

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

MAY 2009

VOL 42 Issue 9

HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduced HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as

MAY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday May 7 at the NIKE Base Clubhouse. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required. We look forward to seeing you there!

the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.

Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

CONGRATULATIONS GREG KE2VW

Bill Edgar N3LLR and Tom Abernethy W3TOM announced that Greg Young KE2VW, has accepted an appointment as an ARRL Atlantic Division Assistant Director.

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.

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



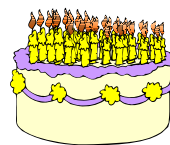
STARS has been designated a Special Service Club by the ARRL.

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND MILITARY/ AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2009, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 09 May 2009 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (15-17 May 2009), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY!



28th: Jay Clark KF2JY
28th: John Czuba W2IV

*A jumper cable walks into a bar.
The bartender says, "I'll serve
you, but don't start anything."*



STARS MAY VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday May 16th. 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.

QSL CARD REQUEST

I received the following from Bill WB2AIV...

"I just had a strange experience. I answered a CQ on 20m CW and had a short QSO with Andy, K200, from Laredo, TX. He was knew the previous holder of the call was an SK from Buffalo and wondered if I knew him. I told him a little, but my 'conversational' CW isn't as good as it needs to be and I was having trouble keeping up with the discussion. I'm going to QSL him to get a K200 Texas card. Do you know if anyone has one of Terry's QSL cards? I'd like to get one, or at least a copy of one, to send Andy.... Bill"

Does anyone have one of Terry's QSL cards? Drop me an email (n2tez@msn.com). Thanks. Judy N2TEZ

CENTRAL SQUARE TEACHER MAY TRAVEL IN SPACE

Jim Kuhl N2STK is a sixth-grade earth science students at Central Square Middle School. Kuhl brings his passion for both space and amateur radio to the classroom to provide unique lessons. As the radio club adviser, Kuhl stewards the district's amateur radio club, which has an impressive setup that he helped secure through an American Radio Relay League "Big Project" grant (www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp). He frequently facilitates radio communication between students and astronauts on the International Space Station and other space vehicles.

But Kuhl may soon experience space travel himself. As a finalist in the Teachers in Space Pathfinders program (www.teachers-in-space.org), Kuhl hopes to be one of the first educators in this new initiative to travel to space. If selected, he'll take part in his space mission and then return to the classroom to share his experiences first-hand in a framework that's meant to energize the enthusiasm of young people toward space and recruit more teachers.

Though Teachers in Space is a private venture, Kuhl has a distinguished relationship with NASA as a past "Educator Astronaut" candidate. He has attended NASA's Space Camp and taken part in various training exercises and space simulations.

Teachers in Space is expected to select its Pathfinder astronauts this summer. Good Luck Jim!

DAYTON HAMVENTION 2009 May 15-17

This year's theme:
Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More
<http://www.hamvention.org/index.php>

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention® May 15-17 at Hara Arena.



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

(adapted from the meeting minutes)

President's Report:

- Keith reviewed the Charter and Life Member plaques for final approval.
- He spoke on the QSL card design contest.
- Asked Bob, KA2WYE, for an update on the Hamburg High School Ham station, he will continue to stay involved.
- There will be a Global Simulated Emergency Test on April 18th, 1100 - 1500 UTC; we will utilize the Nike Base as the EOC.
- Following giving a talk on Amateur Radio at a CERT Training program, twelve prospective hams signed up for a Technician Class test. Keith will set up training ASAP in the summer. He also spoke further on Emcomm assistance.
- Keith read the contents of an E-Mail received from John, KB2VWC, in reference to a proposed expansion at the Town ice rinks, as it concerns our building.

Vice-President's Report:

- Scott researched Scouting in reference to Ham Radio, as they have revised their electronics badge.
- Field Day: Sign up to help! Don, K2PMC, has procured a Field Day site at the North Evans Fireman's Park, which has many amenities with a larger shelter and many strategically located trees. There may be a charge, but they will let us know.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Judy reports that the membership stands at 70.
- Posted an updated SK page on the website.
- The issue of Telstar availability on the club website was extensively discussed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Jack reports that he paid the club insurance bill. The BuddiPole Fund is nearing its goal.

Secretary's Report:

- Noted that the New York State QSO party will be on October 17 & 18, sponsored by the Rochester DX Group.

BEST BUY'S RECYCLING PROGRAM

Best Buy announced as of Feb. 15, 2009, stores in all 50 states will participate in Best Buy's Electronics Recycling Program. The program is an "In Store" solution for customers to bring their old/unwanted (no matter where they were purchased) consumer electronics for recycling. Below are the answers to some questions (taken from the Best Buy website).

Why does Best Buy offer electronics recycling to customers? Consumer electronics are the fastest growing waste stream on the planet. As one of the world's largest retailer of electronics, we are in a unique position to help our customers. Best Buy is committed to making it easier for consumers to choose greener products, use energy for electronics and appliances more efficiently and provide appropriate end of life solutions for the products we sell.

What items does Best Buy accept at the store? Best Buy accepts most consumer electronics. We also accept accessories such as keyboards, mice, remotes, etc.

What items are not accepted at the store? The following items cannot be accepted in-store through this program:

- Internal & External Computer Hard Drives. Before we accept your desktop or laptop computer for recycling, the hard drive will need to be removed.
- Console televisions or TV's with screens larger than 32 inches.
- Items containing Freon: air conditioners, dehumidifiers and mini-fridges. (Customers should contact their state/county solid waste department.)
- Appliances and microwaves.

Does Best Buy charge a fee for recycling electronics? Best Buy does not charge a fee for recycling most of the consumer electronic products. There is a charge of \$10.00 for TVs 32" and under, CRTs, monitors and laptops which is offset by a \$10.00 gift card. This charge does not apply to Best Buy private label products (i.e. Insignia, Dynex).

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Greener Together™

Are there any limits to the amount of electronics customers can bring in?

Customers are limited to bringing in 2 units per day per household.

What happens to products that are taken to the store to be recycled?

The products are removed from our stores through third party logistics, consolidated and then delivered directly to one of our contracted recycling partners. The recyclers will then determine if the product can be repaired, repurposed or recycled. Using various technologies our recyclers dismantle the electronics, separating out various commodities (Plastics, Glass, Metals, etc) which are repurposed into new products or delivered to a specialized recycler to be further processed and repurposed. The extent to which all of the commodities of any electronics can be recycled will depend on the composition of the unit. We partner directly with a short list of qualified, respected recycling companies who ensure all products collected for recycling through Best Buy are handled responsibly.

What happens to customer data included on a recycled product?

Best Buy stores will not take possession of customers' personal data- this includes, camera and computer discs/CDs/DVDs, hard drives from laptops or desktop PCs, or any other device that could contain customer information. Under no circumstances shall Best Buy be liable for any loss of any data or media from products delivered to us for recycling.

What other recycling programs does Best Buy have?

Currently, Best Buy offers the following recycling programs besides the in-store recycling program:

- Recycling Kiosks - At the front of the store, accept ink cartridges, rechargeable batteries, cell phones, CDs, DVDs, PDAs/smart phones and gift cards.
- Appliance and TV Haul-Away - Best Buy will remove an appliance or TV free of charge from a customer's home when a new product is purchased and delivered by Best Buy Home Delivery.

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

May 2, 1400Z-2000Z, Reno, NV. EMCOMMWEST, N7V. EMCOMMWEST 2009, including Pacificon 2009. 446.050 146.580 14.335 7.295. QSL. www.emcommwest.org

May 2-May 3, 1300Z-0700Z, Bryce Canyon National Park, UT. Gary Keck, KE7DX. Bryce Canyon National Park Operation. 14.255 14.040 7.235 7.040. QSL.

www.marketemporium.com/joomla/ke7dx_menu

May 2-May 3, 1300Z-0000Z, Millville, NJ. W2A. Astronomy Day 2009; share the joy of astronomy. 14.240 14.070 7.240 7.070. Certificate. www.HollyDome.com

May 8-May 25, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. 93rd running of the Indianapolis 500. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Certificate and QSL available. www.w9ims.com

May 9, 1400Z-1900Z, Caldwell, NJ. West Essex Amateur Radio Club, W2EF. Operating from President Grover Cleveland's Birthplace. 146.52 21.330 14.250 7.250. Certificate. www.wearc.org

May 14-May 17, 1600Z-0100Z, Angels Camp, CA. Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, N6FRG. Calaveras County Fair and Frogjump Jubilee. SSB 14.320 7.290 PSK 14.070 IRLP 3428. Certificate. www.frogtown.org and www.calaverasars.org

May 15-May 17, 1300Z-1700Z, Dayton, OH. Dayton Amateur Radio Association, W1AW/8. Dayton Hamvention and ARRL National Convention. 147.55 28.470 25.050 14.270 14.050 7.227 7.050. QSL. ARRL - W1AW, Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. www.hamvention.org

May 15-May 18, 1000Z-0000Z, Dayton, OH. Feld Hell Club, W8H. Promoting digital mode: Feld Hellschreiber at Dayton Hamvention. 21.074 14.074 10.136 7.074. QSL. www.feldhellclub.org

Celebrating Armed Forces Day

May 9, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the Armed Forces Day, and participation in the annual MARS - Amateur Radio Cross Band Communications Tests. 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, S, CA 92101.

af6ha@yahoo.com

May 16, 1200Z-2100Z, Farmingdale, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB/APM. 14.260 7.260 3.895 14.070 PSK. QSL. *Historic Republic Airport is home of the P47, F105 Thunder chief, A10 Famous War Planes.*

www.gsbarc.org

May 16, 1400Z-2000Z, Westmont, IL. DuPage Amateur Radio Club, W9DUP. 145.430 28.400 14.290 7.250. Certificate. www.w9dup.org

May 16, 1500Z-2300Z, Fort Bliss/El Paso, TX. W5CSM, K5B. 145.570 145.070 14.330 14.280. QSL. Dave Null, W5CSM, 11209 Loma Seca Pl, El Paso, TX 79934. 145.070 Winlink 2000 RMS and Paclink using K5CW-10. 145.570 D-Star local.

May 16-May 17, 0700Z-0700Z, Phoenix, AZ. Central Arizona DX Association, K7UGA. 21.305 14.255 7.225 3.775. QSL. www.cadx.org

May 17, 1600Z-2000Z, Sandy Hook, NJ. Roseland Amateur Radio Club, K2A. Coastal Defense Day from Sandy Hook Lighthouse, USA-731. 14.270 7.270. QSL. Roseland ARC, 300 Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068.

k2gg@hotmail.com

May 23, 1500Z-2000Z, Fort Wayne, IN. Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day, KC9HAJ. Support and Appreciation of our Troops and Veterans. 28.450 21.290 14.260. Certificate. ARMAD, 6116 Graymoor Ln, Ft Wayne, IN 46835. Join us on frequency, or set up on your own, and salute our heroes. The main purpose is to get activity on the air to show support to our troops and veterans.

www.armad.net

Memorial Day

May 25, 1200Z-2359Z, Belleville, MI. Yankee Air Museum, W8YAF. Observing Memorial Day at YAM Air Park, Willow Run Airport. 7.270. Certificate. Frank A. Nagy, 24315 Waltz Rd, New Boston, MI 48164-9167. oldcrow-two@hotmail.com

May 25, 1200Z-2359Z, Nutley, NJ. Robert D. Grant United Labor Amateur Radio Assoc, N2UL. CQ Memorial Day. 449.975 28.460 14.260 7.250. Certificate. RDGU-LARA, 112 Prospect St, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

May 25, 1400Z-2145Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. Memorial Day. SSB: 15 20 40 m Gen & above RTTY subband CW: QRP subbands. QSL. Primary frequency is 20 meters. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

May 25, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating Memorial Day. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 FM/dig 2 m/70 cm SOCAL rep. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

May 25-May 26, 1500Z-0300Z, Santa Cruz, CA. Instigators Radio Consortium Of SLV, K6V. Memorial Day 2009, from the Veterans Memorial Building. 14.280 7.250. QSL. Radio Room, 846 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

May 25-May 26, 1500Z-0300Z, Sevierville, TN. Sevier County Emergency Radio Service, W4W. Remembering Memorial Day 2009. 7.253 7.150 3.845 3.750. QSL. Rick Sawaya, 2005 Spence Mountain Loop, Sevierville, TN 37876. n4jtg@live.com

MAY CONTESTS

AGCW QRP/QRP Party; 1300-1900Z 1 May; 80 & 40M CW; Exchange: RST + Serial # + category. Rules at: www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:QRP-QRP-Party

7th Call Area QSO Party; 1300Z 2 May - 0700Z 3 May; 160-2M SS/CW/Digital; Exchange: 7th call area stations give RST + 5-letter state/county designator; others give RST + State/Province/Country. Rules: www.codxc.com/new/Page.asp?Content=DRYLAND7S&Page=3

New England QSO Party; 2000Z 2 May - 0500Z 3 May & 1300Z - 2359Z 3 May; 80-10M SSB/CW/Digital; Exchange: RS(T) + State/Province/DX; NE sta's give RS(T) + County/State. www.negp.org

10-10 International Spring CW/Digital; 0001Z 2 May - 2359Z 3 May; Exchange: Call + Name + State/Country + 10-10 #. Rules: www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSOPartyRulesRevised.pdf

FISTS Spring Sprint; 1700-2100Z 9 May; 80-10M CW; Exchange: RST + State/Province + Name + FISTS # (non-members give power). Rules at: www.fists.org/sprints.html

CQ WW WPX; 0000Z 30 May - 2359Z 31 May; 160-10M CW; Exchange: RS + serial #
Forms and rules at: www.cqwp.com

MI-QRP Memorial Day Sprint; 2300Z 24 May - 0300Z 25 May; 160-6M CW; Exchange: RST + State/Province/Country + member number (non-members give power); Web page: www.qsl.net/migrpclub/contest.html

Two Eskimos sitting a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly, it sank.

Proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

