

telstar



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

ISSUE 265 JANUARY 2004

2003 ARRL Field Day Results

The ARRL has officially announced the results of the 2003 Field Day contest.

STARS had 32 people using the WB2ELW club call to rack up 667 QSO's for a total score of 2,776 points..

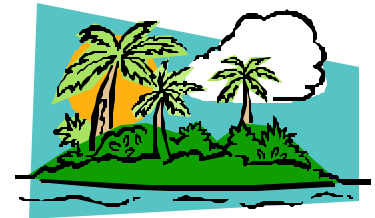
This placed STARS in second place in the WNY section for class 2A stations and in seventh place out of all 29 WNY stations in various classes.

Nationwide, STARS placed 164th out of 430 class 2A stations., and 576th out of all 2084 stations in the competition.

Considering that STARS uses Field Day for learning and fun rather than for all out competition, those are pretty good results!

January Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 8th at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Get caught up on all of the amateur radio activities going on around Western New York and in our club. Start the New Year out right!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to plan and operate a DXpedition? Our guest speaker, Tony Buscaglia K2NV, will tell us the real story behind his one-man DXpedition to Micronesia in 2002.

So, why don't you stop by and see what is going on and take a little time for some eyeball ragchewing!



Stars Presidents-Past, Present & Future. STARS Presidents pictured at the December meeting are (l to r) Greg Young KE2VW (1992-93 & 1996), Terry Rockhold K2OO (1994-95), Bob Koster KA2WYE (2002-03) and Keith Patterson KC2DGC (2004).

Did You Renew Yet?

Your dues to renew your 2004 STARS club membership are due on January 1. Did you remember? If we receive them in time, your 2004 membership card and repeater codes will be included with your February newsletter.



Why not take time right now to fill out the renewal form included with your Nov. newsletter and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the January club meeting.

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 or regular mail and if you are an ARRL member.

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).

Thank You STARS in 2004!

Let me begin by saying how proud I am to know that you have the confidence in our executive board and me. This is very reassuring to us as we enter the New Year. Many of you have personally told me this and have offered some very useful ideas and support. Thank you.

I would like to recognize our past president Bob Koster KA2WYE for a successful two-year term. Under his leadership, our club has remained strong through a period of declining membership. Toward the end of 2003, we saw an increase in returning past members as well as new members. Under his leadership, we have added equipment and completed needed renovations to improved the Nike Base club station. During the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center, he has negotiated agreements with the local emergency preparedness organizations which will enable STARS to support local emergency events. Thank you Bob.



I would also like to recognize all past presidents who contributed so much to success of STARS to date. They have all committed valuable time and personal effort to the position. It is a goal of mine to serve STARS in this traditional fashion. Thank you.

In my opinion our operational success is a team effort by the board members you have elected. I am very pleased to have such a wonderful staff to work with. As a past member of the board, I see the work they put into the month to month operation of STARS; and they are an inspiration to me. Without them, we could not have been so successful. Thank you.

There is still one more member and a past president who has contributed to STARS more than the average individual. He is responsible for many of you getting your license, training to get your license, keeping you informed with the Telstar, organizing support for local charity events, and instrumental in our relationship with the ARRL. He is a valued member of this club and has provided me with support when I joined the board. Please join me in offering my sincere thank you to Terry Rockhold K2OO.

Finally, and I know this has been said before, without you the members of STARS we would not exist. You are the heart and soul of the club. Thank you, the members of STARS, for supporting our club year after year.

Keith Patterson KC2DGC

STARS Raffle 2003

The STARS raffle drawing took place at the annual Holiday Party on December 4th. Congratulations to Thomas Brydalski of Buffalo and Christy Kuta (daughter of Director Bruce KC2GJX). Each won a \$250 gift card to Wal-Mart.

The raffle was a huge success and proved profitable for the club with \$575 being added to the club coffers.

Thanks to all those who supported the raffle. Special kudos to the following club members who sold \$40 or more in tickets: KB2OMU, KB2VWC, KC2DGC, KC2GJX, N2NOB and N2WBM.

Judy Levan N2TEZ



Photo above: John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC (right) reaches into the drum to draw out one of the winning raffle tickets for a \$250 gift certificate from Wal-Mart while Jack Cullum Jr. KB2ESM (left) looks on.

Get Radio-active!

When was the last time you were on the STARS WB2ELW 147.090 MHz repeater? Admit it, it's been awhile for many of you.! Let's see if we can't start getting some more chatter going on the repeater during 2004.

If you are driving somewhere, turn on your mobile and announce you are monitoring the STARS repeater. It's like fishing; throw out the bait and see what (or who) shows up! Don't be offended if you don't get a bite the first time. Keep trying! And remember, if you hear someone else throwing out the bait, you can be the fish!

LARA Hamfest

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will be holding their 43rd annual Hamfest on January 31st.

They will be returning to the South Transit Firehall, Transit Road (Route 78) at Ruhlman Road (1.2 miles North of Route 93), Lockport, NY 14094.

Setup for vendors begins at 6 AM. The Hamfest will be open to the public between 7 AM and noon.

Flea market tables will be available for \$5.00 per 8 foot table. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 free. There will be plenty of free parking.

Food will be available: hot dogs, hamburgers, beef on weck, donuts, coffee and pop.

Talk-in will be on W2RUI/R on 146.82 (-) (PL 107.2).

For information call Duane Robinson W2DLR at 791-4096 or e-mail w2dlr@arrl.net.

Technician Classes

RAWNY has received indications that there's interest in having us start classes for the Technician level license. So we're planning on starting them in January, after the holidays.

They will be on Monday nights at the Church of the Nativity from 7 pm until about 9 pm. The exact dates are still to be determined, but will be about January 5th or 12th. They will run about 12 weeks depending on the skill level of the students.

Tentative instructors at this point are Kevin WA2FKV, Gene KA2IWJ and perhaps another volunteer.



For further information, contact Kevin at 693-3916 or Gene at 833-0248.

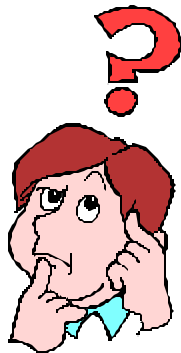
The text will be as shown at the left (Now You're Talking! 5th Edition), available from the ARRL for \$19.95 plus S&H. Log onto: <http://www.arrl.org> for more information.

RAWNY QSO
December 2003

New General Class Question Pool Released

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.



The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>> in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

In addition to Jahnke, members of the Question Pool Committee are Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, Fred Maia, W5YI, and John Johnston, W3BE. Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail <qpc@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter 12/5/2003

Bored?

Say you have nothing to do on a Saturday morning? Well, fire up your HF rig and join the STARS WB2EZU Memorial Net at 10 AM local time on or around 3.925 MHz. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.



Scholarships Offered

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-nine (59) scholarships for the academic year 2004 - 2005 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-two (52) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2004 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Past President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Craig Andersen	K1CRA
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 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.

SKYWARN Recognition Day

As a last minute decision, I went out to the Nike Base club station and operated WB2ELW during the SKYWARN Recognition Day special event on December 6. I worked from 1 PM to the close of the contest at 7 PM local time.

I was able to contact 39 NWS stations around the country on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters. The equipment worked very well, and several stations said that I had a good signal. The station was able to break pile-ups easily even though I wasn't running the amplifier for most of the contacts.

With about 10 minutes to go in the contest, I finally found WX2BUF from the Buffalo NWS on 80 meters and worked Bill WB2AIV. Received a great QSL card from Judy.

The contest was great fun. Maybe we can put together a team next year for the club.

73, Terry K2OO

ISS Commander Gets on the Air with New Ham Gear

Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, fired up the new Phase 2 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) equipment December 21 to make a number of 2-meter contacts with amateurs around the world. The Expedition 8 commander completed QSOs with amateurs in Australia, Europe and North America from 1100 to approximately 1700 UTC.

"I heard him at approximately 1100 UTC and also on the next pass," commented Ib Christofferson, OZ1MY, on the SAREX reflector. "He had a large pileup."

A new Kenwood TM-D700E VHF-UHF dualband transceiver was installed late last fall in the ISS Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said official permission to use the new gear came December 17. The RS0ISS packet system also is back in operation.

"This equipment, including antennas, radios, hardware and software were developed and provided by a diverse set of team members located around the world," Bauer said in a year-end statement. "This was quite a challenge to make happen."

Activation of the new gear means a power boost from 5 W to 25 W for the NA1SS downlink signal. It also means the ISS now has two functional ham stations. Additional Phase 2 equipment--which could go into space this month--is to include a slow-scan television (SSTV) system and a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

"I was able to hear him from as far out as 1200 miles," reported Arthur Rowe, N1ORC, of Lawrence, Massachusetts. "I guess that the new output power was helping."

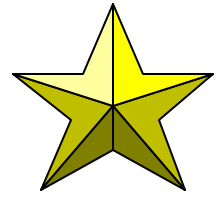
Foale's operation was part of a special event to honor SAREX/ARISS Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, who died last August. Stations contacting or monitoring the ISS on voice (NA1SS) or packet (RS0ISS) through the end of 2003 are eligible for special event certificates. See "K6DUE ISS Commemorative Event Certificates" on the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> for details.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program with participation by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

The ARRL Letter 1/2/04



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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