

telstar



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

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ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code- Free HF Access

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of

Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals, put forth by the ARRL Executive Committee, were in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" Harrison said the League's proposal would provide "a true entry-level license with HF privileges" to promote growth in the Amateur Service.

The League says its proposal would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order

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February Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, February 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

STARS Board members Bob KA2WYE, Scott KB2KOL and Bruce KC2GJX will be making a presentation on "Geocaching". This is a high tech treasure hunt for GPS users and is going on right here in Western New York as well as across the US and in over 180 countries. You can find more about it at www.geocaching.com.



Why not come out and visit us? You might also want to see if you could give a ride to one or more hams who may not have a way to get to the meeting.

Don't Let Us Lose You!

Don't get caught snoozing! If you have renewed your 2004 membership, your membership card and repeater codes will be mailed to you mid-February. If you haven't renewed, this will be the last newsletter that you will be receiving.

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 February 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).

No Shack, No Problem

My wife and I moved into a home we purchased last September. If any of you have moved in your lifetime, it's a lot of work. You find an endless stash of stuff that gets donated to the Salvation Army or Goodwill or sold in a yard sale, and the rest finds the dumpster. What remains is boxed up and if your record keeping is good, you will be able to find something once you move.

Now I look at the stack of amateur radio equipment boxes piled on an old office desk in the basement wondering when I will find the time to set up my shack again. As many of you know, the process of building or re-building your shack is time consuming. Knowing I have a list of honey-do's to complete for my wife means this project will have to wait. Since when did hanging drapes or painting rooms take priority over amateur radio?



As depressing as this seems, all is not hopeless thanks to STARS. I have access to a shack at the Nike Base club station that far surpasses anything I could build. There I can work any mode I chose in a clean and comfortable environment. My radio equipment can be left just as it is, in a pile of boxes.

If this sounds like you, or you are unable to erect antennas or buy equipment, as a member of STARS you will always have a shack. So the next time you see a major contest, rare DX, or you just want to experiment with a new mode of operation, remember that getting on the air is at your fingertips.

To gain access to the STARS Nike Base club station, call any member of the board.

Keith Patterson
KC2DGC



BARRA Auction

The Annual BARRA Ham Radio & Electronics Auction will be held on Monday, February 16, 2004, at the St. Bartholome ws Episcopal Church at Brighton & Fries Roads in Tonawanda, NY (Across from Kenmore East High School).

Doors open at 6:45 PM and the Auction begins at 7:30 PM.

Auctioneer again will be the popular Bob "Dutch" Dutschman K2JGI.

There will be a \$1.00 per person donation. Refreshments will be available. There will be a raffle for a DVD Player, a VCR and cash prizes.

Everyone is invited to buy and sell such things as ham radio gear, scanners, computer equipment, parts, books, CBs, test equipment and more.

For more information, see:

<http://barra.hamgate.net>



Help Cut Club Costs!

STARS Board of Directors has been going over the budget for the year looking for ways to cut costs to keep the club financially sound.

Like many clubs, one of STARS biggest expenses is the cost of printing and mailing the club newsletter. Currently, this is running around \$700 per year.

The newsletter is an important means of communicating news about STARS, local, national and international amateur radio events. However, if we can communicate this same news without paying for the printing and postage costs, we can save the club real money.



E-mail allows us to send members a full graphical copy of the newsletter that can be viewed and/or printed out at no cost to the club. All that is needed is a free copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader that can be downloaded over the internet. Actually, the e-mail copy of the newsletter is better because it is in full color.

Currently, about 44% of our members are receiving their newsletter by e-mail. We can save the club significant money by increasing that percentage.

If you would like to switch to the e-mail version, send Terry K200 a message at k200@bigfoot.com. He will get you all set up!

The Greater Buffalo "Winter" Hamfest

Sunday, March 7, 2004

Sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Location: Main Transit FD Hall
6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY
1/16 mile west of Transit Rd. (Rte. 78)
Talk-in 147.255 MHz PL 107.2

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast !
Prizes * Drawings * Commercial Vendors * Ham Gear

Opens at 7:30 AM
Admission : only \$6
Tables: \$12

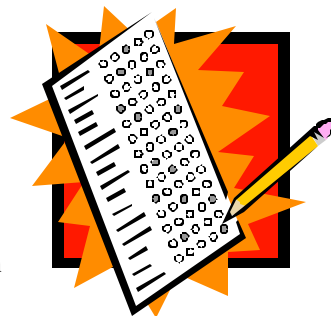
Info & Pre-sale Tickets by Phone: Jim (716) 542-4201
Table Reservations by Phone: Chuck (716) 825-7097

Pre-Sale Tickets & Table reservations:
<http://larc.hamgate.net/>

VE Exam

The STARS VE Team held a test session on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

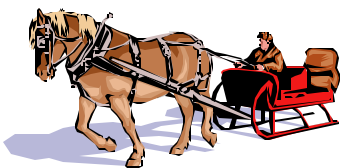
Five candidates were served, and all left with the new license or upgrade that they were trying to achieve. Two qualified for new Technician class licenses. One Novice upgraded to Technician with HF. One Technician Plus and one pre-1987 Technician qualified for upgrades to General.



VE's assisting with the session were John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Rich Budzynski KI2X, Frank Green WZ2J and Terry Rockhold K200.

HAMBURG SNO-FEST

The Town of Hamburg Recreation Department sponsors the annual SNO-FEST, Hamburg's favorite winter weekend carnival. The 26th Annual Sno-Fest is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th at the Lakeview Road Recreation Area (NIKE BASE) on Lakeview Road.

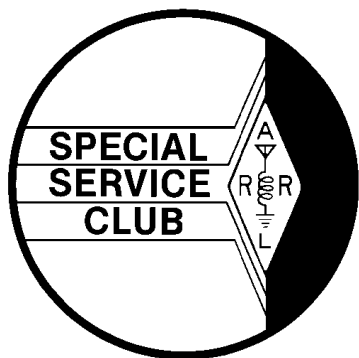


Events scheduled from noon to 5 p.m. include snowmobile rides, snow sculpture contest, face painting, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and horse-drawn wagon rides. Interactive inflatables will be on the arena floor from noon to 3 p.m.



Ice rink events include: 9:45 a.m., opening ceremonies; 10 to 11 a.m., mascot all-star hockey game; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., public skating; 1 to 2 p.m., figure skating exhibition; 2 to 4 p.m., Frontier vs. St. Francis hockey game; 4 to 5:30 p.m., hockey skills challenge; 5:30 to 6 p.m., skating races; and 6 to 8 p.m., public skating.

STARS will have our club house open from 11 AM to 4 PM to demonstrate amateur radio activities. We might be there earlier or later, so check with us on STARS 147.090 MHz repeater. Why not stop by for a rag-chew or to do some operating?



**STARS is an ARRL
Special Service Club!**

STARS Test Packet Station

Thanks to STARS Past President Bob Koster KA2WYE, STARS now has a test packet station operating under the club's call sign of WB2ELW from the club's Nike Base club station. It is operating on 145.010 MHz at 1200 baud. You can use the station to test your packet equipment and to digipeat to other stations.

If there is enough interest, 9600 baud operation and some type of BBS operation might be able to be added in the future. If you are interested in this, please let Bob know.



Photo Above: Tony Buscaglia K2NV made an excellent presentation at the STARS January meeting about his experiences operating as T88ZZ from Palau and V63RF from Pohnpei in Micronesia in the South Pacific.

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 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.

ARRL Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

(WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

A new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The ARRL plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be

merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, and the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.



Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice reformatting" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

The amateur community and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the ARRL proposal once the League formally files a Petition for Rule Making and the FCC puts it on public notice.

The ARRL Letter 1/23/04



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. A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

STARS

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