

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 302

FEBRUARY 2007

FCC SUSPENDS NEW VANITY CALL SIGN PROCESSING

The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign. The FCC is still processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

As revised in the FCC's recent Report and Order, if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. "Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted," the rule concludes. The FCC says that when processing resumes, it will handle pending applications for new vanity call signs "consistent with the date order in which they were received."

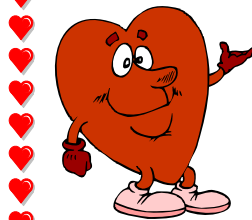
This suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted December 18 or later. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied. The FCC granted the last Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15.

All vanity call sign renewal applications, including those for club stations, must be filed via the ULS. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20 with the current vanity call sign fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

- The ARRL News

February Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Avenues). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Bob Koster KA2WYE will be talking about go-kits. Do you have one?

We look forward to seeing you there!

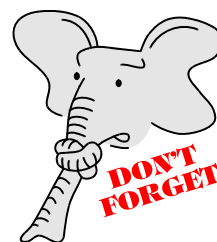
What did you get with your Telstar this month?

If you received a roster, repeater codes and membership card with your Telstar this month...

Thanks for renewing!

If you received a renewal application with your Telstar...

It means you haven't renewed yet, and unless you do, this will be your last Telstar! Please don't let that happen....we'd miss you.



Send the completed application along with your dues check made payable to STARS to:

Judy Levan N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043-2874

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well it certainly was an interesting Holiday season for most of us, with no snow on the ground we had a very wet and green Christmas.

I hope this has given every one extra time to get prepared for a possible midwinter lake effect blizzard, of which we all know can happen. It might be time now to think about getting involved with Public Service Events or ARES/RACES training. Let's not forget that public service is a part of our civic duty as Hams. If any of you have something that you want presented to the club, please feel free to contact any of the Board members or myself with your ideas.

As your President, I will be attending many local club events and hamfests and will continue to promote STARS as a dynamic club that people will want to join and get involved with. I am here to serve the club and you the membership, so let me hear from you all. See you at the February 1st meeting.

-Bob (KA2WYE) Koster

Visit STARS on the web at
www.wb2elw.com

Looking for something to do on a Sunday morning?

Don't forget that STARS co-sponsors (along with WB2JPQ) the RagChew Net on Sunday mornings at 9:30 on 28.380!



STARS has been
designated a Special
Service Club by the
ARRL.

CALIFORNIA RADIO AMATEUR HAS ROLE IN RESCUE AT SEA

A radio amateur from California played a significant part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch Privateer was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, Polar Pesca 1, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiancée, Cathy Chambers, offering to see if he could make radio contact with Chile.

"She mentioned that the satellite telephone was dying on him over there, so their communication was 30 to 60 seconds at a time," Morales recounted. "I was lucky enough, I got in touch with some of the Charlie Echo [CE-prefix] stations until I got to someone in Punta Arenas, and then Polar Pesca, the vessel that did the rescue." Morales speaks fluent Spanish and has visited Chile and knew "the way things operate down there." As a result, he says, he was able to obtain credible reports via his 10-meter contacts as to what was happening.

Morales said he gathered information from the Polar Pesca 1 via his Chilean ham radio contacts. "I . . . relayed information as to when he [Barnes] was going to be rescued, the latitude and longitude he was at that particular time." Morales said he felt it was important for the family to know Barnes's situation and how the rescue plans were playing out.

Barnes, who's 47, left Long Beach, California, late last October, hoping to be the first person to sail around the world from the West Coast. A severe storm dismasted and badly damaged the vessel and soaked his supplies.

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February Contests

North American Sprint -- CW, from 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11. Frequencies (MHz): 3.540, 7.040, 14.040. Logs due 7 days after the contest via www.ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit.php or cwsprint@ncjweb.com

School Club Roundup -- all modes, 1300Z Feb 12-2400Z Feb 16. CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest -- sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Feb 10 to 2400Z Feb 11. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO (LP, HP), SOSB, MS, M2, MM, Rookie (licensed <3 years). For more information: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.

FISTS CW Winter Sprint -- CW, sponsored by FISTS International CW Club from 1700Z until 2100Z Feb 10. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work US/VE stations. Categories: SO, SO-QRP, Club. For more information: www.FISTS.org.

[ARRL International DX Contest](http://www.arrl.org/contests), CW, 0000Z Feb 17-2400Z Feb 18. See www.arrl.org/contests

North American QSO Party-RTTY, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Feb 24-0600Z Feb 25. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and M2, 100 W power limit, SO operate a maximum of 10 hours (off times must be at least 30 min). Preferred log submission method is via upload form found at: www.ncjweb.com/nagplogsubmit.php. For information: www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php.

February Special Events

Feb 12-Feb 16, 1400Z-2100Z, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday. 28.430 21.350 14.240 7.230. Certificate. FMARC, PO Box 061183, Ft Myers, FL 33906. stellagurka@earthlink.net

Feb 17, 1700Z-2100Z, Interlachen, FL. Putnam County Amateur Radio Club, W4SA. Hazardous Weather Awareness Week. 28.350 14.255 7.263 146.52. QSL. Putnam County Amateur Radio Club, Box 1447, Interlachen, FL 32148. w4sa.pcarc@yahoo.com

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 downloaded from the club website or obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

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 \$15.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month plus the \$5 initiation fee).

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and 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 KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

Feb 17-Feb 18, 1500Z-2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemorate George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com

Feb 28, 1500Z-2230Z, Baton Rouge, LA. USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, W5KID. Sixty-fourth anniversary of the launching of USS Kidd, DD-661. SSB 14.250 to 14.320 CW 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS Kidd Museum, 305 South River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm

Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Beginning on that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked, at least from a regulatory standpoint. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, all Technicians will have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

On or after February 23, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is not automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges." Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

HAMFEST SEASON BEGINS!

February 17, 2007

GRAM Winter HamFest and Computer Show, sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs, located at St. Anthony's Community Center, 112 Liberty Street, in Batavia NY. Talk-In: 147.285 +600.

http://www.geocities.com/gram_radio_club/page7.html.

March 4, 2007

Greater Buffalo Winter Hamfest, sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, located at Main Transit Fireman's Hall, 6777 Main St, Williamsville, NY.

Talk-In 147.255 (PL 107.2).

<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>.

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Morales maintains the Chilean Navy wasn't eager to send a military vessel to retrieve Barnes because of the potential costs involved, and, in any case, wanted to put off the rescue until January 7. Even so, the Chilean Navy did dispatch one of the CP3 Orion aircraft Chile uses to patrol its 200-mile-offshore territorial claim. The plane spotted the foundering vessel, photographed it and even attempted to drop a life raft that missed its mark. The Chilean Navy coordinated the operation and recruited the Polar Pesca 1 to undertake the actual rescue, although the US Coast Guard reportedly has agreed to cover the expense, Morales says. At that point he was able to pass along news to the family that the trawler was en route to Barnes's location.

"The main thing is, Ken Barnes is back, is alive," Morales said. "What I did was on behalf of the US ham radio community, I believe. That's what you're there for."

Barnes returned home to California this week, and Morales was among those on hand to welcome him. The City of Riverside has announced plans to honor Morales, who says he's "a very low-key type of person" and not fond of being in the media spotlight. Barnes's family and friends, armed with information Morales provided, tipped off the news media, and Morales was interviewed, photographed and videotaped by reporters from the Los Angeles Times, ABC, CBS, NBC and Telemundo.

-The ARRL Newsletter

Club Nets

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



STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.

STARS co-sponsors, along with WB2JPQ, the Sunday morning RagChew Net at 9:30AM on 28.380 Mhz.

Ham Radio Trivia

Test your knowledge with these questions taken from the QRZ.COM trivia website.

- What is the meaning of the term "TNT" as applied to ham transmitters?
 - Triode—Neutralized Triode
 - Tuned, Not Tuned
 - Transistors, Not Tubes
 - A high powered rig that put out a dynamite signal
- Center-fed half-wave dipoles have an input resistance of approximately:
 - 37 ohms
 - 50 ohms
 - 73 ohms
 - 100 ohms
- Which two seasons are best for Sporadic-E propagation?
 - winter and summer
 - spring and summer
 - summer and fall
 - fall and winter
- The Decremeter was a type of _____ used for measurements of resistance or 'decrement'.
 - Voltmeter
 - Ohmmeter
 - Wavemeter
 - Frequency meter
- The end-fed 'ZEPP' antenna, received it's name from what early usage?
 - An antenna that was easy and quick to install
 - A weighted antenna wire below an airship
 - The square of a quarterwave
 - Marconi's pet dog
- The outside receiving antenna-wire for early radio sets was referred to as:
 - The parallax
 - The aerial
 - The ground-plane
 - The feed-back loop
- A shipboard antenna described as having multiple parallel wires and secured to ship masts with a yoke arrangement was known as?
 - Dipole
 - Faraday
 - Marconi
 - Hertzian
- What is a "Pole Pig" used for?
 - A high voltage power supply transformer
 - An antenna rotator
 - A bar-b-que
 - A gin pole
- Which of the following is NOT a type of vacuum tube?
 - Rhumbatron
 - Megatron
 - Corotron
 - Compactron

(Answers on next page)

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The National Emergency Response Planning Committee of the ARRL developed recommendations to improve the League's response to regional, national and international disasters. Among other things, panel members evaluated the responses and actions of ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) during Hurricane Katrina as well as lessons learned.

While the level of expertise in emergency communications and emergency management among US radio amateurs is growing, the report noted, so is the expectation that the ARRL provide first-rate leadership and guidance.

Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations and suggestions:

1. Enhance ARRL and ARES training in basic message handling.
2. Develop a continuing education course covering installation, configuration, and use of Winlink 2000 for e-mail.
3. Formally establish a national ARES volunteer database for use during major disasters and establish training criteria.
4. Institute a Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) function to coordinate responses to large-scale national or regional disasters or emergencies.
Become better acquainted with the emergency response needs of distant ARRL sections, such as Pacific, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Alaska.
5. Improve working relationships with national-level served agencies.
6. Ensure ARRL staff training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) and, as necessary, adapt ARRL's emergency response structure to the Unified Command model.

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 for the Nike Base remote receiver. STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 output/input with a PL of 107.2 Hz). The club UHF repeater is location near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome. Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:30PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATION

The club Nike Base HF station is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions during 2007 however specific test dates have not yet been determined. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact John Crawford KB2VWC at 649-5933.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on a quarterly basis. For information on or to pre-register for Lancaster exams, call Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be hold test sessions on the first Saturday of the month starting promptly at 10AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman Street. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration is highly recommended. For information on or to pre-register for ARATS exams, call Vic Godzik K2YW at 694-9738 or email 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.

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-b, 2-c, 3-a, 4-c, 5-b, 6-b, 7-c, 8-a, 9-c