

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

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IRLP

The Internet Radio Linking Project was started back in November of 1997 by David Cameron, VE7LTD, as an attempt to use the internet to link radio systems across Canada. The first full time link that was established ran from Vancouver, BC to Saint John, NB. The link had many problems and was shut down in March of 1998 due to the numerous computer crashes and repeater lockups it was causing, and the lack of user control over the system.

Dave then set out to design a better way to use the same technology to perform the same task, while improving usability, user control, and sound quality. His breakthrough was to replace the existing operating system, Windows, with a more stable and versatile language. He chose Linux, an open source form of the operating system UNIX designed by Linus Torvalds, because of its superior networking characteristics, its reliability, and its ease of programming.

He designed his own interface board to interface the radio to the computer. This allowed a large amount of delay to be removed from the system because two VOX circuits were no longer being used. Dave also wrote his own custom control software, and modified an existing voice-over-IP software package to accommodate the project.

The final product was a combination of hardware and software that created a nearly seamless radio link between two remote sites on the internet. The product works so well that many people can not believe that they are talking through a link at all!

FEBRUARY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 7th at the **HAMBURG YOUTH CENTER**. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Our guest presenter, Branden Watson W2BRW, will talk to us about IRLP.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Since all end users communicate using a radio as opposed to using a computer directly, IRLP has adopted the motto "Keeping the Radio in Amateur Radio."

Want to learn more? What's a node? What hardware do you need? How can you use IRLP? Come to the February STARS meeting and hear Branden Watson W2BRW's presentation.

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).

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

10 years ago

...from the February 1998 Telstar

Some ham radio emergency communication operations across the Northeast wound down this week as the ice storm disaster moved from the response to the recovery phase. Telephone service and electricity are being slowly restored, but in many areas ham radio remains a primary—and in some cases the only—means of communication.

15 years ago

...from the February 1993 Telstar

Elected as Life Members for outstanding service over an extended number of years was Bob Witt WA2IQX and Bill Siska N2GAO. Both men are past presidents of STARS and have served on the Board of Directors.

20 years ago

...from the February 1988 Telstar

Congratulations to new calls: John Cullum KB2ESM—Novice and Gary Wood KB2ESN—Novice.

40 years ago

...from the February 1968 Telstar

Starting February 3rd is the annual Novice Roundup. This is the time for Novices to make as many contacts as possible in as many sections as possible, and time for all other class licensees to work as many novices as possible.
- Hap WB2YNR

STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Vice President	Scott Barto KB2KOL
Treasurer	Jack Cullum KB2ESM
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RADIO AMATEUR NAMED HEAD OF TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER

Veteran meteorologist Bill Read, KB5FYA, was named the new director of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Tropical Prediction Center, which includes the National Hurricane Center (NHC) earlier this month. Read had served as the Center's acting deputy director since August 2007. The NHC has a dedicated amateur station on-site -- W4EHW -- and has worked closely with hams for decades. In announcing Read's appointment to head the Center, NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher cited Read's three decades of experience with the agency and of his reputation as "a trusted consultant to emergency managers" in the Houston area.

Prior to joining the National Weather Service (NWS), Read served in the US Navy, where his duties included an assignment as an on-board meteorologist with the Hurricane Hunters. He began his NWS career in 1977 with the test and evaluation division in Virginia, developed his forecasting skills in Texas, and served as severe thunderstorm and flash flood program leader at the NWS headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Read and his team were at the forefront in July 2003 as Hurricane Claudette made landfall on the Texas coast. He also was part of the Hurricane Liaison Team at the NHC in Miami when Hurricane Isabel came ashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and raced northeast in September 2003.

"Bill brings a wealth of experience in meteorology and management to this position. He has a clear understanding of the needs of staff, the emergency management community and the public in fulfilling our mission of saving lives and property," said Jack Hayes, director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "Bill has a proven track record of pulling people together - - from the forecaster to the emergency manager -- as severe weather threatens."

VE TEST SESSION 1/12

Congratulations to M. Jim Starr N2TFA who passed his extra exam at the last STARS VE Session. The VE team, lead by John KB2VWC, included Ed N2ING, Judy N2TEZ and Scott KB2KOL.

If you have a book and been studying for your Extra class, don't forget the Extra Class Question Pool changes on July 1st!

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions in 2008 on: 3/8, 5/10, 7/12, 9/13, and 11/8. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact John Crawford KB2VWC at 649-5933.



LARC Holds it's VE tests on the last Tuesday of selected months (usually every other month). Test sessions are held at 7:00 PM, at the Lancaster Office of Emergency Management at 525 Pavement Rd, Lancaster. Pre-registration is requested for all sessions, but not required. Contact John Maxwell W2JM at maxwell@buffalo.edu / OR - Joseph Gearhart WV2NY at : 894-2407 / wv2ny@roadrunner.com .

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.

STARS 2M NET

The new Thursday night STARS 2m net is on! George N2NOB apologizes for missing a couple of weeks due to medical reasons, but assures us the next net will take place on Thursday February 14th at 7PM.

Thanks to Ray KC2EZP, Ralph KA2WCU, Don K2PMC, Scott KB2KOL, KC2IRK, Becky, Mike K2MIK, and KC2IUN John for checking in.

Remember, the net will be held every Thursday at 7PM (except for the Thursday of our general club meeting).

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!

Don't forget to renew your STARS membership. I'll be updating the email/ mailing list and distributing rosters with the March Telstar.

A renewal application was included in the November Telstar and is available for download on our website at www.wb2elw.com in the "Library" section.

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

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

HERE ARE SOME SITES YOU CAN SURF ON THE INTERNET TO FIND TODAY'S DX:

Recent Spots appear on the home page of [DX-Central DotCom](http://www.dx-central.com/) at <http://www.dx-central.com/>

The home page of DX Summit has links to its selection of "DX-Spots," such as the last 250 spots, HF/Phone spots, the last 50 VHF spots and so on at <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

Announced DX Operations page of the NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page at <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Online DX bulletins include:

The W1AW ARRL DX Bulletins

at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>

The OPDX (Ohio-Penn DX) Bulletin

at <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

and the 425 DX News Bulletin

at <http://www.425dxn.org/425/indbulle.html>

FEBRUARY CONTESTS

Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party — 0001Z Feb 2—2359Z Feb 3; 10m; Exchange: Call Sign, name, QTH, 10-10 number. More info: www.ten-ten.org

XE Int'l RTTY Contest — 1800Z Feb 2—1759Z Feb 3; 80-10m; Exchange: RST and XE state/district or serial. More info: www.gmreorg.mx

YL-OM Contest — CW — 1400Z Feb 2-0200Z Feb 4; 160-10m; Exchange: Call sign, RST, serial and S/P/C. More info: www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html

North American Sprint — CW — 0000Z Feb 3-0400Z Feb 3; 80-20m; Exchange: Both call signs, serial, name, and S/P/C. More info: www.nciweb.com

FISTS CW Winter Sprint — 1700Z Feb 9-2100Z Feb 9; 80-10m; Exchange: RST, S/P/C, power QRP calling frequencies. More info: www.arsgrp.pbwiki.com

CQ WW RTTY WPX — 0000Z Feb 9—2400Z Feb 10; 80-10m; Exchange: RST and serial. More info: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

YL-OM Contest — Phone — 1400Z Feb 9-0200Z Feb 11; 160-10m; Exchange: Call sign, RST, serial and S/P/C. More info: www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html

North American Sprint — Phone — 0000Z Feb 10—0400Z Feb 10; 80-20m; Exchange: Both Call signs, serial, name, and S/P/C. More info: www.nciweb.com

School Club Roundup — Phone, CW — 1300Z Feb 11-2400Z Feb 15; 160-10m; Exchange: RST, Class, S/P/C. More info: www.arrl.org/SCR

ARRL DX Contest — CW — 0000Z Feb 16—2400Z Feb 17; 160-10m; Exchange: RST, State or Power. More info: www.arrl.org/contest

AM QSO Party — Phone — 0000Z Feb 16-0000Z Feb 17; 80-20m; Exchange: RS, name, S/P/C. More info: www.antiquewireless.org

CQ WW 160 Meter SSB — Phone — 0000Z Feb 23-2400Z Feb 24; 160m; Exchange: RST and S/P/C. More info: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

North American Sprint — Digital — 1800Z Feb 23—0600Z Feb 24; 80-20m; Exchange: Both Call signs, serial, name, and S/P/C. More info: www.nciweb.com

High Speed CW Contest — 0900Z-1100Z and 1500Z-1700Z Feb 24; 80-10m; Exchange: RST and HSC nr or "NM". More info: hscontest@gmail.com

(Continued on page 5)



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

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

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. 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. www.gsl.net/k3hwj

Feb 7-Feb 11, 0300Z-0145Z, Houghton, MI. Michigan Tech Husky Amateur Radio Club, W8C. Winter Carnival 2008. 444.500 21.315 14.250 7.290. QSL. w8yy.students.mtu.edu/w8c

Feb 9, 0700Z-1800Z, Huskvarna, SWEDEN. Swedish Heathkit Club, SK7XN. Heathkit Activity Day, celebrating the birth of Howard Anthony. 14.287 14.040 3.700 3.540. www.heathkit.se

Feb 9, 1400Z-2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, WOEBB. 4th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event. 14.260 14.060 7.290 7.040. QSL. www.pkarc.org

Feb 9-Feb 10, 1500Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating the birthday of Thomas Edison, born in Milan, OH. 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. ni8n1@yahoo.com

Feb 11-Feb 15, 1400Z-2100Z, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday and our 16th year. 28.430 21.350 14.240. Certificate. www.fmarc.net

Feb 16, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating President's Day and Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima Flag Raising by US Marines in 1945. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. kc2gyv@yahoo.com

Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-2200Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.240 7.240 7.038. Certificate. www.mvarc.com

Feb 16-Mar 2, 0000Z-2359Z, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM1R. 40th anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg

Feb 20-Feb 21, 1500Z-0500Z, Urbana, IL. Mobile Ohm Volunteer Examiners, W9C. Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Champaign County, IL. 14.175 14.070 7.175 7.080. QSL. www.twiggtimes.com/w9c.htm

Feb 21-Feb 23, 0000Z-0000Z, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. President George Washington's Birthday. 14.250 18.135 7.225 3.880. QSL. w7bjn@nwi.net

Feb 23, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, KD8CKP. 3rd Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. 14.245 21.315 7.245 EchoLink. Certificate. Check ins via EchoLink on the KC8RKV node. www.portcars.org

Feb 23-Mar 6, 0100Z-2359Z, Austin/San Antonio, TX. Central TX Contest Group, WA5DTK. Commemorating the siege days at the Alamo. 14.250 7.240 14.040 7.040. QSL. wa5dtk@arrl.net

Feb 28, 1500Z-2245Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. USS Kidd Launch Anniversary. 15 20 40 m Gen bands. QSL. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

DID YOU KNOW?

A lithium battery will last as long as four alkaline batteries and an alkaline battery will last as long as ten carbon-zinc batteries.

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM at either the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) or the NIKE Base Club Station.

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

This month's questions about Yagi antennas come from H. Ward Silver NOAX. You can find more like these in QST or on the ARRL website.

1. A parasitic element (a Yagi's director or reflector)...
 - A. Is connected to the feed line
 - B. Is not connected to the feed line
 - C. Must be parallel to the feed line
 - D. Is used only for mechanical balance
2. Directors are
 - A. longer
 - B. shorter
 than reflectors.
3. A Yagi's driven element usually has a feed-point impedance
 - A. lower
 - B. higher
 than 50 ohms.
4. Which of the following is not a useful matching system for transforming a Yagi's impedance to 50 ohms?
 - A. Strip-line
 - B. Gamma match
 - C. Beta match
 - D. Hairpin
5. "Plumber's Delight" construction means that all elements are...
 - A. Made from threaded pipe
 - B. Not insulated from the boom
 - C. At the same RF potential
 - D. Trapped
6. The reflector element is resonant at a frequency that is
 - A. higher
 - B. lower
 than the resonant frequency of the driven element.
7. Yagi antennas include parasitic elements to improve the...
 - A. Front-to-back ratio
 - B. Forward Gain
 - C. Both A. and B.
 - D. Neither A. or B.

8. The Yagi antenna was first described in...
 - A. 1926-28
 - B. 1936
 - C. 1946
 - D. 1962
9. The "2:1 bandwidth" of a Yagi refers to the frequency range over which the antenna maintains a...
 - A. SWR of 2:1 or less
 - B. Front-to-back ratio of at least 3dB
 - C. Forward gain of at least 3dB
10. Tapered elements are...
 - A. Spaced closer together at one end of the antenna
 - B. Covered with insulating tape
 - C. Smaller in diameter at their tips than in their centers
 - D. No longer in general use
11. Increasing the number of elements in a Yagi
 - A. increase
 - B. decreases
 The antenna pattern beamwidth.

Bonus Question!

Who was Dr. Yagi's co-inventor of the antenna which is now generally known only by Yagi's name?

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-b. The currents in a parasitic element are induced by the field from the driven element. No direct connection to the feed line is needed. 2-Shorter; 3-Lower. A typical Yagi's feed-point impedance is less than 30 ohms; 4-a. The gamma, beta, and hairpin match are all widely used to connect a 50 ohm feed line to a Yagi's driven element. 5-b. This design allows all-metal mounting hardware, simplifying construction and allowing placement of the antenna at the same dc potential for grounding; 6-Lower; 7-c. Forward gain and rejection of signals off the rear are improved by proper placement of parasitic elements; 8-a. The antennas were described in the Japanese IRE Journal in 1926 and 1927, while the English papers were published in the Proceedings of the IRE in 1928; 9-a. This is sometimes referred to as "SWR bandwidth"; 10-c. Tapering reduces antenna weight and wind load, while having a minimal electrical effect; 11-Decreases. An antenna with more elements generally has a narrower or sharper radiation pattern; Bonus Answer-Dr. Uda was the co-inventor of the "Yagi-Uda Array", usually referred to as the "Yagi!"