

telstar



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

ISSUE 260 AUGUST 2003

What to Do About the Morse Requirement Post-WRC-03?

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse code to operate below 30 MHz. While Morse exam elements remain on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have apparently become the first countries to delete their Morse requirements for HF operation. In the US, however, the FCC is unlikely to act on its own motion to simply make the Morse testing requirement go away.

"There isn't an exception in the Administrative Procedures Act that I am aware of that would permit the Commission to issue an administrative fiat changing the license structure or exam-requirement rules," said an FCC staffer who's closely involved with Amateur Service rules. Other countries can do this because they have different laws and procedures, the FCC staff member observed, adding that even if it could be done here, "that still leaves unanswered the fundamental question: What do you want the new rules to be?"



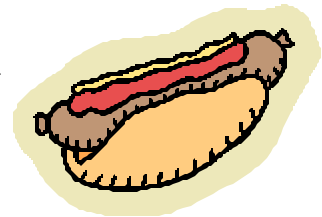
In its December 1999 Report and Order restructuring Amateur Radio licensing, the FCC stopped short of revising the rules to sunset the Morse requirement automatically if WRC-03 deleted Morse proficiency from the international Radio Regulations. The FCC also acknowledged "a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" on the Morse code issue within the amateur community.

(Continued on page 5)

August Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 7 at the club's Nike Base club station (1.75 miles east of Route 20 on Lakeview Road). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

After a brief business meeting, we will have our annual mini-cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks will be provided by the club. We ask the members to bring their favorite dish (finger foods, appetizers, desserts, etc.) to share.



There also will be a mini flea market, so bring your items to sell out of your car! Bring your own tables.

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

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.



Kevin Retzer K9KVN presented a program about security dogs at STARS July meeting. Here he instructs the dog to watch dangerous Scott KB2KOL. The results are on Page 2.

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.



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

August is County Fair month and when you are at the Fair do not forget to visit to Our Ham Radio Exhibit. We are still looking for volunteers to man the Exhibit, contact Scott KB2KOL or Keith KC2DGC for available times.

The Lancaster Hamfest is August 3rd. It has always been a great time, and STARS will have a table at the hamfest. Come out and visit us.



Our August 7th meeting will be held at the Nike Base HF station located on Lakeview Road in the Town of Hamburg. This meeting is our annual picnic. The Club supplies hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. If you wish to bring your favorite summer picnic dish please feel free the more the better.

In the past many people have brought items to sell so if you are not selling, bring some extra money to pick up that item that you may be looking for. Family and friends are all invited. You may want to bring extra lawn chairs with you for sitting around and rag chewing.

Sincerely,
Bob Koster KA2WYE
President

July Club Meeting Photo



You saw the "before" picture on Page 1. Now here is the "after" picture when Scott indicated that he was a threat!

Club Net

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZX 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).

Erie County Fair Display

There will be a meeting for anyone signed up to work a shift, or anyone interested in working a shift (or two, or three, or ten!) at this year's STARS - Erie County Fair Exhibit, on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 at 6:30 PM at the Nike Base.

Also, anyone interested in helping us out by working a shift should contact me at 648-1435 or kb2kol@arrl.net We have plenty of great shifts still available, and you get a free ticket to the fair. Why not come and man (or woman) the exhibit in the morning, and stay at the fair for the day, or enjoy the fair during the day and work the 6-10 PM shift at the exhibit. I encourage every member to work at least one shift, as we need to spread the word about the good things that the club is doing, and we need to keep our hobby alive and growing.



Hope to hear from you soon.
73's
Scott
KB2KOL

STARS Raffle

STARS will be introducing a new raffle at the August club meeting to help raise funds for club operations and activities.

The tickets will be \$1.00 each, and there will be a limit of 2,000 tickets available for sale.

There will be two winners of a \$250 gift certificate from Wal-Mart. If all 2,000 tickets are sold, there will be two additional winners of a \$250 gift certificate from Wal-Mart (making a total of four winners)!



The Board has decided to give each member an envelope with 10 tickets to sell. The envelopes will be handed out to those members attending the August meeting. The remainder of the envelopes will be mailed.

The drawing for the winners will be made at the STARS holiday party on December 4, just in time for the winners to use the gift certificates for holiday shopping!

STARS Nike Base Work Party

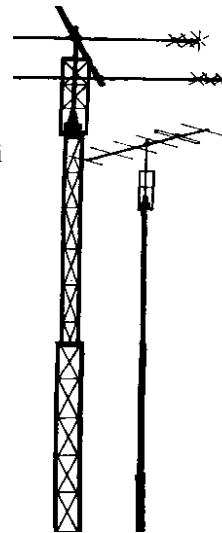
There will be a work party at the club's Nike Base Club station on Saturday, September 7.

We will be installing a new (rebuilt) rotor for the main 6-element HF Yagi antenna.

We will also be installing more antennas for the Yaesu FT-847 HF/VHF/UHF all-mode transceiver.

There will also be a general clean-up of the station.

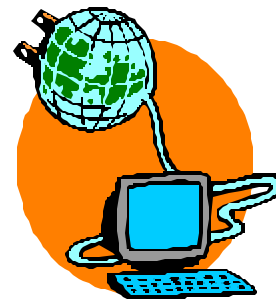
Volunteers are needed to perform the work. For more information, contact Scott KB2KOL at 648-1435 or Keith KC2DGC at 649-3403.



STARS Website

We received word that Marc N2UBT, our club's webmaster, is looking for ANYTHING that he can possibly use to update our website (www.wb2elw.com).

Please look at the site and see if you have any pictures, info, stories, etc. that would help to improve it. Or, perhaps you know of something that isn't there currently, but could be added.



Send all of your photos, info, stories, or ideas to Marc at marc@thefruths.com. Make sure you include "STARS" in the subject line so he won't think that it is more SPAM.

STARS Repeater

Keith Patterson KC2DGC is STARS new Repeater Chairman. STARS 147.090 MHz repeater is operating using a temporary amplifier until some repairs and changes can be made at the repeater site. Keith will address the repeater issue in more detail at the August club meeting.

STARS Field Day 2003 Photos

Courtesy of Scott Barto KB2KOL



STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finnc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Director	Bruce Settlemyer	KC2GJX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS is now awaiting approval of its new 2003-2004 test schedule. Assuming that it is approved, STARS will hold its next test sessions on 9/13 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 is also arranging their new 2003-2004 test schedule. We anticipate that ARATS will probably be holding their next test sessions on 9/6 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.

Morse Code Testing

(Continued from page 1)

The ARRL's policy for several years has been that Morse should be retained as a testing element in the US. At its July 18-19 meeting in Connecticut, however, the Board said it would solicit and review input from members on the Morse testing requirement and other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03.

The first move on the Morse code question in the US is for someone to file a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking a rule change. No Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>> has spearheaded the battle to eliminate the Morse requirement and would be a likely organization to file such a petition. NCI Executive Director Carl Stevenson, WK3C, said late last week that NCI was still studying the matter and had not yet made a final decision on a plan of action. An ARRL member, Stevenson says he hopes personally that the League would join NCI in actively encouraging

the FCC to eliminate the Morse exam element as soon as possible.

Hopes for a quick resolution to the Morse question could be wishful thinking, however. Once a petition to drop the Morse exam element is filed, the FCC will put it on "public notice" by assigning an RM number and soliciting comments. If more than one such petition is filed, the FCC is obliged to invite comments on each. When that process is completed, the FCC may determine that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is in order. The Commission at that point could incorporate all Morse-related rule making petitions into a single proceeding. The NPRM would get a docket number, and the comment process would begin anew.

Further complicating and extending the process, the FCC most likely would incorporate other pending Amateur Radio-related issues into the same NPRM. At the end of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC would issue a Report and Order (R&O) that includes its decision on the Morse code requirement and any other issues incorporated into the proceeding. The whole process could take a couple of years, perhaps longer.

Ratification of the WRC-03 Final Acts by the US Senate does not appear to be necessary before the FCC can act or begin the rule making process. Following World Administrative Conference 1979 (WARC-79) which resulted in three new HF amateur bands, the FCC acted in 1982, prior to Senate ratification of the conference's Final Acts, not only to initiate the rule making process but to give amateurs limited access to 30 meters.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has advised hams in that country that the Morse qualification requirement remains in effect for operation below 30 MHz, "pending a review by Industry Canada of the impact of the WRC-2003 regulatory changes on the Canadian radio regulations, policies and procedures."

The ARRL Letter 7/25/03

Editor's Note: On July 29, 2003, the National Conference of VEC's (NCVEC) filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the FCC requesting an immediate end to Morse code testing in the United States.

Bart Jahnke W9JJ, Manager of the ARRL/VEC, stated that he was present in Gettysburg in late July at the meeting of the NCVEC where the issue of the future of the Morse Code requirement was discussed. When it came time for a vote on the issue, Jahnke abstained because the ARRL has not yet formed a position on this issue post-WRC03.



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