

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

SEPTEMBER 2008

VOL 42 Issue 1

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

As part of the US Department of Homeland Security's "Ready" Campaign, September is National Preparedness Month. It helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness.

"Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

"The 'Ready' campaign is specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps," said ARRL Public Relations and Media Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts."

There are four easy steps, further explained throughout this issue of Telstar:

1. Get an Emergency Supply Kit
2. Make a Family Emergency Plan
3. Be Informed
4. Get Involved



SEPTEMBER MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday Sept 4 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.

We'll be talking about Preparedness Month and what simple steps you can take to make yourself and your family ready for the next emergency.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY!



- 3rd: John Leitten KA2RFT
5th: Jim Starr N2TFA
17th: Ken Johnson KG4KQW
Gene Donohue KC2SLN
21st: Lee Rose KB2IHJ
26th: Dave Bouman KD2EY
29th: Bob Lehning WA2YSJ



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

STEP 1: GET AN EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT

Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Following is a listing of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

Other items to consider including in your Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper - When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per

STARS SEPTEMBER VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday September 13th. 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.

gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.

- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

STEP 2: MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Select an Out-of-Town Contact and Telephone Number. Why out of town? In case of disaster, they will most likely not be affected. Select a neighborhood and regional meeting place. What if your neighborhood was cut off and you couldn't go home. Where would you go? Where would you go if you were forced to evacuate?

Make a list of each family member's name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and Important Medical Information. Keep it up to date.

Where to go in an emergency? Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans. Every family member should carry a copy of these numbers with them.

Family Communications Plan

Other Important Phone Numbers & Information:

Contact Name: _____
Telephone: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Name: _____
Telephone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____
Meeting Place Telephone: _____

Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies!

ARRL SECTION MANAGERS ELECTION RESULTS

Current Section Manager in Western New York, Scott Bauer, W2LC, of Baldwinsville, was re-elected with 639 votes; challenger Kevin Romer, KC2MLC, of Trumansburg, received 273 votes. Scott has served as Western New York Section Manager since 2000. He is active in many areas of Amateur Radio including the National Traffic System, ARES and SKYWARN, and serves as a volunteer examiner. You may recall he stopped by to visit us on Field Day.

FCC TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register. No date has yet been set for publication. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$50. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" -- or applications -- during Fiscal Year 2009, collecting \$184,734 in fees from the program.

Those holding "personalized" call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

—ARRL News

STEP 3: BE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan are the same for both a natural or manmade emergency. However there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats, such as biological, chemical, explosive, nuclear, and radiological, which will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these threats, you are preparing yourself to react in an emergency.

Biological Threat

A biological attack is the deliberate release of germs or other biological substances that can make you sick. Many agents must be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin or be eaten to make you sick. Some biological agents, such as anthrax, do not cause contagious diseases. Others, like the smallpox virus, can result in diseases you can catch from people. Unlike an explosion, a biological attack may or may not be immediately obvious.

Chemical Threat

A chemical attack is the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid or solid that can poison people and the environment. Watch for signs of a chemical attack such as many people suffering from watery eyes, twitching, choking, having trouble breathing or losing coordination.

Nuclear Blast

A nuclear blast is an explosion with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water and ground surfaces for miles around. While experts may predict at this time that a nuclear attack is less likely than others, terrorism by its nature is unpredictable.

Radiation Threat or "Dirty Bomb"

A radiation threat or "Dirty Bomb" is the use of com-

WELCOME TO STARS!

Three new club memberships were accepted at the August meeting:

Jon Hall KC2QKB
Michael McCrossan KC2TPX
Paul Perlman W2PIP

mon explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area. It is not a nuclear blast. The force of the explosion and radioactive contamination will be more localized. While the blast will be immediately obvious, the presence of radiation may not be clearly defined until trained personnel with specialized equipment are on the scene. As with any radiation, you want to try to limit your exposure. Think about shielding, distance and time.

Natural disasters

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, there are important differences among natural disasters that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Some natural disasters are easily predicted, others happen without warning. Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared.

Historically, flooding is the nation's single most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory. And we all know the impacts of winter storms! Earthquakes are often thought of as a West Coast phenomenon, yet 45 states and territories in the United States are at moderate to high risk from earthquakes and are located in every region of the country. Tornados are nature's most violent storms and can happen anywhere. Statistically, a tornado touches down in Erie County about once every five years.

Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared. Find out what natural disasters are most common in your area.

HURRICANE WATCH NET ACTIVE

The Hurricane Watch Net is active on 14.325 MHz as Hurricane Gustav spins up in the Gulf. They will be disseminating the latest weather bulletins from the National Hurricane Center and passing real time reports from the affected areas to WX4NHC at the Center to assist forecasters in their tasks. Plans are to remain active until the band goes out. The Hurricane Watch Net HWN website is <http://www.hwn.org/>



WX4NHC – Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center

Purpose and Goals:

- Collect weather data "Surface Reports" from the Hurricane affected areas in real time for use by the Hurricane Forecasters.
- Provide back-up emergency communications to and from the Hurricane Center during and after a direct hit on Miami.
- Provide Hurricane Advisories over Ham Radio, when other sources are not available to the affected area.
- Enhance and promote the accuracy and availability of weather data surface reports.

WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW) is operated by volunteer amateur radio operators and is located at the [National Hurricane Center](#), located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, Florida. The station is sponsored by the Dade County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp (ARPSC) and has been totally assembled from donated equipment.

Since 1980, the station is activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of land fall in the areas of the western Atlantic, the Caribbean or the eastern Pacific.

STEP 4: GET INVOLVED

After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. We all have a role to play in keeping our hometowns secure from emergencies of all kinds.

Citizen Corps actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better prepared. Citizen Corps works hard to help people prepare, train, and volunteer in their communities. You can provide valuable assistance to local fire stations, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency management. Join ARES/RACES. Be a part of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to help people immediately after a disaster and to assist emergency responders;

Joining a Neighborhood Watch group to help with terrorism awareness and neighborhood emergency preparedness.

Helping others get prepared, especially those with special needs.

It starts with you. Prepare. Train. Volunteer...

There is a pool of over 30 volunteer specially trained operators that can be called upon to man the station in 3 hour shifts for as long as is needed. During the 1998 season they operated over 500 hours, the longest time being during hurricane "Georges" when the station was on the air for 10 days and collected over 500 reports. These operators, in conjunction with Net Control operators of the Hurricane Watch Net, collect real time hurricane report forms for the Center's Hurricane Forecasters from amateur radio operators via the radio, Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) and from members of the volunteer Observer Network in the affected area via either e-mail or Fax, they also communicate severe weather information to the amateur community.

These "Surface Reports" are real time eye witness reports and weather data that provide the forecasters with supplemental data that may not be available to them through other means.

—WX4NHC Website

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Sep 1, 1200Z-2359Z, Nutley, NJ. Robert D. Grant United Labor Amateur Radio Assoc, N2UL. CQ Labor Day from N2UL. 28.420 21.360 14.260 449.975/W2LI. Certificate. RDGULARA c/o WA2VJA, 112 Prospect St, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

Sep 1-Sep 15, 0000Z-2359Z, Salt Lake City, UT. Utah DX Association, K7T. 81st Anniversary of the invention of the electronic TV. 14.260 7.260. QSL. Wesley Wilkinson, W7WES, 7363 Galaxy Hill Rd, West Jordan, UT 84081.

Sep 4-Sep 8, 1300Z-0300Z, Hebron, CT. Newington Amateur Radio League, W1H. Promote Amateur Radio and ARES. 28.355 21.355 18.155 14.255. QSL. Richard Lawrence, 335 Lloyd St, Newington, CT 06111. KB1DMX@arrl.net or www.narl.net

Sep 6-Sep 7, 1600Z-0000Z, West Chester, OH. West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA. Ohio State Parks On the Air. 21.300 14.250 7.200 3.825. Certificate. WC8VOA, PO Box 913, West Chester, OH 45071. www.wc8voa.org

Sep 7, 1400Z-1900Z, Brooklyn, NY. Kings County Repeater Association, KC2RA. 9/11 Memorial Event commemorating the 9/11 tragedy. 28.430 14.295 7.250 3.900. QSL. Kings County Repeater Association, 9/11 Memorial Event, PO Box 280288, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0288. www.kc2ra.com

Sep 12-Sep 14, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. Inaugural running of the Indianapolis MotoGP. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495. QSL and certificate available. www.w9ims.com

Sep 13, 1400Z-2000Z, Hammond, LA. Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, K5R. 3rd Anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 14.250 7.250. QSL. Scott Hernandez, K5R, 957 Nancy St, Mandeville, LA 70448. groups.yahoo.com/group/K5R

Sep 13, 1600Z-2300Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. National POW-MIA Recognition Day and Commissioning of the USS Midway (CVB 41) in 1945. 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

Sep 13-Sep 14, 1300Z-2200Z, Elmira, NY. Elmira Radio Association, K2NSM. National Soaring Museum - Community Soaring Day. 14.260 07.260 18.160. Certificate. ARAST, PO Box 614, Horseheads, NY 14845-0614. www.wa2ntk.com/k2nsm

Sep 18-Sep 21, 0000Z-2359Z, Santa Ana, CA. Anaheim Police Radio Club, K6P. POW-MIA Recognition Day. 21.350 18.150 14.253 7.250. QSL. Mark McMullen, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799. km6hb@arrl.net

Sep 20-Sep 21, 1600Z-0400Z, Sharpsburg, MD. Antietam Radio Association, Inc, W3CWC. Commemorating the Battle of Bloody Lane at Antietam Battlefield. 14.257 7.168 9.903 147.09. QSL. Page Pyne, WA3EOP, 204 N Locust St, Apt 2S, Hagerstown, MD 217404051. www.w3cwc.org

Sep 20-Sep 26, 0100Z-2359Z, 75th Anniversary of Collins Radio Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Clubs 28.455 28.050 21.385 21.050 Collect 4 or more QSLs from 4 different facilities for special certificate - mail to W0CXX. QSLs will be returned. Complete list of frequencies and info at w0cxx.us

Cedar Rapids, IA. W0CXX. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, North Campus, 10211 Hall Rd, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411.

Melbourne, FL. W4CRC. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, 1874 Palmer Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935.

Toulouse, France. F6KNZ. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, 6 avenue Didier Daurat, Blagnac, FRANCE.

Tustin, CA. W6CXX. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, Southern California Chapter, 14192 Franklin Ave M/S 550-100, Tustin, CA 92780.

Cedar Rapids, IA. W0CXX. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, South Campus, HQ Station, 10211 Hall Rd, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Richardson, TX. W5ROK. QSL. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 833807 Mail Stn 461-290, Richardson, TX 75083-3807.

Sep 21-Sep 28, 0000Z-2359Z, Oxford, MS. University of Mississippi Amateur Radio Club, W5UMS. Presi-

(Continued on page 7)

dential Debate at the University of Mississippi. SSB 21.250 14.250 7.250 3.860 CW 21.050 14.050 7.050 3.550 PSK RTTY. QSL. University of Mississippi Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 276, University, MS 38677. No SASE required for QSL. www.w5ums.org

Sep 27-Sep 28, 1300Z-1800Z, Malone, NY. North Franklin Amateur Radio Society, N2NNY. Almanzo Wilder Farm 75th Anniversary. 14.280 14.050 7.270 7.050. QSL. Jeff Jones, 190 Reagan Flats Rd, Bombay, NY 12914.

SEPTEMBER CONTESTS

Sep 1 2300Z - Sep 2 0300Z Labor Day Sprint—CW—Exchange: RST, S/P/C, MI QRP nr or power; www.qsl.net/miqrplclub

Sep 6 1300Z - Sep 7 1300Z IARU Region I Field Day—Phone—Exchange: RS and serial; see IARU Society Web pages

Sep 7 0000Z - Sep 7 0400Z North American Sprint—Phone, CW, Digital—Exchange: RS(T), serial, name and state; www.ncjweb.com

Sep 7 1100Z - Sep 7 1300Z DARC Digital 10m Corona—Digital—Exchange: RST and serial; www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm

Sep 13 0000Z - Sep 14 2400Z WAE DX Contest—Phone—Exchange RS and serial; www.waedc.de

Sep 13 1800Z - Sep 15 0300Z ARRL September VHF QSO Party—Phone, CW, Digital—Exchange: Grid Square; www.arrl.org/contests

Sep 13 1800Z - Sep 13 2400Z Second-Class Operators Spring—CW—Exchange: RST, S/P/C, SOC nr or power; www.qsl.net/soc

Sep 14 0000Z - Sep 14 0400Z North American Sprint—Phone—Exchange: Call signs, serial, name and state; www.ncjweb.com

Sep 20 6AM - Sep 21 12Mid ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest—Phone, CW, Digital—Exchange: 6-char grid locator; www.arrl.org/contests

Sep 20 0000Z - Sep 21 2400Z ARRL EME Contest—Phone, CW, Digital—Exchange: Call signs, signal rpt, acknowledgement; www.arrl.org/contests

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 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 WB2JPK, the Sunday morning RagChew Net at 9:30AM on 28.380 Mhz.



STARS
Hamburg, NY

STARS Board of Directors

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

Ever stop to think and forget
to start again?

A Word Problem from NOAX.. in keeping with our preparedness theme...

During emergency service a handheld rig could be used at a 10% duty cycle of transmitting vs. total on-time. The rig draws 50 mA while receiving and 1 A while transmitting. Each 8-V NiCd pack has a capacity of 2.5 A/h. How long will each pack last if 80% of its capacity can be used? How many fully-charged battery packs are needed for 24 hours of operation?

Answer below...

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).

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 4th—General STARS Meeting
September 25th—STARS Board Meeting

I used to have a handle on
life, but I broke it.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE/HAMARAMA

VHF Conference

Saturday Sep 27, 2008

8AM-5PM

Blue Bell, PA

Early Bird includes snacks, lunch, buffet dinner and HAMARAMA ticket

Special VHF beginners session Saturday PM
Registration and details www.packratvhf.com

HAMARAMA

37th Annual Pack Rats Flea Market- Rain or Shine

Sunday September 28, 2008

Gates Open 7AM

Sellars: 6AM No overnight parking

Middletown Grange Fair Grounds

Penn's Park Road; Wrightstown, PA

Food and Beverages

Talk-in 146.52 simplex

\$6 admission

Outdoor sellars add \$10/car space

Indoor sellars add \$15/table

For more information: www.packratvhf.com

*Answer to word problem....
If 80% of a pack's energy (expresses in amp-hours (Ah), which assumes constant voltage) is available for use, that 2Ah. The usage profile given is an average current drain consisting of 10% at 1 A plus 90% at 0.05 A = 145 mA. The total time this load can be supported is 2 / 0.145 = 13.8 hours. For 24 hours of operation you'll need 2 packs.*