

telstar



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

ISSUE 271 JULY 2004

STARS Field Day 2004

Over 30 STARS members and guests gathered at Glenn Meadow Park in Hamburg over June 26-27, 2004 for the nation's biggest test of emergency communications.

STARS Field Day Co-Chairmen John Leitten KA2RFT and Scott Barto KB2KOL did a great job of planning and organizing the event. Equipment was up and operational by 10:30 AM on Saturday morning for the 2 PM contest start, and everything was packed up in less than an hour after the 2 PM Sunday close of operations.

Contesting was done in SSB, CW and PSK-31 modes. STARS member Craig Anderson K1CRA brought his HAMbulance to the site and demonstrated ATV.

We will have more details on the QSO's, bonus points, total score, etc. in next month's newsletter.



Above: Field Day Co-Chairman John Leitten has many years experience making STARS Field Day great!

JULY MEETING

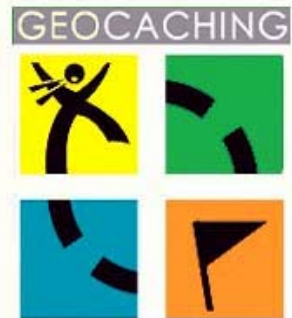
This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, July 1 at the club's Nike Base Club Station on Lakeview Road (1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to Hamburg Town Arena) near Hamburg, NY.

There are lots of events going on to talk about such as Field Day, the Erie County Fair Display, hamfests, public service events, etc.

At this meeting, we will be giving a live demonstration of Geocaching. So bring your GPS unit if you have one, or borrow one and see if you can find the hidden cache. Read up on Geocaching at : <http://www.geocaching.com>.

This meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring your lawn chairs to sit on.

In case of bad weather, listen to the STARS 147.090 repeater for information.



STARS Summer Raffle

The drawing for the prizes in the 2004 STARS Summer Raffle was held at STARS Field Day site at Glen Meadow Park in Hamburg on Saturday, June 26.

Each winner won a \$150 gift certificate from Wal-Mart.

The winners were STARS members John Crawford KB2VWC and Judy Levan N2TEZ.



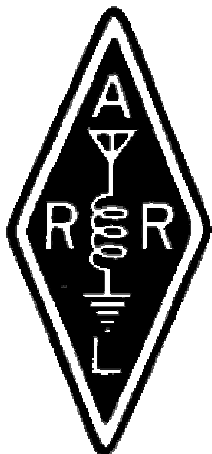
STARS & ARRL Memberships

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).

Fun Day Weekend

My wife and I have lived in northwestern Pennsylvania, southeastern Pennsylvania, and I have traveled the states during my enlistment with the Air Force. I am a firm believer that western New York has the nicest summers. For example, the six years we lived in Philadelphia the normal summer temperatures were in the 90s with matching humidity. Although most of the country enjoys ripping us about our winters, they have to endure their summers without a gentle evening breeze from the bedroom window.

What officially kicks off summer for me is STARS participation in the ARRL Field Day. It's like camping with good friends and enjoying the hobby at the same time. Since I joined STARS in 1998, Field Day is the most enjoyable event I have participated in. I know many of you share this same feeling. When I speak to amateurs about Field Day, I am treated to the most memorable experiences they have had with the hobby. What makes the STARS Field Day special is that although we practice emergency disaster preparedness, having fun takes precedence over winning the event.

Field Day is the whole package, gathering at the site, building antennas, setting up and testing the gear, waiting for the contest to begin, and the food. Sure 10 or 15-meters may not be open, but once the contest begins and operators start testing the waters they seem to defy the odds. As always 20, 40, and 80-meters provide enough activity to fill any dupe sheet.

Join me while I take a moment to honor our Silent Key members who have made Field Day successful events in the past. We will follow in their footsteps, and their contributions will not be forgotten.

I would like to thank our chairmen; Scott Barto KB2KOL, and John Leitten KA2RFT; our treasurer Jack Cullum KB2ESM who ensures everyone has enough to eat, and all of you who volunteer to contribute to this great event.

73,

Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President



Above: Silent Key member Norm Jones KD2KK always enjoyed working stations during Field Day!

Batavia Hamfest

The 24th Annual Batavia Hamfest and Computerfest will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2004, at the Fireman's Recreation Center, 10708 Route 98, Alexander, NY 14005. This is sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM).

Gates open at 6:30 AM. Admission is only \$5.00.

Talk-in is on the 147.285 MHz (+600) repeater. Check-ins will be taken on 146.52 MHz simplex between 6 and 10 AM with a \$25.00 prize offered.

There will be a free indoor and outdoor flea market. Vendors must reserve inside tables.

East Coast Amateur Radio, Weller Soldering Equipment (John Kozlowski), Caswell Engraving and Penny's Stitch N' Print plan on being there.

Main prizes are an ICOM IC-706MKIIG, a hand held radio, and \$100.00 cash. Main prize drawings will be held at 1 PM, and there will also be hourly prize drawings.

There will be a breakfast served and a chicken barbeque for lunch.

There will be a fox hunt at 10:15 AM with a \$25.00 prize.

DXCC, WAS, and VUCC Card checking by ARRL Field Checker Ed Gable K2MP at 10:30am in the Fire Hall. Bring completed forms, available at <http://www.arrl.org>. Questions to k2mp@arrl.net.

Campers and motor homes welcome after noon on Friday, July 16th. (\$15 camping fee for Friday noon to Saturday 6 PM collected by the Alexander Fire Department)

There will be a hospitality tent (pop, hot dogs, burgers) on Friday, July 16th at 4:00 PM (free).

For inquires and information, call (585) 343-1330. Or email: wa2abq@localnet.com, hjfsrmt@2ki.net, or w2dig@bluefrog.biz.

Visit their website at: <http://gram.hamgate.net>.



Erie County Fair Display

Volunteers are needed to man the four-hour shifts for the Amateur Radio display at the Erie County Fair from August 12-22, 2004.

This display is very important because it exposes thousands of locals to our great hobby. Many of these people might be willing to join if we can get that first spark of interest going.

You don't have to be an expert to staff the display. You just need to share what you know about amateur radio and the fun that it has brought you.

This year Luke Calianno N2GDU will be coordinating the Amateur Radio display under his title as ARRL Western New York Section - Affiliated Club Coordinator. Clubs throughout the area have been invited to have their members participate.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, e-mail Luke at: luke@towncountryflorist.com. You can also call Jack Cullum Jr. KB2ESM at 662-7075.

Volunteers receive a free admission ticket.. so when they are finished with their shift they have plenty of time to enjoy the fair.



Above: A visitor at the Erie County Fair Amateur Radio display tries her hand at tapping out her name in Morse code while others check out the other various exhibits such as antique radios, QSL cards, National Weather Service SKYWARN operations, local FM repeaters, SSB HF radios, etc.

2004 STARS Field Day Photos



Photo by Jack KB2ESM



Photos are by Terry K200 except as noted. These and others may be viewed at <http://www.pbase.com/k200/>.

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	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding a test session on 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 a test sessions during 2004 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738.

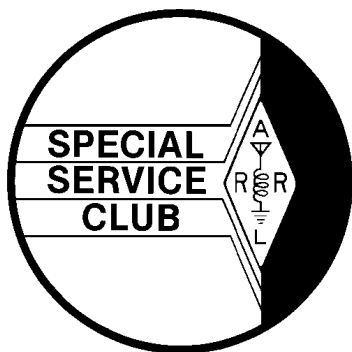
PROS normally holds test sessions at 10 AM on the third Saturday of the month at the Sardinia Historical Society Building, Savage Road off Rte. 39 in Sardinia, NY. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.

Some exams do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

Free Dual-Band Antennas

STARS member George Ebert N2NOB has two dual-band (2 meters/440 MHz) antennas which he will give free to someone who can take them down from a house in Buffalo.

For details, contact George at 892-8088 (8 AM to 9 PM).



STARS is
an ARRL
Special
Service
Club

Custom QSL Cards

Some time ago, I wrote an article about how you could use your computer and color printer to print your own custom QSL cards at home. I was primarily thinking about printing up a bunch of cards with spaces to write in your specific QSO information such as frequency, date, time, band, etc. This would basically be like ordering cards from a QSL printer, but you could insert your own pictures, clip art, etc.

Another variation of this idea is to print up cards with your artwork and information and leave a blank space for a label with the specific QSO information printed on it. Some logging programs will produce such labels.

I recently came across a website that showed a different idea for custom QSL cards. It is <http://www.qsl.net/wa7s/>. It is hosted by Bob Inouye WA7s of Naches, Washington.

Bob's idea is to print cards one by one with all the information printed on the card. Thus, there is no need to write on specific QSO information or to use a label. He can have the other station's call sign, name, date, frequency, etc. all printed on the card by the printer. He can even have a short note to thank the other operator or to mention something that they discussed during the QSO.

He also shows how you can print out two-sided QSL cards.

To save time, he suggests using one or more templates. A template is a document that you save on your computer with all of the standard information shown, such as your name, call sign, address, grid square, 10-10 number, etc. You can also save pictures or clip art in the template.

Then, when you want to print out a QSL card, you bring up the template and add the specific QSO information and any personal notes. Basically, this is how I prepare the Telstar each month.

If you use Microsoft Word 97 word processor or later, you can download a copy of one of Bob's templates and see how it is done.

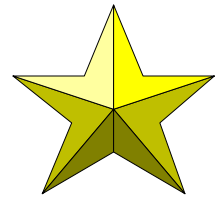
Some of you say that you don't have any QSL cards because you don't want to order 500 or 1000 from a printer when you only use a small number each year. This could be the answer for you!

While you are at it, how about sending me one of your QSL cards for our QSL Card of the Month feature? My postal address and email address are on the back of each Telstar.

73, Terry K2OO



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 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.

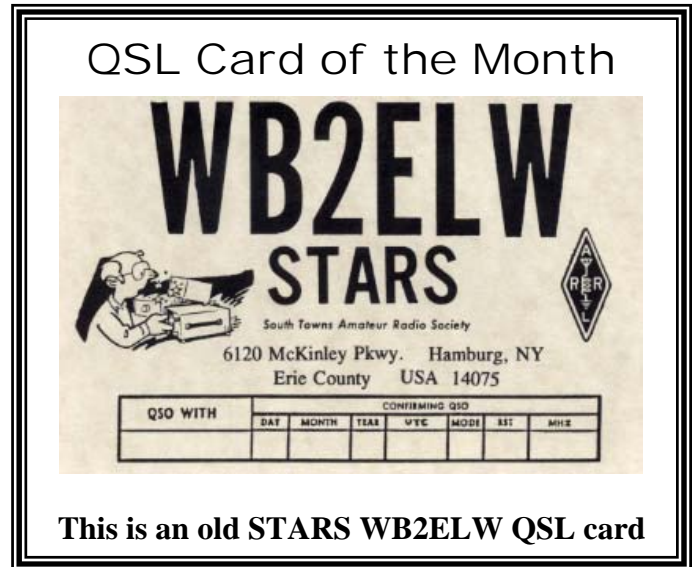
Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:30 PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.wb2elw.com>

CLUB HF STATION

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.



STARS

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