

telstar



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

ISSUE 278 FEBRUARY 2005

Hamburg Sno-Fest

The format for the Town of Hamburg's annual Sno-Fest will be changed this year. In past years, the Sno-Fest was a two-day winter festival of events held over a February weekend at the Nike Base. Last year the Sno-Fest was changed to a one-day event.

This year, the various winter indoor and outdoor opportunities of the Sno-Fest are going to be spread out over five days. The timing has been changed to Monday, February 21 to Friday, February 25 to correspond with the Presidents' Week vacation recognized by the local school districts.



The events will include daily public ice skating at the Hamburg Town arena, the annual "Mascot Hockey Game", various hockey skills competitions and contests, a snow sculpture contest, and new outdoor events conducted by the "Nature Adventure" organization.

STARS has traditionally had the club house open on the weekend to participate in the Sno-Fest even though public participation has been limited. This year there will be no events on the weekend, so STARS has decided not to participate in the Sno-fest.



February Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, February 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

The program this month will be on Traffic Handling. STARS Member Anne Fanelli W12G, who has operated for many years as a traffic handling net controller, will tell us about the subject.



Keith Patterson KC2DGC, George Ebert N2NOB and Jim Sojka WB2TJO will also provide additional materials on traffic handling.

Why not come out and visit us? You might also want to see if you could give a ride to one or more hams who may not have a way to get to the meeting.

Don't Let Us Lose You!

Don't get caught snoozing! If you have renewed your 2004 membership, your membership card and repeater codes will be mailed to you mid-February. If you haven't renewed, this will be the last newsletter that you will be receiving.

Why not take time right now to fill out the renewal form included with your last few newsletters and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the February club meeting. If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email or regular mail and if you are an ARRL member.

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!

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.

Staying Active This Winter

First and foremost, the amateur community has once again come to the rescue. I have been reading several web news articles where ham radio operators have been assisting with emergency voice and digital communications after the tsunami disaster in Asia. They have demonstrated the value of our service at the international level. Great job!

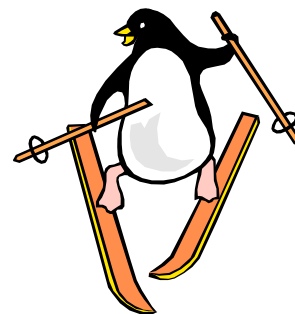
Winter has finally arrived and many of you have had more time to spend on the bands from your home shacks taking advantage of the propagation and quieter band conditions.

Be it rag-chewing on your favorite band, contesting, or working on the shack, amateur radio is a great hobby to past the time during the winter months.

Now that you have that shack just the way you like it, why not share your shack with the membership? Jim Sojka WB2TJO has offered to visit your shack and video tape it for our viewing pleasure. He will also do a video on you mobile setup.

Jim started the program by producing a great video of his shack and antennas which was viewed by the membership at a meeting last year. I'm sure many of you have some nice configurations and great ideas that would benefit our members.

73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President



BARRA Auction

The Annual BARRA Ham Radio & Electronics Auction will be held on Monday, February 21, 2005, at the St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church at Brighton & Fries Roads in Tonawanda, NY (Across from Kenmore East High School).

Doors open at 6:45 PM and the Auction begins at 7:30 PM.

There will be a \$1.00 per person donation. Refreshments will be available. There will be a door prize raffle.

Everyone is invited to buy and sell such things as ham radio gear, scanners, computer equipment, parts, books, CBs, test equipment and more.

For more information, see:

<http://barra.hamgate.net>



The Greater Buffalo "Winter" Hamfest

WNY's Largest Indoor Hamfest - Jam Packed

Sunday March 6th 2005

Prizes *Drawings *Commercial Vendors
*Ham Gear *Electronics *Computers *Fun
All You Can Eat.Pancake Breakfast

**Sellers: Reserve Your Tables "On Line"
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/gbwhf_table_info.htm
or call: 716- 825-7097 (Chuck)
or Email: kc2blh@aol.com

Hamfest Web Site:
<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>

Main Transit Fire Hall
6777 Main St. Williamsville, NY
1/16th mile from Transit Rd (RT 78)

Sponsored by:
Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Emergency Communications

STARS President Keith Patterson KC2DGC has emphasized his desire to provide STARS members with more opportunities to improve their emergency communication skills.

Locally, the Erie County ARES/RACES group works closely with federal, state, and local officials and provides training in emergency communications for local amateur radio operators.



In connection with this, STARS members are encouraged to attend the next monthly meeting for the Erie County ARES/RACES group which will be held at 7:30 PM on February 14 at the Erie County Emergency Services Training and Center in Cheektowaga on Broadway just east of Union Road. The program that night will be Disaster LAN presented by John Adolf, Erie County Emergency Services.

STARS Mini-Flea

At the STARS monthly meeting on March 3, we will be holding a mini-flea in place of the normal program.

So start going through your shacks and homes and identify items that you aren't using and want to turn into cash. Of course, the items don't have to be just amateur radio related.

You should plan on providing your own tables. Best of all, STARS will not be charging anything to get in or to sell your items.

This is not a fund raising venture for the club. It is just for fun!



New BARRA Net Announced

A new weekly on-air net has been started by the BARRA Technical Committee and has already been meeting for a few weeks. Dubbed the "Tech Net" the group meets on the 146.91/444.00/224.82 repeaters every Wednesday evening starting at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg Miller, K2GTM.

The premise of the net is to promote technical discussion regarding amateur radio and electronics in general. Most of the net is occupied by a question and answer format where net members can ask technical questions and hopefully get answers from other stations on the net. If the Q&A portion of the net is short, stations are encouraged to talk about new equipment or projects that they are working on. Greg's also working on creating a website with resources mentioned on the net so people can access the information discussed on previous sessions at a later time along with check-in lists for each week.

The Link - January 2005

STARS VE Exam

STARS VE team held a VE exam on Saturday, January 15, 2005 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hamburg.

One candidate attended and successfully passed his Element 2 - General Class theory exam.

VE's serving at the exam included John Sr. KB2KVC, Scott KB2KOL and Terry K2OO.

STARS VE team's next exam will be held on March 12.



STARS is
an ARRL
Special
Services
Club!

Travel Bug WB2ELW

When we reported on Travel Bug WB2ELW last month, it was in a cache called Pezerific south of Salt Lake City, Utah. See the picture below of some of the 40 plus Pez dispensers that our Travel Bug shared its space with in the cache.

On January 17, 2005, a geocacher group called Chamberlain Boys from Ogden, Utah retrieved the Travel Bug WB2ELW from Pezerific and indicated in their log entry that they planned on taking it to Idaho to help check off another state.

Since beginning its trip on July 4, 2004 in West Seneca, Travel Bug WB2ELW has traveled about 3050 miles.

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 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 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 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.

Special Event Station

Special event station EM60J will be on the air February 4-11 from Ukraine to mark the 60th anniversary of the Yalta Conference.

The historic 1945 talks brought together the "Big Three" Allied leaders--Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Russia's Joseph Stalin--to discuss post-World War II reorganization of Europe. The conference's primary purpose was to re-establish the nations that had been conquered by Nazi Germany, and one result was the partitioning of Germany into US, Russian, British and French zones.

QSL via UU5JYA or direct to PO Box 378, Yalta 98600, Ukraine.--The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>

The ARRL Letter 1/27/05

DXCC Listings Now Available on the ARRL Web Site

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the Web site listing is even more complete than the DXCC Yearbook ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band-accounts for the previous year.

"This will list everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type--band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports. "Under the new system, DXCC listings will updated daily," he emphasized.

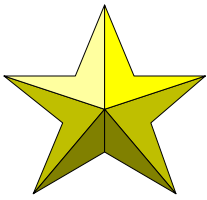
The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type.

Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression. Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper.

The DXCC listings can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/#listings>.

The ARRL Letter 1/27/05





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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k200@bigfoot.com