
telstar



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

ISSUE 286 OCTOBER 2005

Keeping STARS a Solid Organization

Although we have experienced the same growing pains that all clubs have endured over recent years STARS is still one of the largest and strongest amateur radio clubs in western New York. We are also entering a new era whereby the services we can provide are gaining the attention of local emergency preparedness departments. It is essential that we remain a solid organization and prepare for a new future.

September was a busy month for amateur radio. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have left most of the gulf coast in complete devastation. As recovery efforts got underway amateur radio played a major roll organizing emergency communications in and out of the region. This brought the attention of media and the government at all levels. Because of this local government agencies are taking a serious look at the amateur club community and the services they can provide under an Emergency Disaster Preparedness Plan.

Hurricanes, as with any national disaster, are never a good thing but each time the amateur community was involved it was worth more public awareness than any event we participate in during the year. Most of my Telstar articles have dealt with topics about training and preparing as a club to support a local Emergency Disaster Preparedness Plan because it's the wave of the future for amateur radio clubs. We are closer to that goal now more than ever and we must remain a solid organization in to the future.

The October nomination of officers meeting is the most important meeting of the year. This meeting guarantees our club's fundamental governing structure for 2006. Many of your existing board members have preformed their duties faithfully for multiple terms so it's understandable that these individuals deserve time off from these positions. What makes a club a solid organization is its ability to fill

October Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 6 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 2006 club officers.

Nike Base Work Party/Clean-up Day

STARS will be holding their annual Nike Base work party/clean-up day on Saturday, October 15, beginning around 9 AM. All interested volunteers should contact Scott Barto KB2KOL at the next club meeting, via e-mail at bart0977@adelphia.net, or by cell phone at 435-9954. We will be doing general maintenance, cleaning, organization, antenna work and electrical work. We need volunteers at all ability levels.



positions with new people and new ideas.

We have seen and increase in national disasters over the last few years and this trend will probably continue. As we prepare to enter this new era I sincerely call upon the membership to search your heart and consider playing a roll in a new future as an officer of the South Towns Amateur Radio Society. You all have what it takes and STARS needs you, your local government needs you, and your local communities need you.

73, Keith Patterson KG2DGC
STARS President

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.

STARS 2006 Club Officer Elections

Nominations for STARS 2006 club officers will be held at the October club meeting on October 6. Elections for these offices will then be held at the November club meeting on November 3.



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 3, 2005. (N2TEZ suggests Oct. 24 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

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.

(Continued on page 5)

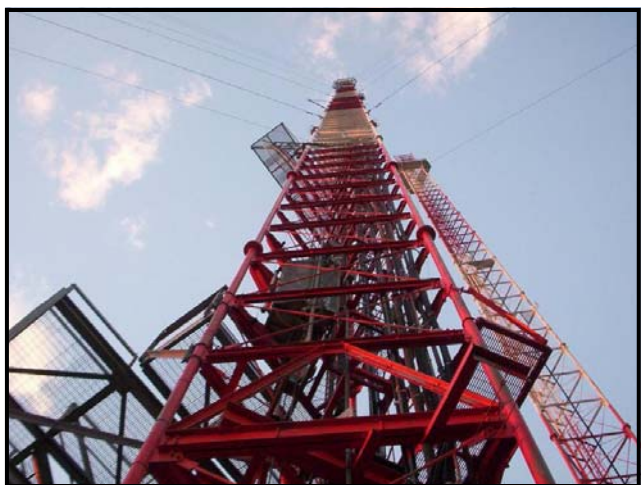
Channel 4 Transmitter Site Photos

STARS September meeting on September 8 was held at the Channel 4 Transmitter Site between Colden and Holland. This site is also the home for the STARS WB2ELW 147.090 MHz repeater. Clint Soemann N2FMM was the host representing Channel 4 and took the visitors on a guided tour of the site. The guests also enjoyed a mini-cookout with hot dogs and hamburgers. The weather was great and everyone had a great time. These and other photos may be viewed and downloaded at: www.pbse.com/k2oo. Additional photos are on page 4.



Additional Channel 4 Transmitter Site Photos

The photos below were shot by STARS member Rick Feist KB2TDU. These and others can be viewed at: www.flickr.com/photos/rickfeist. The WB2ELW repeater antenna is shown in the first photo and is the taller antenna on the microwave tower on the right.



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 1 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.

Fossil collecting will be available (free for HNHS members; non-member adults, \$5; children, \$4). Free rock drilling and coring demonstrations at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. View sunspots and solar flares through telescopes with filtered lenses. Gold panning exhibit and demonstrations. Games, crafts, raffles and much more.



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.	KB2VVC
Director	Jim Sojka	WB2TJO
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions on 11/12/05, 1/14/06, 3/11/06, 5/13/06 and 7/8/06 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 Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on the first Saturday in the month (except when falling on a holiday weekend, when they will be on the second Saturday) starting promptly at 10 AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration is highly recommended.. For information on or to pre-register for ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 or e-mail k2yw@hotmail.com.

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.

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Election

Running for the ARRL Atlantic Division Director position will be William C. Edgar N3LLR and Scott C. Bauer W2LC. The current Director, Bernie Fuller N3EFN is not seeking reelection. This job is important to local hams as the winner will be our voting member of ARRL board decisions.

Both candidates are familiar to many local hams. Bill Edgar is the current ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director and is a former STARS member. Scott Bauer is the current Western New York Section Manager.

Given available space, we will have candidate statements in next month's newsletter. Ballots will be mailed to ARRL members Oct. 1 and are to be returned by Nov. 18.

STARS 2006 Elections

(Continued from page 2)

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.

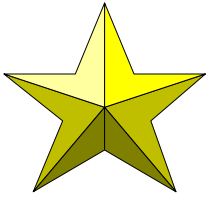
Absentee ballots will consist of a mailing envelope, and an unlabeled inner envelope containing a voting slip. The voting slip is identical to those used for voting in person at the meeting. Another pre-addressed return mailing envelope will be included in the package. For positive identification, it 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.

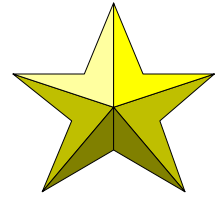
VE Exam

STARS VE team held a VE exam on Saturday, September 17 at the Grace Lutheran Church. Three candidates tested for new licenses or upgrades. One candidate passed his Technician class exam, making him the third (and oldest) generation of hams in his family. Another candidate took the big step of earning his Amateur Extra class license.

VE's serving at the exam included Scott Barto KB2KOL, Rich Budzynski KI2X and Terry Rockhold K2OO.



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