

telstar



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

ISSUE 275 NOVEMBER 2004

2005 Club Elections

At the October club meeting, the following individuals were nominated to run for 2005 STARS club officers and directors:

President Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Vice President Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Treasurer John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Secretary John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Financial Secretary Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2-year term) George Ebert	N2NOB

The election for these offices will be held at the November 4th club meeting at the Hamburg Youth Center.

In addition to these nominated candidates, there will be lines for write-in candidates on the ballots.

The winners of the above contests plus Jim Sojka WB2TJO, who will be serving the second year of his two-year term as Director, will make up the 2005 STARS Board of Directors.

November Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, November 4th at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.



This is a very important meeting as we will be voting on officers and directors for 2005.

Did you ever wonder how a commercial 1,000 ft tower is erected? At this month's meeting, you will have your questions answered.!

Greg Young KE2VW will be showing a DVD presentation that he made of the erection of the WIVB-TV 4 tower .by Coast to Coast Tower

Clint N2FMM, Transmitter Engineer for WIVB-TV 4, will be on-hand to help narrate and answer your questions.

This is one video (DVD) that you will not want to miss!

Time To Renew

We have included a 2005 renewal form with this newsletter. Why not take time right now to fill it out and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the November club meeting.



STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

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 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!



Practice Makes Perfect

Despite the weather, the STARS amateur radio demonstration at the Penn Dixie Earth Science Day event was a success. I was concerned that we would see a minimal level of volunteers and I was pleasantly surprised to see the support we did eventually receive. We battled wind, rain, cold, and mud but proved once again the willingness of STARS members to get involved and support the community. We owe a special thanks to the following members who took the time under those conditions to help.

Scott Barto KB2KOL
Jim Sojka WB2TJO
Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Judy Levan N2TEZ
Terry Rockhold K2OO
John Leitten KA2RFT
John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC
Bob Koster KA2WYE
Jim Livingston N2SKT
Steve Landry N2ZNU
John Dilivio K2CF

This was an opportunity for us to participate in a public event without consuming a lot of club resources. It also served as a good emergency field deployment drill besides Field Day. I would like see us support this event in the future to help us practice our emergency preparedness skills. It's events like this where we learn our strengths and weaknesses.

73, Keith KC2DGC
STARS President

See Earth Science Day Demo Photos on Page 4.

Club Net

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

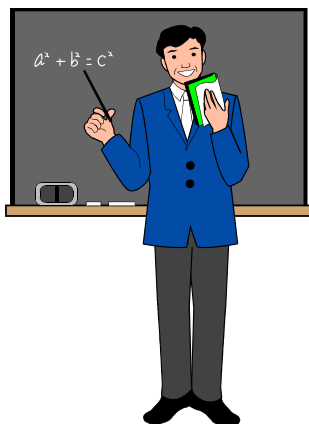
STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

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).



Technician Classes Starting 1/5/05

There is no better time for you to get your Ham Radio License than now. Registration will be held at the Lancaster Amateur Radio Clubhouse at 525 Pavement Rd. Lancaster on Wednesday January 5th 2005 at 7:00pm. At that time we will sign up everyone who wants to take the classes and we will also take orders for the ARRL book *Now Your Talking*, as well as informing everyone what the classes will consist of. If you cannot attend the registration night, you can contact me at the below address and I will add you to the list of names that I've already started. You can also obtain the book from the ARRL ahead of time and start reading it on your own.



Classes will be held every Wednesday at 7pm for the next 12 weeks after the Jan. 5th date and a VE test session will be arranged so students who are ready can take the VE test at the end. The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will not be charging a fee for the classes, but each student must purchase the ARRL book *Now Your Talking* and the price for the book is \$19.95 plus shipping.

Joseph Gearhart WV2NY
LARC Membership Chairman
Home phone: 716-892-2760 evenings only
E-mail: wv2ny@adelphia.net

VE Exams

The STARS VE team held a VE exam session on Saturday, October 9 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Unfortunately, for the second straight session we had no candidates show up to take the tests. ARATS VE team has had a similar experience in September and October. Where are all the people looking to get a new license or to upgrade their existing one?

Club members who showed up to act as VE's included Judy N2TEZ, Scott KB2KOL and Terry K2OO. Jim N2SKT stood by at his home in case that he was needed.

Travel Bug WB2ELW

When we last reported on Travel Bug WB2ELW, we thought that it was in a cache near a Home Depot in Monrovia, CA. Strangely enough, it was finally picked up by a geocacher, but it was in a cache near a Jeep Shop in Grand Terrace, CA. As best as we can figure it out, the people who said that they had left it at the Home Depot cache had also visited the Jeep Shop cache the same day, and apparently they misreported which cache they left it in.



The person who found it in the Jeep Shop cache finally took Travel Bug WB2ELW on a nice 500 mile trip and left it in a cache about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, UT. The name of the new cache is Tumbleweed Round-Up, because the site looked like a spot where tumbleweeds kept getting trapped or were being rounded up.

So far, Travel Bug WB2ELW has traveled over 2,900 miles since starting on it's journey in July. It has visited 8 states towards it's goal of traveling to all 50 states plus Washington, DC.

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 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!

If you need more raffle tickets, contact Judy N2TEZ or another 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!

Earth Science Day Demo Photos



John KA2RFT and John, Sr. KB2VWC at the station. There were 2 separate rigs set up capable of operating on HF, VHF, and UHF.



Some of the members present included (l to r) Keith KC2DGC, Jim WB2TJO, Scott KB2KOL, John KA2RFT, John, Sr. KB2VWC and Jim N2SKT.



STARS President Keith KC2DGC enjoys a quick lunch.

Photos by Terry K2OO. Camera courtesy of John KA2RFT.

In Sympathy

We were saddened to learn that Anthony Balas, Sr., father of Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT, passed away on October 16, 2004, at the age of 81.

We send our deepest condolences to Tony and his family for their loss.



New Meteorologist-in-Charge Selected for Buffalo

Tom Niziol, Science and Operations Officer, has been promoted to Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Buffalo NWS office. Tom has spent his entire Weather Service career here in Buffalo.

He is a highly respected leader in the science program both nationally and internationally, particularly with regard to the unique challenges the Great Lakes pose to forecasting.



He has also served as a forecaster for the last two Olympics held in the United States. Congratulations Tom!

SKYWARN E-Newsletter - October, 2004

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 test sessions on 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 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.

STARS Benefits From Your ARRL Membership

The ARRL has reinstated their program of allowing affiliated clubs (like STARS) to retain \$2.00 from each ARRL member renewal filed through the local club.

Therefore, members should send their membership renewal applications to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS for the regular amount that you would owe ARRL. This way you pay the same amount and STARS benefits.



STARS also gets to retain \$15.00 from any first-time ARRL membership filed in a similar manner through the club.

2004 SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 2004 Special Event is fast approaching. It will take place on December 4th from 0000 UTC - 2400 UTC.

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service.



If you're interested in being a base operator here at the Buffalo Office for this year's event, you can contact Judy N2TEZ at judith.levan@noaa.gov.

More information about the Special event and a list of participating NWS offices can be found at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

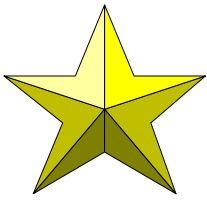
SKYWARN E-Newsletter - October, 2004

No news is . . . no news:

There have been no changes to the Amateur Radio Part 97 rules nor any news to report regarding FCC action on proposals that address the number of license classes, the 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to obtain a General or Extra license, or other amateur licensing qualifications or privileges.

The FCC continues to review the thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including a petition from the ARRL--that, in general, address various facets of license restructuring and the Morse code requirement. Prompting most of these petitions were actions taken during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). The FCC first must issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and assign it a docket number, then invite comments on what it decides to propose, based on the petitions it has before it. The ARRL estimates that the FCC is only about one-third of the way through its review of the petitions, however, and does not anticipate any final FCC action--in the form of a Report and Order--until sometime in 2006. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring initiative on its Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>.

The ARRL Letter 10/15/04



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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