

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

NOVEMBER 2008

VOL 42 Issue 3

EARTH DAY AT THE PENN DIXIE SITE

STARS took part in celebrating Earth Science Day at the Penn Dixie Site on Saturday October 11th. The event introduces kids to the earth sciences and provides an opportunity to learn first-hand what earth scientists do and the importance of earth sciences to society.

STARS members Keith KC2DGC, Scott KB2KOL and Jim N2TFA manned the exhibit. With a steady stream of interested kids and adults they spent the morning and early afternoon talking about amateur radio and just what we do.

Our exhibit consisted of radios (of course), a static display about amateur radio focusing on radio wave propagation, and pamphlets about amateur radio, STARS and the ARRL.



NOVEMBER MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday November 6 at the NIKE Base Clubhouse. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Club elections will take place. Come out and be counted!



We look forward to seeing you there.

2009 CLUB ELECTIONS

At the October club meeting, the following individuals were nominated for 2009 officers and directors:

President:	Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Vice President:	Scott Barto KB2KOL
Treasurer:	Jack Cullum KB2ESM
Secretary:	Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Financial Secretary:	Judy Levan N2TEZ
Director (2-yr term):	John Crawford KB2VWC

In addition to these nominated candidates, there will be lines for write-in votes on the ballot. People interested in being a write-in candidate may announce this prior to the election.

STARS members wishing an absentee ballot may request one from the Membership Chair (Financial Secretary). Absentee ballots must be returned by the date of the election to be counted.



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY!

4th: Pat Murray NW2I

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

10 years ago

...from the November 1998 Telstar

John Czuba KG2IM has recently received the new call sign of W2IV. Congratulations, John.

With HF conditions improving, activities at our NIKE Base Club station are picking up. Some nice 10-meter openings have allowed contacts as diverse as an island off of the coast of Senagal and a ham who was mobile at 6000 feet in the mountains of northern Utah.

John K2CF, STARS Nike Base Chairman, contesting under the club call of WB2ELW was recognized in the November 1998 issue of QST for the 1998 ARRL International DX Phone results and the 1997 ARRL 10-meter contest results update. --Terry K2OO

15 years ago

...from the November 1993 Telstar

The NIKE Base is undergoing the refinishing of the operational area. Once work is done there, we will be able to move our station back into the operational room. Now is the time to input your ideas, wants, needs, and general suggestions as to what you would like to see in the design of the operational desks. We are looking for any ideas that may increase the enjoyment of our hobby at the clubhouse.

At present we have a fully equipped HF station, a VHF packet station, an IBM computer, and soon to be all-mode digital controller. Next on the agenda is to decide whether to pursue a satellite station (VHF/UHF) in addition to using our 2-meter all-mode to work RS 10/11. --President's Column, Greg KE2VW

25 years ago

...from the November 1983 Telstar

Now for the bad news. The FCC has cut down on its days for Amateur examinations in their office. There will be only FOUR yes I said four days throughout the 1984 year and you must make an appointment to take them, but the rest of 1983 will still have every Friday as yet. This is the latest information, I guess they expect the pending volunteer examination program to take up the slack. --Gossip Column, Gus WB2EZU

30 years ago

...from the November 1978 Telstar

As most of you know Hap Cole WB2YNR is a silent key. He passed away in August. Hap was the first president of STARS and kept the club going for quite some time, in fact some of his ideas are still used by the club.

Our October meeting was quite successful and as Craig WA2PCH pulled a surprise Halloween party on the members. The cider and donuts were sure delicious. - Gossip Column, Guz WB2EZU

35 years ago

...from the November 1973

Thursday Oct 11th, the club station was opened up with six members present. Things ran smoothly and the rooms were put back in apple pie order. We were so busy with the equipment that there was no time to operate. - Gossip Column, Guz WB2EZU

40 years ago

...from the November 1968 Telstar

I'd like to congratulate Don Blachura on his new call, WA2HPW. Yours truly went up to FCC on Oct 4th and somehow got passed the Advanced exam.

-Hap WB2YNR

DID YOU KNOW?

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.



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

TIME TO RENEW!

It's time to renew your STARS membership. A 2009 renewal form is included on the last page.

Why not take the time right now to complete the form and mail it along with your dues to:

Judy Levan N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043-2974

Are you still receiving a paper copy of the Telstar? Why not consider getting it by email. 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. In addition, you'll be helping out the club by saving us costs of printing and postage.

STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

With the upcoming "major" holidays all on Thursday, here are some meeting dates to note:

- | | |
|---|--|
| November 6 | Regular Club Meeting 7PM
NIKE Base |
| November 20 | Board Meeting 7:30PM
NIKE Base |
| December 4 | Regular Club Meeting—Holiday Party
7PM Hamburg Youth Center |
| No Board meeting scheduled in December. | |
| January 8 | Regular Club Meeting 7PM
NIKE Base |

VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday November 8th. 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.

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).

THE ARRL

STARS has been designated as a Special Service Club by the ARRL. In order to maintain that designation we need to have the majority of our members belong to the ARRL. If you already aren't a member, please consider joining.

The ARRL is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators. The United States government began licensing Amateur Radio operators in 1912. By 1914, there were thousands of Amateur Radio operators--hams--in the United States. Hiram Percy Maxim, a leading Hartford, Connecticut, inventor and industrialist saw the need for an organization to band together this fledgling group of radio experimenters. In May 1914 he founded the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to meet that need.

Today ARRL, with approximately 154,000 members, is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the United States. The ARRL is a not-for-profit organization that:

- promotes interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation
- represents US radio amateurs in legislative matters, and
- maintains fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among Amateur Radio operators.

ARRL publishes the monthly journal QST, as well as newsletters and many publications covering all aspects of Amateur Radio. Its headquarters station, W1AW, transmits bulletins of interest to radio amateurs and Morse code practice sessions. The ARRL also coordinates an extensive field organization, which includes volunteers who provide technical information for radio amateurs and public-service activities. In addition, ARRL represents US amateurs with the Federal Communications Commission and other government agencies in the US and abroad.



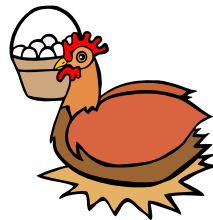
Membership in ARRL means much more than receiving QST each month. In addition to the services already described, ARRL offers membership services on a personal level, such as the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program and a QSL bureau.

ARRL membership gives you a voice in how the affairs of the organization are governed. ARRL policy is set by a Board of Directors (one from each of 15 Divisions). Each year, one-third of the ARRL Board of Directors stands for election by the full members they represent. The day-to-day operation of ARRL HQ is managed by an Executive Vice President.

No matter what aspect of Amateur Radio attracts you, ARRL membership is relevant and important. There would be no Amateur Radio as we know it today were it not for the ARRL. We would be happy to welcome you as a member. For more information about ARRL and answers to any questions you may have about Amateur Radio, write or call:

ARRL--The national association for Amateur Radio
 225 Main Street
 Newington CT 06111-1494
 Voice: 860-594-0200
 Fax: 860-594-0259
 E-mail: hq@arrl.org
 Internet: <http://www.arrl.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?



A bridge built in Lima, Peru around 1610 was made of mortar that was mixed not with water but with the whites of 10,000 eggs. The bridge, appropriately called the Bridge of Eggs, is still standing today.



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

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Nov 1, 1200Z-2100Z, Fire Island, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB/LH. Celebrating the 150th year of the Fire Island Lighthouse. SSB 14.260 7.250 3.755 CW 14.040 7.030 3.530 PSK 14.070. QSL. W2GSB/LH, PO Box 1356, West Babylon, NY 11704. www.gsbarc.org

Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald

Nov 1-Nov 3, 1500Z-0100Z, Split Rock, MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, WØJH. Split Rock Lighthouse. 14.260 14.070 7.260 3.860. Certificate. SARA - WØJH, Attn: Shel, NØDRX, 1618 West Pine St, Stillwater, MN 55082. www.radioham.org

Nov 7-Nov 9, 1800Z-1800Z, Whitefish Point, MI. Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society, N8F & K8F. 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Richard Barker, W8VS, 264 N East St, Brighton, MI 48116. www.qsl.net/w8njh

Nov 8, 1500Z-2000Z, Detroit, MI. Livonia Amateur Radio Club, W8F. 28.400 28.200 7.250 7.125 CW SSB 10 15 20 40 80 m as conditions permit. Certificate. LARC Special Event, PO Box 51532, Livonia, MI 48151-5532. www.livoniaarc.com

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.

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

Nov 1-Mar 1, 0000Z-0000Z, Reading, PA. The Great Outdoors Radio Club, WA3WSJ. The GORC Idirad 2009 Challenge. 80 40 20 15 10 m CW/SSB/PSK. QSL. GIC-2009, 775 Moonflower Ave, Reading, PA 19606-3447. www.wa3wsj.org/GORC_Iditraod2009.html

Honoring Veterans

Nov 8, 1200Z-1900Z, Azle, TX. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club of North Texas, WC5C. NCTECH 147.160 14.270 7.270 3.870. QSL. Tri-County ARC North Texas WC5C, 820 Wood Ln, Azle, TX 76020. kb5ylq@yahoo.com

Nov 8, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. 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

Nov 8-Nov 11, 1300Z-2100Z, Iron Mountain, MI. Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club, K8V. 14.060 14.280 7.060 7.230. Certificate. Thomas Martin, 812 West B St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. w8jwn@arri.net

Nov 9, 1700Z-2100Z, Butler, PA. Butler County Amateur Radio Association, W3UDX. SSB gen bands 40 20 m. QSL. BCARA W3UDX, Box 1787, Butler, PA 16003-1787. www.w3udx.org

Nov 9-Nov 10, 0459Z-0459Z, Grand Rapids, MI. Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, W8USA. 14.250 14.040 7.250 7.040. Certificate. MARA Attn: Larry Dells, PO Box 670, Comstock Park, MI 49321-0670. Times are daily. \$2 for certificate--do not send envelope. www.w8usa.org

Nov 9-Nov 11, 1600Z-2000Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Armored Force Amateur Radio Net, KA9NLX. 14.325 7.283 7.030 3.985. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. john.paskevicz@us.army.mil

Nov 9-Nov 15, 0000Z-2359Z, Isabela, PR. Veterans Amateur Radio Group of Puerto Rico, WP4NYD. 18.130 14.285 7.183 3.890. QSL. Carlos R. Rodriguez, KP3S, Rt 5 Box 71A, Isabela, PR 00662-4509. kp3s@arri.net

Nov 11, 1500Z-2245Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. 15 20 40 m Gen bands. QSL. USS Kidd Special Event, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

Nov 11, 1500Z-2200Z, Bellevue, NE. Strategic Air Command Memorial ARC (SACMARC), K0GRL. 14.275 7.275 146.480. QSL. SACMARC, Inc (K0GRL), PO Box 1292, Bellevue, NE 68005-1294. QSL 100 percent. SASE (DX: SAE and 1 green stamp) appreciated. www.sacmarc.org

Nov 11-Nov 12, 1100Z-0400Z, Charles Town, WV. Eastern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club, WW1FWB. WW-I 90th armistice anniversary at home of last surviving US vet. 14.290 7.190. Certificate. Mark Kraham, WW1FWB, 3370 Charles Town Rd, Kearneysville, WV 25430. k8ep.net/ww1fwb

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Nov 17, 1500Z-2300Z, Paulden, AZ. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, K7NRA. Celebration of the NRA's 137th birthday. 21.335 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Michael Campbell, K7NRA, 404 Lampliter Village, Clarkdale, AZ 86324. wb9vgj@arrl.net or www.w7yrc.org

Nov 29-Nov 30, 1400Z-2000Z, Plymouth, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club, WA1NPO. First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth, MA. 18.140 14.280 7.250 3.890. Certificate. Whitman ARC, PO Box 49, Whitman, MA 02382. Times are daily. www.wa1npo.org

NOVEMBER ARRL SSB SWEEPSTAKES WEEKEND

It's the premier SSB Contest this month...the ARRL Sweepstakes. The contest begins at 21Z on November 15th and runs through 03Z November 17th.



NIKE Base Chair Don Niles would like to open the clubhouse to any members who might be interested in working the WB2ELW station on Saturday November 16th. Contact Don K2PMC by email at k2pmc@arrl.net or by phone at 627-5297.

The ARRL is offering special prizes to help celebrate this Diamond Anniversary of the premier domestic contest.

- Any station who submits a SS log with 75 sections worked will receive a special commemorative magnet.
- Any station who submits a log with a "Clean Sweep" (working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections in the contest) will receive a commemorative Clean Sweep whisk broom.



STARS
Hamburg, NY

SOME CONTESTING TIPS

—K9JY

Schedule your Contests.

- The really great thing about contesting is they are regularly scheduled — regardless of great propagation, DXpeditions or the mood of the sun.

Test equipment before the contest.

- You do want your stuff to work, right?

Read the contest rules.

- You'd be surprised how often this bites you — even experienced testers.

Test ergonomics.

- Sitting in a chair contesting a long while will test how well your station is laid out for operating.

Have propagation plan.

- Propagation programs can suggest what will be open where. Having a propagation plan can give you a guide while contesting.

Accurate logging.

- A contest is about working stations — and logging them accurately. If you don't you get penalized.

Have fun contesting.

- It's there. You know it. Go find it.

You might be a ham if.....

1. Your wife said "Let's go see Aunt Anna and you thought she said antenna!
2. Your wife said "Could you cut the grass?" and you thought she said pound the brass!
3. Your wife said "We've been invited to breakfast and you thought she said hamfest!
4. Your wife said "Something is wrong with the check book" and you thought she said log book.
5. Your wife said "Is my seam straight?" and you thought she said, "Is my beam straight?"



(You might be hard of hearing, too!!)

ANTENNAS AND FEED LINES

1. SWR refers to the Standing Wave Ratio and is a measurement of how closely the antenna feed-point impedance matches that of the:
 - a. Attached feed line
 - b. Transmitter output
 - c. Receiver input
2. A feed line that is said to be unbalanced means that one conductor is connected to:
 - a. Nothing
 - b. Ground
 - c. Another antenna
3. True or false?
 - a. The terms ladder line, open-wire line, and twin lead are synonymous.
 - b. UHF connectors are not useful below 30 MHz.
 - c. Balun is an abbreviation for balanced-to-unbalanced.
 - d. An isotropic antenna radiates equally in all directions.
4. Although a ground-plane antenna is often 1/2-wavelength long, only the 1/4-wavelength vertical conductor is visible. The antenna relies on an electrical image formed by _____ to make up the other half of the antenna.
 - a. A tuned circuit
 - b. Radial wires or a metal surface
 - c. An antenna tuner
5. For best performance, a VHF/UHF preamp should be installed at the:
 - a. Antenna
 - b. Midway along the feed line
 - c. Receiver input
6. An Az-El rotor is capable of:
 - a. Moving an antenna from side to side (azimuth)
 - b. Moving an antenna up and down (elevation)
 - c. Both a and b

7. Which of the following is used to connect a single antenna to two VHF/UHF radios on different bands?
 - a. Rubber duck
 - b. SWR bridge
 - c. Diplexer
 - d. L-network
8. A Yagi-style beam antenna consists of a long, central support called a _____ and several parallel conductors called _____.
9. The horizontal direction in which an antenna is pointed is referred to as the:
 - a. Elevation
 - b. Range
 - c. Azimuth
 - d. The squint angle
 - e. The squint angle
10. Coaxial cable is listed as having a characteristic impedance, such as 50 ohms for RG-58. This impedance is the:
 - a. DC resistance of the cable conductors measured end-to-end
 - b. DC resistance between the center conductor and shield
 - c. AC impedance from the shield to ground

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-a—If the antenna and feed line impedances do not match, standing waves of voltage and current are created in the feed line; 2-b—Although the ground connection may not be near the antenna itself; 3-a—True, although the terms commonly refer to differences in the materials used and the spacing between conductors; b—False. In fact, so-called UHF connectors are least useful at UHF and above. c—True. Baluns are used when unbalanced feed lines are coupled to balanced antennas. d—True, but you'll never find one in your local ham store. An isotropic antenna is a hypothetical ideal. It exists only in the world of engineering mathematics; 4-b—The radials or metal surface act as a radio-frequency mirror, creating the required missing half of the antenna; 5-a—Installing a preamp at the antenna increases received signal strength before feed line losses take their toll; 6-c—The rotor controls antenna direction in both azimuth and elevation, thus Az-El. This is the ideal antenna rotor for satellite operation; 7-b—A diplexer allows a single antenna to be used on two different frequency bands simultaneously; 8-boom, elements; 9-c—The impedance depends on the materials used in the cable and the spacing between the center conductor and the shield.

2009 STARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Are you a member of ARRL? YES NO

Do you want to receive your Telstar by email? YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: Additional names and information:

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

DUES: STARS Annual dues payable by January 1

SINGLE \$21 FAMILY \$27 STUDENT (through grade 12) \$8

RETURNED COMPLETED FORM AND DUES (Checks payable to STARS) to:

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