

# telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

JANUARY 2008

VOL 41 Issue 5

## RE-ELMERING THE MISSING CALLS

- From the ARRL e-newsletter

As we take some time off from work or studies or just our regular routine, it is a good time to ask ourselves, "Where are the missing calls?" Those once-familiar calls that just don't seem to be in our logs these days or answering our kerchunks on the repeater. Some may have moved away, some calls may have new owners, some may just be operating elsewhere, and, of course, some operators may have slipped through the F-layer and lost--but not all of them.

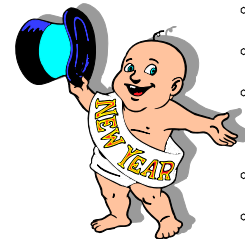
More and more of our friends are "going dark" because of the vicissitudes of downsizing or necessity. What of them? Are they to be permanently QRT? Even in days gone by, there were plenty of circumstances in which it was impossible to put up an antenna or use a radio. Today we find even more situations inhospitable to one's favored modes and bands. Some of these friends were Elmers to us when we were unfledged and struggling--and if not to us, then to others. Perhaps it is time to return the favor - re-Elmering, if you will.

It's always time for those of us that can to help those of us that can't. Not just during the holiday season. January is just as good a time to offer assistance as any other month and maybe even more so as the holidays recede, but winter lingers on.

If you know someone who's off the air but misses ham radio, why not put your thinking cap on and figure out a way to keep the link alive. It may be as simple as offering to help install an indoor ground plane and programming a handheld for someone whose eyesight isn't quite up to making connections and punching tiny buttons anymore. For the truly radio-less but Internet-connected, they might need help configuring their

## JANUARY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 3rd at the **NIKE Base Clubhouse**. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We look forward to seeing you there!

computer to use the Echolink system. And if you're really adventurous, what about setting up one of the new transceivers with Ethernet connectivity so they can chase that New One, too?

What about the faces that are no longer seen at club meetings? Could it be that the traffic and the nighttime driving are too much for their comfort or safety? It costs little to offer to drive and believe me, it's appreciated. Coordinating a share-the-ride list would be a terrific club activity, don't you think? Plus, it might get you into the car pool lane, saving everybody time and hassle.

I won't belabor the point except to suggest that during this holiday season, we pause to consider whether we can render some assistance to the hams that made us and our hobby what it is today. Elmering works just as well in reverse as it does forward.

Best wishes and amity at this holiday season to all of the Rate Sheet readers. Your kind words and contributions make enthusiasm easy about this newsletter and by extension, radiosport. Thanks! I'll see you in 2008.

73, Ward NOAX

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

### 5 years ago

#### ...from the January 1998 Telstar

Reports from around the world appear to confirm that the Sputnik PS2 mini-satellite has stopped transmitting. The beacon signal from the working model of the original Sputnik 1 satellite was last monitored on December 29 or 30.

### 15 years ago

#### ...from the January 1993 Telstar

The December meeting was our installation of officers and get acquainted with the families' meeting. Also, the club put out a nice spread including pizzas and drinks. I have to congratulate the XYL's and others that baked the nice cookies. There was quite a wide variety, they outdid themselves. I had to try them all!

- Guz's Gossip Column

### 20 years ago

#### ...from the January 1988 Telstar

Well the December meeting is history and I think it may hold the record for shortest meeting in STARS history. Those who attended were treated to a glimpse of the new repeater, with a short presentation of its capabilities, and many delicious munchies after the meeting.

- Bill N2GAO, President

### 40 years ago

#### ...from the January 1968 Telstar

We are starting off the new year very nicely. We have completed and approved our constitution and bylaws. We have 35 members listed on our charter. We have applied for a club license. We have applied for a club affiliation with the ARRL.

- Hap WB2YNR

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Vice President	Scott Barto KB2KOL
Treasurer	Jack Cullum KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan N2TEZ
Secretary	Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Director	John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC
Director	Ken Pokigo KC2AYK
Past President	Bob Koster KA2WYE

## STARS JANUARY VE SESSION



STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday January 12th.

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.

## TELSTAR BY EMAIL

Are you still receiving a paper copy of the Telstar? Why not consider getting it by email. Why get the Telstar by email?

1. You'll receive all the latest news about STARS faster. The Telstar is posted to the web, emailed, and dropped in the mailbox the same day.
2. You'll be helping out the club by saving us costs of printing and postage.

If you would rather get your Telstar my email, send me (Judy) a note at n2tez@msn.com.

## KIDS DAY — JANUARY 6

On January 6, 2008, kids everywhere can use the magic of radio to make new friends over the air. After over 10 years of activity, the Kids Day events, created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, have gained in popularity year after year. Nearly 500 kids were reported to have shouted their favorite color into a micro-phone during 2007's running of Kids Day!



After the successes of the 2007 events once again this year we suggest the use of the same frequencies used by the scouts during Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) (3.740 & 3.940 MHz, 7.270 MHz, 14.290 MHz, 18.140 MHz, 21.360 MHz, 24.960 MHz, 28.390 MHz and 2 meter repeater frequencies). With propagation conditions that accompany the bottom of the sunspot cycle, we need to spread out to find bands where everyone can participate.

Also some ideas from Ward Silver, NØAX, to help you make this event even more enjoyable.

For the parent ham or host:

- Use a CW reader program such as CWGet ([www.dxsoft.com/micwget.htm](http://www.dxsoft.com/micwget.htm))
- Have the kids make their own QSL cards
- Make a special logbook for each kid
- Be sure to request the participation certificate from BARC
- Amateur Radio is all about geography; have a map of North America available and point-out locations (or have the kids find them using an atlas) of the kids on the other sides of the QSO

For the radio club host:

- Have an open house at the club station
- Promote Kids Day in your newsletter
- Give out your own certificates and blank logbooks
- Sponsor a pizza party after the event
- Make custom stickers about ham radio or QSOs/QSLs for the kids to apply to their scrapbooks commemorating each event in which they participate.

The Kids Day operating events are the first Sunday in January and the third Saturday in June — January 6 and June 21 in 2008. Make that personal connection that may result in a new ham radio licensee. You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm you once had with ham radio. Don't forget to further the fun and invite the kids to Field Day the next weekend!

Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. Call CQ KIDS DAY.

- December QST

## LOCKPORT HAMFEST

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association will sponsor the 2008 Lockport Hamfest on January 26, 2008.

Location:

South Lockport Firehall  
S. Transit Rd. (RT.78) corner of Ruhlman Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094

Hamfest open to the public from 8AM to 12PM.

Admission: \$5.00.

Refreshments available on site.

Talk In - 146.820 (107.2 PL)

Vendors:

Setup at 7AM for Vendors. Tables: \$5.00/8 ft table.

Contact: Dan Caswell, Hamfest Chairman, N2OBX  
29 Hoover Pkwy, Lockport NY 14094  
email: [caswelld@verizon.net](mailto:caswelld@verizon.net)

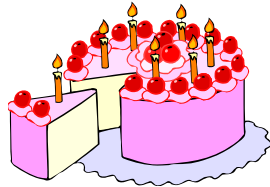
Website: [HTTP://LARA.HAMGATE.NET](http://LARA.HAMGATE.NET)



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

## HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!

Ken Pokigo KC2AYK  
— January 7  
Anne Fanelli WI2G  
— January 30



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Why not consider adding one of these to your list of resolutions...

Take part in more STARS' activities.

Volunteer for community service.

Be an elmer to someone.

Come to the STARS Meeting and  
bring a friend.

Clean up the ham shack.

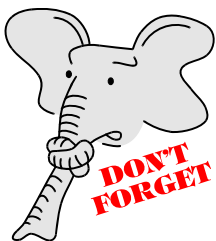
Become a VE.



## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!

Thanks to those who have already renewed (over half of the membership has!). To the other half...don't forget to renew *your* membership. STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to continue to help keep us great.

A renewal application was included in the November Telstar and is available for download on our website at [www.wb2elw.com](http://www.wb2elw.com)



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

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

## JANUARY CONTESTS

[ARRL RTTY Roundup](#) -- 1800Z Jan 5- 2400Z Jan 6, see page 97 of Dec 2006 QST or [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

Kids Day -- Phone, sponsored by the ARRL and the Boring Amateur Radio Club from 1800Z to 2400Z Jan 6, see page 39 of Dec 2007 QST or [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html).

North American QSO Party -- CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Jan 12-0600Z Jan 13. Frequencies: 160-10-meters. Exchange: Name and S/P/C. For information: [www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php).

NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint -- sponsored by the North American QRP CW Club from 0130Z-0330Z Jan 17. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC member number (Pwr for non-members). For more information and the yearly contest schedule: [www.arm-tek.net/~yoel](http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel).

[ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) -- 1900Z Jan 19-0400Z Jan 21, see page 92, Dec 2007 QST or [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

North American QSO Party -- Phone, 1800Z Jan 19-0600Z Jan 20 (see Jan 12-13). Logs due Feb 3 to [ssbnagp@ncjweb.com](mailto:ssbnagp@ncjweb.com) or Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Ave, Studio City, CA 91604.

CQ WW 160-Meter Contest -- CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Jan 26-2359Z Jan 27 (Phone is Feb 23-24). Exchange: RST and S/P/C. For more information: [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

Winter Field Day -- all modes, sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) from 1700Z Jan 26-1700Z Jan 27. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SO, Two Op, Multi, Indoor, Outdoor, Home. Exchange: call sign, RS(T), category, local outside temperature. For more information and bonus points: [www.spar-hams.org](http://www.spar-hams.org).

Classic Exchange -- CW, from 1400Z Jan 26-0800Z Jan 27 (AM/SSB/FM Feb 9). Frequencies (Mc): CW 1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.135, 28.050, 50.100, 144.100. Exchange: RST, QTH, RX, TX. For more information: [www.gsl.asti.com/CX](http://www.gsl.asti.com/CX).

## DID YOU KNOW?

One BTU is roughly equal to the amount of heat energy given off by burning a wooden kitchen match.

## JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, All US call areas. Straight Key Century Club, K2A. **Celebrating 2 years and over 3500 members on CW.** 14.050 10.120 7.055 3.550. QSL. Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 5408 Chillingham Pl, Frederick, MD 21703. [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com)

Jan 6, 1900Z-2300Z, Columbus, NC. Southern Paradise Amateur Radio Club, KJ4AWL. **Kid's Day Special Event Station.** HF and VHF. QSL. KJ4AWL, PO Box 125, Mill Spring, NC 28756. See additional information on Web site. QSL card available. [www.serendipityrancher.com/sparc.htm](http://www.serendipityrancher.com/sparc.htm)

Jan 13, 1500Z-2200Z, Bethpage, NY. Ham Radio University, W2V. **Ham Radio demo at Ham Radio University 2008.** 14.260 7.260. QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 W Belle Terre Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. [www.HamRadioUniversity.org](http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org)

Jan 19, 1300Z-2300Z, Brooksville, FL. Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club, W4B. **28th Annual Brooksville Raid, Florida's largest Civil War reenactment.** 146.805 18.130 14.260. Certificate. SHARC-BP, PO Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL 34611. [www.kf4ixu.org](http://www.kf4ixu.org)

Jan 19-Jan 21, 1500Z-2300Z, Ashton, IA. KBONMQ Family, KBONMQ. **Operation Desert Storm/1st Gulf War Remembered.** 18.150 14.280 7.220. QSL. Mark Carlson, Box 272, Ashton, IA 51232. [alaskamark@nethtc.net](mailto:alaskamark@nethtc.net)

Jan 26-Jan 27, 1400Z-2000Z, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC Edwards AFB North Base, AL7LS. **Release date for movie Hot Rods to Hell 27 Jan 1967.** LSB 7.243 7.091 3.952 BBS 14.105. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, AL7LS, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119. [www.geocities.com/hrthspecialevent08/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/hrthspecialevent08/index.html)

Feb 2, 1400Z-2300Z, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. **Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Special Event Station.** 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL. Nacogdoches ARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. [www.w5nac.com](http://www.w5nac.com)

Feb 2, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. **Commemorating Groundhog Day 2008.** 14.240 7.240 146.715 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. [www.gsl.net/k3hwj](http://www.gsl.net/k3hwj)

## NEW 2M NET

Beginning on January 10th, George N2NOB will be the net controller for a new STARS net. The net will be held every Thursday at 7PM (except for the Thursday of our general club meeting).



## NIKE BASE OPEN THURSDAY EVENINGS

Don't forget...NIKE Base Chairman Don Niles K2PMC opens the NIKE Base every Thursday evening between 7 and 10 PM (except the Thursdays that our general membership meetings are at the Youth Center).

## CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM:

At the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) in February, April, October and December  
At the NIKE Base Club Station the rest of the year.

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 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.

STARS 2m Net: Thursday at 7PM (except general meeting nights). George N2NOB is the net controller.

## HAM RADIO TRIVIA

1. Who or what determines "good engineering and good amateur practice" that apply to operation of an amateur station in all respects not covered by the Part 97 rules?

- A. The FCC
- B. The Control Operator
- C. The IEEE
- D. The ITU

2. Which of the following applies in the event of interference between a coordinated repeater and an uncoordinated repeater?

- A. The licensee of the non-coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference
- B. The licensee of the coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference
- C. Both repeater licensees share equal responsibility to resolve the interference
- D. The frequency coordinator bears primary responsibility to resolve the interference

3. Which of the following statements is true of the single sideband (SSB) voice mode?

- A. Only one sideband and the carrier are transmitted; the other sideband is suppressed
- B. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed
- C. SSB voice transmissions have higher average power than any other mode
- D. SSB is the only mode that is authorized on the 160, 75 and 40 meter amateur bands

4. What does the expression "CQ DX" usually indicate?

- A. A general call for any station
- B. The caller is listening for a station in Germany
- C. The caller is looking for any station outside their own country
- D. This is a form of distress call

5. What is the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC?

- A. Amateur volunteers who are formally enlisted to monitor the airwaves for rules violations
- B. Amateur volunteers who conduct amateur licensing examinations
- C. Amateur volunteers who conduct frequency coordination for amateur VHF repeaters
- D. Amateur volunteers who use their station equipment to help civil defense organizations in times of emergency

6. What is an azimuthal projection map?

- A. A world map projection centered on the North Pole
- B. A world map projection centered on a particular location
- C. A world map that shows the angle at which an amateur satellite crosses the equator
- D. A world map that shows the number of degrees longitude that an amateur satellite appears to move westward at the equator with each orbit

7. What is the effect on radio communications when sunspot numbers are high?

- A. High-frequency radio signals become weak and distorted
- B. Frequencies above 300 MHz become usable for long-distance communication
- C. Long-distance communication in the upper HF and lower VHF range is enhanced
- D. Long-distance communication in the upper HF and lower VHF range is diminished

8. What usually happens to radio waves with frequencies below the maximum usable frequency (MUF) when they are sent into the ionosphere?

- A. They are bent back to the Earth
- B. They pass through the ionosphere
- C. They are completely absorbed by the ionosphere
- D. They are bent and trapped in the ionosphere to circle the Earth

9. Which of the following should be installed if a properly operating amateur station is interfering with a nearby telephone?

- A. An RFI filter on the transmitter
- B. An RFI filter at the affected telephone
- C. A high pass filter on the transmitter
- D. A high pass filter at the affected telephone

10. What type of component is a thermistor?

- A. A resistor that is resistant to changes in value with temperature variations
- B. A device having a controlled change in resistance with temperature variations
- C. A special type of transistor for use at very cold temperatures
- D. A capacitor that changes value with temperature

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### Answers to Trivia Quiz:

All of the questions are from the General Question Pool.  
1-a; 2-a; 3-b; 4-c; 5-a; 6-b; 7-c; 8-a; 9-b; 10-b. How did you do?

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