

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

APRIL 2009

VOL 42 Issue 8

APRIL 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 April 2, 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!

IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO BEGIN THINKING OF FIELD DAY!

We all became hams for our own reasons. Some of us were interested in public service and helping others in times of need. Many discovered the hobby as an outlet to their curiosity about electronics and communications. Still others joined our ranks because of the quest to meet new people and expand their own personal bank of knowledge.

Whatever the reason you became an amateur, there is one compelling thread that brought us all together in this fraternity of amateur radio. It is as simple as can be: we became hams for the FUN of the hobby!

And while it serves a wide array of interests and purposes, there is no greater FUN-damental goal for Field Day than to HAVE FUN! Although it encompasses a broad range of amateur radio interests -

CW, Phone, Digital, emergency preparedness, public service, satellites, recruitment, antennas, new and vintage equipment, and so many more - Field Day is, above all else, a chance for us to have some fun with our hobby.

Fun is where YOU find it in this hobby. Some will discover the fun by operating overnight building up their club's total number of QSOs. Others will never make a single Field Day contact but will derive their fun by helping set-up antennas and generators. The joy of sharing your radio knowledge to a newcomer will be fun for many old-timers while other old-timers will experience the "Field Day high" when they make their very first QSO using a new digital mode or via one of the amateur radio satellites.

Now is the time to start preparing. The last two pages of this Telstar are a sign up sheet for field day set-up and activities. Won't you sign up? Let Scott or Keith know what you can do. Remember the first and most important element of Field Day is HAVE SOME FUN!

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.

Looking for connector pinouts?

Bob WA2ABN shared this website:

<http://pinouts.ru/connector/>

The site gives the connector pinouts for over 400 kinds of computer ports, connectors, and adapters.

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

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <<http://www.iaru.org/>>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in

(Continued on page 3)



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

(Continued from page 2)

voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

4th: Don Niles K2PMC
9th: Ed Patton N2ING
14th: Daniel Sojka KC2LQQ



RIPLEY HAMFEST

Sunday May 3, 2009

7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Ripley Fire Hall

1500' south of the only traffic light at Rtes 20 & 76!

Ripley, New York

Admission: \$3

Tables: \$3

Website: <http://home.rr.com/ripleyhamfest>

Contact:

Joe Lis N3MLX n3mlx@roadrunner.com 814-835-5565

Bob Fuller N3LBI n3lbi@roadrunner.com 814-898-1115

VE TEST SESSIONS



STARS VE sessions are the third Saturday of every other month 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. For more information, or to register for the test, contact John Crawford KB2VVC 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.

WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU WEREN'T AT THE MARCH MEETING

(excerpts from the meeting minutes)

President's Report:

- Keith elaborated further on Dayton, we need to cut costs and keep a reserve for unforeseen circumstances.
- Programs on digital mode and logging software programs are being worked on.
- The April meeting will once again be a dinner meeting, venue TBA.

Directors' Reports:

- John, KB2VWC, a VE session is scheduled for March 21st, no candidates so far.
- Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK: Would like to have a church group presentation on Ham Radio in the Spring or early Summer

Club House Chairman: K2PMC

- The Clubhouse is open again on all Thursday evenings except meeting nights.

Old Business:

- Seneca Project: Ed, N2ING reports that has been some progress, he talked to them on Wednesday, still in the works.

New Business:

- Bob, KA2WYE, reported that the Hamburg High School station is now operational. Sheri Bauer got an ARRL grant and equipment.

For the Good of the Club:

- It was suggested that Scouting groups would be a good source for presentations and membership.

WORLD RADIO NOW ONLINE

World Radio, which ceased publication at the end of last year, is now available as an e-zine. Many of you have read at least one issue which had been published for almost 40 years in black and white. It will still be issued monthly but only online and is now in color.

It is provided as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file and is printable either page by page or the whole issue. To view the current issue go to

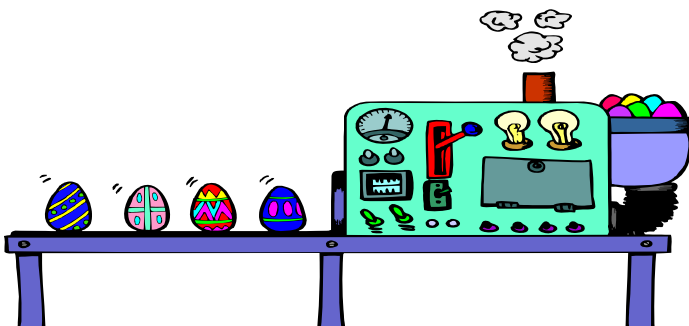
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>

NEW ASTRONAUT CREW LAUNCHES TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

The 19th crew to live and work aboard the International Space Station launched into orbit Thursday morning from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, aboard a Soyuz spacecraft.

NASA astronaut Michael Barratt, KD5MIJ, Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and spaceflight participant and U.S. software engineer Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, lifted off at 6:49 a.m. CDT.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)



They are scheduled to dock with the station at 8:14 a.m. Saturday, March 28. Padalka will serve as commander of Expeditions 19 and 20 aboard the station. Barratt will serve as a flight engineer for those two missions. Padalka and Barratt's other crewmate is Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. He arrived to the station March 17 on space shuttle Discovery.

Simonyi, flying to the station under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency, previously visited the complex in April 2007. He is the first spaceflight participant to make a second flight to the station and will spend 10 days aboard.

Simonyi will return to Earth April 7 with Expedition 18 Commander Michael Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, who have been on the station since October 2008.

The Expedition 19 crew will continue science investigations and prepare for the arrival of the rest of the station's first six-person contingent.

Roman Romanenko of the Russian Federal Space Agency, Frank De Winne, ON1DWN, of the European Space Agency and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA, will launch from Baikonur on May 27, arriving at the station on May 29.

After all the astronauts are aboard, Expedition 20 will begin, ushering in an era of six-person station crews.

This mission also will be the first time the crew members represent all five International Space Station partners.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US SENATE TO INVENTORY RADIO SPECTRUM

Senators John Kerry of Massachusetts and Olympia Snowe of Maine have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The proposed legislation, known as the [Radio Spectrum Inventory Act](#), states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory of the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service."

—ARRL News

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

Apr 4, 0000Z-2359Z, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. Celebrating World Health Organizations World Health Day 2009. 14.288 7.273 SSTV 14.230 PSK 14.070. Certificate. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd

Apr 4, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the establishment of Navy grade of Chief Petty Officer in 1893, and the decommissioning of USS Midway in 1992. 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

Apr 4, 1700Z-2100Z, Saint Joseph, MO. Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, WOP. Start of the Pony Express. 28.400 14.250 7.250 3.900. Certificate. www.wOnh.com

Apr 10-Apr 11, 1330Z-2100Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 97th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

Apr 18, 1100Z-2359Z, Middle Island, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB/BSA. Suffolk county Boy Scout Communication Camporee. 14.260 7.260 3.895 14.070 PSK. QSL. www.gsbarc.org

Apr 18-Apr 19, 1400Z-0100Z, Orange, VA. Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, W4DO. Stonewall Jackson BSA Council Camporee - Montpelier. 14.230 7.215 3.815 3.530. QSL. www.albemarle-radio.org

Apr 18-Apr 19, 1600Z-1800Z, Carlisle, MA. Police Amateur Radio Team, K1P. Patriots' Day in Massachusetts. 80 m thru 10 m. QSL. K1P/2009, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886. kb1oig@arrl.net

Apr 24-Apr 25, 1200Z-0000Z, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, N9L. Boy Scouts of America Lincoln Trail Hike. SSB 14.225 7.225 CW 14.030 7.030. QSL. www.svrc.org

Apr 25, 1300Z-2100Z, St Petersburg, FL. Southwest Florida Mic And Key, W4W. Fort Desoto History Month. 14.225 7.175. QSL. home.comcast.net/~we4n

Apr 25, 1500Z-2100Z, Carthage, TX. Panola County Amateur Radio Club, WA5PC. Transmitting from the only international boundary marker within USA. 14.260 7.260 3.925. Certificate. www.wa5pc.org

APRIL CONTESTS

Missouri QSO Party 1800Z 4 Apr - 2400Z 5 Apr; 160-10M CW & SSB; EXCHANGE: MO sta's give RST + serial # + County/ All others give RST + Serial # + State/Province/ Country. www.w0ma.org.

SP DX 1500Z 4 Apr - 1500Z 5 Apr; 160-10M CW + SSB; EXCHANGE: Polish sta's give RST + letter of voivodeship (B-Z), all others give RS(T) + Serial #; DX Contest Committee P.O. Box 320 00-950 Warszawa, Poland Cabrillo to: spdx-logs@pzk.org.pl Rules at: www.spdxcontest.info/reg/reg_q.html

QCWA QSO Party 1900Z 4 Apr - 1900Z 5 Apr; All (except WARC) Bands 160M - 440 MHz CW & SSB; EXCHANGE: Call +Year first licensed + Chapter (if member) + State/Province/Country; Rules at: www.qcwa.org/2009-qso-party-rules.html

EA RTTY 1600Z 5 Apr - 1600Z 7 Apr; 80-10M RTTY; EXCHANGE: RS(T) + serial #; Web page: www.ure.es

Georgia QSO Party 1800Z 11 Apr - 2359Z 12 Apr; 160-6M CW, SSB, Digital (counts as CW for scoring); EXCHANGE: GA sta's give RST + County, All others give RST + State/Province; Rules at: <http://gqp.contesting.com/Rules.htm>

Japan International DX DATE & TIME: 0700Z 11 Apr - 1300Z 12 Apr; BANDS/MODE: 80-10M CW; EXCHANGE: JA's give RST + Prefecture; all others give RST + CQ Zone; Rules at: www.handrack.net/contest/canzeige.php?ID=27

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z 18 Apr - 0400Z 19 Apr; 80-10M CW & SSB; EXCHANGE: MI sta's give serial # + county; Others give serial # + State/Province; DX gives serial # + DX; Entry forms and rules at: www.miqp.org

Holyland DX 0000-2359Z 18 Apr; 160-10M SSB/CW; EXCHANGE: RS(T) + Serial #; Rules available: IARC Contest Manager, P.O.Box 17600, Tel Aviv 61176, Israel. (SASE required)

Florida QSO Party 1600Z 25 Apr - 2159Z 26 Apr; 40-10M CW & SSB; Rules at: www.floridagsoparty.org/rules.html

Nebraska QSO Party 1700Z 25 Apr - 1700Z 26 Apr; 160-2M CW/ SSB/Digital; Rules at: www.hdxa.net/neqso/09nqp_rl.pdf

FIELD DAY 2009 PLANS

Setup/Tear Down Teams

Team 1:

- deliver and setup generator(s)
- setup power cords to operating positions, ground rods, and station grounds secure gas for generators

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Team 2:

- shoot antenna lines into trees under direction of FD Chairman; raise antennas and feedlines
- run feedlines to operating stations erect 2-meter antenna and feedline

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Team 3:

- purchase all food, drinks, and snacks for FD
- setup food area
- setup any needed tarps around operating areas
- erect club banner; setup STARS public relations table with pamphlets

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Team 4:

- setup operating stations with all equipment (rig, mic, keys, tuner, power strip, power supply, laptop, paper, pencils, overhead lighting)
- obtain and record on paper, tuner settings for all FD bands (multiple frequencies per band - CW & SSB) make test contact(s) with each station and assure each station is operational

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Team 5: (members of this team should serve on another team)

- transport all equipment from the Nike Base to FD site pickup equipment at approximately 9 AM

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Videographer/Media Person:

- contact the media (Ch 2, 4, 7, Buffalo News, Hamburg Sun)
- video tape setup, and footage of each team and operators throughout the weekend
- edit video to present to the club as a program, and/or post online

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Chairmen:

- no formal group assignment
- monitor each group and re-assign group members as necessary
- setup logging program on computers and assure functionality tabulate and submit final score on behalf of STARS

Call: KB2KOL Name: Scott Barto Phone #: 435-9954 e-mail: kb2kol@arrl.net

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

In addition to club equipment, we are in need of the following:

Generator: Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Backup generator: Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Antenna analyzer #1 Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Antenna analyzer #2 Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Tool kits: Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Laptops: Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Tarps: Call _____ Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Club equipment that must be transported from Nike Base to FD Site:

- rigs, microphones, keys, antenna tuners, power supplies
 - ground rods, clamps, wire
 - antennas, rope (Don – K2PMC)
 - coax, connectors, adapters, coax barrels
 - extension cords, power strips, lights
- pencils, paper, club banner, pamphlets, and anything else piled by the door!

Prior to June 20, 2009: Please sign up for a team of your choice on this form, in person, at a STARS Meeting, or STARS Board Meeting. Please contact Scott – KB2KOL by phone (435-9954) or e-mail (kb2kol@arrl.net) to sign up for your team. The earlier you sign-up, the more likely you will be placed on the team of your choice. If you are signing up by phone or e-mail, indicate your top three choices for team placement.