



IT'S TIME FOR FIELD DAY!

STARS Field Day 2009 will be held at North Evans Fire Department, 6980 Versailles Road, on June 27-28. See the map at the bottom of page 4.

Field Day has been a long tradition as an emergency preparedness exercise, operating equipment "in the field" using power sources other than commercial.

Set-up for Field Day will begin around 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. This can be a real learning experience as bows and arrows and slingshots can be used to fire lines over trees to haul wire antennas into the air. Generators will be set up to provide emergency power.

Then on 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the contesting will begin and the airwaves will come alive with stations from all over the U.S. and Canada as well as parts of Central and South America, including the Caribbean. The contesting will continue until 2p.m. Sunday afternoon (rain or shine). We will be planning a supper around 6PM on Saturday.

STARS will be running stations on CW and SSB and may be demonstrating other modes such as RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, ATV, etc.

Everyone is invited to come and operate, log stations, or just hang out and have fun! Even if you don't have HF privileges, you can operate under the supervision of another amateur with a higher class license. This is a great chance to learn how to improve your operating skills.

JUNE MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday June 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center.

The focus of the meeting will be FIELD DAY (of course)!. We'll review all the details and job assignments and Don K2PMC will demonstrate the logging program that we'll be using. We'll also finalize plans for the dinner (YUM!).



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!

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY!



- 2nd: Jack Cullum KB2ESM
- 3rd: Dave Lawton N2OZE
- 20th: Nathan Bangsil KC2LYO
- 21st: Evan Evans AA2AA
- 23th: Nancy Sojka KC2KOS

So, bring your lawn chairs, your family and friends and come on out.

The official 2009 ARRL Field Day Web page is on the web at www.arrrl.org/FieldDay. Again this year, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. If you're out and about, why not check out where other local clubs will be..stop in and say hello from STARS!

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

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

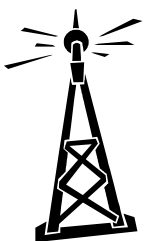
STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

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 has been designated a Special Service Club by the ARRL.



Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!



WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU MISSED THE LAST MEETING

(adapted from the meeting minutes)

President's Report: Keith KC2DGC

- There has been no change in our repeater status.
- There will be an E-Comm meeting following the regular meeting.
- Keith bought a BuddiPole on E-Bay and offered it to the club for \$300.00, on a motion by Jim, N2TFA and seconded by, Bob, KA2WYE, the purchase of the BuddiPole was approved. The balance of the fund will be deposited in the treasury.

Vice-President's Report: Scott KB2KOL

- Plaques are ordered.
- Field Day sign-up's are available

Financial Secretary's Report: Judy N2TEZ

- Membership stands at 72.

Director Report—John KB2VWC:

- A VE session is scheduled for May 16th.
- The Ice Rink proposal was defeated, our clubhouse is safe for now.

Director Report—Ken KC2AYK:

- Field Day sign-up sheets are posted on the club web site.
- Looking for ideas for the web site.

Club House Chairman: Don K2PMC

- Procured two 2-GigFlash Drives for Field Day logging.

For the Good of the Club:

- Joe, KB2JDB had a vertical antenna for anyone for the taking, Dave, N2OZE was interested

E-Comm meeting notes:

- Keith stated, and all E-Com members agreed, that they must become ARES members.
- Keith is working with Tom Partridge to obtain FEMA training for Team members.

(Continued on page 3)

ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1. You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
2. Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
3. Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

(Continued from page 2)

E-Comm meeting notes:

- E-Com members need to become proficient in using Packet and APRS for mobile communications and "brush-up" on traffic handling skills. The RACES repeater frequency is 146.865 with a plus (+) offset.
- E-Com meetings will be held after the regular monthly meetings.
- 90 percent of all initial traffic will be handled on VHF voice; the other modes are for long-term deployments.
- CERT training will be done through the Town of Hamburg.

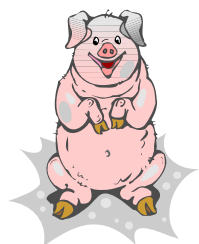
4. When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5. If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6. If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."



7. When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
8. Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
9. Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
10. Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.




These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

STARS NEEDS A NEW QSL CARD!


Here are the designs that were submitted for the new STARS QSL card. The vote for the best design will be taken at the June meeting. Be there to have your vote for your favorite counted! (The bottom two designs would have the QSL info on the back)

WB2ELW


South Towns Amateur Radio Society



STARS



Hamburg, NY
Erie County, USA
FNN call nr:
30-30 # 46740



Callign	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode	QSL
								PSK
								TNX

WB2ELW

**SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR
RADIO SOCIETY**





Hamburg, New York USA
FN02nr





DATE	TIME (UTC)	STATION	RST	FREQUENCY	MODE

South Towns Amateur
STARS
Radio Society

STARS

South Towns Amateur Radio Society



WB2ELW

Hamburg, New York

South Towns Amateur
STARS
Radio Society

STARS

South Towns Amateur Radio Society





WB2ELW



Hamburg, NY

USA



Pointer marks the location of this year's Field Day activities.

MILD SOLAR STORM SEASON PREDICTED BY NOAA

Although its peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928, predicts an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather prediction Center and funded by NASA. Despite the prediction, Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm.



Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots—Earth-sized blotches on the sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chairs the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle."

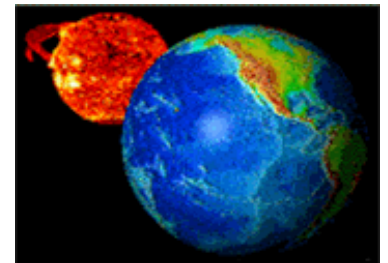
The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe, sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring, and produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light.

A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences

found that if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to \$80-125 billion that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The panel also predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles — or solar minimum — occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If the December prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011



or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that the next cycle will be "moderately weak."

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) is the nation's first alert of solar activity and its effects on Earth. The Center's space weather experts issue outlooks for the next 11-year solar cycle and warn of storms occurring on the Sun that could impact Earth. SWPC is also the world warning agency for the International Space Environment Service, a consortium of 12 member nations.

As the world economy becomes more reliant on satellite-based communications and interlinked power grids, interest in solar activity has grown dramatically. In 2008 alone, SWPC acquired 1,700 new subscription customers for warnings, alerts, reports, and other products. Among the new customers are emergency managers, airlines, state transportation departments, oil companies, and nuclear power stations. SWPC's customers reside in 150 countries.

"Our customer growth reflects today's reality that all sectors of society are highly dependent on advanced, space-based technologies," said SWPC director Tom Bogdan. "Today every hiccup from the sun aimed at Earth has potential consequences."

ANOTHER "GREEN" OPPORTUNITY!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF DAY



ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
South Campus—ORCHARD PARK, NY
(enter from Big Tree Road- Route 20A)



Saturday, JUNE 20, 2009
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Items which can be brought to the site for free, proper disposal include:

- PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, POOL AND HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS/CLEANERS -limit 2 gallons or 20#
- OIL-BASED PAINTS, SPRAY CANS -limit 10 gallons
- OIL, GASOLINE, KEROSENE, ANTIFREEZE-limit 10 gallons
- PAINT THINNER, STRIPPER & SOLVENTS-limit 2 gallons
- BATTERIES - lead acid & rechargeable
- MERCURY - thermometers, thermostats, metal
- PROPANE TANKS & CYLINDERS - full or empty



NO TIRES, LATEX PAINT, COMPUTERS, APPLIANCES, COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL WASTES

Note: Participants may need to verify that wastes are generated by households.



Chris Collins
Erie County Executive

Sponsored by:

Holly Sinnott, AICP, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

Susan Attridge
Chairperson, NEST



Support from the following is gratefully acknowledged:

Erie Community College; United States Coast Guard;
NOCO Energy Corp.; The Battery Post, Inc.;
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation;

For more information:

call **858-6800**

or visit www.erie.gov/environment

JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS

D-Day/Museum Ships Weekend:

Jun 6, 1300Z-2000Z, Asheboro, NC. Randolph Amateur Radio Club, NC4ZO. 21.350 14.260 7.250. QSL. Butch Simpson, WS4H, 6747 King Mtn Rd, Asheboro, NC 27205.

butch@atomic.net

Jun 6, 1400Z-1900Z, Badin, NC. Montgomery Amateur Radio Society, NC4MC. 65th anniversary of the loss of 'Badin Bomber' on June 08, 1944. 14.250 7.250 146.58. Certificate. Don Grady, KG4ZRH, 120 Woodline Dr, Troy, NC 27371. nc4mc-ars@embarqmail.com

Jun 5-Jun 7, 0000Z-2359Z, Weymouth, ENGLAND. Wyke Regis Radio and Training Club, GB65FRW. 65th Anniversary of D-Day. For US 20 15 m For Europe 80 40 m. QSL. Bob Palmer, M3DPQ, 34 Ditmas Ave, Kempston Bedford, Bedfordshire MK42 7DP, ENGLAND. wykerradio.org

Jun 6, 1400Z-2100Z, Oswego, NY. Fulton Amateur Radio Club, W2CXV. From the USAT LT-5. 21.365 18.165 14.265 7.265. QSL. Redd Swindells, AI2N, 134 E Seneca St, Oswego, NY 13126. www.fultonhamradioclub.org

Jun 6, 1400Z-2100Z, Whiteman AFB, MO. Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc, WOW. From inactive missile site 15 years. 14.245 7.245. Certificate. WAARCI, PO Box 1364, Warrensburg, MO 64093. www.waarci.org

Jun 6-Jun 7, 0001Z-2359Z, Camden, NJ. Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Society, NJ2BB. 21.330 18.150 14.270 7.250. QSL. Margaret Burgess, KB2BRR, 150 Schooner Ave, Barnegat, NJ 08005. *Contact 15 ships for a certificate.* www.nj2bb.org

Jun 6-Jun 7, 1200Z-0000Z, Mobile, AL. Battleship USS Alabama, W4A. QSL. Brian Page, N4TRB, 1717 Tidewell Trace, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. www.n4trb.com/AmateurRadio/MuseumShips/2009/BB60.htm

Jun 6-Jun 7, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. 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. . USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

Jun 6-Jun 7, 2000Z-2000Z, Eureka, CA. Humboldt Amateur Radio Club, W6ZZK. 14.260 14.039 7.260 7.039 3.860 3.539. QSL. Jim Falls, HARC, 2605 R St, Eureka, CA 95501-3135. www.humboldt-arc.org

Jun 6-Jun 7, 1400Z-2145Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. SSB: 15 20 40 m Gen & above RTTY subband CW: QRP sub bands. QSL. W5KID, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. *Primary frequency is 20 meters.* www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

Jun 7, 1400Z-2200Z, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Radio Club and ManCoRad Radio Club, NB9QV. WW II Submarine

USS Cobia AGSS-245. 14.260 7.250 3.900. QSL. Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 S 10th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220-9121. www.qrz.com/nb9qv

Jun 6-Jun 14, 0000Z-2359Z, Monterey, CA. Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club, N6C. Centennial of Naval Postgraduate School. 14.255 7.255. QSL. NPS Amateur Radio Club K6LY, 833 Dyer Rd - Code EC/K6LY, Monterey, CA 93943. www.k6ly.org

Jun 7, 1200Z-1800Z, Cortlandt Manor, NY. Peekskill Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association, W4H. 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of Hudson River. 14.260 7.230. Certificate. PCARA, PO Box 146, Crompond, NY 10517. www.pcara.org

Jun 18, 1400Z-2000Z, Irondale, MO. Zombie Squad Amateur Radio Club, KA3WSQ. 5th annual ZombieCon Disaster Preparation Seminar. 14.265. QSL. T. Thompson, 1314 Mt Pleasant Rd, West Newton, PA 15089. www.zombiehunters.org

Jun 19-Jun 28, 0000Z-2359Z, Oklahoma City, OK. OKC DX Club, W5E. Peak of Sporadic E Season. 50.150 28.425. QSL. OKC DX Club, 2310 NW 35th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. kx5t@cox.net

Jun 27, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating and participating in Armed Forces Field Day. 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

JUNE CONTESTS

ARRL June VHF QSO Party June 13 1800Z - June 15 0300Z

50+ Mhz; Phone and CW; Exchange: Grid Square; www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL Kid's Day June 20 1800 Z - June 20 2400Z

3.5-28 Mhz; Phone; Exchange: Name, age, location, favorite color; www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html

ARRL Field Day June 27 1800Z - June 28 1800Z

1.8-28 Mhz; CW, Phone and Digital; Exchange: Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX; www.arrl.org/contests

Amateur Radio Quiz: The Radiosporting Life

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Competitive operating, aka radiosport, is a great way to improve your operating skills, exercise your station's capabilities, put that new gadget to the test, work on your awards or just have fun putting a lot of contacts in the log from all over.

- 1) Match the multiplier to the contest:

a. Zone	e. CQ WPX Contest
b. Grid	f. June VHF QSO Party
c. Prefix	g. IARU HF Championship
d. State	h. North American QSO Party
- 2) Which contest features "QTC" as a way of making extra points?
 - a. CQ WW VHF
 - b. Worked All Europe (WAE)
 - c. ARRL School Club Roundup
 - d. North America RTTY Sprint
- 3) What is "Precedence" in the ARRL Sweepstakes exchange?
 - a. The call sign of the station you just worked
 - b. The number of the contact in the contest
 - c. Your category of entry: A, B, M, Q, S or U
 - d. The order in which the exchange elements are sent
- 4) What is a "captive rover"?
 - a. The dog in your neighbor's backyard kennel
 - b. A mobile station that only works the parent club station
 - c. Slang for the multiplier hunting position at a multi-op station
 - d. A mobile station running a county line on the County Hunter's Net
- 5) Match the exchange element with the contest:

a. Name	g. ARRL International DX Contest
b. Check	h. North American QSO Party
c. Power	i. Kids Day
d. Serial Number	j. CQ WW Contest
e. Zone	k. ARRL Sweepstakes
f. Favorite Color	l. CQ WPX Contest
- 6) Which of these is the fastest growing contest?
 - a. ARRL International EME Competition
 - b. CQ 160 Meter Contest
 - c. ARRL RTTY Roundup
 - d. North American Sprint
- 7) What must you do after a station answers your CQ and completes a contact in the North American Sprint contest?
- 8) Can a US station work a Caribbean station for credit in the ARRL Sweepstakes? What about Mexico in the ARRL's VHF+ contests?

- 9) The proper way to acknowledge a station's exchange and resume soliciting contacts is:
 - a. "W1AW Contest"
 - b. "CQ CQ CQ Contest W1AW"
 - c. "Thank You, W1AW, QRZ?"
 - d. "Test de W1AW"
- 10) If you work all possible multipliers in the ARRL Sweepstakes, you have just completed a...
 - a. Slam Dunk
 - b. Hat Trick
 - c. Grand Tour
 - d. Clean Sweep
- 11) What achievement does the Triple Play Award recognize?
 - a. WAC three times in one day
 - b. WAS on three bands
 - c. WAS on CW, Phone and Digital modes
 - d. DXCC from three locations
- 12) In what year was the first contest held?
 - a. 1913
 - b. 1923
 - c. 1927
 - d. 1930

Bonus: Which event is not a contest, but attracts more participants than *any* other ham radio activity in North America?

ANSWERS:

- Bonus:* ARRL Field Day. This year, look for Field Day on June 27-28.
- 1) a-h, b-k, c-g, d-, e-j, f-i (name is also exchanged in the Kids Day specific club effort.
- 2) b -- The QTC mode of WAE encourages short log extracts to be exchanged. This is novel and challenging!
- 3) -- Precedence is also an element of the ARRL Radiogram preamble, on which the ARRL Sweepstakes exchange is based.
- 4) b -- These stations activate multiple grids in VHF contests for a specific club effort.
- 5) a-h, b-k, c-g, d-, e-j, f-i (name is also exchanged in the Kids Day contest).
- 6) c -- Digital contesting is growing like a weed because it's easy to use your PC sound card and free software. To join the fun, check out this Web site for information on RTTY contesting.
- 7) QSY by at least 1 kHz before answering a CQ or by 5 kHz before calling CQ -- this keeps stations from occupying one frequency for extended periods.
- 8) Yes and Yes -- KP2/3/4/5 stations count in the ARRL Sweepstakes as either the PR or VI section. XE stations are welcome to add their grid squares to the fun on VHF+.
- 9) -- If you don't acknowledge the information, how is the other station supposed to know that you copied their information correctly? Many top operators won't log an unacknowledged QSO.
- 10) d -- One of the most coveted achievements in contesting results in a swell coffee cup, to boot.
- 11) c -- The Triple Play award is in full swing as of Jan 1, 2009!
- 12) The ARRL International Relay Test was held in 1927, predating the ARRL Sweepstakes by three years.