

# telstar



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

ISSUE 280

APRIL 2005

## Hamfest Season is Near!

With spring arriving (ignore any snow outside, it's just your imagination!), many hams will be thinking about hamfest season. Here is a list of some of the WNY section hamfests coming up this year:

**9 April 2005 Drumlins Hamfest** by the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, at the Marletown Fire House, Silver Hill Road, Newark, NY. <http://www.drumlinsarc.com> Talk-In: 146.745 MHz (no tone). Contact: Irv Walter, WA2SOK, 2881 Macedon Center Road, Lot #57, Palmyra, NY 14522, Phone: 315-597-2192, Email: [wa2sok@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wa2sok@rochester.rr.com)

**7 May 2005 Owego Hamfest** by the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, at the Marvin Park (Tioga County Fairgrounds), Route 17C, Owego, NY. <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/baraa/>. Talk-In: 146.760. Contact: Robert Mess, WS2U, c/o BARA, PO Box 853, Binghamton, NY 13902, Phone: 607-777-6039 (days). Email: [rmess@binghamton.edu](mailto:rmess@binghamton.edu)

**3-5 June 2005 Rochester Hamfest/Computer and Hobby Show** by the Rochester ARA at the Monroe County Fairgrounds & Holiday Inn Rochester South, 2695 East Henrietta Rd. (Fairgrounds), 1111 Jefferson Rd. (Holiday Inn). <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org>. Talk-In: 146.88. Contact: Harold Smith, K2HC, 300 White Spruce Blvd, Rochester, NY 14623, Phone: 585-424-7184, Fax: 585-424-7130, Email: [harold@rochesterhamfest.org](mailto:harold@rochesterhamfest.org)

**16 July 2005 Batavia Hamfest and Computerfest** by the Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM) at the Firemen's Recreation Center, 10708 Route 98, Alexander, NY. <http://>

## April Meeting

This month's STARS club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 7 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.

Our special program this month will be SKYWARN weather spotter training by our own STARS member Judy Levan N2TEZ who is a Senior Forecaster at the Buffalo Office of the National Weather Service (NWS). The basic training session provides a brief overview of the NWS, equipment used and basic severe weather meteorology (including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes form). Attendees will be informed of what types of severe weather the NWS wants to hear about.



To remain on the SKYWARN weather spotter list, you should attend a training session at least every three years.

**Note: Plans are being made right now to set up a special dinner meeting for our normal monthly meeting on May 5. Look for information on the location and time in special e-mail messages that we will be sending out and in the May Telstar.**

[gram.hamgate.net/hamfest.htm](http://gram.hamgate.net/hamfest.htm). Talk-In 146.52. Contact: Rob McLean KC2MHH, 220 West Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020. Phone: 585-343-1347, Fax 585-343-9003, Email: [kc2mhh@bluefrog.com](mailto:kc2mhh@bluefrog.com).

**23 July 2005 Utica Hamfest (RadioCom 2005)** by the Utica Amateur Radio Club, Inc., at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Cemetery Street, Frankfort (Utica), NY. Talk-In: 145.45 (-600) Call K2IQ, Contact: Bob Decker, AA2CU, 4 Forest Road, Utica, NY 13501, Phone: 315-797-

(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 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!



## SKYWARN for STARS

If you missed our last meeting, you missed a pleasant preview of the up-coming Hamfest season. Although we may have not set any records for transactions or sales we did traditionally represent ourselves in such a manner that would have made any Dayton organizer proud.

Every month I always comment about the weather and personally I think planet earth is going through some growing pains lately. Nationally, the state of Florida experienced four major hurricanes last year.

California has gone from firestorms caused by drought to so much rainfall that it's producing massive mud slides. Internationally, devastation caused by the Asian tsunami last December reached a death toll of over 250,000.

Recently, Indonesia experienced an earthquake which sent the population to higher ground fearing another tsunami. Locally, with spring fast approaching, so too are thunder storms and maybe tornados.



Weather and amateur radio go hand in hand. We use it in our QSO reporting, rely on it during band openings, install elaborate weather stations to monitor from our shack, and report severe weather conditions to the National Weather Service on SKYWARN networks. Most importantly, amateur radio operators are mobilized to the most severely devastated areas.

We are very fortunate to have Judy Levan N2TEZ as STARS member, STARS Financial Secretary, and a career meteorologist with the local National Weather Service. She and her NWS staff also have an excellent program on SKYWARN which will be presented at our April meeting. Although many of you have attended this program in the past I encourage you to come as a refresher course.

So ask yourself if you are up to speed on understanding severe weather conditions. It could make a difference in saving the lives of your family, friends, and neighbors.

## 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.

73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC  
STARS President

# Soccer Tournament Communications

BARRA, the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, has been asked to provide communications at the annual Amherst International Memorial (AIM) Soccer Tournament, Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, 2005. The primary duty of each volunteer will be to report the results of soccer matches held at four different venues to the net control station at the fifth venue. The results from each match will be used to determine other matches throughout the weekend. The tournament begins at 8 AM each day, with the last games ending around 8 PM each day. There will be many matches taking place throughout the day at each site.



A tent and table will be provided at each location for the use of the ham volunteer and the tournament field marshal, from whom we will get the results to report. We will use 146.91/444.00. Any emergencies will be handled by cellular telephone calls to 911 by tournament officials. Previously event organizers relied on cellular telephones donated by various cell phone providers, but that resource has dried up in the wake of cutbacks in the general business climate, and we are told it was less than a reliable source anyway because folks entrusted with the phones would forget to charge them, forget to hand them over to the next person, etc. leaving tournament officials with no way of contacting a field quickly.

Below are listed the match sites, and again the tournament runs from 8 AM to 8 PM each day. All slots will be filled on a first-come basis, so if you have preferred time and/or location it is best to contact me ASAP. As little or as much time as you can spare that weekend will be welcome and appreciated. We are hoping to have someone from the tournament staff to come speak with BARRA and event volunteers at our next general meeting on Monday, April 18th.

Soccer Tournament Sites, all located in the Town of Amherst:

-- North French soccer field is the HQ/Net control location where I and other net control ops will be all day, both days.

The other four sites are:

- Williamsville North HS, corner of Hopkins & Dodge Rds.
- Sweet Home Middle School, Maple Rd nr. Sweet Home.
- Maple East Elementary School, Maple Rd nr. Youngs
- ECC North Campus, Main St & Youngs Rd.

Please contact me if you are able to help at all with this public service event. It is a perfect event for one to get their feet wet in a public service activity.

Thanks es 73,

Doug, KA2WFT  
BARRA VP  
[ka2wft@arrl.net](mailto:ka2wft@arrl.net)

(716) 834-2664 eves. and weekends

## RAWNY Flea Market

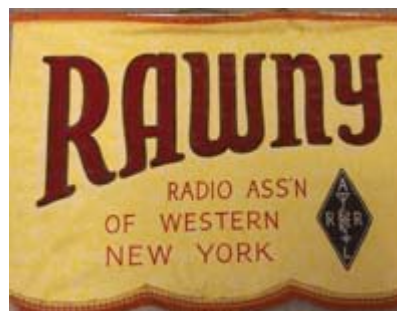
The Radio Association of Western New York (RAWNY) will be holding their Seventh Annual RAWNY Flea Market on Tuesday, April 12th, at the Church of the Nativity, on the corner of Thorncliff Road. and Colvin Blvd one block north of Sheridan Drive, in Tonawanda, NY.

Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

There is a \$1.00 donation which enters you into the drawing for door prizes.

Refreshments will be available. Your first coffee is on the club.

Tables for selling items are limited and are available for \$4.00 for a 6 foot table and \$5.00 for an 8 foot table. Call Kevin WA2FKV at 693-3917 days or 834-3042 nights or email [wa2fkv@arrl.net](mailto:wa2fkv@arrl.net).



## FCC To Update Third-Party Traffic List to Include All UK Stations:

The FCC is expected to soon update its Web site listing of countries with which US Amateur Radio Service licensees may exchange third-party traffic (ie, messages on behalf of a party other than the control operator). The updated list will include all amateur stations in the United Kingdom (the UK, the Channel Islands, including Guernsey and Jersey, Great Britain, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland). The change is already effective. Section 97.115 of the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules regulates communications from a station's control operator (first party) to another amateur station's control operator (second party) on behalf of another person (third party). No FCC-regulated amateur station may transmit messages for a third party to any amateur station located within the jurisdiction of any foreign government not on the FCC list or whose administration has not made specific arrangements with the US to allow amateur stations to transmit international communications on behalf of third parties. The prohibition regarding third-party traffic does not apply to messages for any third party who is eligible to be the control operator of the station. The FCC list of countries that have third-party agreements with the US is on the FCC Web site <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/about/intoperating.html>>.

The ARRL Letter 4/2/05

## VE Session

The STARS VE team held an exam session on Saturday, March 12 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hamburg.

Three candidates showed up for testing, and all three qualified for new Technician class licenses.

VE's who assisted with the testing were John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC, Scott Barto KB2KOL, Rich Budzynski KI2X and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

The next STARS VE team session will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 14 at the Grace Lutheran Church at the corner of McKinley Parkway and Newton Road. For information, or to pre-register, call Terry K2OO at 656-0865.



## Travel Bug WB2ELW

Officially, Travel Bug WB2ELW is still where we left it last month, in a cache named Malad Overlook near Malad City in southern Idaho. However, there is an entry on the cache log indicating that a geocacher picked up an unnamed travel bug on March 5. Another visitor to the cache on March 19 indicated that there were no travel bugs in the cache. So hopefully the unnamed travel bug picked up on March 5 was Travel Bug WB2ELW, and it may be showing up in another cache 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."

## Ham-In-A-Day Technician Class Offered

Ham-In-A-Day, an amateur radio licensing session, will be offered from 8 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, April 9th, in the Hall R. Clothier Bldg. B09 Auditorium, in Mayville, NY.

This session is an alternate method to earn an Amateur Radio Technician license without going to a ten-week evening class.

Pre-registration is required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed study materials. There is no instruction fee, but a \$14 fee for the VE test will be taken at the end of the day.

For more information, call Terry Lindberg K2TAL at (716) 484-1486.

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
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 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 Joe Gearhart WV2NY at 892-2760 or e-mail him at wv2ny@adelphia.net. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 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.

## Hamfest Season is Near!

*(Continued from page 1)*

6614, Email: tbd2626@yahoo.com

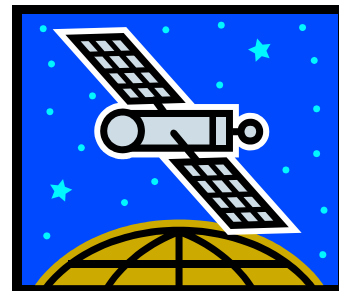
**6-7 August 2005 WNY Section Convention/Greater Buffalo Hamfest** by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club at Main Transit Firemen's Grounds, 6777 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. <http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>. Talk-In: 147.255 (+600 PL 107.2). Contact: Luke Calianno N2GDU, 1105 Ransom Rd., Lancaster NY 14086. Phone: 716-634-4667, Email: luke@towncountryflorist.com.

**24 September 2005 Elmira International Hamfest/Computerfest** by the Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier at Chemung County Fairgrounds, Fairview Road, Horseheads, NY. <http://www.arast.org/hamfest.shtml>. Talk-In: 147.360 (+600). Contact: Kenneth Kent, KA2LIM, 516 Pine Valley Road, Pine Valley, NY 14782. Phone: 607-739-7305, Email: ka2lim@arast.org.

## Upping the ARISS Ante

International Space Station Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, has decided to double up on the number of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group QSOs during his remaining two weeks of operation from NA1SS. ARRL Field & Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, says Chiao has enjoyed speaking via ham radio with students on Earth during his ISS duty tour.

"Sparking youth interest in science and technology is quite high on the list of what's important to astronauts and to NASA," she said, noting that NASA's Education Office has been strongly supporting Amateur Radio in space for more than a



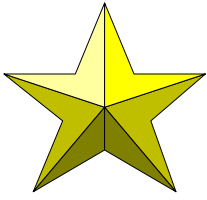
decade. Since Expedition 10 began last October, Chiao has logged 19 ARISS school group contacts. During a direct contact March 29 between NA1SS and W5NGU, the astronaut spoke with youngsters at the Science Discovery Center in Denton, Texas.

White said successfully putting together the many pieces of an ARISS school-group QSO is tricky at the eleventh hour. To accommodate the change, ARISS moved up a scheduled QSO for a school in Zurich whose volunteers are well-prepared. For the second extra slot, ARISS scrambled to make arrangements with a NASA Explorer School from which a teacher interested in using ham radio in class had submitted an ARISS application. For this QSO--with Flory Academy of Sciences and Technology, in Moorpark, California, ARISS plans to employ a combination of Amateur Radio and teleconferencing rather than attempt to set up a direct QSO.

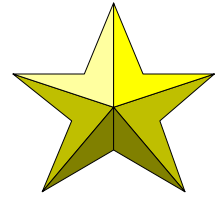
Arriving later this month, the next crew increment, Expedition 11, will put two hams aboard the ISS--US Astronaut John Phillips, KE5DRY, and Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. Krikalev, who will be Expedition 11 crew commander, will be doing his second tour of duty aboard the ISS. He served as flight engineer on the very first ISS crew and served aboard the Russian Mir space station in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> is an international educational outreach with US support from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

The ARRL Letter 4/2/05



# 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

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