

# telstar



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

ISSUE 293 MAY 2006

## SuitSat-1 Still in Orbit

Tossed into orbit three months ago from the International Space Station, SuitSat-1 continues to orbit Earth--although its batteries are long since dead,

Spaceweather.com reported this week that skywatcher Kevin Fetter videotaped SuitSat-1 as it passed over his Brockville, Ontario, Canada, home (the bright star in the movie is Vega)  
<<http://science.nasa.gov/spaceweather/swpod2006/27apr06/fetter.wmv>>.

A spare Russian Orlan spacesuit equipped with a voice transmitter, slow-scan TV system, voice recordings and various sensors, SuitSat-1 was the brainchild of the Russian Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team.

From the outset, radio signals from the unusual satellite were very weak due to an undetermined problem. Even so, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks,

**SuitSat-1 slowly drifts away from the ISS after being hand-launched. Note the antenna which was added to the helmet of the suit.**



## May Meeting

This month's STARS club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 4 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

easily outlasting initial predictions that it would only transmit for about one week. The last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio was on February 18.

Calling the project "tremendously successful," ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says SuitSat-1 captured the imagination of people around the world, despite its much-lower-than-expected signal strength. Eventually, SuitSat-1 will sink into Earth's atmosphere and disintegrate in a flash of fire. **Another surplus Orlan suit remains aboard the ISS, so SuitSat-2 could be in the offing.**

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# 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!

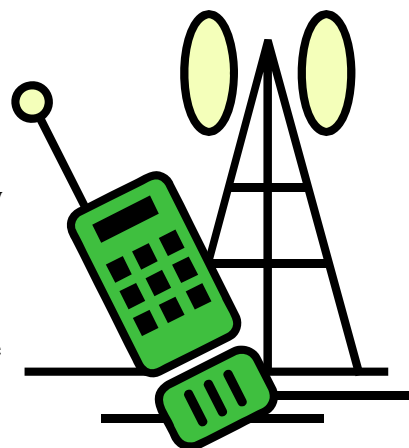


# From Your President

Here it is May already and the talk on the air is that antenna season is finally here. So let's hope that the weather holds out, and we can all get some new antennas in the air and repair or replace the old ones.

Also with May brings the Dayton Hamvention, and then first week in June is the Rochester Hamfest. So you might want to make plans to attend one or both of these events. I may be going to Dayton this year and most likely I will be going to Rochester.

The program for the May meeting will be the NWS SKYWARN Spotter Training by Judy Levan N2TEZ



On the air and other ARRL events this month are

- 14 National EMS Week
- 19-21 Dayton Hamvention
- 22 McGan Award deadline
- 22 Hurricane Awareness Week
- 27-28 CQ WW WPX CW Contest

I hope to see all of you at the May 4th meeting

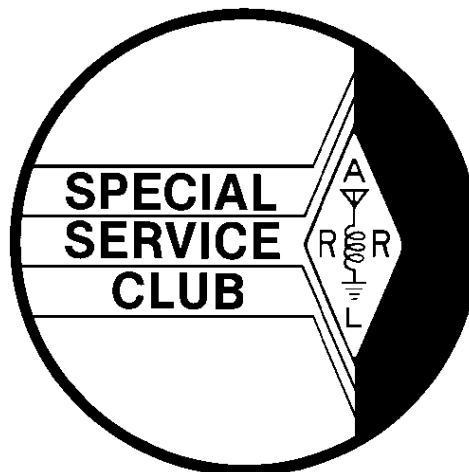
73's

Bob (KA2WYE) Koster  
STARS President

# Club Net

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

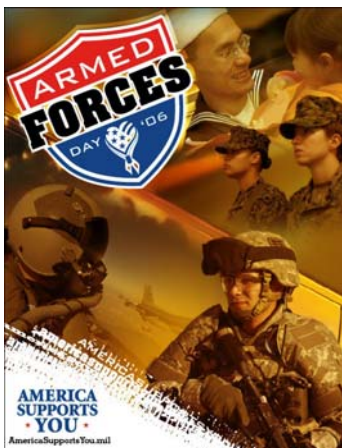
STARS WB2EZX Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.



## Armed Forces Day 2006 Military/Amateur Activities Set

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will cosponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio communications tests Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14 t56th Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 20, the Armed Forces Day on-the-air activities will take place earlier, to avoid conflicts with those who might be attending Dayton Hamvention, May 19-21.

The annual activity features traditional military-to-amateur crossband (ie, hams transmit on amateur frequencies and receive military stations on nearby military channels) SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense's annual Armed Forces Day message via digital modes (RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31 and MT63).



"These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise," the US Armed Forces Day announcement says.

QSL cards will be provided to those making contact with military stations. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to those receiving and copying without error the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

The tentative schedule of on-the-air events--including a list of participating stations, the Secretary of Defense's message transmission schedule and more information--is available on the US Army MARS Web site

<[http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20\(2006\).doc](http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20(2006).doc)>.

The schedule is subject to change without notice.

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## New Question Pool Schedule

Technician class (Element 2) Pool released January 23, 2006 and updated February 6, 2006, will take effective July 1, 2006.

The current Technician Pool is valid until midnight June 30, 2006.

General class (Element 3) will be released December 1, 2006 and will become effective July 1, 2007.

The current General Pool will now be valid until June 30, 2007.

Extra class (Element 4) will be released December 1, 2007 and will become effective July 1, 2008.

The current Extra Pool will now be valid until June 30, 2008.

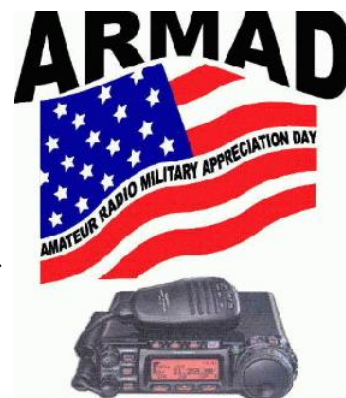
The current Question Pools can be viewed or printed from the ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>.

## ARMAD

Amateur Radio will be included in the April 30, 2006 issue of Parade Magazine. Parade Magazine is a pullout in most Sunday Newspapers nation wide.

National Military Appreciation Month has selected Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day as one of the focus events for this years article describing events during the Month of May that honors and support those that serve in the Military.

This is a great public relations boost for our hobby. Please be sure to tell your friends and family members about Amateur Radio coverage.



**HAM IT UP FOR THE TROOPS**

ARMAD is an event that allows the public to share LIVE messages of support to those who serve in the military, Retiree's, and Veterans. The event takes place on the Saturday of Memorial DAY weekend. This year it falls on May 27, 2006. Read more about it at: <http://www.armad.net/>.

# Dayton Hamvention® 2006

The Dayton Hamvention® 2006 will be held on May 19-21, 2006 at Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Trotwood, OH. For you GPS buffs, the arena is at: N39°49.307' W84°15.422'.

The Hamvention® 2006 is the world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show. They have 500 inside exhibit spaces and a 2500+ space outdoor vendor area.

Some of the major exhibitors include AES, the ARRL, American National Red Cross, Ameritron, AMSAT, AOR USA, Batteries America, Bencher Inc., Bird Technologies Group, Cushcraft, Diamond Antenna, Down East Microwave, Elecraft, Ham Radio Outlet, The Ham Station, Heil Sound Ltd., Hy-Gain, ICOM America Inc., Kanga US, K1CRA Radio Store, Kenwood USA, MFJ Enterprises, National Weather Service, R & L Electronics, Mirage Communications, Peet Bros., Radio Shack, Radio Works, SGC Inc., SteppIR Antennas, TAPR, Ten-Tec Inc., Tower Electronics, The Vibroplex Company, WB0W Inc., West Mountain Radio, Winradio Communications, The Wire Man, Yaesu (Vertex Standard) and many more.



There will be a multitude of forums presented including ones for Red Cross, TAPR/Digital, QRP, 10-10 International, Kit Building, Gordon West, ARES, YLRL, BPL, County Hunters, AMSAT, ATV, SSTV, FCC, VHF/UHF Microwave, ARRL, Fox Hunting, Contesting, DXing, Public Relations, Software Defined Radio, Bicycle Mobile Hams, Disaster and Ham Radio, Antenna Design, MARS, SKYWARN, etc.

The ARRL EXPO exhibits area will also be held at the site. This is a great chance to meet top ARRL officials and learn about ARRL departments and activities. Don't forget to pick up your ARRL Passport to qualify for some great prizes.

Speaking of prizes, there will be a total of more than \$50,000 of prizes given away at the Hamvention® 2006.

For more information, see <http://www.hamvention.org/>.

## Dayton Live Streaming Video

For the fourth year in a row, Tom Medlin WA5KUB will broadcast live streaming video of his 550 mile drive from Memphis, TN to the Dayton Hamvention® starting around 9 AM EST on May 17, 2006.

Once there, he will continue streaming the video for the 3 days of the event from the outside fleamarket. He will even use a helmet cam to show what he is looking at. Check him out at fleamarket spaces 3350-3351.



On Sunday around 1:30 PM EST he will begin the trip home.

For more information and to see the streaming video, go to <http://wa5kub.com>.

## 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.	KB2VVC
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions on 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.

## Non-deliverable Card Remains in "QSL Limbo" for 50 Years

George Hitz, W1DA, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, can finally account for one of his QSL cards--one he sent in 1956. While a newly licensed teenager living in DeLand, Florida, Hitz, then KN4GPI, fired up his Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter and made contact with Dave, KN6MSI, on 40 meters. Like a good operator, Hitz sent off a QSL card, addressed only to "Amateur Radio--KN6MSI, Chief Op Dave, Address Unknown, Riverdale, Calif." This turned out to be David Leaven, later WI6J, who became a Silent Key in 2003.

"I was 14, and like me, Dave was a new ham, and he wasn't in the call book," Hitz told ARRL. "I hoped there would be someone at the Riverdale post office that would know who Dave was, and it would get to him." But Hitz made one mistake: he addressed the card to Riverdale instead of to Dave's actual QTH, Riverside. That simple error left the card sitting in QSL limbo from 1956 until now.

"In 1956, I was just a Novice operator with a primitive station and even more primitive operating skills," Hitz explained. "Back then, with my radio built from a kit and my BC-348 World War II Army Air Corps surplus receiver and a 60-foot long wire antenna that was 15 feet high, California, was like a whole other country. And I needed that California QSL!"

Hitz had put a return address on his card, but for reasons perhaps best known to the US Postal Service, it finally was returned to his former Florida address in early April. It turned up in the mailbox of Mack McCormick, a nonham now living in Hitz's childhood home.

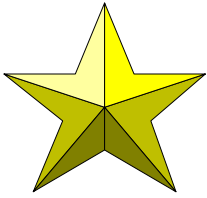
"The card apparently has been in the 'Twilight Zone' for 50 years," McCormick said. "It's not wrinkled or anything."

McCormick offered to return the card to Hitz, but Hitz declined. "What would I do with it?" he said. "I understand the guy who found it is going to frame it and place it on his coffee table!"

The story of the long-lost QSL card received worldwide attention. "The press has run wild with this," Hitz said. "I heard this story has been in newspapers in India, Iceland, Ireland--all over the world, over 100 countries! It's almost like I could have DXCC from all the countries that have reported it."

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# 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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