

# telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

AUGUST 2008

VOL 41 ISSUE 12

## FIELD DAY 2008

The results are in!

Call Used: WB2ELW  
GOTA Station Call: KB2ESM  
ARRL/RAC Section: WNY  
Class: 2A  
Participants: 30



Club/Group Name:

Southtowns Amateur Radio Society (STARS)

Power Source(s): Generator

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power 200

Media Publicity 100

Set-up in Public Place 100

Information Booth 100

W1AW Field Day Message 100

Site Visit by invited served agency official 100

Youth participation 20

Youth operators=1

Youth participants=1

GOTA Bonus 20

Submitted via the Web 50

Educational Activity 100

Total Bonus Points 890

Score Summary:

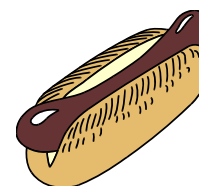
	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	192	47	245	
Total Points	384	94	245	723

**Claimed Score = 1,446**

*Thanks to all who helped make this year's Field Day another success for STARS!*

## AUGUST MEETING

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



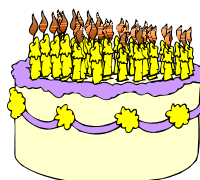
It's our annual family picnic meeting! STARS will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers (to be cooked on our new grill) and soda pop. You're asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts.

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.

## HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!



8th: George Ebert N2NOB  
10th: Chuck Leitten KA2RGA  
14th: Eugene Hacker KC2EHV  
26th: Bill Hoffman KB2PAR  
26th: Paul Gastle N2UKV

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

### 15 years ago ...from the August 1993 Telstar

During my vacation, I had the pleasure to put the STARS net on the air on 3.925 Mhz at 10AM on Saturday. I thought I would have better reception at Darien Lake, but no luck. At home, I get the frying noise from a transformer station and WEBR AM QRM. Well, you guessed it. I was situated right near the main transformer station that supplied all the electric for the rides so my noise was up to a S7.

—Guz WB2EZU

### 20 years ago ...from the August 1988

Remember: *GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT.* STARS needs all of its members, financially and actively to survive. Most jobs, while being vital to the clubs' existence, require only a modest amount of work and time and don't even require attendance at meetings.

- President's Corner Bill N2GAO

STARS welcomed new members: Robert Byttner (no call); Kenneth Haas K2KYE, Edward Patton KB2FKF, and Robert Knaier AG2F.

### 40 years ago ...from the August 1968

Here in the midst of Summer, let's stop and take a look at what the club has accomplished in its first year of existence. Look around you and count the number of new and upgraded licensees. Think back to some of the tours that we have gone on. Also remember the excellent representation our club has had at some of the ham doings around the area earlier in the year. We have achieved several of our goals and have increased our membership. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support that you have give the South Town Amateur Radio Society.

—Hap WB2YNA

## VE SESSION

STARS held a VE Test Session on Saturday July 12th. The session was held at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Aves.)



The STARS VE Team included Scott KB2KOL, Jim N2TFA and Judy N2TEZ.

A "paper-upgrade" to General for Chuck Leitten KA2RGA was processed. Three tests were administered and two new Technician licenses were earned. Congratulations to Tom Morrissey KC2TRG and Kristopher Bangsil KC2TRH!

If you're eligible for a "paper-upgrade" to General, we're planning on enough VEs to be at the August meeting to be able to process the upgrade. Make sure you bring the required paperwork and ID (along with copies of them).

The next scheduled STARS Test Session is September 13th. Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registration will speed up the check-in process.

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

## 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

## TH6DX TRIBAND BEAM UP FOR AUCTION

Mike, W4QY was not able to put his HyGain TH6DX up at his new QTH due to restrictions. So, he has donated it to the STARS. The TH6DX is an excellent triband beam. As a matter of fact, there is one sitting on top of the 75' tower at the STARS clubhouse, and it performs very well.

While no one from the club has inspected the beam, as it is neatly packaged for delivery, Mike informed us that, while it is used, it is in good condition. He also said that there were some extra parts packed away with the beam.

The STARS Board of Directors has decided to conduct a sealed bid auction for the TH6DX. Anyone interested in bidding on the TH6DX should submit their bid to Don, K2PMC at email address [K2PMC@ARRL.NET](mailto:K2PMC@ARRL.NET). The subject of your email should be TH6DX Auction. Please include your name, call sign and telephone number in your bid. All bids will be held in strict confidence and, in the case of duplicate high bids, the bid with the earliest date will be the winner. Only one bid per person will be accepted, so make your first bid, your best bid. You do not have to be a member of the STARS to submit your bid. All bids received will be considered on an equal basis.

The auction will end at midnight on September 24, and the winner will be notified shortly after the STARS Board of Directors meeting on September 25. The TH6DX will be available for pickup at the STARS clubhouse on Lakeview Road in the town of Hamburg. The beam is packaged up in a compact cylindrical container and is ready to carry away, so pickup should not be a problem.

If you have any questions concerning the auction you can address your questions to Don, K2PMC at the above email address.

Remember, bid once and bid high.....

## EIGHT COUNTIES TEST EMERGENCY HAM SYSTEMS

On Wednesday July 16th, eight counties across Western New York tested an emergency amateur (ham) radio system at area hospitals that allows communications with public health and other emergency personnel when traditional communications are down.

Amateur radio operators were stationed at 28 area hospitals as well as the County Emergency Command Centers (EOCs) to form an alternate communications network if cellular phones, e-mail and other usual communication devices are inoperable during a natural or manmade disaster.

The goals of the system include being able to provide the exchange of accurate and timely information between area hospitals and emergency personnel so that resources and equipment can be deployed where needed most.

The New York State Department of Health, New York State Emergency Management Office, County Emergency Management Offices, county and regional RACES Officers, and RACES/ARES staff were involved in the drill.



**STARS**  
Hamburg, NY

When all is said and done—  
more is usually said than done.

## HIRAM PERCY MAXIM'S TELEGRAPH KEY RETURNS TO ARRL HQ

At the ARRL Board of Director's meeting last month the telegraph key that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was returned to ARRL Headquarters. According to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, the key had been in the collection of the Antique Wireless Association's Electronic Communication Museum near Rochester, New York for more than 20 years.



Craigie said that the AWA decided to return Maxim's key to the organization he co-founded almost 100 years ago. At the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in May 2008, the museum's former curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, presented the key to Craigie and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Craigie and Edgar then presented the key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, on Friday, July 18.

"The key will find a prominent place in the League's collection of historical artifacts," Craigie said. "The Old Man's key has come home".

## 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.

## AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

**Aug 9, 1200Z-2200Z**, Stow, MA. Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, W1BIM. Smokey Bear's 64<sup>th</sup> Birthday. 28.450 14.265. QSL. Ray Doucette, KB1OUW, 2 Dawes Rd, Stow, MA 01775. [www.cmara.org](http://www.cmara.org)

**Aug 9, 1600Z-2300Z**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. US Coast Guard Birthday in 1790 and National Code Talkers Day. SSB 14.325 7.250 CW 14.060 7.040 BPSK 7.070-7.080 MT63 14.109 7.037 RTTY 14.080 7.080. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [af6ha@yahoo.com](mailto:af6ha@yahoo.com)

**Aug 16, 1400Z-2000Z**, Van Buren, IN. Grant County Amateur Radio Club, W9EBN. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Popcorn Festival from the Popcorn Capital of the World. 146.79 14.260 7.260. Certificate. Bart Bartholomew, WA9SPT, 6981 N E00 W, Marion, IN 46952. [www.grantarc.com](http://www.grantarc.com)

### International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend:

**Aug 16-Aug 17, 0000Z-2359Z**

Huntington, NY. Peconic Amateur Radio Club, W2AMC. 14.270 7.270. Certificate. [www.peconic-arc.com](http://www.peconic-arc.com)

Eagle Harbor, MI. K8E. Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, plus two range lights upon request. 14.275 14.030 7.275 7.030. QSL. [www.kc8nah.com/Interests/EagleHarbor/illw08.htm](http://www.kc8nah.com/Interests/EagleHarbor/illw08.htm)

Dunkirk, NY. Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, W2SO. Dunkirk Lighthouse, Lake Erie,. 21.300 14.250 7.250 3.850. [dunkirk-lighthouse.com](http://dunkirk-lighthouse.com)

Merchantville, NJ, KC2HOU. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.270. QSL. [illw.org](http://illw.org)

Fire Island, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB. SSB 14.240 10.110 7.260 3.925 CW 21.280 14.058 7.058. QSL. [www.gsbarc.org](http://www.gsbarc.org)

Sea Girt Lighthouse, NJ. North America DX Assn/Neptune Amateur Radio Club, NA2DX. 14.260 7.260. QSL. [kc2q@arrrl.net](mailto:kc2q@arrrl.net)

Southold, NY. Peconic Amateur Radio Club, W2AMC. 14.270 7.270. Certificate. [www.peconic-arc.com](http://www.peconic-arc.com)

**Aug 16-Aug 30, 1400Z-2200Z**, Azle, TX. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, W5P. Activation of Pelican Island TX050L. 21.250 14.250 7.250. QSL. W5P Pelican Island, c/o WC5C Tri-County ARC, 820 Wood Ln, Azle, TX 76020. *Saturdays only.* [www.wc5c.org](http://www.wc5c.org)

**Aug 21-Aug 24, 1300Z-2359Z**, Hannibal, MO. Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, K0S. WW2-LST 325 Ship in Hannibal Missouri. SSB 14.265 7.265 CW 14.040 7.040. Certificate. Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1522, Hannibal, MO 63401. \$3 fee for certificate. [WOKEM.com](http://WOKEM.com)

(Continued on page 5)



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

(Continued from page 4)

**Aug 23-Aug 24, 1300Z-0100Z**, Jackson's Mill/Weston, WV. Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association, W8V. 50<sup>th</sup> West Virginia State ARRL Convention. 14.270 7.200. Certificate. SJARA, PO Box 752, Clarksburg, WV 26301-0752. k8dfsjara@aol.com or [www.sjara.org](http://www.sjara.org)

**Aug 30, 1200Z-2000Z**, Manassas, VA. Ole Virginia Hams, W4OVH. Civil War of Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas (Bull Run). 146.970 21.362 14.262 7.262. QSL. Ole Virginia Hams, PO Box 1255, Manassas, VA 20108. [aldugaw@juno.com](mailto:aldugaw@juno.com) or [www.w4ovh.net](http://www.w4ovh.net)

**Aug 31-Sep 1, 1330Z-2030Z**, Prairie Grove, AR. KD5TLH. Labor Day Arts and Craft Fair. 146.955 14.260 7.260 7.275. QSL. Joe Dunn, 12358 West Ervan Beeks Rd, Farmington, AR 72730. [bjosedunn@hotmail.com](mailto:bjosedunn@hotmail.com)

## AUGUST CONTESTS

**Aug 16 6AM-Aug 17 12 AM** ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest - Phone, CW, Digital; Exchange: 6-character grid locator; [www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest)

**Aug 16 0000Z-Aug 17 1600Z** SARTG WW RTTY Contest—Exchange: RST and serial; [www.sartg.com](http://www.sartg.com)

**Aug 16 1500Z-Aug 16 1800Z** Silent Key Memorial Spring—CW—Exchange: RST, S/P/C, QRP ARCI mbr nr or pwr; [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org)

**Aug 16 1800Z-Aug 17 0600Z** North American QSO Party—Phone—Exchange: Name and state; [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

## 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).

## 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 MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center or the NIKE Base Clubhouse 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.

## HERE'S ANOTHER QUIZ FROM H. WARD SILVER NOAX

You might call this "backing workwards". The answer comes first and you have to figure out the right question!

1. 468
  - a. Length in inches of an 80-meter quarter-wave length stub of open wire line
  - b. Product of feet times frequency in MHz for the length of a half-wavelength dipole
  - c. Number of DXCC entities
  - d. Yellow-red-orange
2. Only when you're called
  - a. When to call a DX station
  - b. You can take emergency action...
  - c. Send the text of a message on a net frequency...
  - d. When to respond to intentional interference
3. OO
  - a. A popular award program from Oman
  - b. The CW abbreviation for "Over and Out"
  - c. What you say when you receive an FCC "pink slip"
  - d. Ham radio's friendly observer corps
4. 66%
  - a. Velocity of propagation in RG-58/U coaxial cable compared to free space
  - b. Ratio of carrier to sideband power in FM signals
  - c. Ratio of American to Russian amateurs
  - d. Maximum safe-to-rated power dissipation for wirewound resistors
5. Center frequency divided by bandwidth
  - a. Q-factor of a tuned circuit
  - b. Modulation index
  - c. Carson's Rule
  - d. Impedance transformation ration of a pi-net tank circuit
6. Sunrise
  - a. Best time for auroral propagation
  - b. Grey-line propagation occurs then
  - c. Traditional start of the ARRL 160-meter contest
  - d. Time of lowest galactic noise on VHF/UHF bands
7. Gold
  - a. Color of a 3-500Z anode
  - b. Required surface metal for RF conductors at microwave frequencies
  - c. The worth of a new transceiver by weight
  - d. 5% tolerance band color for resistors

8. Split
  - a. AC line transformer core configuration
  - b. Common DX operating technique
  - c. What to do after accidentally QRMIing a net
  - d. Outdated method of modulating plate current
9. Unbalanced
  - a. Another term for elliptical polarization
  - b. AB-class amplifier operations
  - c. A load with one terminal connected to system ground
  - d. Digital protocols that don't require full-duplex operation
10. 300
  - a. Speed of light in millions of meters per second
  - b. Number of QSLs required for the 5B-WAS award
  - c. Length in cm of a 10-meter quarter-wavelength whip
  - d. Number of kHz in the General class allocation on 10-meters
11. 15
  - a. Maximum power output in watts for QRP stations
  - b. Amateur Extra code speed requirements
  - c. Number of ARRL sections
  - d. Number of ARRL divisions
12. PL
  - a. Abbreviation for "powered load"
  - b. Motorola trademark for CTCSS system
  - c. Prefix for amateurs in Papua-New Guinea
  - d. Designation for "pirate" used by DXCC administrators

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### Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1. b—Know this by heart; 2. c—A Net Control Station (NCS) will direct you when to pass your traffic; 3. d—Official Observers are the backbone of Amateur Radio's self-policing history; 4. a—A number of coaxial cables with polyethylene center insulators have this characteristic; 5. a—The lower the resistive loss for the circuit's components, the sharper the frequency response becomes; 6. b—HF propagation is often enhanced along a path parallel to the sunrise/sunset terminator; 7. d—Silver indicates 10% value tolerance, gold 5% and no band 20%; 8. b—DX stations often transmit on a single frequency, while listening one or more kHz away to help speed things along (Answer C isn't too bad, either); 9. c—Baluns (balanced-to-unbalanced transformers) are often used to drive these loads; 10. a—You'll find this is also the ratio of wavelength in meters to frequency in MHz; 11. d; 12. b—Motorola pioneered the commercial use of sub-audible tones