

telstar



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

ISSUE 274 OCTOBER 2004

STARS 2005 Club Officer Elections

Nominations for STARS 2005 club officers will be held at the October club meeting on October 7. Elections for these offices will then be held at the November club meeting on November 4.

STARS Members may vote in the annual election of officers via absentee ballot. If you can't make the meeting you still are allowed to vote. Please follow the easy steps listed below.



Procedures for Members Voting by Absentee Ballot:

1. Request an absentee ballot by phone, e-mail, or mail in sufficient time to receive the ballot by mail and return it by mail so that it is received no later than the November Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2004. (N2TEZ suggests Oct. 25 as deadline for making requests.)

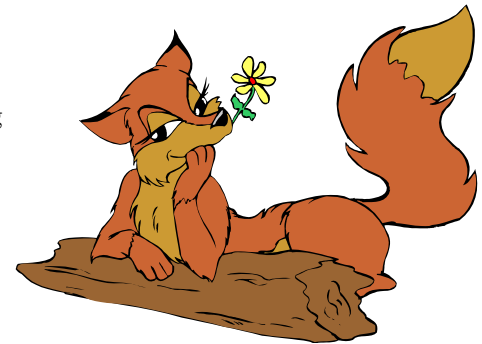
2. Request absentee ballots from the Membership Chairman:

Judy Levan, N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043
Phone: 684-6673
E-mail: fcstr59@msn.com

October Meeting

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

We will be discussing a variety of topics relating to club operations. We will also be taking nominations for 2004 club officers.



Our program for the evening will be a short video (28 minutes) on Fox Hunting. Join the South Shores Foxhunters Association of Massachusetts as they track a wily radio "fox". Learn the tricks of radio direction finding. If you have any radio direction finding equipment, bring it along to show the other members.

3. Note that: Absentee ballots cannot be used to vote for members nominated at the November Membership Meeting, but will have space for write-ins. To prevent tampering, absentee ballots may only be returned by mail, and may not be hand-carried to the meeting by someone else. Members who mail-in an absentee ballot may attend the meeting and vote in-person, but only after their unopened absentee ballot is torn in half and returned to the voter in-person.

Voter confidence in the STARS election procedures is very important. So that you know your ballot will be handled properly, the Election Committee will follow these guidelines.

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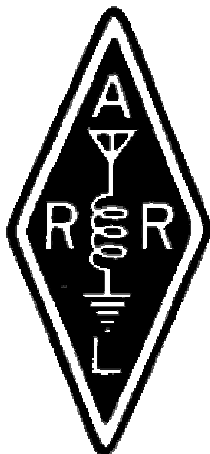
STARS & ARRL Memberships

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.



Fall? STARS Officer Recognition Season!

I must have complained enough last month because we are finally enjoying summer-like weather. Now let the nice weather continue though the fall season and give us a canopy of colorful leaves to make up for our wet summer, and I'll call it even.

Seriously, this fall has really been nice. I enjoy fall because of the changing leaves, football season, and the bands start to improve. Fall is the beginning of the major contest season and the Nike Base station will open for these events. I hope that you will take the time to visit the STARS Nike Base during these contests and say hello.



This fall also brings an important national election and to a lesser degree, our club nomination of officers followed by the election of officers. The good news is; most of your boards of directors, if not all, are willing to run again; the bad news is; most of your board of directors will run unopposed. We are fortunate that those who serve on the board are willing to do this. They share a portion of their personal time to ensure that STARS runs smoothly, and I am truly blessed to have such a fine group of people to work with. Make it a point to show up at our October and November meetings to show your support for these people. I know it would mean a lot to them.

73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President

VE Exams

On Saturday, September 18, STARS VE team held a VE exam session at the Grace Lutheran Church. Well, sort of.

In reality, there were no exams given. The VE team was there; but, for the first time in many years, no candidates showed up to take any tests. ARATS VE team experienced the same situation in North Tonawanda the previous Saturday. Hopefully, this is not an indication of things to come.

Thanks go to the VE's for being there ready to serve: Jim Livingston N2SKT; John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC; Rich Budzynski KI2X and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

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).

2004 STARS Board of Directors

Pictured below are the members of the 2004 STARS Board of Directors:

Standing, left to right:

- Treasurer Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM
- Director Jim Sojka WB2TJO
- Secretary John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC
- Past President Bob Koster KA2WYE

Seated, left to right:

- Financial Secretary Judy Levan N2TEZ
- President Keith Patterson KC2DGC
- Vice President Scott Barto KB2KOL
- Director George Ebert N2NOB

This photo was taken at the September 3, 2004 STARS general meeting.

Thanks go to all of them for the time and effort that they put in to help make STARS a great club!

Photo by Terry Rockhold K200.

STARS Raffle

STARS is holding a new raffle to help raise funds for club operations and activities.

The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

There will be two winners of a \$150 gift certificate from Wal-Mart. They of all the great things that you could get with that!

The Board has decided to give each member an envelope with 12 tickets to sell. The envelopes were handed out to those members who attended the September meeting. The remainder of the envelopes were mailed. If you need more raffle tickets, contact a Board member.



The drawing for the winners will be made at the STARS holiday party on December 2, just in time for the winners to use the gift certificates for holiday shopping!



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.

Travel Bug WB2ELW

When we left Travel Bug WB2ELW last month, it was in a cache in the California High Desert. On August 28 at that spot, it took part in a big pizza bash and picnic attended by many geocachers.

At that event, it was picked up and transported south to a cache in Pasadena, CA not far from the route of the Rose Bowl Parade.

From there it was moved 10 miles to the east to a cache near a Home Depot in Monrovia, CA. It has been there since September 12.

We hope it will be moving along soon.



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."

WNY Earth Science Day

STARS will demonstrate amateur radio to visitors at the Hamburg Natural History Society's Western New York Earth Science Day activities on Saturday, October 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Penn Dixie site (see map below). They had over 800 visitors to this event last year. It is free to the public and will be held rain-or-shine.

Plans are to do some antenna work on Friday evening and then to arrive at 8 AM on Saturday morning to setup our equipment and tent. If you would like to volunteer to help staff an amateur radio station or to answer visitor questions, contact Keith Patterson at 677-0119 or e-mail him at terabyte@sprintmail.com. More info will be available at the October 7 STARS meeting.



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 on 10/9 and 11/13 in 2004 and 1/15, 3/12, 5/14 and 7/9 in 2005 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 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.

CQ World Wide SSB Contest

The CQ World Wide SSB contest will be held from 7 PM local time on Friday, October 29 till 7 PM local time on Sunday, October 31. This is probably the biggest international amateur radio contest of the year. It is truly amazing to hear all of the stations operating from all parts of the globe.

STARS is planning on operating our Nike Base club station during parts of the contest. Interested members should e-mail Scott Barto KB2KOL at bart0977@adelphia.net and let him know what hours you would like to be there. Subject to change based upon interest, the station will be open from 7PM to 11 PM on Friday evening and 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

STARS 2005 Elections

(Continued from page 1)

Procedures for Membership Chairman and Election Committee:

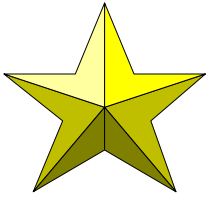
If requested The Membership Chairman will mail absentee ballots to members in good standing, at their address of record. The Election Committee will prepare absentee ballots immediately after the October Membership Meeting.

Absentee ballots will consist of a mailing envelope, and an unlabeled inner envelope containing a voting slip. The voting slip is identical to those used for voting in person at the meeting. Another pre-addressed return mailing envelope will be included in the package. For positive identification, it will already have the member's name and address in the return address position. The ballots will be returned to, and held by, a trustworthy club member who is not running for an office. Before voting begins, the names of those who mailed-in absentee ballots will be called to see if they are present, and if so, action will be taken to prevent duplicate voting. Either tear in half their absentee ballot and return it to them, or do not give them an in-person voting slip.

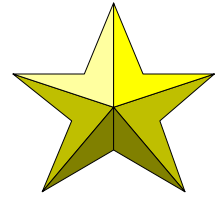
The Election Committee will tabulate the votes from absentee ballots and in-person ballots and report the results to the membership. Absentee ballots will remain sealed until in-person voting has been completed and the votes are about to be tabulated. At that time, the sealed, unmarked inner envelopes will be removed, placed in a pile, and shuffled so that it is not possible to tell who they came from. Only then will the enclosed voting slips be removed, included with the in-person voting slips, and the votes tabulated. The above will be done by Election Committee members who are not currently running for a club office.



Photo Above: STARS President Keith Patterson KC2DGC demonstrated a portable tube tester at the 9/2 meeting.



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

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