

telstar



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

ISSUE 272 AUGUST 2004

Geocaching and the Travel Bug WB2ELW

At the July club meeting at the Nike Base, John Leitten KA2RFT made an excellent presentation on geocaching, an adventure game for GPS users. Individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and then share the GPS coordinates of the caches over the internet. The GPS users then go out and try to find the caches.

After John's presentation, members divided up into teams and went in search of some caches that John had set up in and around the Nike Base. Everyone had a good time with the hunts.



John also showed a travel bug WB2ELW that he was going to start on a trip around the country. A travel bug is a trackable tag which is attached to an item. Like a hitchhiker, the travel bug is moved from cache to cache by hunters. In this case, the tag is attached to small piece of wood carrying the club's WB2ELW call sign.

To follow the travels of the travel bug WB2ELW, go to <http://www.geocaching.com>. On the left side of the page, click on "Track Travel Bugs." Then, on the right side of the next page, enter the tracking number TBGFQY and click on "SEARCH."

The goal of the travel bug WB2ELW is to be placed in a cache in each of the 50 states plus Washington, D.C. The description for the travel bug WB2ELW is listed as follows:

(Continued on page 4)

August Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 5 at the club's Nike Base club station (1.75 miles east of Route 20 on Lakeview Road). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We will have our annual mini-cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks will be provided by the club. We ask the members to bring their favorite dish (finger foods, appetizers, desserts, etc.) to share.



There also will be a mini flea market, so bring your items to sell out of your car! Bring your own tables. The meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on.

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.



Above: Keith KC2DGC, Lembit KB2VWA and Jack KB2ESM consult their GPS unit trying to find a series of geocaches at the July club meeting.

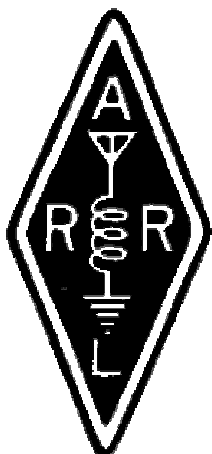
STARS & ARRL Memberships

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).

We Continue to Serve

One thing you can be sure of is the amateur community, when called upon, will do what it takes to serve the community. From fund raising rallies to regional disasters and every event in between, you freely give your valuable time to support the cause. While this effort will sometimes go unnoticed, it speaks well for the hobby; and because of this, I take pride in the brotherhood of amateur radio operators. Especially enduring to me is not only the amateur community as a whole, but the local clubs where the brotherhood becomes a fraternity.



STARS is a club that was founded by charter members who shared a passion for amateur radio and the values that amateur radio stands for. We are a fraternity who continue to participate when called upon to serve.

So, where am I going with all of this? First and foremost, you will always find me giving you the thanks and praise you deserve. There is no doubt in my mind you are all an exceptional fraternity that I am proud to serve with. Secondly, we are called upon many times though out the year to serve, and you participate each and every time.

Luke Calianno N2GDU (ARRL WNY Section Affiliated Club Coordinator) will be hosting the Erie County Fair exhibit and is asking for all local clubs to serve. This has been the goal of STARS for many years; to have all the area clubs involved in this event. STARS has worked hard to host this event for many years, and this year elected to hand the program to Luke. Luke will be faced with the same scheduling task that we struggled with.

I would like to see the STARS fraternity rally to the support of Luke and the Erie County Fair with the same spirit we shared during the years we hosted the exhibit. This year could be the turning point when we finally see a Western New York amateur radio exhibit at the Erie County Fair supported by all area clubs.

To schedule for a shift, see Jack Cullum KB2ESM at our next meeting or register on line at:

http://larc.hamgate.net/erie_county_fair.htm

73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President



The Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest & Exposition combined with the WNY ARRL Section Convention will be held on August 7 and 8, 2004 at the Main Transit Fireman's Grounds, 6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY (1/16th of a mile west of Transit Road). It is sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

There will be lots of activities going on along with a huge flea market. There will be club contests, a 10-acre fox hunt, entertainment, a vehicle antenna array contest, ARRL talks/forum & demos, hourly drawings, a VE test session and breakfast/lunch.

Admission is \$7 for both days. Outdoor flea market spaces are \$5/day (for 10 x 20 ft.) or \$10 for both days. Indoor tables are \$15 per 8 ft. table for both days.

Set up for indoor and outdoor flea markets will begin on Friday evening. There will be free overnight camping and parking beginning Friday at 7 PM.

The outdoor flea market will be open from sunrise till 5 PM on Saturday and sunrise till close on Sunday. The indoor vendor pavilion will open at 8 AM each day.

Talk-in will be on the club's 147.255+ MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). A talk-in prize drawing for \$25 will be held at 11 AM each day.

There will be an on-foot fox hunt starting at 9 AM on Saturday with the winner receiving a trophy. There will be a new mobile fox hunt starting at 9 AM on Sunday with the winner receiving \$25 and a trophy. The fox for the mobile hunt will be within a one mile radius of the hamfest.

At 10 AM on Saturday, Norm Fusaro W3IZ, ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager, will present a program on introducing newly licensed hams to the hobby..

The VE exam session will begin at 9 AM on Sunday at the VE tent. Look for sign or ask at gate or head table. For information or to register contact Hal at (716) 832-0031. Walk-ins are welcome.

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN and Vice Director Bill Edgar N3LLR as well as ARRL WNY Section Manager Scott Bauer W2LC are scheduled to be at the hamfest.

The hamfest web site is at : <http://gbhamfest/hamgate.net>.

For general information, e-mail: jthrun@rochester.rr.com or call (716) 542-4201.

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 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.



More information and a list of available time slots are available at: http://larc.hamgate.net/erie_county_fair.htm.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, e-mail Luke at: luke@towncountryflorist.com.

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

2004 STARS Field Day

As reported last month, STARS had a very successful Field Day this year. We now have the unofficial results:

There were a total of 939 QSO's completed in the 24-hour contest including 389 CW QSO's, 556 phone QSO's and 2 ATV QSO's.

40 meters turned out to be the best band for the club with 230 CW QSO's and 375 phone QSO's.

20 meters came in second in CW QSO's with 95, and 80 meters came in second in phone QSO's with 86.



STARS claimed 1000 bonus points in various categories. The bonus points combined with 2644 QSO points to give us a claimed 3644 points for the year.

The official results will be announced by the ARRL on their web site later this year.

Geocaching and Travel Bug WB2ELW

(Continued from page 1)

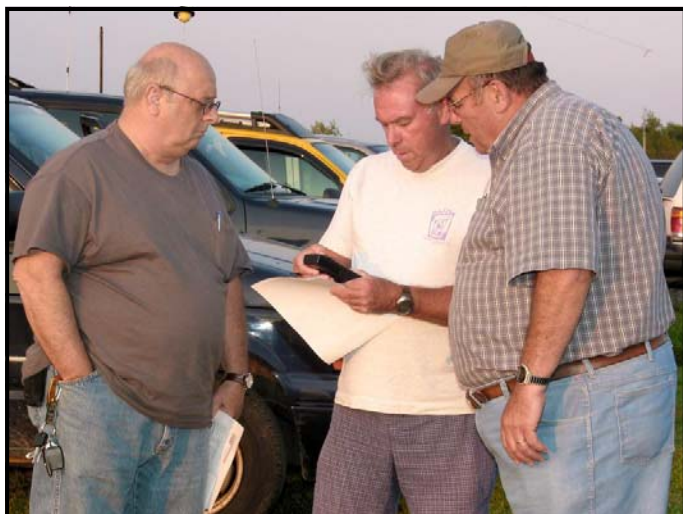
WB2ELW is the amateur radio call for the South Towns Amateur Radio Society. July of 2004 a geocaching program/demo was given at the club meeting. This travel bug was created for that meeting. See www.WB2ELW.com for more info on ham radio and the club. When a person gets their amateur radio license one of the first things they do is try to talk to a ham in every state in the USA. That is the goal of this travel bug to be placed in a cache in every state including Washington DC. All the states still needed are listed below. When WB2ELW visits a new state, that state will be removed from the list. Please try and move the bug towards or over a state(s) line that is needed to help fulfill this goal. Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington Washington DC West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming

John started the travel bug WB2ELW on the way by placing it into a cache in Charles E. Burchfield park in West Seneca on July 4. It was picked up by a hunter and passed on to another hunter who will be taking it back with her to her home area in southern California. We will try to keep you updated each month on the travel adventures of the travel bug WB2ELW.

These pictures and more from the July meeting can be viewed at: <http://www.pbase.com/k2oo/>.



Above: John, Jr. N2OY and Scott KB2KOL look over the instructions for the hunt. **Below:** John KC2IUN and Jim N2SKT search in the weeds for a mini-cache.



Above: Richard K2RWG and Dave K2ECK consult with John KA2RFT on how to use his GPS unit.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Past President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Jim Sojka	WB2TJO
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions in 2004-2005 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. A new schedule of dates will be announced once approved by the church. 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 9/11, 10/2, 11/6 and 12/4 during 2004 and 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 and 6/4 during 2005 starting promptly at 10 AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration preferred. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 or e-mail wb2aiv@arrrl.net.

PROS holds test sessions as needed at 585 North Star Road, East Aurora. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.

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

STARS VE Exams

STARS VE team held exams on July 10, 2004 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

There were two candidates to be tested and both qualified for new Technician class licenses.

Thanks go to John, Sr. KB2VWA, Judy N2TEZ, Jim N2SKT and Terry K2OO for serving as VE's for the session.



People who are working on upgrading to General class should note that effective July 1, 2004, a new Element 3 (General theory) question pool is now in effect. All tests given after this date will be based upon the new pool.

Actor Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO8GJ, SK

One of the best-known names in cinema--Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO8GJ--died in Los Angeles July 1. He was 80.

Brando appears in the FCC database under his real name, "Martin Brandeaux," while his FO8GJ listing indicates both his real and his screen names. Brando held a US General class ticket. He was on the air occasionally over the years as FO8GJ from his private island in French Polynesia. In a 1994 CNN interview with Larry King, Brando affirmed his continued interest in Amateur Radio. In response to a caller's question, he said ham radio provided him with the opportunity to just be himself.



Brando was best known for his roles as Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," a dockworker in "On the Waterfront," and Vito Corleone in "The Godfather." He was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won twice.

The ARRL Letter 7/16/04

Correction: ... we erred in a statement regarding Brando's real name. He was born Marlon Brando Jr, although he appears in the FCC database under the name "Martin Brandeaux," an apparent pseudonym. His FO8GJ listing indicates both names.

The ARRL Letter 7/23/04

Forward This To Everybody You Know!

How many e-mail messages have you received that end with "Forward this to everybody that you know"? It may be about how Bill Gates is going to pay you to forward e-mail messages or about some individual or group that needs your help or money.

Based upon my experience, about 95 to 99% of these messages are hoaxes. Before you forward them on to all of your friends, do a little checking at the following site: <http://www.snopes.com/>. Do a search on a few key words in the message. Don't forward a known hoax!

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.

QSL Card of the Month

KB2KOL

SCOTT W. BARTO
92 FORESTAL DR.
HAMBURG, NY 14075

QSO with	DATE	UTC	MHz	MODE	RST

PIZ QSL TNX

STARS

Terry W. Rockhold K200
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k200@bigfoot.com