
telstar



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

ISSUE 258 JUNE 2003

STARS Field Day 2003

STARS Field Day 2003 will be held at Glen Meadows Park in Hamburg on June 28-29. See page 4 for a map and directions to the site.

Field Day has a long tradition as an emergency preparedness exercise, operating equipment "in the field" using power sources other than the commercial mains. As ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out in his "It Seems to Us..." editorial in June 2002 *QST*, Field Day also presents an ideal opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio to the general public and to local officials and to convey an important message in the process.

"No matter what, there *will* be hams and they will be able to communicate with one another. *No matter what*," Sumner wrote.

Set-up for STARS Field Day will begin around 10 AM on Saturday morning. This can be a real learning experience as bows and arrows or slingshots are used to fire lines over trees to haul wire antennas into the air. Generators will be set up to provide emergency power.

Then at 2 PM on Saturday afternoon, the contesting will begin and the airwaves will come alive with stations from all over the US and Canada and parts of Central and South America, including the Caribbean.

The contesting will continue until 2 PM on Sunday afternoon (rain or shine).

STARS will be running stations on CW and SSB. They may also be demonstrating other modes such as RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, ATV, etc.

June Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, June 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license are required.

Former STARS President John Leitten KA2RFT will be our featured speaker. John will go over the plans for STARS Field Day 2003. He will answer your questions and will tell how you can help make the event a great success!



So come on out and see what is going on!



Darin Figsrkey KC2IPY, Meteorologist-In-Charge, National Weather Service, Buffalo Office, shows a Cloud Chart during his presentation on SKYWARN training during the May STARS general meeting. He provided members with this chart and other informative pass-outs to help them be able to better report severe weather conditions in their areas.

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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 Your President

If it's June already, then Field Day must be right around the corner. As I have written in the last couple of months, practicing to be ready to help now is the real reason for ARRL Field Day (Emergency Preparedness Exercise). Set up will start on Saturday June 28 at about 10 AM with the event starting at 2 PM. Operations will run through 2 PM Sunday June 29, 2003 (Always the Fourth Full Weekend in June). The location will be the same place as last year's at the Glen Meadows Park located in the Village of Hamburg. This is a great learning and training exercise for the old timers and the new to Amateur radio.



If you were at Field Day last year, you know what a OUT-STANDING time everyone had, so do not miss out this year. We will have our club radios there for you to operate in real pile-up conditions, so why not come out and give it a try. Everyone will have a chance to operate. Also this year I thought it would be nice to have a mini-clinic. So, if you have some gear and you would like to see how well it performs or see if it even works, bring it out to the site. We will have some basic test gear there for Field Day operations already, and we can try your radio on the air. Maybe the bands will really open up and it may prove to be some great DXing.

Again this year we need volunteers to work in-the-field committees. The committees that come to mind are site set up, equipment, operator, food and publicity. Please come forward and set a small amount of time aside to become a participant in this great once-a-year (FUN) training event. Let's all come together to make this once again "The Greatest Weekend of the Year"

This weekend (May 30, 31 and June 1) is also the Rochester Hamfest. The event runs from Friday through Sunday at the Monroe County Fair Grounds. The Board and I are invited to the ARRL Affiliated Club Conference meeting at the Hamfest. If any members wish to join us, feel free. I will report back to you what was discussed in next month's column.

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE

General Class Theory Course

The General Class Theory Course co-sponsored by STARS and ARATS concluded on May 5th with a VE exam given by a team of VE's from both clubs. The course was given at the Greenhaven Library in Tonawanda, NY.

The students studied about FCC rules and regulations, operating procedures, radio wave propagation, electronics and circuits, antennas and feedlines, signals and emissions, and RF Safety.

Nine students passed their General Class theory exam that night. Even though only theory was taught in the course, two of the students successfully completed their 5-wpm code test also that night.

STARS and ARATS members Terry Rockhold K2OO and Jim Livingston N2SKT were the course instructors.

New Club Rig

At the May general club meeting, the members voted to authorize STARS Secretary Keith Patterson KC2DGC to purchase a used Yaesu FT-847 if he found one in good condition at the Dayton Hamvention. He found one in excellent condition at a good price and purchased it.

The FT-847 is an all-mode HF, VHF and UHF transceiver. It offers the club in new operating capabilities including VHF/UHF contesting and satellite operations.

Keith generously offered to loan the club the money needed to go ahead and buy the rig now. See it on Field Day!



2003 General Class Theory Course Students: (Front Row, left to right) Bud Francis KC2KOL, Joseph Daily KC2KOQ, Bob Durfey K2RLD, Dick Nelson KC2KIQ, Walt Wiertel W2MWP, Victor Francis KD5HBQ. (Second Row, left to right) Instructor Terry Rockhold K2OO, Bill DeWitt KC2KOT, Roger Martin KC2KOU, Dave Winzig N2JRR, Jim Chester KC2KOV, Art Sweet KC2ESC, Instructor Jim Livingston N2SKT, Mrs. Bud Francis (monitored course). Not pictured: Maverick Swanick KC2KOO, Morey Janeczko KC2KOX, Joe Hochulski KC2KOM, Fred Backlas KC2KOW.

STARS Field Day 2003 Site

STARS Field Day 2003 will be held at Glen Meadows Park on Olympiad Drive in Hamburg.

If you are coming from the north:

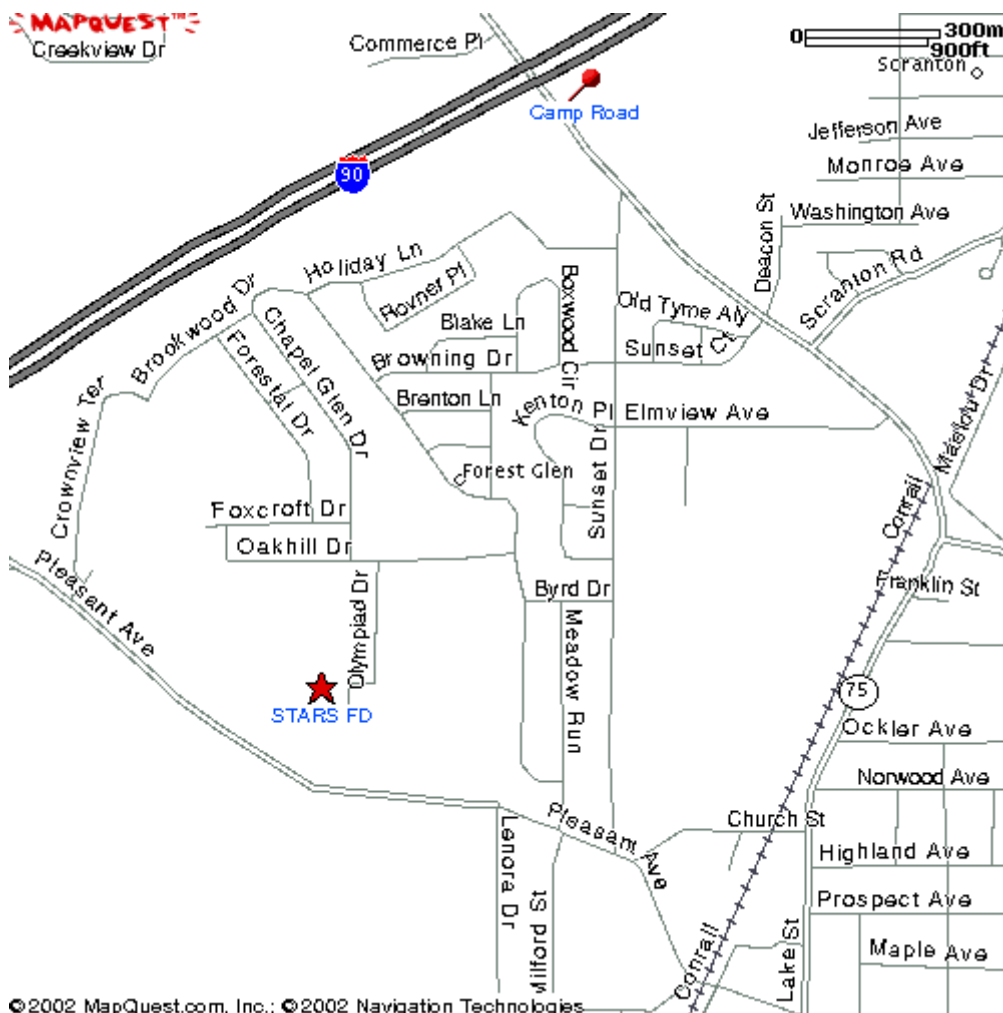
Go south on Route 75 (Camp Road) from the Hamburg exit of I-90.
Right on Sunset Drive
Right on Byrd Drive
Right on Brookwood Drive
Left on Oak Hill Drive
Left on Olympiad Drive into Glen Meadows Park.

If you are coming from the south:

Go north on Route 75 (Lake Street) from Main Street.
Left on Pleasant Ave.
Right on Sunset Drive
Left on Byrd Drive.
Right on Brookwood Drive
Left on Oak Hill Drive
Left on Olympiad Drive into Glen Meadows Park.

STARS Field Day site will center around the shelter which is at the far end of the park. This is a nice park with trees for our wire antennas. The park says it closes at dusk, but we have permission to be there all Saturday night.

Please note that some maps show Olympiad Drive connecting to Pleasant Ave. It doesn't, so you must enter the park from Oak Hill Drive.



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 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 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 normally holds 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.

STARS Field Day 2003

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Regardless of your experience, you are invited to come and operate or log stations or just to hang out and have fun! Even if you don't have HF privileges, you can operate under the supervision of another amateur with a higher class license. This is a great chance to learn how to improve your operating skills.

We will be planning a supper around 6 PM on Saturday. So, bring your lawn chairs, your family and your neighbors and come on out. The park provides very nice surroundings. Although the park normally closes at dusk, we have been given a permit to be there all night.

Ham-Pianist Closing in on Halfway Point in Run

Concert pianist Martin Berkofsky, KC3RE, is closing in on the halfway point in his CelebrateLifeRun <<http://www.celebrateliferun.com>> from Tulsa to Chicago. A cancer survivor and an ARRL member from Northern Virginia, Berkofsky set out April 9--his 60th birthday--on an 860-mile jog to celebrate his recovery from cancer and to raise money for research into the disease. Berkofsky--who has ham gear, including APRS, along with him--was 380 miles into his journey and some 20 miles south of Hermann, Missouri, as of mid-week.

Berkofsky reports he's made many new ham radio friends in his travels, and he's hoping for an invitation to operate Field Day with an Illinois ham club group. "So far he has found local folks--sometimes Amateur radio enthusiasts, sometimes cancer survivors--to put him up for the evening or drive him to his next base camp," said Joni Shulman, assistant research director of the Cancer Treatment Research Foundation in Tulsa. "Thanks to the generosity of total strangers, Martin has spent only two or three nights in motels." The CTRF will benefit from money raised during Berkofsky's run.

Berkofsky has scheduled some benefit concerts along his route, including Rolla, Missouri, May 30; June 2 in Hermann, Missouri; and June 12 in St Louis (at Webster University). "St Louis will mark halfway through the run with my target arrival in Chicago 11 August," Berkofsky told ARRL. "I have managed to always keep a few days ahead and to run a few extra miles most days, weather allowing." Follow his progress via the Internet: <<http://www.celebrateliferun.com/route.cfm>>.

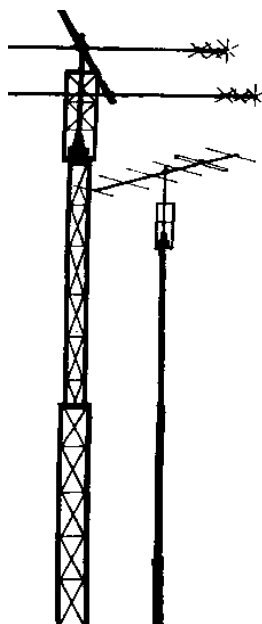
For Sale:

60 foot crank up tilt-over tower In good shape: \$850.00 Includes Ham IV rotor: Modified with a heavy duty (bearing) race.

KLM 4 element Tri-band Beam: (10, 15, 20 Meters) Includes the upgrade kit. \$400.00

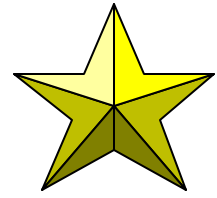
Call Jess (716) 847-3011 Monday - Friday: 8am to 4pm

Or email: cyhope@netsync.net





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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