

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

JANUARY 2009

VOL 42 Issue 5

JANUARY DINNER MEETING

This month's club meeting will be a dinner meeting. STARS members and guests (spouse, date, friend) are welcome to attend this meeting. No RSVP is needed. We'll order off the menu and it will be separate checks.

Perkins Restaurant
4245 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY
Thursday January 8, 2009
6:30 PM

The club business meeting will be very brief as Perkins closes at 9:30PM so we need to have everything wrapped up by then. We look forward to seeing you there!



HAVE YOUR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

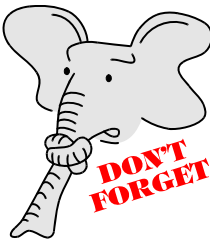
Don't forget to renew your membership. STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to continue to help keep us great.

STARS dues are \$21 for individual members, \$27 for a family, and \$8 for student members.

A renewal application was included in the November Telstar. The application is also available for download on our website at www.wb2elw.com

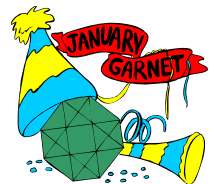
Send the completed application along with your dues check made payable to STARS to:

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



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!

2nd: Mark Barnack N2LAB
7th: Ken Pokigo KC2AYK
17th: Alex Clark W2SPY
17th: Mike Harrington W4QY
25th: Jim Sojka WB2TJO
30th: Anne Fanelli WI2G
30th: Fred Velott KA2TTP



Don't forget to complete your Membership Survey that was included in last month's Telstar!

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 Clubhouse. 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.

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.

Just note the change on your renewal form.

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

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

20 years ago

...from the January 1989 Telstar

With the assistance of Bill N2GAO & John KA2RFT on the 2-m repeater and Guz WB2EZU on the 80-m net, they joined the repeater to the low band transmitter and were able to check in members on the link. It was very enjoyable and hats off to the members who were able to accomplish a fete like this.

—Guz's Gossip Column

New calls...Edward Patton KB2FKF is now N2ING

25 years ago

...from the January 1984 Telstar

With the Xmas holidays and the New Year just around the corner, it sure is a busy time for all of us. But, hopefully, 1984 will be as great a year as the past few years for STARS which Ernie WB2GIM presided over. As you have heard many times before, any organization is only as good as its participating members. I do hope that all members get involved in club activities.

--Tony WA2ZFU

30 years ago

...from the January 1979 Telstar

Welcome to 1979. This could be quite a year for STARS. What the year will bring depends on YOU! Our club is widely diversified in its activities. This provides the membership with the opportunity to try the many facets that ham radio has to offer. In order to keep these activities going the Club needs your support!

--Paul WA2CEN

35 years ago

...from the January 1974 Telstar

Hope you all had happy holidays. As we start on a new year, we are looking forward to bigger and better meetings. Guz is running a very successful class at the CAP Bldg every Thursday. This is one of the most important functions of a radio club.

--Lin WB2HCL

40 years ago

...from the January 1969 Telstar

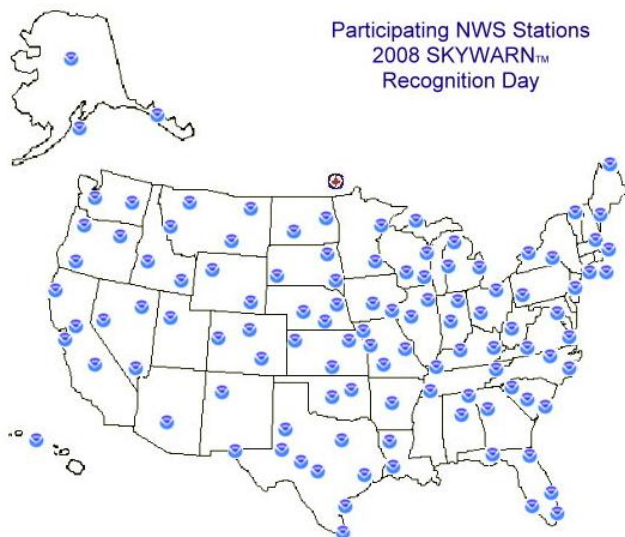
We are sorry to report that vandals tore down Ernie's (WA2COD) antenna. Dan WA2CNH is almost ready to go RTTY. His transmitter and converter are working fine and he has successfully sent out a message via RTTY. As soon as a couple of problems with the receiver and converter are ironed out, he'll be going both ways. Ken K2YFT is working on his rig and will soon add 2 meters to the bands he works.

-- Hap WB2YHR

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event took place on Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. Operators at the NWS office in Buffalo made 422 contacts this year in 45 states and including QSOs with 47 other NWS offices. Contacts were made with hams in the Slovak Republic, Australia, Cuba, Canada, the Netherlands, Moscow and Puerto Rico.

Over 100 NWS offices took part in the annual event.



You can find a list of station statistics, photos and QSL information on the web at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

Thanks to STARS members John Leitten KA2RFT, Jim Starr N2TFA and Tom Dean KA2NXY for stopping by the NWS office to help with the event!

— Judy N2TEZ

VE TEST SESSIONS



STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday January 17th. 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.

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 \$15.00 (Note price increase)
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.

LARC holds it's VE tests on the last Tuesday of the 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 holds test sessions on the first Saturday of the month 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 Bill Klepser WB2AIV at 839-3525 or email wb2aiv@arrl.net.

PROS holds test sessions as needed at 585 North Star Road, East Aurora. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.



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

WANT A GOOD VIDEO ON INSTALLING A PL-259 CONNECTOR?

Installing a PL-259 on RG-213

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1nabA6yMoI>

Installing a PL-259 on RG8X

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzXXjzmA-IE&feature=related>

HONG KONG TO FINE AND JAIL ILLEGAL CB OPERATORS

Operate a CB radio in Hong Kong without a license or run too much power and you may go to jail. That's the essence of the warning from the Hong Kong's Office of the Telecommunications Authority which has mounted an enforcement operation against the citizen radio operators which are suspected of using illegal transmitters.

The telecommunications regulator has already raided the home of an operator identified as Chai Wan. There it seized one transmitter and detained three people for questioning.

Under Hong King law it is unlawful for any person to establish or maintain any means of telecommunications without an appropriate license. If convicted of this kind of an offense he or she is liable to a maximum penalty of a 100,000 Hong Kong Dollar fine and five years in jail.

Hong Kong's Office of the Telecommunications Authority that it intends to enforce the law to ensure proper management of radio spectrum which it calls a valuable public resource.

**Welcome
2009!**

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, Straight Key Century Club, K3Y. Celebrating 3 years of steady growth, to over 4,600 members on CW. 14.050 10.120 7.055 3.550. QSL. Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, PO Box 3092, Erie, PA 16508. www.skccgroup.com

Jan 10, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the first time underway on nuclear power by submarine USS Nautilus (SSN 571) in 1955, and the start of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, USS Midway's final combat action. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 2m/70cm SOCAL rep WIN. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

Jan 17-Jan 24, 0000Z-2359Z, Washington, DC. District of Columbia Amateur Radio Society, W4A. Celebration of the Inauguration of Barack Obama. All Bands. QSL. Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ, 3511 Patterson St NW, Washington, DC 20015-2557.

Jan 20, 1400Z-2200Z, Washington, DC. OMIK Amateur Radio Association, KOMIK. To commemorate the inauguration of Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States. 14.295 7.265. QSL. Arthur Moody, W8UTC, 206 Hemlock Dr, Elyria, OH 44035. cwashington@charter.net or www.omikradio.org

Jan 24-Jan 25, 2000Z-2000Z, Eureka, CA. Humboldt Amateur Radio Club, KG6FWT. Allied Victory at Battle of the Ardennes (The Bulge). 14.280 7.290 3.955 3.530. QSL. Jim Falls, HARC, 2605 R St, Eureka, CA 95501-3135. www.navsource.org/archives/10/15/151091.htm or www.humboldt-arc.org

Jan 31, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2009. 14.240 7.240 146.715 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 W. Shaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. n3hbh@pennswoods.net or www.qsl.net/k3hwj

Jan 31-Feb 4, 1500Z-0400Z, Lubbock, TX. Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 50th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 18.150 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. Bryan Edwards, 3801 68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. www.amcrc.com/w5b

THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: [The Triple Play Worked All States Award](#). This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, KOHB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application.

The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

—ARRL News

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: 73S.ORG

A fascinating new ham radio cyberspace place to visit has emerged on the World Wide Web. It's called 73s.org and has a bit of everything you can imagine. It is kind of a cross between an interactive website with movie hosting ability and a web log (or blog) where users can post their thoughts and ideas. Give it a look. Again the simple URL is 73s.org.



Let's start the new year with a journey to the golden days of yesteryear...

Another great quiz from H. Ward Silver, NOAX

- Before the 6 meter band was created at its current allocation, what nearby band was used by hams for VHF experimentation?
 - 5 meters
 - 10 meters
 - 11 meters
 - Channel 2
- The first transatlantic QSO was completed between the US and what European country?
 - Spain
 - Portugal
 - Ireland
 - France
- What explorer took Amateur Radio along on his quest for the North Pole?
 - Amundsen
 - Livingston
 - Perry
 - Scott
- The call sign of the station aboard Thor Heyerdahl's balsa raft, Kon Tiki, was...
 - VS9K
 - OA1TH
 - VR6X
 - LI2B
- Incentive licensing resulted in what license class?
 - Novice
 - General
 - Tech Plus
 - None of the above
- Which amateur band was taken to create Citizen's Radio Service (CB)?
 - 6 meters
 - 11 meters
 - 1.25 meters
 - 160 meters
- The OSCAR-1 satellite was launched in what year?
 - 1961
 - 1963
 - 1965
 - 1969
- Which solar cycle was the most active ever recorded?
 - 18
 - 19
 - 20
 - 21
- Prior to the establishment of the FCC, what government agency granted US amateur licenses?
 - US Navy
 - Post Office
 - Dept. of Commerce
 - Bureau of Standards

- Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, long-time QST cartoonist, held the call...
 - W1ICP
 - W1KM
 - W1BB
 - W1CJD
- Who is generally credited with writing the groundbreaking contest program CT?
 - K1EA
 - N6TR
 - K8CC
 - WJ20
- What group developed the first popular packet TNC kit, the TNC-1?
 - AMSAT
 - QEX
 - RSGB
 - TAPR
- Copthorne MacDonald invented what mode of amateur transmission?
 - Negative feedback
 - Synchronous CW
 - Slow-scan TV
 - AMTOR
- Who was the first ham to transmit from space?
 - Owen Garriott
 - Dave Garroway
 - Ernst Krenkel
 - John Huntoon
- What device allowed hams to easily measure VSWR in coaxial cables?
 - Ultimate Transmatch
 - Monimatch
 - Battle Creek Special
 - Rettysnitch

Bonus:

The Old Man threatened to use me on poor operators and miscreants. What am I?

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-a: 2-d—The French station was owned by Leon Deloy, 8AB; 3-c—Admiral Perry's contacts back to America were monitored by hams and broadcast listeners alike; 4-d—The Norwegian-flagged raft was equipped with a 5-W station; 5-d—Incentive licensing did not create any new license classes; 6-b: 7-a—The 100-mW transmitter lasted for nearly two weeks, transmitting "HI" in Morse code; 8-b—During the peak of this cycle in 1958, New England amateurs regularly received video and audio signals from BBC Channel 1; 9-c—During World War I, the Navy had authority over all radio, but amateur licensing was transferred to the Department of Commerce after the war; 10-d—Gil drew hundreds of cartoons that captured the spirit of ham radio; 11-a: 12-d—The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio group developed the TNC-1; 13-c—"Cop" is considered the father of SSTV; 14-a—Owen, W5FL, transmitted from the space shuttle in 1983; 15-b—This little bridge was the first coaxial SWR meter for many hams during the mid 50s. Bonus—The Wouff Hong. The original version of this feared device, created by Hiram Percy Maxim, is kept at ARRL Headquarters today!