

# telstar



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

ISSUE 264 DECEMBER 2003

## 2004 Club Elections

The 2004 STARS club elections were held at the November club meeting.

The following are the winners of the election:

President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Vice President	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Secretary	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Financial Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2 Year Term)	Craig Andersen	K1CRA

These people plus Bob Koster (Past President) and Bruce Settlemyer KC2GJX (a Director in the second year of his two-year term) will make up the 2004 STARS Board of Directors. They will be sworn into their positions at the December meeting.



## December Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 4 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.



Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our new club officers for 2004.

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. Members are also invited to set up "for sale" tables.

There will be a drawing for prizes based upon attendance at club meetings during 2003. Also, please remember to bring donations for our Food Drive. See article on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2004 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2004!

You should complete the form included with your November newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.



If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email.

## 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).

## SKYWARN News

The following is from the *SKYWARN E-NEWSLETTER-NOVEMBER 2003* published by the National Weather Service in Buffalo:

### AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

The National Weather Service in Buffalo has a new call sign! Gone is KB2UQX. We are now WX2BUF. Any future QSOs with the NWS Buffalo will be made using that call.

### 2003 SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 2003 Special Event is fast approaching. It will take place on December 6th from 0000 UTC—2400 UTC. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. Last year hams at the Buffalo office of the NWS manned HF and 2m radios for the 24-hours making 662 contacts in 43 states including 62 other National Weather Service offices. QSL cards were exchanged with over 150 hams. If you're interested in being a base operator here at the Buffalo Office for this year's event, you can contact Judy N2TEZ at [judith.levan@noaa.gov](mailto:judith.levan@noaa.gov). More information about the Special event can be found at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>



### SKYWARN INFORMATIONAL NETS

Our monthly Winter informational nets will begin this month and run through February. The nets are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Mark your calendars with the dates for this winter's nets: 11/11, 12/09, 1/13, and 2/10.

On 2-meters, the nets are held at 7PM on the 145.31 Attica and 147.15 Fulton repeaters and at 7:30 PM on the 146.67 Arkwright, 145.11 Bristol and 147.255 Watertown repeaters. Don't forget even if you're not a ham, you can listen in on yours scanner!

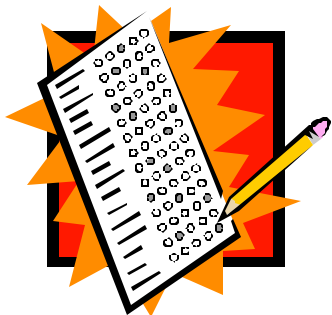
On HF, the weekly nets are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM at 7.234 MHz (+/- QRM)

The SKYWARN nets are a good opportunity to keep touch with our local reporting procedures.

# VE Session

The STARS VE Team held a VE exam session on Saturday, November 8 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

Two candidates attended the session. One qualified for a new Technician class license and one qualified for an upgrade to General class.



VE's serving at the session were Scott Barto KB2KOL, Rich Budzynski KI2X, John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

# RAWNY Youth Night

On November 11, 2004, the Radio Association of WNY (RAWNY) held their 14th Annual Youth Night. They hosted over 100 cub scouts, leaders and parents.

RAWNY members were joined by members of other local clubs to demonstrate various aspects of radio communications including FM repeaters, HF communications, CW, QRP projects, SWL and utility monitoring, slow scan TV, APRS, kit building, Dxing, QSL cards, public service events, and traffic handling.

STARS members Jim Livingston N2SKT (pictured below) and Terry Rockhold K2OO demonstrated fox hunting (radio direction finding). They showed a tape measure beam, attenuator and TDOA unit built by Jim and a board of pictures of people enjoying mobile and on-foot hunts. See <http://www.pbase.com/k2oo/> for more Youth Night photos.



# STARS Food Drive

As we did in 2003, we will have a food drive at our Holiday Party this year. The food collected will be donated to an agency that distributes food to the needy of the area.

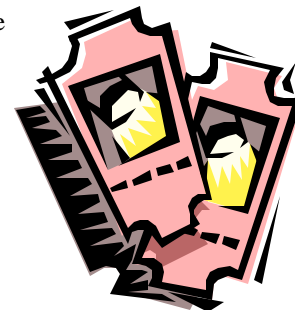


Here is a partial list of needed items. Cereals, pancake mix, jelly or jam, noodles and cheese, all pastas, tuna fish, bagged rice, dried beans, soup mixes, spaghetti sauce, "canned" or any other non-perishables that you can think of. Please, no exploded cans or out of date items.

This is a great way we can help to give back to the local community. Please bring what you can.

# 2004 STARS Raffle

The time to see who are going to be the two winners of the \$250.00 gift certificates from Wal-Mart is almost here. Yes, the drawing for the 2004 STARS Raffle will be held at the STARS club meeting and Holiday Party on December 4.



If you haven't turned in the money from the tickets that you have sold, you still can still turn it in at the meeting.

We have already sold enough tickets to cover the cost of the gift certificates, so all the rest that we sell will be our profit. So get out there and sell, sell, sell!

# Antenna Rotor

CDE 2 Antenna Rotor with 100 feet of control cable. New, never been used. \$200.00 FIRM.

Contact Woody WG2W at 823-0055.



# Australia Will Drop Morse Requirement January 1

Australia is the latest country to announce it's dropping Morse code testing as a licensing requirement. The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) <<http://www.aca.gov.au/>> says it will eliminate the Morse testing requirement starting January 1.

"This decision was made considering public comments at the meetings and initial analysis of submissions to the discussion paper," the ACA said, adding that it would make interim changes to its rules to allow immediate access to privileges previously available only to those satisfying the Morse proficiency requirements. The change will give holders of Intermediate and Limited Amateur licenses access to the same frequency bands as Unrestricted Amateur licensees, and holders of the Novice Limited Amateur license access to the same frequency bands as Novice licensees.

The Wireless Association of Australia <<http://www.wia.org.au/>> says dropping the Morse requirement will mean no changes in existing licenses or call signs. WIA President Ernie Hocking, VK1LK, urged hams in Australia who don't yet enjoy HF privileges not to get on the air ahead of schedule. There's more information on the ACA Web site <<http://www.aca.gov.au/>> (Click on "Review of Amateur Service Regulation.")



Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Singapore and Papua-New Guinea have already dropped their Amateur Radio Morse testing requirements or have announced an intention to do so.

Radio Amateurs of Canada asked Industry Canada to drop the Morse requirement at the 21st Industry Canada-Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting October 23 in Ottawa. US amateurs have commented on 14 petitions calling for outright deletion of the Morse requirement or changes in existing requirements. The FCC is not expected to act on the matter until 2004 at the earliest.

The ARRL Letter 11/21/03

# National Radio Emergency Network to Debut

The National Radio Emergency Network (NREN) <<http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>> will commence operations December 1.

A cooperative effort of several US CW net managers, NREN hopes to provide an alternative public service network geared to low-power, portable and mobile stations.

"Because CW provides significantly more reliability for stations operating at low power levels (QRP) or with compromise antennas, this will be a CW-based program," said an announcement from Chuck Mabbott, AA8VS.



NREN will work on the "radio watch" principle, and member stations will maintain a watch on one or more of three selected frequencies in the 40, 30, and 20-meter bands.

A detailed description of NREN, along standard operating procedures is available on the NREN Web page <<http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>>.

The ARRL Letter 11/21/03

## 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 be holding test sessions 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 fouroz1@aol.com.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 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.

## ISS Marks 5 Years in Space

As of this month, the International Space Station has been in space five years and has had Amateur Radio and a permanent crew onboard for three years. The first component of the unique orbiting laboratory complex--home to the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space, NA1SS--was launched November 20, 1998. Since attaining orbit, the ISS has grown from a lone, uninhabited module into a continuously staffed, house-sized research facility. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program has been a part of the ISS since November 2000, when the Expedition 1 crew of William Shepherd, KD5GSL, Yuri Gidzenko, and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, arrived on board for a four-month tour.

"Together with our international partners we have learned how to build, operate and maintain a very complex spacecraft, through the good times and the bad," NASA Space Station Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier said in marking the ISS's fifth birthday. "With this experience to

guide us, we look forward to the future, with a vast expansion of the station on the horizon." The US, Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe have cooperated in making the ISS a reality as well as with making ARISS a success.

The first ISS element, the Russian Zarya functional cargo block (or FGB), was launched in 1998 from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The shuttle Endeavour delivered the second element, the US connecting module called Unity, two weeks later.

The ARISS initial station gear went into space in September 2000. A month later, the FCC granted vanity call signs NA1SS and NN1SS (the official ARISS Earth station at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland) to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club for US ARISS operations. Russia has issued the call signs RZ3DZR and RS0ISS for ISS use. Using the initial ham station gear, Shepherd--who dubbed the ISS "Space Station Alpha"--made the first ARISS school group contact on December 21, 2000, answering questions posed by students at Luther Burbank Elementary School near Chicago. Some 200 youngsters, teachers, parents and news media representatives were on hand to witness the event.

So far, 22 crew members have staffed the ISS. The current Expedition 8 crew of Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Alex "Sasha" Kaleri, U8MIR, arrived at the ISS earlier this month and has been settling in aboard the spacecraft. Residents have conducted research in a wide range of disciplines, and the ISS remains the largest and most complex international space research project in history. The February 2003 shuttle Columbia tragedy and the subsequent grounding of the NASA shuttle fleet at least for another year has slowed construction and trimmed crew complements from three members to two. The ISS' scientific capacity will triple with components awaiting the space shuttle's return to flight.

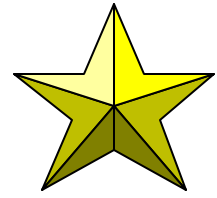
"At five years old, the ISS continues to grow," NASA says. "More than 80 tons of equipment and hardware are in the Space Station Processing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, being prepared for launch." The capabilities of NA1SS also are slated to expand in the near future. During the recent AMSAT-NA Symposium and Annual Meeting in October, ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, outlined the delivery of the so-called Phase 2 ham equipment to the ISS. Already on board is a Kenwood TM-D700E VHF/UHF transceiver. The unit will mean a significant boost to the power output of the ARISS initial station gear--from 5 W to 25 W. Additional gear, including SSTV hardware, tentatively is set for transport in January.

For more information on the ISS, visit NASA's Human Spaceflight Web site <--information"http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/home/index.html">--information from NASA was used in this report

The ARRL Letter 11/21/03



# 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

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