

# telstar



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

ISSUE 273 SEPTEMBER 2004

## STARS Wins WNY Club Trophy

STARS won first place for WNY Club Champion Contest at the Greater Buffalo Hamfest/ ARRL Western NY Section Convention at the Main Transit Fireman's Grounds on Sunday August 8, 2004.

Representing STARS (see photo below) were: First Row - Justin Barnack and Alex Clark W2SPY - Second Row - Mark Barnack N2LAB, James Clark W2CIA and Jay Clark KF2JY. The magnificent huge trophy shown in the photo will be presented to the STARS membership at the September STARS club meeting by Alex Clark W2SPY, most valuable player.

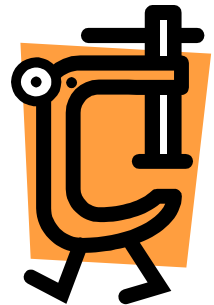


## September Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 2 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be talking about our summer activities such as the Erie County Fair Display, hamfests, etc. We also will look to the upcoming fall events.

The program this month will be "Bring a gadget, bring a tool". Bring something to the meeting to show/tell/describe/sell. Can be ham radio/electronic in nature, or not. For instance...maybe you have made a gadget to help in the soldering of PL-259s. We all have gadgets that we use around the house to make our life easier, related to radio or not. So bring a gadget or two to the meeting!



## Travel Bug WB2ELW

In our August issue, we told you about Travel Bug WB2ELW and geocaching. The objective of Travel Bug WB2ELW is to be placed into a cache in each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

John KA2RFT originally started it on it's way by placing it in a cache in West Seneca on July 4. As of August 23, Travel Bug WB2ELW had been placed in 15 caches in 8 states including New York, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California!

Happy Frog (& gang) picked it up in our area and placed it in many caches along their trip back home to their home in

*(Continued on page 5)*



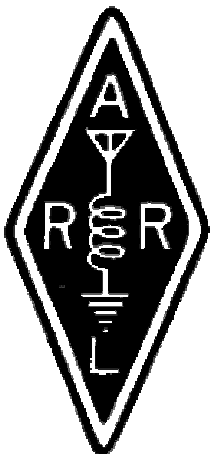
## STARS & ARRL Memberships

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.

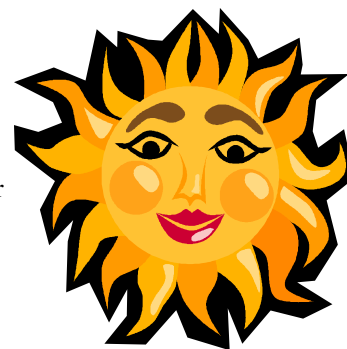


## Still Waiting For Summer

Please join me in thanking those who volunteered their services to support the 2004 Erie County fair exhibit. These members have once again demonstrated to all those involved what amateur radio and STARS is all about. Next time you see them, let them know how much we appreciate their efforts.

For many of us, the conclusion of the Erie County fair marks the end of summer. Communities and families prepare for school to start this fall, football season begins, and we look toward preparing for winter. But where did summer go?

Was it just me, did this year fly by? July was the 8<sup>th</sup> wettest month for western New York in recorded history so I wrote it off.



Now, half way through August, my "honey-do" and "things I want to do" lists have been re-evaluated to a priority of "must get done before winter". I expected to do the "get the shack ready" item this year because I miss being able to join our club sponsored NETS from home.

Hopefully, September and October will be our nicest months in 2004.

It seemed to me that May and June also had their fair share of rain. Dayton was a soaker for the last three years in a row.

Fortunately, STARS has had good karma this year despite the wet weather. We were blessed with perfect weather for Field Day and our two Nike Base meetings had favorable weather.

The Nike Base station is ready for the contest season. Weather permitting this fall, one antenna needs to be relocated, but this is minor work.

I'm optimistic about an enjoyable STARS contest season this fall and winter, regardless of what the weather may bring.

## 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).

73,  
Keith Patterson KC2DGC  
STARS President

## Erie County Ham Radio Exhibit

Just want to thank all of the ham radio volunteers, NOAA Buffalo Office and ARES/ RACES who all helped make the Erie County Fair ham radio exhibit a success. Many manned the booth and some talked it up to their respective clubs.

Approximately 115 hams signed our guest book here are some of the entries...

- > Jun Seok from Korea
- > Steve WA7KKN from Bradford PA
- > Marsh W3FL from Florida
- > Dave KC2BLF from Kentucky
- > Steve KC8MVF from Ohio
- > Jim N7RCO from Las Vegas
- > Ernest KA1NGG from Stanford CT
- > Greg WA2SFT from Tennessee
- > Ken KB2AJV from Naples Florida

We also have a large list of people who would like to attend licensing classes in the fall. This list will be distributed to the area clubs who will be holding classes.

A Very special thank you to Bob Koster and Jack Cullum who were there almost every day and mentored me about running the exhibit.

73's Luke Calianno N2GDU  
ARRL WNY Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

## PROS Swap Meet & Foxhunt

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) will be holding its annual Swap Meet and Foxhunt on October 2 at 8 AM. The PROS club which meets in Sardinia, will hold the Swap meet and foxhunt at The Sardinia Historical Society building on Savage Rd, which is located off Rt.16 and Rt 219 on Genesee Rd. This event will offer a Foxhunt at 11 AM. with a \$100 cash prize. All WNY amateur radio clubs are challenged to bring out their best teams or individuals. A foxhunt is a hidden radio transmitter that Hams have to find by following a radio signal only. We have asked The Hambulance and the Radio Shack of Arcade to participate in this event. Admission is \$4.00 at the door and \$9.00 per table. There will be refreshments available as well. If you need more information or want to reserve a table, contact Gary Tillinghast at 716/592-9554.

## Congratulations Alex!

Stars member Alex Clark W2SPY just received his Amateur Extra class license in the mail. Alex has been studying Extra theory this summer.

Alex is the 12 year old son of Jay Clark KF2JY and brother of James Clark W2CIA, now 16 yrs old. Jay and James are also STARS members. Alex is most pleased to have broken his brother James' record of getting his Extra class license at 13 years old.

He took his Extra exam and passed Sunday August 8, 2004 at the Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest VE test session offered by LARC. In the photo below are the testing VEs Joe Gearhart WV2NY, Bill Klepser, Jr. WB2AIV and Hal Cameron NH7R and new Amateur Extra Alex Clark W2SPY.



## Dayton Hamvention® Videos

Scott Barto passed on the tip that there are some interesting videos from this year's Dayton Hamvention® provided by Icom at their website.

The URL to view the videos is:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/video/>

Check them out and see the fun!



# August Meeting and Mini-Cookout Photos

The August meeting featured a brief business meeting and then socializing at our annual mini-cookout.

Members in the photos are identified on Page 5. Photos were courtesy of Jack KB2ESM. Thanks!



## 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 Saturday, September 18 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. A new schedule of additional dates for 2004-2005 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 fourz1@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@arrl.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.

## Anthony S. Piscitello WB2ZFU \* SK \*

Anthony S. Piscitello, a retired Ford Motor Co. employee, died July 30 in Providence Hospital, Southfield, Mich., after a long illness. He was 77.

Born in Brant, he graduated from North Collins High School and served as an Army private from 1944 to 1945.

He worked in Ford's Buffalo Assembly and Stamping Plant for 44 years, retiring in 1992.

Mr. Piscitello was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Ford Wagon Train and the South Towns Amateur Radio Society. (STARS Past President)

He enjoyed bowling and hunting and was a Buffalo Bills season ticket holder since 1965. He moved to Farmington Hills, Mich., in 1997.

His first wife, Arlene Armbruster Piscitello, died in 1976.

Surviving are his wife of 12 years, the former Scharma Kissner; a daughter, Jodi Anne Gruka of Angola; a son, Michael of Colden; a stepdaughter, Tammy Knurek of South Lyon, Mich.; a stepson, Darren Smith of Grosse Ile, Mich.; three sisters, Caroline Wehling of North Collins, Grace Hontz of Tacoma, Wash., and Ginny Klontz of Montesano, Wash.; a brother, Gerald of Hamburg; and 10 grandchildren.

Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Mich.

## Photos on Opposite Page

**Above left:** George N2NOB and Esther N2WBM enjoy the meeting.

**Above right:** Board members John KB2VWC, Scott KB2KOL, Keith KC2DGC and Jim WB2TJO.

**Middle left:** Jim N2SKT and Frank N2KOU in the club house.

**Middle right:** Lembit KB2VWA, John KC2BSI, Dave WA2TVT, Jay KF2JY and John KB2VWC enjoy the cookout.

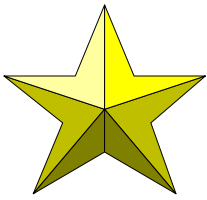
**Bottom left:** Gary KB2YJ, Bob KA2WYE and Shane WB2WPM enjoy the outdoor meeting at the Nike Base club station.

## Travel Bug WB2ELW

California. Happy Frog is a mother and the gang includes her two sons, her daughter and her mother from Oregon.

Travel Bug WB2ELW visited the place where President Herbert Hoover was born in Iowa. It also traveled along part of the Oregon Trail across the plains and also visited a monument and an old prison in Wyoming. It saw smoke from wildfires burning in Utah. Last report had it in a cache in a California High Desert Pizza get together spot.

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."



# 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 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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