

telstar



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

ISSUE 269 MAY 2004

FCC Proposes Rule Changes for Amateur Radio

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) dealing with a number of issues relating to Amateur Radio (Part 97) rules. **Note that this NPRM is not related to the recent ARRL petition on license restructuring (RM-10867).**

One of the major changes proposed by the FCC was to adopt the ARRL's "Novice reformatting" plan. This plan, which was requested by the ARRL in 2002, would eliminate the telegraphy frequency segments currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees, and would restructure the operating privileges authorized licensees in certain HF amateur service bands. The plan would expand the frequency segments of the 80-, 40-, and 15-meter HF amateur service bands that licensees may use for phone communications.



Other proposed changes would extend the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation to the 6-, 2- and 1.25-meter bands.; permit auxiliary stations to transmit on the 2-meter band; prohibit an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign; allow retransmission of communications from the International Space Station; allow amateurs to designate a specific club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate the requirement to publicly announce VE test locations and times; and allow Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991 and who can document having passed a

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May Meeting

This month's club meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6th starting at 7:00 PM 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 are required.

We will be talking about 2004 STARS Field Day, the STARS summer raffle, hamfests, FCC actions, and all sorts of summer amateur radio activities at the meeting.



STARS Program Chairman Jim Sojka WB2TJO wants us to learn more about each other. He has proposed that we prepare some short videos of various members ham shacks and equipment to share at future meetings. For this month's program, Jim will present a video of his own operations to get the ball rolling.



At the April club meeting, STARS Board member Jim Sojka WB2TJO demonstrated a folding VHF/UHF beam and expandable mast for emergency portable communications.

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, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 7:30 PM on the STARS 147.090 MHz repeater (107.2 Hz PL tone needed).

Restructuring Amateur Radio

Before I ramble on this month, let me say thank you again to all of you who support and remain members of our great organization; STARS. From Our board of directors who faithfully serve their dual positions as appointed chairmen and to each individual member who not only pay dues but also make our raffle a success; thank you.

Terry Rockhold K2OO, the STARS ARRL chairman, has been doing a wonderful job reporting to our members on all the activity surrounding the FCC and ARRL proposals to restructure the amateur radio frequencies and licenses. It's been on the ARRL web site, in QST, in CQ and discussed on the bands during NETS. It would be hard to be a licensed ham and not know some of proposed changes being offered. There's a reason so much attention is being made about these proposals restructuring.



Let's say you are an extra class and you earned it the hard way. You studied hard to pass the all the tests and passed 20 WPM code. You weren't happy when they dropped the 20 WPM code requirement. To a lesser extent the advanced, general, technician plus, technician and novice classes have also earned their license. So who is going to happy with whom being grandfathered? Will the extra accept the advanced? Will the general accept the existing novice and technician plus? Will the new novice class get more efficient HF bandwidth? Are the current HF frequencies over crowded? There are lots of questions and lots of opinions.

These proposals and arguments are nothing new, but in the last restructure the existing license holders remained the same and no one was given a privilege that was not earned. The new proposal will do just that and will surely spark controversy.

It's hard for humans to accept change. We see it at our jobs, in our social and moral climate, and in amateur radio. The world changes and we must change. Even though we change the message or objective remains the same.

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Dayton Hamvention® 2004

The Dayton Hamvention® 2004 will be held on May 14-16, 2004 at Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Trotwood, OH. For you GPS buffs, the arena is at: N39°49.307' W84°15.422'.

The Hamvention® 2004 is the world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show. They have 500 inside exhibit spaces and a 2500+ space outdoor vendor area.

Some of the major exhibitors include APRS, AES Amateur Radio Supply, the ARRL, Ameritron, AMSAT, AOR USA, Batteries America, Cushcraft Corp., Diamond Antenna, Elecraft, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corp., Gordon West Radio School, Ham Radio Outlet (HRO), Heil Sound Ltd., Hy-Gain, Kanga US, ICOM America Inc., Kenwood Communications Corp., MFJ Enterprises, R & L Electronics, Mirage Communications, Peet Bros., Radio Shack, SGC Inc., TAPR, Ten-Tec Inc., The Ham Station, The Vibroplex Company, WB0W Inc., West Mountain Radio, Winradio Communications, Yaesu (Vertex Standard) and many more.

There will be a multitude of forums presented including ones for TAPR/Digital, Digital SSB, QRP, 10-10 International, APRS, Gordon West, ARES, YLRL, County Hunters, AMSAT, ATV, SSTV, FCC, VHF/UHF Microwave, ARRL, Fox Hunting, Contesting, DXing, Public Relations, EchoLink - VOIP, Bicycle Hams, etc.



At the April club meeting, STARS member Lee Rose KB2IHJ showed items that could be included in a "Go Pack" for emergency communications including a portable power pack, small antennas, coax, radio operations manuals, connectors, flash lights, etc.

"Atomic Clocks"

You have probably seen the advertisements for the "atomic clocks". They come as wall clocks, desk clocks, travel alarms and wrist watches. Have you ever wondered if you are at risk from the radiation from these gizmos? Well, an atomic clock has an atomic oscillator inside, such as a cesium or rubidium oscillator. Fortunately, the real atomic clock is not what you have in your house or on your wrist.

The "atomic clocks" being sold to consumers are more properly called radio-controlled clocks.

Your radio-controlled clock actually has a miniature radio receiver inside. In the US, the radio-controlled clocks receive signals from NIST radio station WWVB, located near Fort Collins, Colorado.



Contrary to what some people think, these signals are not sent from satellites on some UHF or microwave frequency. They actually are sent directly from WWVB using the low frequency of 60 kHz. This is far below the bottom of the AM broadcast radio band, which 530 kHz. The signal that is sent is a code consisting of a series of binary digits, or bits, which have only 2 possible values (0 or 1). WWVB generates these bits by raising and lowering the power of the signal. They are sent at a rate of 1 bit per second, and it takes a full minute to send a complete time code, or the message that tells the clock the current date and time.

Once your radio-controlled clock has decoded the signal from WWVB, it will synchronize its own clock to the signal received by the radio, taking into account the Time Zone information that you supplied. Many of the radio-controlled clocks only decode the signal from WWVB once a day, usually at night when the 60 kHz signal is stronger. Most of these clocks have an indicator to indicate that they have successfully synchronized for the day.

In between synchronizations, the clocks keep time using their quartz crystal oscillators. The quartz crystal oscillators can typically keep your clock accurate to within 1 second for several days.

More information on the time signal format, the transmitters & antennas used, etc. can be found at: <http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/wwvb.htm>.

73, Terry K200

Western New York Hamfests for 2004

1 May 2004

Owego Hamfest, Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, at the Tioga County Marvin Park Fairgrounds

4, 5, 6 June 2004

Rochester Hamfest, ARRL Atlantic Division Convention, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Route 15A and Calkins Rd.

12 June 2004

Cortland Hamfest, by the Skyline Amateur Radio Club at the Cortland County Fairgrounds.

17 July 2004

Batavia Hamfest, Genesee Radio Amateurs at the Alexander Fireman's Grounds in Alexander NY.

24 July 2004

Utica Hamfest at Frankfort, Utica Amateur Radio Club.

7 August 2004

TCARC (Ithaca) HAMFEST. 7AM-2PM, at the Tompkins County Airport, Rte 13 in Ithaca, NY.

7, 8 August 2004

Greater Buffalo Summerfest, WNY Section Convention, Lancaster Amateur Radio Club.

18 September 2004

RAGS Hamfest, Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse at the Pompey Hills Fire Barn.

25 September 2004

Elmira Hamfest (29th annual), by the Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier at the Chemung County Fair Grounds, Horseheads, NY. Starts at 6AM. Free Flea Market. FCC Exams on the grounds. Dealer Displays. Free parking.

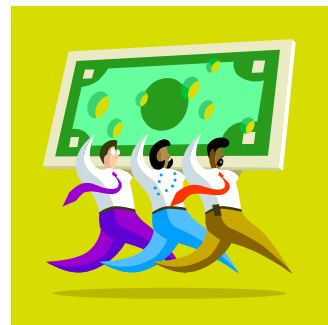
From ARRL WNY Section News,
 Scott J. Bauer W2LC, Section Manager.
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WNY>



STARS Summer Raffle

STARS Summer Raffle is now off and running! Here's a chance to have fun and raise funds for the club at the same time.

There will be two winners each receiving a \$150 gift certificate from Wal-Mart.



The drawing for the prizes will be held at STARS Field Day site at Glen Meadow Park in Hamburg on Saturday, June 26, 2004 at 5 PM.

The winners do not need to be present to win (but we want people to come and join us for the fun!).

The donation for each ticket will be \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Packets of tickets to sell have been mailed to members.

Additional tickets to sell will be available at the May and June club meetings, or you can call Judy Levan N2TEZ, Raffle Chairperson, and leave a message at 684-6673 or drop her an e-mail message at fcstr59@msn.com. You can turn in the stubs and money at any of our meetings or send them to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Boulevard, Depew, NY 14043-2874.

Ducharme's Axiom:

If you view your problem closely enough, you will recognize yourself as part of the problem.

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	Jim Sojka	WB2TJO
Director	Bruce Settlemyer	KC2GJX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

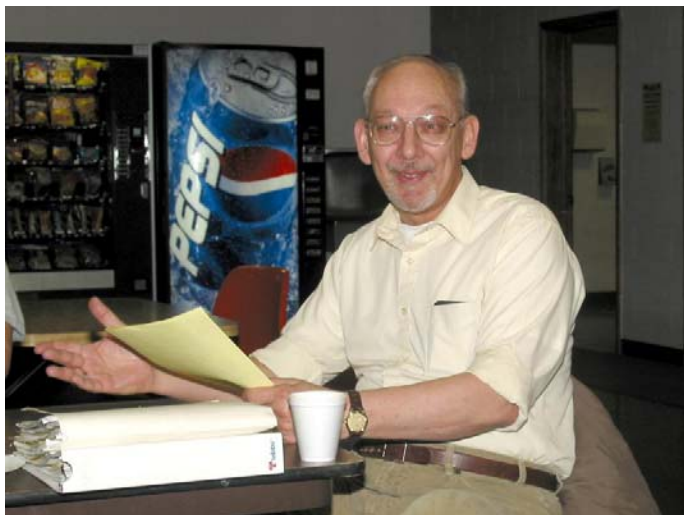
STARS will be holding test sessions on 5/8 and 7/10 in 2004 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM. Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registering will reduce time at exams. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, 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 or to pre-register for Lancaster exams, call Peter Orendorf AB2KG 662-0096 or e-mail him at fouroz1@aol.com. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 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.



STARS Secretary John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC covered the minutes from the March Board meeting for the members who attended the April club meeting. Plans are being made to have the minutes available on the Internet for members who can't make the monthly meeting.

FCC Proposes Rule Changes

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telegraphy examination element.

The FCC has also proposed to eliminate its rules prohibiting the manufacture or marketing of amateur radio power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

The FCC turned down a request to establish distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band, indicating that it believed that the current voluntary band plan was adequate. The Commission also turned down petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community.

The NPRM can be downloaded in a Microsoft Word (.doc) format at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc. You have till June 15 to file comments with the FCC regarding this NPRM and till June 30 to file replies to comments.

Restructuring Amateur Radio

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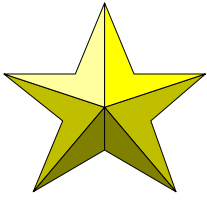
Amateur radio may seem crowded in the HF band, but what about VHF, UHF and higher? Wireless telecommunications, overnight delivery service, and wireless internet will need more bandwidth to keep up with demand. Corporate America sends lobbyists to Washington to pressure the FCC in to re-allocating the frequency spectrum in their favor. It's a tough argument for the ARRL to maintain our frequencies for amateur use when big money is at stake.

I view the new proposed changes as something more. I see it as an opportunity to ensure the survival of our hobby. If we restructure will it promote more activity on the bands? Some say yes, some say no, but if we remain at our current growth rate will we survive without change?

This is only a sample of the proposals being considered. Please take the time to view the restructuring proposals on the ARRL or FCC web sites. The future of our hobby depends on your support.

73,

Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President



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). Use a PL of 141.3 Hz for the Nike Base remote receiver.

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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