

## FCC NOW PROCESSING AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN BACKLOG

The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8 -- five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System (ULS) vanity application software to accommodate a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign.

A FCC staffer conceded that the FCC's ULS software had not been fully tested to ensure it could deal with the multiple-applications issue when the new rule's December 15 effective date rolled around. "We knew the date was coming, but the software wasn't quite ready."

The FCC this week also issued a public notice to announce the formal implementation of the multiple applications rule, §97.19(a)(1), effective February 8. The notice said the ULS would limit individuals to filing only one vanity call sign application on the same day. "In the case where an applicant files multiple vanity call sign applications on the same day, only the first-filed application will be considered for the process, and the additional applications will be dismissed," the FCC said. "This new process will eliminate the possibility of an applicant having more than one application for the same call sign being considered on any one day."

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## MARCH MEETING



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

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The Commission is likely to receive an avalanche of new vanity call sign applications after February 23, when elimination of the Morse code examination requirement is expected to spur a massive influx of license upgrades. The FCC is processing new vanity call sign applications now in the queue in the order they were received. 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 current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

- The ARRL News

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank all who came to my presentation at the February meeting. Hopefully we all learned something about Emergency preparedness.

The Dayton Hamfest has a special theme this year: "Local Clubs: The Heart of Ham Radio". According to their web site "In keeping with our theme Local Clubs: The Heart of Ham Radio, Hamvention® 2007 is reserving a group of flea market spots for club setups. This will make it easier for people to locate clubs in the flea market and promote communication between the clubs. Clubs are eligible for four flea market spaces for \$100. Spaces are limited, however, so get your application in early." If the STARS club members would be interested we could send a request in and as a collective and reserve a 4 spot flea market space.

Starting at the Lancaster Winter Hamfest, I would like to do some promotion of the STARS club and maybe hand out some flyers promoting STARS. Hopefully we can increase our membership and bring new blood into the hobby.

On another note we need some help at the Nike Base Club House, with clean up and general straightening up of the place. Contact me if you wish to help get the place ready for the summer months.

I wanted to keep it short and sweet this month but there are a few things I would like to quickly touch on. First remember to try to check into the STARS nets. This is an excellent way to insure your radio is working when you need it. Testing your gear before its needed is always a good idea. With better weather coming always remember to keep safety on your mind, with feed lines and antenna's that may have been damaged by weather, always be safe when working on your station.

*-Bob (KA2WYE) Koster*



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

## GREATER BUFFALO WINTER HAMFEST

Sponsored by the  
Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

**Sunday March 4, 2007**

Doors Open at 7:30AM  
Admission \$6

Talk In 147.255 PL 107.2

- Prizes
- Drawings
- Commercial Vendors
- Ham Gear
- Electronics
- Computers
- Fun

ARRL Sanctioned

Main Transit Fireman's Hall  
6777 Main St. Williamsville

<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>



## March Contests

**March 4**—[ARRL International DX Contest](http://www.arrl.org/contests) -- Phone, 0000Z Mar 3-2400Z Mar 4 For information: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

**March 11**—North American RTTY Sprint -- sponsored by NCJ from 0000Z-0400Z Mar 11. Frequencies 80-20 meters. North American stations work everyone; others work NA stations only. For more information: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

**March 17**—10-10 Mobile Contest -- any mode, sponsored by 10-10 International from 0000Z-2359Z Mar 17. Frequencies: 10 meters only. Categories: Fixed, Mobile. For more information: [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org).

**March 24-25**—CQ WW WPX Contest -- SSB, sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Mar 24-2400Z Mar 25 (CW is May 26-27). Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: [www.cqwpvx.com](http://www.cqwpvx.com)

## March Special Events

**March 1-4**, 1600Z-2000Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor US Peace Corps volunteers past and present. 21.375 14.325 7.283. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Hts, IL 60004. [jpaskev@aol.com](mailto:jpaskev@aol.com)

**March 3**, 2100Z-2300Z, Rockwood, TN. Tamke-Allan Observatory, N4TAO. Celebrating "March 3, 2007 Lunar Eclipse". 14.240 7.240. QSL. David Fields, Tamke-Allan Observatory, Roane State Community College, Math Sciences, Harriman, TN 37748. [www.roanestate.edu/obs](http://www.roanestate.edu/obs)

**March 10-11**, 1500Z-2200Z, Newport News, VA. Hampton Roads/Peninsula Combined Radio Clubs, K4M. Battle of Hampton Roads (145th anniversary) and USS Monitor Center Opening. SSB 28.362 21.362 CW 14.062 PSK31 14.070. Certificate. Cynthia Verser, The Mariner's Museum, 100 Museum Dr, Newport News, VA 23606. [cverser@marinersmuseum.org](mailto:cverser@marinersmuseum.org)

**March 10-11**, 1700Z-2300Z, Lancaster, NY. Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, W2SO. 20 year anniversary of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. 15 20 40 80 meters. QSL. Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, 525 Pavement Rd, Lancaster, NY 14086. [jglor@adelphia.net](mailto:jglor@adelphia.net)

**March 11**, 0000Z-1300Z, Tustin, CA. Yamon DX Federation, W6YDX. Celebrating the essence of Daylight Savings Time (DST). 14.250 7.250 7.040 3.850. QSL. Dan Dankert, N6PEQ, 13672 Fairmont Way, Tustin, CA 92780-1811. [w6ydx@dxer.com](mailto:w6ydx@dxer.com)

**March 15-25**, 0100Z-2350Z, San Juan, PR. Family Radio Club, KU9UUU. Discovery of Puerto Rico. 14.332 7.235 3.903 1.892. QSL. J.M. Zacher, 39W345 Central Dr, Elgin, IL 60124. 3905 Century Club and OMISS frequencies YLISSB daytime.

**March 25**, 1500Z-2330Z, Beaver, WI. Menominee River Radio Club, K9S. Celebrate 100 years of maple syrup production. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. James Pearson, W5380 County Rd 342, Wallace, MI 49893. [ks8o@arrl.net](mailto:ks8o@arrl.net)

**March 31**, 1300Z-1600Z, Brampton, ON. Peel and Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs, VE3XR. Ham-Ex Annual Hamfest. 14.265 7.260 7.055. QSL. Jeff Richardson, VA3QSL, 36 Crawley Dr, Brampton, ON, CANADA. QSL direct or via bureau to VA3QSL. [www.ham-ex.org](http://www.ham-ex.org)

**March 31**, 1400Z-2300Z, Saint Joseph, MO. Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, WØP. Commemorating the First Run of the Pony Express. 21.305 18.145 14.255 7.245. Certificate. Al Clark, 7202 Washington St, Saint Joseph, MO 64504.

**March 31-April 1**, 1500Z-0100Z, Laramie, WY. University Amateur Radio Club, N7UW. Operating from the highest university in the US -- elevation 7250 feet. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250 3.850. Certificate. University Amateur Radio Club, Dept 3625, 1000 E University Ave, Laramie, WY 82071. [uwacad-web.uwyo.edu/UARC](http://web.uwyo.edu/UARC)

## NOR'EASTER PROMPTS AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY IN OHIO AND THE NORTHEAST

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers activated February 13 and 14 as a fierce winter storm generated potentially dangerous weather conditions from the Great Lakes into New England. In Ohio, ARES teams in five counties took on a variety of weather-related duties February 13. Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW, says District Emergency Coordinators in his Section were ready to deploy volunteers in the event of shelter openings or at the request of served agencies.

Piper says that Seneca County ARES members activated a net from the county's emergency operations center to gather reports of local weather conditions, road conditions and stranded motorists. The Ohio Single Sideband Net, which convenes three times a day on 75 meters (3927.5 kHz), and VHF/UHF repeaters kept northern Ohio radio amateurs in contact with each other.

In western Ohio, ARES teams in Darke, Green and Shelby counties assisted local emergency management agencies and hospitals by helping to transport essential personnel. "Many of these operations started early Tuesday morning when the storm hit and operated at each hospital shift change," Piper explained.

In Montgomery County, the local emergency management agency requested ARES activation early Tuesday, and a net was begun on the 145.11 MHz repeater.

SKYWARN was active across portions of the US Northeast for the winter weather event. The storm dumped up to three feet of snow in portions of northeastern New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, northwestern Massachusetts and Maine, with whiteout and blizzard conditions reported because of high winds throughout much of the region. Sleet and freezing rain fell across much of interior Southern New England and there was heavy rainfall in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and along coastal areas.

"Amateur Radio operators supported SKYWARN and the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Taunton, Massachusetts -WX1BOX- and Gray, Maine -WX1GYX- with reports of snowfall, wind damage and flooding," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the ARES/SKYWARN coordinator for NWS-Taunton. Macedo says the heaviest snow fell across northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, which got anywhere from 8 to 15 inches.

"Luckily, little infrastructure damage occurred, though urban flooding near the evening commute was a problem on major roads in eastern, southeastern and coastal Massachusetts and Rhode Island," Macedo said. Winds gusted to between 45 and 55 mph, and as temperatures dropped rapidly, untreated roads iced up quickly.

Macedo says SKYWARN volunteers used several repeaters and linked repeater systems across New England, and the New England Reflector System was active.

- ARRL News

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## NOW, NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY HAM!

March QST includes an eight-page "tearout" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!" between pages 48 and 49 or at <http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>.

It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or owing to the new rules as well as to veteran licensees. Among other things, it covers mentoring -- or Elmering -- newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using Logbook of the World (LoTW) and a "Welcome to the fascinating world of high frequency (HF) radio!" by ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

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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 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.

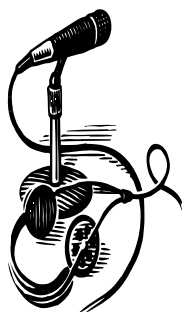
Members who are joining ARRL for the first time or who are renewing their membership should send their ARRL membership forms to Jack Cullum KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

## 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.

- Which coax has the lowest loss out of these choices?
  - RG-58
  - RG-8
  - RG-8X
  - 9913
- What do you call an antenna when its measured impedance has no reactance?
  - anti-resonant
  - resonant
  - shorted
  - open circuit
- What is the meaning of the acronym "PEP"?
  - Peak Emitting Power
  - Peak Envelope Power
  - Peak Energy Power
  - Peak Energy Provider
- What would a PIN diode be most commonly used for?
  - rectifier
  - detector
  - mixer
  - transmit receive switch
- PL® is a proprietary name, for CTCSS, by which company?
  - GE
  - Johnson®
  - Motorola®
  - Collins®
- $3\text{db} + 7\text{db} = 10\text{db}$ 
  - True
  - False
- A DC power supply may include all of the following, except:
  - a crystal
  - a rectifier
  - a transformer
  - a choke
- Long before computers, ham radio had "bugs" too. A ham radio bug is:
  - little white resistors
  - a telegraph key
  - a clip for connecting wires
  - a set of filter caps
- Which of the following is a common speaker impedance:
  - 600 ohms
  - 80 ohms
  - 8 ohms
  - 60 ohms
- What is the formula for determining the length of a half wave dipole?
  - 468 divided by the frequency (in Megahertz)
  - 432 divided by the frequency (in Megahertz)
  - 324 divided by the frequency (in Megahertz)
  - 546 divided by the frequency (in Megahertz)

(Answers on next page)

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the sixth Telstar that I've put together for the club and I just wanted share two observations.

First, a lot of work goes into putting this newsletter together. Without input or suggestions from others, I spend time surfing the internet for items I think you might be interested in. I'm not complaining—my first observation that I want to share with you... none of us realized how much Terry K2OO did for this club. Not only putting out the newsletter, but with the VE sessions and the many club events. I know he's somewhere watching us, and I tip my hat to a man who did more for STARS that any of us ever realized.

Which brings me to my second observation...there are so many great people in this organization who give so much of themselves in the day to day running of the club. Those things often go unnoticed. So I suggest

that the next time you check into a STARS net, have a cup of coffee and a donut at a meeting, go to the STARS website, see that "Special Service Club" seal from the ARRL, read the President's column in Telstar, have your dues check deposited in the bank or any of the other things that we take for granted, that you think of the people that make those things possible. To all of them, I say THANKS.

And I'll close this editorial with this question... What can you bring to STARS?

—Judy N2TEZ

## 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 (except when falling on a holiday weekend, when they will be on the second Saturday) 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.

## 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.

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-d; 2-b; 3-b; 4-d; 5-c; 6-d; 7-a; 8-b; 9-c; 10-a.

Visit STARS on the web at  
[www.wb2elw.com](http://www.wb2elw.com)