

telstar



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

ISSUE 262 OCTOBER 2003

STARS 2004 Club Officer Elections

Nominations for STARS 2004 club officers will be held at the October club meeting on October 2. Elections for these offices will then be held at the November club meeting on November 6.

STARS Members may vote in the annual election of officers via absentee ballot. If you can't make the meeting you still are allowed to vote. Please follow the easy steps listed below.

Procedures for Members Voting by Absentee Ballot:

1. Request an absentee ballot by phone, e-mail, or mail in sufficient time to receive the ballot by mail and return it by mail so that it is received no later than the November Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2003. (N2TEZ suggests Oct. 27 as deadline for making requests.)
2. Request absentee ballots from the Membership Chairman:
Judy Levan, N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043
Phone: 684-6673
E-mail: fcstr59@msn.com
3. Note that: Absentee ballots cannot be used to vote for members nominated at the November Membership Meeting, but will have space for write-ins. To prevent tampering, absentee ballots may only be returned by mail, and may not be hand-carried to the meeting by someone else. Members who mail-in an absentee ballot may attend the meeting and

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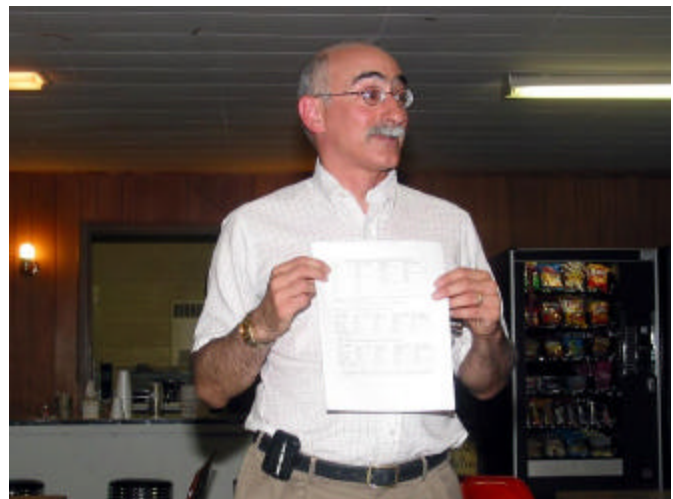
October Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 2 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be discussing a variety of topics relating to club operations. We will also be taking nominations for 2004 club officers.



ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Bill Edgar N3LLR (a former STARS member) will be our special guest speaker and will talk about the ARRL Emergency Communication courses.



Dr. Bruce Small KM2L (photo above) covers a chart showing maximum permissible exposure limits for RF radiation during his presentation on RF Radiation Exposure Guidelines and Safety at STARS September club meeting. Bruce lives in Clarence, NY and is a member of the (national) ARRL RF Safety Committee.

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).

Reputed "Oldest Ham in the US" Turns 103:

The man believed to be the oldest Amateur Radio operator in the US--Byrl "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU, of El Paso--turned 103 on September 25. First licensed in the fall of 1930,

Burdick is on the air every day--most recently on 15 meters (look for him on or about 21.314 MHz), and he enjoys ragchewing. On behalf of the League, ARRL President fellow Texan and Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week wrote Burdick to extend congratulations and best wishes. Burdick is an ARRL member and a routine QSLer.



Happy Birthday, Tex!

The ARRL Letter 9/26/03

STARS Raffle

STARS is holding a new raffle to help raise funds for club operations and activities.

The tickets are \$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 were handed out to those members who attended the August meeting. The remainder of the envelopes were mailed. If you need more raffle tickets, contact a Board member.

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!

Morse Code Classes

Morse Code (CW) training classes sponsored by the Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas (ARATS) will be held for four weeks on Wednesdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2003. Dick Stein K2ZR will be the instructor. Classes will meet in the EOC Training Room in the basement of Fire Headquarters, 495 Zimmerman Street, North Tonawanda, NY. Class size will be limited.

Register with: Bill Klepser WB2AIV, 84 Northledge Drive Snyder, NY 14226 Phone: (716) 839-3525 Email: wb2aiv@wzrd.com

There is no cost for the classes, but students **MUST** bring a Straight Key with a code practice oscillator, pencils, and paper. The code practice oscillator must have a speaker, not just earphones. Units such as the MFJ-557 or AMECO OCM-2 with K-1 key are suitable. These are available from East Coast Amateur Radio in North Tonawanda (695-3929), Hirsch Electronics in Williamsville (632-1189), by mail order direct from MFJ (800-647-1800), or mail-order outlets such as AES (800-588-0411) or HRO (800-444-0047).



Success will also require daily practice by the student outside of class. Learning the code is not difficult, but it does require the commitment and discipline for regular practice.

PROS Swap Meet

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society is having it's annual Swap meet on October 4. Doors will open at 9 AM and run until 1 PM.

We will be also having a Foxhunt at 11AM, with a \$100 cash prize. We will be having inside tables space available.

There will be a 2 dollars admission, which will get you a ticket for a 50/50 door prize. We will be setting up at 8 AM.

The Swap meet will be located at the Sardinia Historical Society Building on Savage Rd. It can be accessed via the RT 219 by traveling east on Genesee Road or Route 16 by going west on Genesee Road. to Savage Road.

We will be having refreshments available. The talk in will be on the 145.39 repeater.

For more info, contact Gary KB2YAA by calling 716/592-9554 anytime.

73, Gary KB2YAA



Photo at Left: Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT proudly displays the STARS Life Membership certificate awarded to him by the club. Tony is a former STARS President and Vice President.

Amateur Radio Enforcement "The Riley Way" Marks 5 Years

Close to 1000 Amateur Radio enforcement cases have crossed his desk since Riley Hollingsworth was tapped five years ago to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. That doesn't include countless ham radio "situations" he's resolved through informal counseling on the telephone or through an exchange of e-mails. At the time he took the job in the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--whose official title is Special Counsel for Enforcement--called it "a new day for Amateur Radio" after years of amateur enforcement neglect on the Commission's part. As he sees things today, rules compliance and on-air behavior have improved since the new sheriff rode into town, but there's still lots to do.

"I'm fairly satisfied with the progress that we've made in five years," Hollingsworth said in modest acknowledgment of the milestone, "but I think we need at least five more years of this type--of this level--of enforcement, because the bands have quite a long way to go. It's no time to rest." Five years ago, Hollingsworth began with a "top-10" list of alleged high-profile Amateur Radio offenders. By and large, he's slowly--and most would say successfully--worked his way to the point that many of today's cases appear comparatively mundane. But they get the same level of attention. "The biggest problem we have now, I think, stems from conduct-type problems--lack of courtesy, taking serious offense and reacting to what is perceived as deliberate interference," Hollingsworth said this week. "Ninety percent of the interference that's reported to me is not deliberate." As he regards all enforcement cases, the remaining 10 percent are "serious."

"I think a lot of the 'radio rage' has subsided, but I wish that people would be a little more aware of just how valuable Amateur Radio is and how they sound on the air," said Hollingsworth. That's a message he's repeated often on the hamfest circuit. "Maintenance mode" is a goal he'd like to see enforcement achieve. Hollingsworth explained that's when the number of enforcement cases is perceived to be in balance with the number of licensees. "I don't think we're there yet in the Amateur Service, but I think that we can get there," he said. Hollingsworth credits the amateur community's desire for strong, even stern, enforcement for his program's success.

"Probably 99 percent of the reason it's worked is everybody wants it," he said. "In this service they plead for enforcement. In every other service, they don't want to see you coming." This attitude, he believes, stems from a sincere desire by licensees to keep Amateur Radio a self-policing service. He counts keeping the support of the amateur community among his major accomplishments.

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Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest

STARS member Ken Johnson KG4KQW (**Photo Below**) received the First Place Trophy for winning the Fox Hunt held at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest this year.

The STARS team also came in second in the Club Competition at the same hamfest.



STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VVC
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 be holding test sessions 10/11 and 11/8 in 2003 and on 1/10, 3/13, 5/8 and 7/10 in 2004 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 fourz1@aol.com

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 10/4,11/1 and 12/6 in 2003 and 1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1 and 6/5 in 2004 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.

Amateur Radio Enforcement

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Looking out on the Amateur Radio enforcement horizon, Hollingsworth said he'll "keep pedaling" and chipping away at the enforcement workload. He'll also continue to look to the assistance and cooperation of his fellow radio amateurs, whom he called "just good people."

Amateurs "have got to stick together and cooperate and stay away from the infighting because they've got some very serious external threats," Hollingsworth said, citing BPL as just one example. "To the extent that they're not rowing together, it makes those threats more dangerous."

In his many public appearances--including several at Hamvention--Hollingsworth has stayed "on message" over the five years of his amateur enforcement tenure. "I just want everyone to realize what they have," he said. "We have incredible frequencies, power, modes, and so forth." He said a realization of the value of Amateur Radio itself is a deterrent to potential rule breakers, but he said Amateur

Radio enforcement is "permanently ensconced" at the FCC. While he's had some very interesting assignments and enjoyed nearly every day of his tenure with the FCC, he says the past five years have been the highlight of his 30-year FCC career.

"My greatest satisfaction is thinking that I may have paid back a debt," said Hollingsworth, who's been licensed since age 13. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done with the Commission." The ARRL Letter 9/26/03

2004 STARS Elections

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vote in-person, but only after their unopened absentee ballot is torn in half and returned to the voter in-person.

Voter confidence in the STARS election procedures is very important. So that you know your ballot will be handled properly, the Election Committee will follow these guidelines.

Procedures for Membership Chairman and Election Committee:

If requested The Membership Chairman will mail absentee ballots to members in good standing, at their address of record. The Election Committee will prepare absentee ballots immediately after the October Membership Meeting.

Absentee ballots will consist of a mailing envelope, and an unlabeled inner envelope containing a voting slip. The voting slip is identical to those used for voting in person at the meeting. Another pre-addressed return mailing envelope will be included in the package. For positive identification, it will already have the member's name and address in the return address position. The ballots will be returned to, and held by, a trustworthy club member who is not running for an office. Before voting begins, the names of those who mailed-in absentee ballots will be called to see if they are present, and if so, action will be taken to prevent duplicate voting. Either tear in half their absentee ballot and return it to them, or do not give them an in-person voting slip.

The Election Committee will tabulate the votes from absentee ballots and in-person ballots and report the results to the membership. Absentee ballots will remain sealed until in-person voting has been completed and the votes are about to be tabulated. At that time, the sealed, unmarked inner envelopes will be removed, placed in a pile, and shuffled so that it is not possible to tell who they came from. Only then will the enclosed voting slips be removed, included with the in-person voting slips, and the votes tabulated. The above will be done by Election Committee members who are not currently running for an club office.



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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