

# telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 307

JULY 2007

## FIELD DAY 2007

Another STARS Field Day 2007 has come and gone with fun had by all who attended!

A special thanks to all who showed up early to help with the setup, including Joe Claus KB2JBD and his students from the Pioneer Radio Club.

Some of the "highlights" of this year's Field Day included: a chicken barbeque dinner, a visit from Bruce W7ELW, the fire-building talent show of Bob "the bon-fire" Koster; and what would Field Day be without Ed KB2KVA and his guitar?

Look for a full report next month!



## JULY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday July 5 at the at the club's Nike Base club station (1.75 miles east of Route 20 on Lakeview Road).

All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

The meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on.

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.



STARS Field Day Site

Glen Meadows Park  
Hamburg

## VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday July 14th. The session will be held at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Aves.) All candidates should arrive by 9AM.



Walk-ins will be allowed, but pre-registering will help speed up the processing the day of the test.

All candidates should bring the following to the test session:

1. An original photo ID or two other original forms of ID, plus a photocopy of the ID(s) to be turned in to the examiners for their records.
2. Your current amateur radio license (if any) plus a photocopy of it.
3. The original copies of any applicable Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) plus a photocopy of each.
4. A test fee of \$14.00
5. Your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN). Your application for a new or upgraded amateur radio license will be rejected by the FCC if you do not provide one of these numbers.

For more information, or to register for the test, contact John Crawford KB2VWC 649-5933.

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

### 10 years ago from the Telstar July 1997

From the President...I am very happy to report that the new repeater and controller were put into service on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. - *Tony, KB2OUT, President*

The first meeting of the Erie County Fair committee took place on Saturday June 14 at 10AM at the Nike Base. In attendance: KB2OUT, KB2VWE, KB2ZWE, KD2KK, KE2VW, KF2JY, N2OZE, N2TEZ, N2ZDL AND WA2TVT.

Queen Elizabeth II wrote a page in the annals of ham radio history Wednesday June 28 becoming the first reigning British monarch to speak over ham radio.

### 15years ago from the July 1992 Telstar

Scott KB2KOL has been saying since last year that he was going to be an Extra for Field Day. Just in time for Field Day, Scot kept his word by upgrading from General to Extra! Not bad for someone who will be a freshman in high school next fall! Congratulations also go to Jay KB2NQS for upgrading to Advanced and to Mick N2PZX for recently upgrading to General. Tony Balas has his call KB2OUT and has been signing temporary KT to reflect his upgrade to Technician.

### 20 years ago from the July 1987 Telstar

On June the 8th, another season for the WB2ELW Nike Chairman had arrived, and I am glad to announce, "No Winter Damage". We are fully operational, on line, and all systems are Go. -*KA2SEZ, Nick, Repeater Chair*

Come July 18<sup>th</sup>, WB2ELW will go on the air as a special events station, we will be operating from the Nike Base. If we can get mother nature to have 80 - 10 meter quiet and open, it should be a real good time. - *John, KA2RFT, President*

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## STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster KA2WYE
Vice President	Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Treasurer	Jack Cullum KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan N2TEZ
Secretary	Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Director	John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC
Director	Scott Barto KB2KOL

## NEW MEMBERS

The on recommendation of the Board of Directors, the membership present at Field Day voted to give honorary Student Memberships to the four members of the Pioneer Radio Club who were there to help set up for Field Day.

Please welcome to STARS:  
 Joshua Hubbard KC2RQG, Freedom  
 Amelio Wright, KC2RQI, Arcade  
 Vincent Hart, KC2RQL, Delevan  
 Kyle Clever, KC2RQO, Delevan

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## 2007 ATLANTIC DIVISION AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

Luke Calianno N2GDU was named the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year. Luke has a rich history of helping new amateurs into the service. Luke is involved with amateur radio classes and VE sessions. He is usually the guiding force during any special events that his club hosts such as Field Day, ARRL VHF Contests and the Dunkirk Lighthouse/Lightship. In his position as President of the Town of Lancaster's Office of Emergency Management, Luke has been able to have the town's EMA office recognize the value of amateur radio, but also to support the Lancaster ARES group. He was able to encourage several members of the OEM to earn their amateur radio licenses. Luke is the net manager for the Monday night ARES net. 'If the door to the club house is open, you will Luke standing in the doorway with the light on when you arrive.'

Congratulations Luke!

## ARRL to FCC: Shut Down "Grossly Noncompliant" Am- bient BPL Pilot Project

The ARRL has again demanded that the FCC shut down Ambient Corporation's broadband over power line (BPL) pilot project in Briarcliff Manor, New York. On May 21 the FCC called on the BPL equipment maker and system operator to demonstrate it's complying with all terms of the Part 5 Experimental license authorizing the system, or face possible enforcement action. In a May 31 letter to FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Kathryn S. Berthot, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, contended that it's "long past time that the Commission enforce its own rules," and again objected to the Commission's "inexplicable inaction" in the face of evidence the system is non-compliant. Imlay pointed out that the FCC's May 21 letter made no mention of Condition #1 of Ambient's Part 5 Experimental license.

"That condition requires that if any interference occurs, the holder of the authorization will be subject to immediate shutdown," Imlay wrote. "Interference has repeatedly occurred, and it has been witnessed and verified by a member of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau staff. Yet no action has been taken whatsoever to terminate this experimental authorization over a period of more than two and one-half years. This is inexcusable."

Ambient operates the Briarcliff Manor BPL pilot program under Experimental license WD2XEQ. ARRL testing as recent as late May indicated the system is operating outside of the parameters of its FCC authorization.

The League called the FCC's most recent push to get the company to comply with the terms of its Experimental license "too little, too late and an abdication of the Commission's responsibility to protect its licensees from interference from unlicensed RF devices."

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

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As it stands, the League maintained, the FCC should have shut down Ambient's BPL system a long time ago. The ARRL further objected to Ambient's "repeated misrepresentations in its six-month reports claiming that its Briarcliff Manor BPL system meets FCC emission limits."

New measurements done May 24 by ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conclusively establish that the Ambient BPL system, in Hare's words, "continues to operate well above the Part 15 emission limits that are stipulated as a condition of its Experimental license." Hare said his latest excursion marked the third time his emissions testing in Briarcliff Manor showed the system to be operating significantly above Part 15 emissions limits.

The ARRL further argued that the Ambient BPL system should not be permitted to continue operating under the radar with an Experimental license instead of under the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules, adopted in 2004. The Briarcliff Manor system does not even appear in the FCC's BPL database, the League noted.

"Causing Ambient to operate in accordance with the BPL rules rather than allowing it to hide behind its experimental authorization would at least be consistent with the Commission's regulatory plan for BPL, however inadequate that plan is in terms of interference avoidance," Imlay's letter concluded.

*-ARRL News*

## CLUB NETS

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

STARS WB2EZX 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.

## IT'S KD5PLA IN FOR KD5PLB ON ISS

The STS-117 mission of the Shuttle Atlantis carried US astronaut Clay Anderson, KD5PLA, to the International Space station to succeed Suni Williams, KD5PLB, as ISS Expedition 15 Flight Engineer.

Anderson joined Expedition 15 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and Flight Engineer Dr Oleg Kotov. Williams, who returned to Earth aboard the Atlantis, arrived on the ISS last December and has been among the most active ISS crew members on Amateur Radio.

NASA originally planned the astro-swap for the STS-118 shuttle mission, now targeted for an August launch. Atlantis Commander Rick Sturckow and his six crewmates will spend 11 days in space and take part in three spacewalks.

*-ARRL News*

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

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.



## JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

**Jul 4, 1300Z-1900Z**, Milford, MI. Milford Amateur Radio Club, W8YDK. To commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of Milford. CW 14.040 7.040 SSB 14.220 7.220. QSL. Milford Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 573, Highland, MI 48357. [www.qsl.net/w8ydk](http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk)

**Jul 4, 1300Z-2300Z**, Van Wert, OH. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, W8FY. Holiday at Home - Van Wert County Museum. 14.304 7.204 7.044 CW. Certificate. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891. [www.w8fy.org](http://www.w8fy.org)

**Jul 4, 1600Z-2359Z**, Klamath Falls, OR. Klamath Basin Amateur Radio Club, W7VW. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Street Fair. 14.250 7.200. QSL. KBARA, PO Box 8106, Klamath Falls, OR 97602.

**Jul 4, 1600Z-2300Z**, Missoula, MT. Hellgate Amateur Radio Club, W7PX. Independence Day at Fort Missoula. 28.360 21.360 14.260 7.260. QSL. HARC, POB 3811, Missoula, MT 59806.

**Jul 4, 1600Z-2200Z**, Wessington Springs, SD. Huron Amateur Radio Association, Inc, W0NOZ. 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the founding of city of Wessington Springs. 50.165 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Huron ARA, PO Box 205, Huron, SD 57350.

**Jul 4-Jul 5, 1400Z-0200Z**, Thompson, OH. Lake-County Amateur Radio Association, N8GB. Happy Birthday America! 28.460 7.248. Certificate. George Bair, 386 Cedarbrook Dr, Painesville, OH 44077-2849.

**Jul 7, 1100Z-2300Z**, Vernon, CT. Jesus Festival, KB1KIT. All Day Family Festival. 145.110. QSL. John Winkley, 105 Oxford Dr, East Hartford, CT 06118.

**Jul 7, 1330Z-2030Z**, Williamsburg, VA. Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club, K4RC. Special Event related to Colonial Williamsburg and July 4<sup>th</sup>. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.261. Certificate. Russell Chandler, KU4FP, 132 Druid Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185. *Certificate for working all three special event stations (any year) for WAARC including Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg*

and Yorktown Battlefield. [www.qsl.net/waarc](http://www.qsl.net/waarc)

**Jul 7, 1400Z-2200Z**, Smithville, TN. DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club, K4F. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree & Crafts Festival. 28.425 21.335 14.280 7.275. QSL. William Freddy Curtis, KC4GUG, 288 Dogwood Cir, Smithville, TN 37166-2712. [web.infoave.net/~kg4bto/dcarc.html](http://web.infoave.net/~kg4bto/dcarc.html)

**Jul 7, 1500Z-2000Z**, Sioux Falls, SD. Sioux Empire Amateur Radio Club, W0FSD. USS *South Dakota* Battleship Crew Reunion. 146.895 28.450 21.365 14.260. Certificate. Sioux Empire Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 91, Sioux Falls, SD 57101. [www.WOZWY.org](http://www.WOZWY.org)

**Jul 7-Jul 8, 1300Z-0100Z**, Green River, WY. Sweetwater Amateur Radio Club, WY7U. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robert A. Heinlein's Birthday. IRLP 3831 14.235 7.250. Certificate. Dave Gregory, 1000 South Dakota St, Green River, WY 82935. *Transmitting from Greater Green River Intergalactic Spaceport.* [www.wy7u.org](http://www.wy7u.org)

## JULY CONTESTS

**MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint** -- 2300Z Jul 4-0300Z Jul 5. See [www.qsl.net/miqrclub](http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub) for more information.

**Classic DX Contest** -- sponsored by John Thompson, K3MD. Runs concurrently with the IARU HF World Championship. Categories: IARU categories, except HP (CW 650 W, SSB 1300 W) and LP, MS (HP only). Use of packet, Internet, DVK, add-on audio DSP, computer keying or DVK prohibited. Contest keyers, computer logging OK. All equipment must be at least 20 years old. See Web site for scoring and more information: [www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net).

**DL DX/RTTY Contest** -- RTTY/PSK, sponsored by the DL DX RTTY Contest Group (DRCG) from 1100Z Jul 7-1059Z Jul 8. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SOAB, SOAB-single radio (unlimited, 6 hour, dipole/groundplane), MS, MO. For more information: [www.drcg.de](http://www.drcg.de).

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## WA2HCL—SK

We received the following note after last month's Telstar was distributed...

Hi—

*I'm writing this to let you know that my mother, Lillian "Lin" Brownell, WA2HCL, recently passed away.*

*Both of my parents, my brother and I all got out licenses 40-some years ago, when I was growing up in Hamburg. We joined STARS then and I know my mother always appreciated her lifetime honorary status and receiving the regular mailings.*

*All the best to the club. It is good to know that it is doing so well.*

—Bill Brownell WA2GNA  
Clifton Park, NY

## 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.

## 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!

## BATAVIA HAMFEST

July 21, 2007

Alexander Firemen's Recreation Center  
10708 Rte. 98  
Alexander NY

Sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs

Talk-In: 147.285+600

Contact: Rob McLean, KC2MHH  
Email: kc2mhh@verizon.net

## JULY CONTESTS (cont)

**DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona"** -- RTTY/AMTOR/FACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 1100Z-1700Z Jul 8 (see Nov 2006 *QST*, p 104, or [www.darc.de/referate/dx](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx)).

**Venezuelan Independence Day Contest** -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Radio Club Venezolano from 0000Z Jul 7-2400Z Jul 8. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and SOSB (CW, SSB and mixed), MS (mixed mode). For more information: [radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm](http://radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm).

**QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint** -- CW, from 2000Z-2400Z Jul 8. Add the following bonus points for each band on which homebrew gear is used: 2000 points for homebrew transmitter, 3000 points for homebrew receiver, 5000 points for homebrew transceiver. For rules and more information: [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org).

**Original QRP Contest** -- CW, sponsored by the QRP Contest Community from 1500Z Jul 7- 1500Z Jul 8. Frequencies: 80-20 meters. Categories: VLP (<1 W), QRP (<5 W), MP (<20 W), Handmade. Web site for more information: [www.qrpcc.de](http://www.qrpcc.de).

**IARU HF World Championship** -- from 1200Z Jul 14-1200Z Jul 15 (see Apr *QST*, p 102, or [www.iaru.org/contest.html](http://www.iaru.org/contest.html)).

**Colorado QSO Party** -- Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association from 1200Z Jul 15-0400Z Jul 16. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050 and 28.050 MHz; Phone -- 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350 and 28.450 MHz; RTTY -- 3.575, 7.090, 14.090, 21.090 and 28.065 MHz; PSK -- 1.8073, 3.583, 7.073, 14.073, 21.073 and 28.123 MHz; VHF/UHF -- per band plan. Categories: SO, MS, MM, Mobile (SO, SO+Driver, MO), School; HP/LP/QRP and CW/Phone/Digital/Mixed each category. For more information: [www.ppraa.org/coqp](http://www.ppraa.org/coqp).

**FISTS Summer Sprint** -- CW, from 1700Z-2100Z Jul 13 (see Feb *QST*, p 101, or [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org)).

**North American RTTY QSO Party** -- sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jul 21-0600Z Jul 22. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, 100 W max power. Categories SOAB and M2; SO stations operate 10 hours max with off times of at least 30 minutes. For more information: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).

**CQ WW VHF Contest** -- all modes, sponsored by *CQ Magazine* from 1800Z Jul 21-2100Z Jul 22. Frequencies: 50 and 144 MHz bands, except 146.52 MHz (and other national simplex calling frequencies) and repeater frequencies. Please avoid the DX windows and international calling frequencies. Categories: SOAB, SOSB, MM, Rover, Hilltopper, QRP (<10 W). For more information: [www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com).

**DMC RTTY Contest** -- sponsored by the Digital Modes Club from 1200Z Jul 21-1200Z Jul 22. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO (HP/LP), MS. For more information: [www.digital-modes-club.org/dmcccontest.htm](http://www.digital-modes-club.org/dmcccontest.htm).

**CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush** -- CW, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club from 2000Z-2200Z Jul 22. Frequencies: 20 meters only. Categories: Wire, Vertical, Beam or Portable. For more information: [www.cqc.org/contests/gold2007.htm](http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2007.htm).

**Flight of the Bumblebees** -- CW, sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society, 1700Z-2100Z Jul 29. Bumblebees are low power portable stations that walk, bike or boat to their sites and sign /BB after their calls. Frequencies: 7.040, 14.060, 21.060 and 28.060 MHz. For more information: [www.arsgrp.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb\\_rules.html](http://www.arsgrp.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb_rules.html)

**RSGB Islands-On-The-Air Contest** -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the RSGB from 1200Z Jul 28-1200Z Jul 29. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and SOAB-Assisted (SSB/CW/Mixed, 12 and 24 hour entries, High/Low/QRP Power), MS. All categories Island or World (non-Island). For more information: [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org). England.

## HAM RADIO TRIVIA

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



1. The phase difference between the output and the input of a common emitter amplifier is:
  - a. 90 degrees
  - b. 180 degrees
  - c. 60 degrees
  - d. 270 degrees
2. Waveguide is a type of transmission line used for microwave communications. Physically, waveguide can be \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. Rectangular
  - b. Round
  - c. Elliptical
  - d. All of the above
3. What is the voltage drop of a forward biased, standard silicon-based power diode?
  - a. 1.414 volts
  - b. 0.67 volts
  - c. 0.41 volts
  - d. 3.14 volts
4. How long is a Solar Cycle generally believed to be?
  - a. 10 years
  - b. 11 years
  - c. 12 years
  - d. 13 years
5. What was the "SOS" predecessor?
  - a. Emergency
  - b. Mayday
  - c. CQD
  - d. Code Red
6. A "cage" antenna was common in the early days. What was the advantage of a "cage" antenna?
  - a. Lower angle radiation
  - b. Less likely to break in a strong wind
  - c. Broader frequency coverage
  - d. None of the above

7. G5RV designed an HF all band wire antenna. Approximately how long is it?
  - a. 132 feet
  - b. 51 feet
  - c. 102 feet
  - d. 29 1/2 feet
8. PL-259 connectors are not generally used for UHF transmission line connections for what reason?
  - a. They block frequencies above 250 MHz
  - b. It's just the accepted design practice
  - c. They display non-constant impedance as frequency increases
  - d. None of the above
9. Which parameter best indicates a transformer's power capacity?
  - a. VA (volt-amps)
  - b. Turns Ratio
  - c. Primary Voltage
  - d. Secondary Voltage
10. Which of the following apply as an antenna element's length to diameter ratio is increased?
  - a. Radiation Resistance Increases & Bandwidth Increases
  - b. Radiation Resistance Decreases & Bandwidth Increases
  - c. Radiation Resistance Increases & Bandwidth Decreases
  - d. Radiation Resistance Decreases & Bandwidth Decreases




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Answers to Trivia Quiz:

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