

telstar



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

ISSUE 276 DECEMBER 2004

2005 Club Elections

The 2005 STARS club elections were held at the November club meeting.

The following are the winners of the election:

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

These people plus Jim Sojka WB2TJO (a Director in the second year of his two-year term) will make up the 2005 STARS Board of Directors. They will be sworn into their positions at the December meeting.

All of these people have been serving in these same positions this year, so we have the unique opportunity of having a completely veteran Board. These people spend a lot of time and effort each month to help make STARS a great club, and they should be thanked for volunteering to do it again next year.

The Board normally meets on the fourth Thursday night of the month starting at 7:30 PM at the STARS Nike Base club station. The Board meetings are open to all STARS members, and the Board would like to encourage you to attend.

December Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 2 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 are required.



Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our club officers for 2005.

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. Members are also invited to set up "for sale" tables.

There will be a drawing for our STARS raffle for 2 winners of a \$150 gift certificate for Wal-mart. Also, please remember to bring donations for our Food Drive. See article on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you there!

2005 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2005!

You should complete the form included with this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.



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).

A New Priority

One topic that continues to be discussed at our monthly board of directors meetings is membership attendance at regular meetings or club events and what we should be doing to improve this. We are not alone. All clubs in the region, not just amateur radio, are experiencing the same situation. One observation I have made based on our discussion is your board is deeply concerned about making any STARS event an enjoyable experience.

There are many theories as to why this is happening. Lack of interest in an aging hobby, Internet, work schedules, limited personal time, summer vacations, and bad weather, caring for spouse or relative, lack of mobility, caring for children, no transportation, or too many clubs on your schedule may all be understandable contributors. For some of us life seems busier than ever and for others life is slowing down.



In the early days of STARS, meeting rooms were packed to standing room only and members shared good conversations about their gear and experiences. It was a chance to be with those who truly shared a common interest the hobby. Along the way we laughed, we cried, we triumphed, and we failed, but we stuck together and lifelong friendships were formed. These are positives gained from belonging to a club.



We have missed you over the years and we would like to see all of you at our Holiday meeting in December. Bring you wife, children, or a friend and reunite this holiday season to celebrate the fellowship of a truly special organization; STARS.

In 2005 the board and I will be taking steps to make the STARS meetings and events experience a number one priority. If you have any ideas or suggestions that would be of interest to the club, please contact any member of the board. We miss you and would like to see you again.

73, Keith KC2DGC
STARS President

STARS Food Drive

As we did in 2003, we will have a food drive at our Holiday Party this year. The food collected will be donated to an agency that distributes food to the needy of the area.

Here is a partial list of needed items. Cereals, pancake mix, jelly or jam, noodles and cheese, all pastas, tuna fish, bagged rice, dried beans, soup mixes, spaghetti sauce, "canned" or any other non-perishables that you can think of. Please, no exploded cans or out of date items.



This is a great way we can help to give back to the local community. Please bring what you can.

Travel Bug WB2ELW

When we reported on our Travel Bug WB2ELW last month, it had been left in a cache called Tumbleweed Round-up about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah.

From there it was moved 21 miles to the north to a cache called Wooden Nickels and Whatnot. Then it moved 29 miles to the southwest to a cache called Motorcycling Cache, which is named so because it is a favorite area for motorcycling. From there it moved 22 miles to the north to a cache called Anaconda. It is southwest of Salt Lake City and is east of the Tooele Army Depot and west of Bingham Canyon. It is a spectacular site as you can see from the photo below.

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

The time to see who are going to be the two winners of the \$150.00 gift certificates from Wal-Mart is almost here. Yes, the drawing for the STARS Raffle will be held at the STARS club meeting and Holiday Party on December 2.

If you haven't turned in the money from the tickets that you have sold, you still can still turn it in at the meeting.



We have already sold enough tickets to cover the cost of the gift certificates, so all the rest that we sell will be our profit. So get out there and sell, sell, sell!

VE Session

The STARS VE Team held a VE exam session on Saturday, November 13 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

For the third month in a row, there were no candidates to take the tests. If you know of someone who wants to get a new license or who wants to upgrade their current license, tell them about our next VE session on January 15.

VE's serving at the session were Rich Budzynski KI2X, John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest

Scott Barto KB2KOL and Terry Rockhold K2OO activated the STARS WB2ELW Nike Base Club Station on October 30-31, 2004 to participate in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. Working only about 11 hours during the contest, they combined to make 239 QSO's to 72 DXCC countries.

Some of the DXCC countries worked included Indonesia, Japan, Micronesia, Canary Islands, Ceuta & Melilla, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Crete, St. Martin, Madeira Island, Azores, Ukraine, Bosnia, Galapagos Island, South Africa, Niger, Morocco, Tanzania, Senegal, Svalbard, Cuba, Liechtenstein, Bulgaria, Romania, Columbia, Paraguay, Grenada, Trinidad, Belize, Costa Rica, Martinique, Hawaii and Alaska.

STARS club station equipment worked great and the guys had little trouble breaking most pile-ups to make the contacts. Come out and join the fun during the next contest!

November Meeting

We had a great November club meeting with attendance nearly double what we normally have been averaging. We had a chance to see several members who have not been around for quite some time.

Part of this increase was due to calls made by Board members to invite other members to the meeting.

Also, we were sure that many of the people showed up to see the video of the raising of the tower at the WIVB transmitter site, which was shot by former STARS President Greg Young KE2VW and narrated by Clint Soemann N2FMM, Transmitter Engineer for WIVB-TV. This was big time tower work by some real professionals.



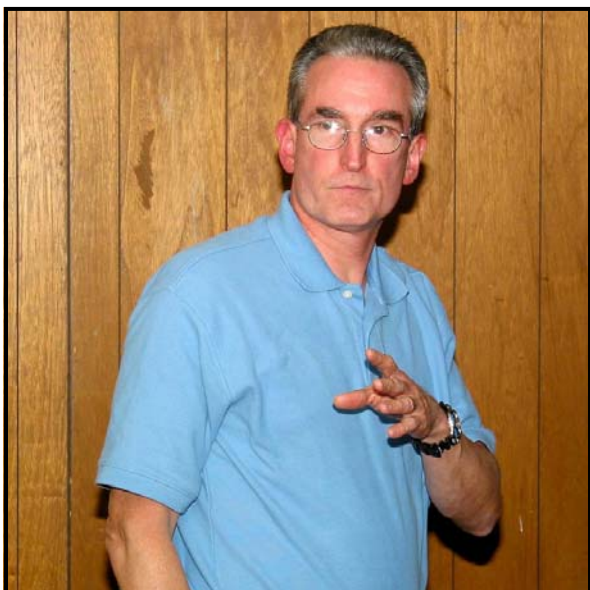
Jim Sojka WB2TJO tries out some of the climbing equipment used by the tower climbers with Dave Lawton N2OZE and Nancy Sojka KC2KOS offering assistance.



Clint Soemann N2FMM and Bob Witt WA2IQX look on.



Part of the nice audience that we had at the November club meeting watching the video of the WIVB tower raising. We hope to beat this attendance at the Holiday party.



Greg Young KE2VW during the November program.

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 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 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.

RAWNY Youth Night

On November 9, 2004, the Radio Association of WNY (RAWNY) held their 15th Annual Youth Night. They hosted over 60 boy scouts, leaders and parents.

RAWNY members were joined by members of other local clubs to demonstrate various aspects of radio communications including FM repeaters, HF communications, CW, QRP projects, SWL and utility monitoring, slow scan TV, APRS, kit building, DXing, QSL cards, public service events, EchoLink and traffic handling.

STARS members Judy Levan N2TEZ, Jim Livingston N2SKT and Terry Rockhold K2OO participated. Judy joined with Bob Hamilton N3QOT in representing the NWS and the SKYWARN program. Jim and Terry demonstrated fox hunting (radio direction finding).

See <http://www.pbase.com/k2oo/> for Youth Night photos.

ARRL-National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day is December 4

The sixth annual ARRL-National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) [<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>](http://hamradio.noaa.gov/) event takes place Saturday, December 4. SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers for the vital services they provide during weather-related emergencies. During the 24-hour activity, radio amateurs set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and work as a team to contact other hams around the world.

"Ham radio operators are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service," says Scott Mentzer, N0QE, the event's organizer and the meteorologist-in-charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The dedication these amateurs have shown is inspirational, and their assistance during the year is invaluable."

The 2004 activity gets under way December 4 at 0000 UTC (Friday, December 3, in US time zones) and continues until 2400 UTC. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes also are permitted. Operators will exchange call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of their weather, such as "sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc. Participants in the 2003 SRD logged nearly 19,000 QSOs.

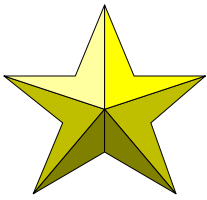
A number of NWS stations will utilize EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project to make contacts during SRD 2004. IRLP reflector node 9219 will be utilized for QSOs with NWS stations and also will be bridged to the EchoLink WX-TALK conference room so that IRLP stations can talk to EchoLink stations using a common point of contact.

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, will utilize IRLP reflector 9219 from 1700 UTC through 2100 UTC during SRD 2004. Net control operators will develop a list of stations to talk to WX4NHC using an online form, similar to the process used during hurricane season. Danny Musten, KD4RAA, kd4raa@voipwx.net has more information about SRD VoIP activities.

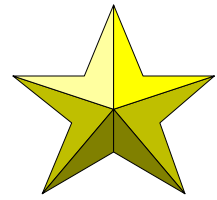
The ARRL Letter 11/20/04

Editor's Note:

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.



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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