

telstar



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

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No Morse Code Controversy at WRC-03

Whatever else happens at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), there's no mystery about the delegates' direction regarding the Morse code requirement. Morse code proficiency will disappear as a treaty obligation for high-frequency access when the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-sponsored gathering under way in Geneva concludes July 4.

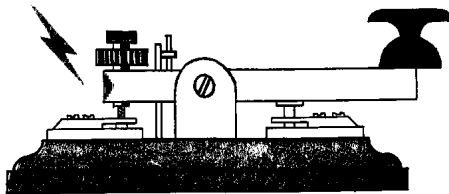
"One matter on which there appears to be no disagreement is the Morse requirement," said International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary (and ARRL CEO) David Sumner, K1ZZ, in a report <<http://www.iaru.org/re1030623.html>> on the second week of activity at WRC-03. "It is clear that the outcome will be to leave it to administrations' discretion whether or not to have a Morse receiving and sending requirement." He said no administration participating in the sub-working group spoke in favor of retaining the Morse code treaty requirement.

The modification of Article 25.5 of the international Radio Regulations cleared

Working Group

4C on June 24. Working Group 4C is dealing with this and other proposals relating to Article 25. The modified text says, "Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall prove the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals."

It's possible but unlikely that the text would be tinkered with further at the committee level or even in the Plenary, which considers items for adoption. Sumner said delegates



JULY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on July 3 at the club's Nike Base Club Station on Lakeview Road near Hamburg, NY.

There are lots of events going on to talk about such as Field Day, the Erie County Fair Display, hamfests, public service events, etc.

This meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring your lawn chairs to sit on.

Kevin Retzer K9KVN will give a demonstration of the dogs that he trains for law enforcement work including drug and explosive detection and hostile suspect apprehension. You won't want to miss this!

In case of bad weather, listen to the STARS 147.090 repeater for information.



continue to wrangle over other aspects of Article 25, which defines Amateur Radio operation.

Adoption of the Article 25.5 modification would not mean the immediate disappearance of the Morse requirement to operate on the amateur bands below 30 MHz. Each administration, including the FCC, would then decide whether or not to drop the requirement from its domestic regulations. Some countries have indicated a desire to retain a Morse code requirement.

Sub-working groups this week funneled their reports to larger working groups assigned to tackle various pieces of the huge WRC-03 agenda. More than 2600 delegates and other participants are attending the four-week conference. For WRC-03, the IARU has fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade.

There's less consensus on efforts to secure a "harmonized"

(Continued on page 3)

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

Safety First

I will keep this month's article short and to the point.

First to inform you due to unforeseen events at the Rochester Hamfest, I did not get a chance to attend the leadership meeting, but did get a chance to talk to the ARRL Atlantic Division leadership and communicate some of the problems and concerns that we have here in Western New York.

Now that the summer months have finally arrived we can look forward to that special amateur radio project that we wanted to do.

Lets first take a step backward and make sure we can do the project SAFELY. I can't help but think about a few recent news worthy items about Hams being severely injured or killed working on towers, antennas or equipment in the shack.

This hobby of ours carries some inherent risks, and we should always be aware of them. We all have a tendency to become forgetful about proper safety procedures.

Let's start by always remembering to check that list of correct ways to do something before we begin. If climbing a ladder, always check the ladders rating for weight and height limits.

When climbing a tower, always check your safety harness to be sure if it's up to snuff. If you don't have one, find some one who does and will assist you. When working on electronic equipment, remember the one hand in the pocket rule. And never work on high voltage equipment with safety covers removed. A bit of common sense can go a long way!

Remember Always Safety First!

73's

Bob Koster KA2WYE



Batavia Hamfest

The 23rd Annual Batavia Hamfest and Computerfest will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2003, at the Fireman's Recreation Center, 10708 Route 98, Alexander, NY 14005. This is sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM).

Gates open at 6:30 AM. Admission is only \$5.00.

Talk-in is on the 147.285 MHz (+600) repeater. Check-ins will be taken on 146.52 MHz simplex between 6 and 10 AM.

There will be a free indoor and outdoor flea market. East Coast Amateur Radio and Weller Soldering Equipment (John Kozlowski) plan on being there.

There will be a fox hunt at 10:15 AM.

Main prize drawings will be at 1 PM, and there will also be hourly prize drawings.

There will be a breakfast served and a chicken barbeque for lunch.

Campers and motor homes welcome after 2:00 pm on Friday, July 18th. (\$30 Camping fee collected by the Alexander Fire Department) There will be a hospitality tent (pop, hot dogs, burgers) on July 18 at 6:00 PM (free).

For inquires and information, call (585) 343-1330. Or email: wa2abq@localnet.com, hjfsrmt@2ki.net, or w2dig@bluefrog.biz.

Erie County Fair Display

Volunteers are needed to fill shifts for the amateur radio display at the Erie County Fair on August 9-19. Shifts are available in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Time is getting short! We need to hear from you now!

This is a great opportunity to introduce amateur radio to the public in a very positive light. You get to talk to people about your hobby and also to play a little radio!

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jack Cullum KB2ESM 662-7075 (jacknmarie@att.net) or Keith KC2DGC at 649-3403 (terabyte@sprintmail.com).

Hams Needed

Volunteers (hams) are needed to help provide communications for the Empire State Games.

Dates: July 23 - 27, 2003

Location: UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO, AMHERST Campus

Hams who can work 2 -4 hours a day or two.

Contact:

Bob Brackett KD2IM 607-347-4444 (nights)
607-257-6000 x279 days

Or email: bob.brackett@mt.com or kd2im@bluefrog.com

WRC-03 Issues

(Continued from page 1)

300-kHz-wide amateur allocation at 7 MHz. Sumner said initial discussions in Sub-Working Group 4C1 "were spirited and reflected sharp differences of opinion" between those advocating realignment and those favoring no change out of deference to the disruption that any realignment would cause broadcasting services now occupying 7.1 to 7.3 MHz in Regions 1 and 3, and the fixed services above 7.3 MHz that would be affected by any upward shift in broadcasting. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 enjoy a 300-kHz allocation from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz, but hams in the rest of the world, Regions 1 and 3, have only 7.0 to 7.1 MHz.

Three alternative proposals have been passed on to Working Group 4C. "The largest group favored realignment in two stages," Sumner explained. That group included the US, CEPT, CITEL and the African Telecommunications Union. The two steps would expand the band in Regions 1 and 3 by 100 kHz in 2007 and add the remaining 100 kHz in 2015. Other plans put forth contained longer time lines. By week's end, Sumner said, the issue could be passed on to Committee 4 and then to the Plenary, where items need two readings for ultimate WRC-03 approval.

The issue of an allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) in the 70-cm band (432-438 MHz) also appears well on the way to resolution. "While it appears very likely that there will be an allocation, it will be secondary," Sumner explained.

Full reports on WRC-03 activities are available on the IARU Web site:

<<http://www.iaru.org/news-releases.html>>.

The ARRL Letter 6/27/03

No Joy for New York Ham Antenna Bills

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, reports no success in the third effort to get a ham radio antenna bill through the New York Legislature. The current session wrapped up June 19.

"Thanks for your support, but we were not successful," Fallon said in a statement to his Division. "We have a very difficult project here." The bills--A2662 in the Assembly and S63 in the Senate--were introduced in January.

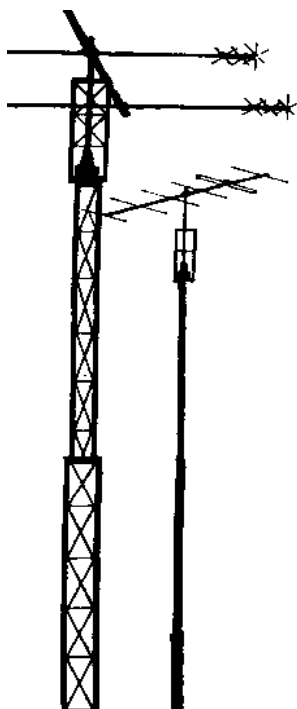
The bills went beyond simply incorporating the limited federal preemption, PRB-1, into state law. They would have prohibited municipalities from passing laws or ordinances to "restrict antenna support structure height to less than 95 feet above ground level or restrict the number of antenna support structures."

Fallon noted that other states have been able to get antenna bills enacted, but very few of them include minimum regulatory heights. Fallon said the Hudson Division leadership remains committed to securing passage of a bill in both New York and New Jersey that specifies a height below which local governments may not regulate.

Fallon said this session's bills died for lack of action, despite visits to the capital in Albany during the past two weeks of the session to meet personally with key lawmakers. "The legislature was very distracted this year with other issues and problems," Fallon said. That included the arrest of a key aide to Speaker of the House Sheldon Silver days before the session ended.

"We are disappointed but not discouraged," Fallon concluded. "We will be working on gaining additional support between now and next January, when the next session opens."

The ARRL Letter 6/27/03



FCC Writes Part 15 Device Users About Alleged Interference to Amateur

Hold the phone! The FCC has written two Northern Virginia residents to follow up on complaints from a local amateur who's alleging that he's on the receiving end of harmful interference from telephone devices with the capability to support multiple cordless remotes. Both are unlicensed Part 15 consumer electronics devices made by a well-known manufacturer. The complaints from Bernie Keiser, W4SW--an ARRL member in Vienna, Virginia, near Washington, DC--represented a bit of a turnabout from the typical interference scenario, where ham operation occasionally generates complaints of interference to cordless consumer equipment.

"Harmful interference to a licensed radio service from a Part 15 device is a violation of FCC rules," warned Sharon Bowers, deputy chief of the Consumer Inquiries and Complaint Division of the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Bowers explained that the equipment was classified as an "intentional radiator"--a device that generates an RF signal as part of its normal operation. In separate letters June 2 to the two Part 15 users--both also Vienna residents--she pointed out that if their cordless telephone devices cause harmful interference to licensed spectrum users, "the operator of the device is responsible for correcting the interference, ceasing operation, if necessary, whenever such interference occurs."

Keiser told ARRL that the interference--in the form of broadband noise from 2400 to 2450 MHz--impairs his ability to hear the AO-40 downlink and beacon on the band. "I have a 2.4-GHz cordless telephone that does not cause problems," he said. According to Keiser, the devices in question electronically poll various remote stations, and it's

(Continued on page 5)

STARS Board of Directors

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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 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.

League Warns of Bogus QST Solicitations

Someone has been attempting to sell "subscriptions" to QST, but it's not the ARRL. ARRL Customer Service/Circulation Manager Kathy Capodicasa, N1GZO, reports she's received several telephone calls and e-mails from members reporting the scam.

"Apparently, there is some kind of bogus telephone solicitor out there trying to get people's names, addresses and credit card numbers," she said. "ARRL does not solicit for 'subscriptions' to QST." She warned that under no circumstances should a member give out a credit card number to someone trying to sell them QST over the telephone.

As the official membership journal of the ARRL, QST is not available to the general public from a magazine distributor or outside publishing house. Capodicasa advises those getting calls from the phony solicitor to try to get the solicitor's name and to check the caller ID box, if they have one, to obtain the caller's number. She requested that members share any such information with her via e-mail to n1gzo@arrl.org or telephone, 860-594-0257.



FCC Writes Part 15 Device Users

(Continued from page 4)

the polling function that apparently causes the noise. He was able to track down the noise sources on his own and has discussed the issue with his neighbors, with whom, he says, he remains on friendly terms. He said the owner of the device that's causing the worst interference is a communications attorney who understands the problem and hopes to deal with it through the manufacturer.

In her letters, Bowers cited the applicable sections of Part 15 and advised that the alleged harmful interference must be corrected before they may use the devices legally. She suggested the consumers contact the manufacturer or retailer of the devices to see if they'd either allow them to return them or exchange them for devices that don't cause interference.

The ARRL Letter 6/13/03



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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