

telstar



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

ISSUE 290 FEBRUARY 2006

New STARS Club Website

STARS Internet website at www.wb2elw.com now has a new look. Marc Fruth N2UBT, STARS Webmaster, has been working hard behind the scenes to make our website more dynamic and modern. The new website will allow STARS officers, directors and other authorized members to post club event notices, announcements, files & forms, links to other amateur radio websites, etc. without requiring the assistance of the webmaster.



Of course, you can still see and download the Telstar there in both a full color and graphical format (2000 to current) and in a plain text format (1997 to current). There is also information there on our club HF station, repeaters, VE exams, membership, meetings, etc.

Thanks Marc for all of your hard work!

Don't Let Us Lose You!

Don't get caught snoozing! If you don't renew your 2006 membership, 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 this newsletter 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.

February Meeting

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

Before and after the business meeting, 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. It is just for fun!



Above: Joe Gearhart WV2NY (left) shows his Buddipole portable dipole antenna system to Keith Patterson KC2DGC, John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Bob Koster KA2WYE and Ken Pokigo KC2AYK at STARS January meeting.

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!



From the President

I am happy to report that 2006 seems to be starting out very well. Our January meeting had a very educational program about antennas including the Buddipole and Outbacker systems. Also our membership renewals are about where they were last year at this time. Hopefully we will get all of our past members to renew their memberships. All parts of our repeater system also seem to be working well, and I have some ideas for some minor upgrades.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see done by the club this year, please call me or drop me an email with your suggestions.

I did attend a WNY emergency services training session last month. I will try to get some extra training for our membership in the near future if there is enough interest. Most of this training is free or available on the World Wide Web from FEMA. If you the membership see something you think we should cover as part of Amateur Radio emergency preparedness, again call or email me.

The following on-air events in February can be used as training. Think of the contests as a practice emergency drill. You exchange information just like in a real emergency. Give it a try you may enjoy it.

2/5 North American Phone Sprint

2/11-12 CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest

2/12 North American CW Sprint

2/13-17 School Club Round-up

2/18-19 ARRL International DX Contest CW

2/25-26 CQ WW 160m SSB Contest

2/25-26 North American QSP Party - RTTY

Catch you all on the Air.

73's

Bob (KA2WYE) Koster
KA2WYE@ARRL.NET



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. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.

GRAM Winter Hamfest

Genesee Radio Amateurs, Inc. (GRAM) is holding their 1st Annual Winter Hamfest on Saturday, February 11 at St. Mary's R.C. Church, 18 Ellicott Street (Rt. 63 South & Evans), Batavia, NY 14020 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with setup starting at 6:00 AM. Handicap and vendors should use the entrance next to the Ponderosa.

Talk-in will be on 147.285 MHz (+600) (PL 141.3 Hz). Admission will be \$5.00 with under 12, free. Tables will also be \$5.00. All reservations should be paid in advance. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Breakfast and lunch will be served. The K1CRA Radio Store from Orchard Park, NY will be there along with several local vendors.

For more information, contact:

Chairperson Alice Tyler KC2OKL at bluebird1956@yahoo.com, Co-chairperson RobRoy McLean KC2MHH at kc2mhh@verizon.net, or Committee Person Joe DeFazio W2DIG at w2dig2@bluefrog.com or at (585) 343-1145.



New York Guard Amateur Radio Training

Soldiers in the New York Guard were impressed by the power of amateur radio communications this past May while supporting EchoTaps in the Elmira/Corning area.

Denis Uminski N2HP from Kenmore, NY is a Major in the New York Guard as well as being an Extra class amateur radio operator. Denis is heading up a project to obtain amateur radio training for some of the soldiers so that they may obtain their Technician class licenses.



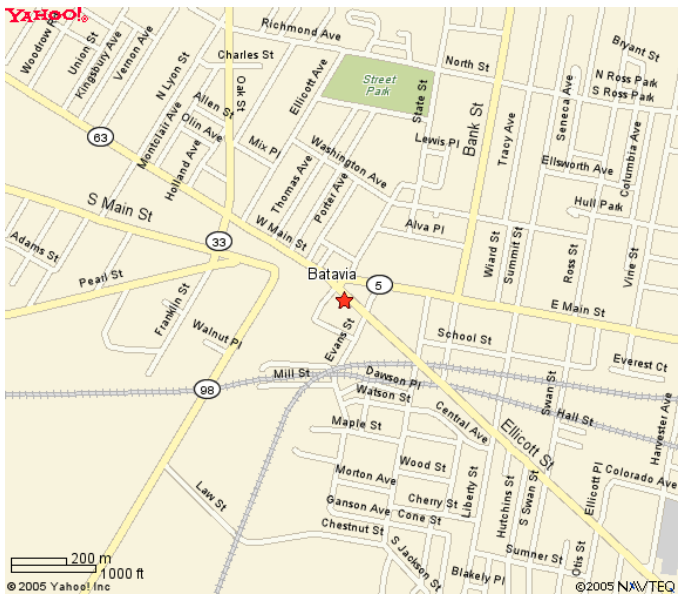
During a weekend training session in January of 2006, Denis presented many of the basic concepts such as FCC rules and regulations, propagation, good operating procedures, basic electronic and circuits, antennas, vhf/uhf operations, safety procedures, etc.

On February 11, the soldiers will be participating in a guided self-study session at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo. After spending the day studying the Technician class question pool, they will be taking their Technician class exams at a VE exam session which will be given by members of the STARS, LARC and ARATS VE teams.

This exam session will also be held at the Connecticut Street Armory and will begin at 4 PM on February 11.



While primarily being held for the soldiers, the exam will be open to the public. Pre-registration for this exam session will be required by Tuesday, February 7; no walk-ins will be allowed. To pre-register, or for more information, contact Terry Rockhold K200 at (716) 656-0865 or e-mail him at k200@bigfoot.com.



Map for GRAM Winter Hamfest. Red star marks location of St. Mary's R.C. Church, 18 Ellicott St. (Rt. 63 & Evans), Batavia, NY 14020.

ARRL Atlantic Division 2006 Awards Nominations

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it.

Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others?

Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director.

The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards.

Nominations must come from within the Atlantic Division. The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service.

He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code."

In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest

dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self.

Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

The nomination period closes March 18, 2006 for this nomination.

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To display the award nomination form, go to the web site

<http://www.atldiv.org/AwardNominationForm.htm>

Then send the form to your printer or save it to disk. If you can not get the form via the web, feel free to send a request to:

Tom Abernethy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director
PO Box 73
Accokeek, MD 20607

73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR
Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director

STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions on 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.

SuitSat-1 Launch Near

During a Feb. 3 space walk on the International Space Station (ISS), SuitSat-1 will be hand launched. SuitSat-1 consists of a surplus Russian *Orlan* space suit converted into a transmit-only satellite with an FM downlink frequency of 145.990 MHz. Using the call sign RS0RS, it will transmit voice messages, telemetry and an SSTV image on a nine-minute cycle. Its signal is expected to be strong enough to be heard with a VHF transceiver or scanner and a simple antenna. The batteries powering the transmitter are expected to last one week. More information on the SuitSat Project can be found in an article entitled "This Is SuitSat-1 RS0RS!!!" The article can be found on AMSAT's website at:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>

New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new question pool for Technician class examinations given on and after July 1, 2006 and will be valid until June 30, 2010.

There are 396 questions in the new question pool for the selection of 35 questions for license examinations. The existing Technician class question pool which became effective July 1, 2003 will expire on June 30, 2006.



The new question pool seems to delete some of the more out-of-date questions from the existing pool and to add questions on some of the newer technologies such as digital modes, EchoLink, IRLP, etc.

Copies of the new question pool can be downloaded in several formats. See the article in the NCVEC News at: www.ncvec.org.

BARRA Auction

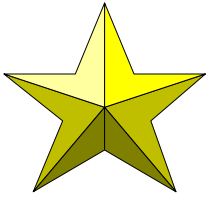
The Annual BARRA Ham Radio & Electronics Auction will be held on Monday, February 20, 2006, at the St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church at Brighton & Fries Roads in Tonawanda, NY (Across from Kenmore East High School). Doors open at 6:45 PM and the Auction begins at 7:30 PM.

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 & test equipment and more.



For more information, see:

<http://barra.hamgate.net>



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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