we as Amateur Ra-

*(Continued on page 5)*

www.usitek.com

# USitek

INCORPORATED

**Your Premier Computer Provider!**



Regular price \$999  
**Now \$599**  
With this ad **You Save \$400!**

**#2AW4200 Adirondack**  
System: AW4200 Workstation  
Processor: Duron XP 1400+  
Memory: 256 MB SDRAM 133  
Hard Drive: 20 GB 7200 RPM  
Optical Drive: 52X CD-ROM  
Video: Integrated SiS graphics  
Audio: Integrated audio  
Operating System: Microsoft XP Home  
Software: Productivity software bundle  
Valued at \$499 separately  
Communication: Integrated 10/100 LAN  
Monitor: 17" CRT Monitor

System includes keyboard, 3 button scroll mouse, floppy drive, and 2 piece speaker set.

---



Regular price \$1999  
**Now \$1699**  
With this ad **You Save \$300!**

**#2EW9200 Entura**  
System: EW9200 Workstation Processor:  
Intel Pentium4 2.53 GHz  
Memory: 512 MB DDR  
Hard Drive: 40 GB 7200 RPM 8 MB cache  
Optical Drive: 52x CD-ROM  
Video: Geforce4 MX440 SE 64 MB with TV out Audio: Integrated audio  
Operating System: Microsoft Windows XP Professional  
Software: Productivity software bundle  
Valued at \$499 separately  
Communication: Integrated 10/100 LAN  
Monitor: 17" LCD monitor with .25 dot pitch

System includes black keyboard, black optical scroll mouse, black floppy drive, and black 2 piece speaker set.

**Monitors from as low as \$29 !**

 <b>Broadband Routers</b> from <b>\$58</b>	 <b>48x CD Burners</b> from <b>\$59</b>	 <b>Microsoft Keyboards and mice</b> from <b>\$10</b>
 <b>128 MB AGP Video Cards</b> from <b>\$76</b>	 <b>Hard Drives</b> from <b>\$45</b>	 <b>Pocket PC now available</b> <b>New products weekly!!</b>
 <b>Cases</b> <small>Lian-Li Enlight Hot case</small> from <b>\$35</b>	 <b>3 pc Multimedia speakers</b> from <b>\$39</b>	 

**(716) 447-7000**  
We meet or beat any local competitor's price  
1720 Military Rd. Suite 200 Kenmore, NY 14217

## 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 matter 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 kc2gjx@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

## RAWNY Flea Market

The Radio Association of Western New York (RAWNY) will be holding their Fifth Annual RAWNY Flea Market on Tuesday, April 8th, at the Church of the Nativity, on the corner of Thorncliff Road. and Colvin Blvd one block north of Sheridan Drive, in Tonawanda, NY.

Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

There is a \$1.00 donation which enters you into the drawing for door prizes.

Tables for selling items are limited and are available for \$4.00 for a 6 foot table and \$5.00 for an 8 foot table. Call Kevin WA2FKV at 693-3917 days or 834-3042 nights or email wa2fkv@arrl.net.

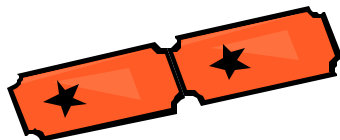
Refreshments will be available.



# Attend STARS Meetings & Win Prizes!

The Board of Directors of STARS, VALUES your membership; we value your ideas, we value your participation, and we especially value YOU, the members. We want the club to soar to new heights, be pro-active, and not just move along status quo. To achieve this, we need YOUR INPUT! The Board wants to give something back to you, the members.

For each club member in attendance at a regular general membership meeting, the club treasury will put in \$0.50 per head into a raffle pool. Prior to the December 2003 Holiday Party, the accumulated money will be totaled, and raffle prizes will be announced.



For each meeting that you attend, your callsign will be put into the drawing. Therefore, the more meetings that you attend, the better the prizes will be, and the better your chances will be for winning a prize! Membership attendance will ultimately determine the quality and number of prizes raffled off.

For example, if you attend 10 meetings this year, (by the way, we've been keeping track for this year since January 2003) you will essentially be boosting the "prize pool" by \$5.00 at no expense to you, and you will have 10 chances to win great prizes at the Holiday Party! In other words, you will have a much better chance of getting some nice prizes than the club member who only shows up for 1 or 2 meetings.

This is the board's way of encouraging you to come to meetings and give your input. We want to say "THANK YOU" – we want to give something back to our active members.

So why not stop out to the next STARS meeting. You surely have nothing to lose, but you do have a lot to gain. Let's make OUR club the greatest club in Western New York! See you there.

73's  
Scott Barto  
KB2KOL

# New Nike Base Club Station Radio

The Board of Directors have acquired a new Yaesu FT-1500M 2-meter radio for our Nike Base Club station. It is nice and compact with a good looking blue display. Yaesu modestly claims that it is the most quiet and efficient radio transceiver ever built! Best yet, it was inexpensive for a 50-watt mobile transceiver.

Check it out next time you are at the club station.



# STARS VE Team

STARS VE team held an exam session on 3/8/03 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

There were three candidates served, and all three qualified for new Technician class licenses. They were so good that the 3 only missed a total of 2 questions combined! No, they weren't copying from each other. They each took a different version of the exam. VE's helping out with the test included John Sr. KB2VWC, Tom KC2CAG, Rich KI2X and Terry K2OO.

Our next VE session will be held on 5/10/03.

# 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 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 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.

### "Beyond the Repeater" Course is Next C-CE Offering

The next ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Program course soon will be available. "VHF/UHF: Beyond the Repeater" delivers on the promise of its title, immersing students in the smorgasbord of operating in the world above 50 MHz beyond FM voice. Beta testing of the course now is under way.

"Most of our testers went through the course fairly quickly, partly because it's such a good read," said C-CE Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR. "The input we've been getting has been very positive." Beta testing will continue through April 4. Initial registration for the first class is tentatively set for May 19. The course will be designated EC-008.

One tester said the new course "covers a lot of ground and is very thorough." Another commented that the course had reinvigorated his interest in satellite operating and direction finding. A third found the APRS unit "very informative."

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, authored the course. He

## From the President

*(Continued from page 2)*

dio Operators must always be ready to help and serve the public in times of need. So again be ready and remember to check into the STARS repeater Thursday night two-meter net. This is excellent way to practice our emergency skills in a non-emergency situation.

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

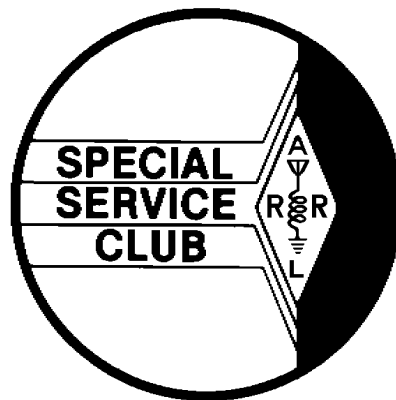
said its purpose is not only to reach out to Technician class licensees but to open new operating vistas for anyone who has not ventured beyond the local 2-meter machine.

"This course shows what else there is to do with VHF and UHF," Ford said. "There's the challenge of 'weak-signal' operating, the novelty of amateur television (ATV) and new frontiers in meteor-scatter work and Internet radio linking. This brings new life to the old hand-held radio."

The course features a variety of Internet resources, audio and visual materials, and even an on-the-rocket launch video utilizing ATV. Further, course activities were designed with the typical ham's budget in mind, recognizing that most amateurs have modest station equipment.

The new course will join seven others now offered by ARRL's burgeoning Certification and Continuing Education Program. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>>.

The ARRL Letter 3/28/03





# 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**