

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

AUGUST 2009

VOL 42 Issue 12

WALTER CRONKITE KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo XI lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Be-gin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today". Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications.

Walter Leland Cronkite was born in St Joseph, Missouri on November 4, 1916, the only child of a dentist father and homemaker mother. When he was still young, his family moved to Texas. One day, he read an article in "Boys Life" about the adventures of reporters working around the world -- and young Cronkite was hooked. He began working on his high school newspaper and year-book and in 1933, he entered the University of Texas at Austin to study political science, economics and journalism. He never graduated. He took a part time job at the Houston Post and left college to do what he loved: report."

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL.

(Continued on page 2)

AUGUST MEETING



This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday August 6th at the NIKE Base.

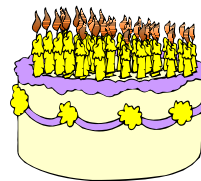
STARS members, family and friends are invited to our annual STARS picnic. The club will be supplying hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. If you like, bring a side dish, salad or dessert!

Don't forget your lawn chair!

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!



5th: Kyle Clever
14th: Eugene Hacker KC2EHV
26th: Bill Hoffman KB2PAR
26th: Dave Halik W2ZZA
26th: Paul Gastle N2UKV

(Continued from page 1)

"Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called 'In the News,' a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed 'The New York Times' and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two general class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

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

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard.' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington".

Cronkite is the recipient of a Peabody Award, the William White Award for Journalistic Merit, an Emmy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the George Polk Journalism Award and a Gold Medal from the International Radio and Television Society. In 1981, during his final three months on the CBS Evening News, Cronkite received 11 major awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1985, he became the second newsman, after Edward R. Murrow, to be selected for the Television Hall of Fame.

As Cronkite said on March 6, 1981, concluding his final broadcast as anchorman: "Old anchormen, you see, don't fade away, they just keep coming back for more. And that's the way it is."

—ARRL News

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

More than 300 lighthouses in more than 51 countries -- from Argentina to Wales -- will be on the air for 2009 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <<http://illw.net/>> organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group (AARG) in Scotland. The event, held for the 11th year in a row, takes place Saturday, August 15 0001 UTC-Sunday, August 16 2359 UTC. While not a contest, the ILLW is more of a QSO Party and Amateur Radio demonstration. The ILLW aims to raise public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and the need for their preservation and restoration, promote Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill. Stations at more than 40 US lights are expected to be on the air for the event, and several stations will identify with special event call signs. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself; a Field Day-type setup at or adjacent to the light is sufficient.

It all started in 1994 during a wet wintry evening when two members of the AYR Amateur Radio Group in Scotland, John GM4OOU and the late Mike GM4SUC, after a club meeting were talking about creating an event in the summer when club members could get out on a sunny weekend and play radio. Various themes were considered, but it was finally decided that lighthouses of Scotland would be ideal. Following research it was discovered that the lighthouses of Scotland were controlled by the Northern Lighthouse Board in Edinburgh who were not only responsible for the lighthouses of Scotland, but also around the Isle of Man. Approval was sought and obtained from the Northern Lighthouse Board to establish amateur radio stations adjacent to their property. In February 1993 an invitation was sent to all Scottish clubs and the Isle of Man club to join in the fun of a weekend, to be called the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend, by establishing an amateur radio station at a lighthouse during the third weekend in August. This first year's event saw 11 stations established at lighthouses, operating primarily on the HF bands, with each station making approximately 750 QSOs over the weekend.

The weekend became an annual event taking place over the third full weekend in August and has slowly grown in popularity and in 1999 there were 204 lighthouse/lightship stations in 36 countries until 2008 when 406 stations in 50 countries took part. The main reason the event has become so popular is because it is NOT a contest. It is a relaxed fun weekend without the pressure of a contest. The guidelines are simple and the onus is on the operators to act within the spirit of the weekend which is simply to expose amateur radio and the plight of lighthouses to the public. This is why it is important for the ham station to be as close to the lighthouse/lightship as possible and with the controlling body's approval.



A few years ago the International Association of Lighthouse Keepers decided to have an annual open day for lighthouses all around the world to encourage visitors to visit at their lighthouses. They decided that no better day could be decided upon other than the Sunday of the ILLW. This move has been highly successful as the media have become involved in quite a few of the countries involved in the event.

To get an up to day list of participating lighthouses, go to http://illw.net/2009_list.htm

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. The NIKE Base clubhouse is open every Thursday evening (except general meeting nights at the Youth center) from 7 to 10 PM.

CLUB NET

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.

I PROBABLY DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, BUT....

July is usually a month we can count on for extended periods of warm summer weather. On average our sunniest and warmest month. But July 2009 will be remembered as an outlier—a month where true summer never really set in. Rather, it was a very unsettled and unusually cool July. Only a more normal last week kept it from being the coolest July in all time history. Rainfall was frequent and fairly heavy. Sunshine was at a premium.

The average temperature of 66.9 was nearly four degrees below the long term average and made it the 6th coolest July in the 137 year history and the second coolest in the 67 year airport record. No daily records were set but the chill was persistent with 22 of the first 24 days cooler than normal. Remarkably only two days reached the 80s --matching 1992 as fewest ever in July. Normally Buffalo sees 18 such days in July.

Rainfall was fairly heavy in July with the airport total of 4.37 inches— a little over an inch above normal. Much of the rain fell in deluges on the 23rd and 25th.

July was not as sunny as usual either. The 51 percent of possible included many bright days, but was well short of the 67 percent average for the month.

The month began cool and unsettled during the first few days, but cleaned up its act for a fine but cool July 4th holiday weekend. Locally heavy rains fell on the 11th—especially across the south towns. The mid month period featured several fine dry but cool days. The persistent upper low over the northeast then retrograded into the western lakes placing our region on its eastern fringe which brought a more humid showery regime to our area. This resulted in the most interesting weather of the month—with very heavy rains of 2 to 3 inches falling north of the city on the 23rd causing some local flooding in the north towns and Niagara county. Severe weather raked the area on the 25th with large hail reported at the Airport and tornadoes in Corfu in Genesee county and Hilton in Monroe county. Another tornado was reported over southern Cattaraugus county on the 26th.

EMCOMM EAST

Radio operators pride themselves on the ability to get the message through, "when all else fails" during a disaster. Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (or EmComm) plays an important role in helping disaster relief organizations communicate when land lines, cell phones, and other traditional modes of communication become overloaded or fail.

EmComm East is an ARRL-sanctioned amateur radio emergency communications conference, where amateur radio operators involved in EmComm can attend training sessions on technical topics, learn from served agencies, obtain VE testing for license upgrades, and interact with other EmComm operators from all over the area. EmComm East will be held on October 3, 2009, in Rochester, New York.

Harold Kramer, WJ1B, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Kramer is the Chief Operating Officer for the American Radio Relay League. Before joining ARRL, Harold was the Vice President for Business Development and Education at Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc. in Hartford. Prior to his position at Connecticut Public Broadcasting, he spent 25 years in the cable television and television production industries.

On the Amateur Radio side he is a lifelong ham with his principal focus on emergency communications, an ARRL Life Member and the former Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator for Cheshire, Connecticut. He has been an adjunct faculty member at many local colleges, principally teaching communications and electronics.

The EmComm East conference committee is busy making preparations for the upcoming conference. "We are very excited to have Harold Kramer at our conference. This is a terrific opportunity for our conference participants to hear about upcoming happenings in emergency communications from the League's COO."

Conference registration is now open! Pre-registration is highly recommended, as space for this conference is limited. For more information, go to <http://www.emcommeast.org>.

SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR DEPLOYS STUDENT-BUILT SATELLITES

The space shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth on Friday, July 31, but before it left orbit, it deployed four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter (70 cm) amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE). Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports with special QSLs and mission patches planned (check the ANDE Web site for updates).

Castor and Pollux carry an FX.25 experiment that adds Forward Error Correction to standard AX.25 packets. The hope is that FX.25 will improve communication efficiency while still being compatible with existing packet equipment. The satellites also occasionally run GMSK/FX.25 modulation experiments at 9600 baud.



In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour also deployed student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2, respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 launched as one unit and then separated to collect position data and test a new NASA



Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 transmits Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 beacons at 436.250 MHz. The satellites primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the United States. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome

< <http://paradigm.ae.utexas.edu/ops/> >.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

—ARRL News

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be downloaded from the club website or obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$15.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month plus the \$5 initiation fee).

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members who are joining ARRL for the first time or who are renewing their membership should send their ARRL membership forms to Jack Cullum KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU MISSED THE LAST MEETING

(adapted from the meeting minutes)

President's Report: Keith KC2DGC

- Keith spoke with Tom Partridge; we are invited to participate with the Town of Hamburg, at their exhibit, at the Erie County Fair, for an informational display on emergency communications

Financial Secretary's Report: Judy N2TEZ

- Judy has posted Field Day pictures on the website
- The membership stands at 72

Director Report—John KB2VWC:

- A VE session is scheduled for July 18th.

Club House Chairman: Don K2PMC

- Don reports that the 80 & 40-meter antennas have been untangled
- A messenger cable for the tower to the clubhouse has been donated and is in the storage room
- The operating positions have been reassembled. Please remember to disconnect antennas from rigs after operating.

Field Day Report:

- Co-Chairman Don, K2PMC, reports that there were some small problems, but overall, things went well. Pass-a-Dish for dinner went well.
- Don gave a breakdown of contacts by number per hour, distance per mode and others
- On a motion by John Leitten, KA2RFT, and seconded by Rich Gerster, K2RWG, upon return of the deposit from the North Evans V.F.C., a donation in that amount be made to them, to be used at their discretion. A Thank-you letter will also be sent.

For the Good of the Club:

- John Leitten donated a set of tools to be used for Field Day.
- John Hall, KC2QKB, has donated a Gateway computer to the club; it could use a little more memory.

The Lifetime and Charter membership plaques were hung at the NIKE Base.

FUNcube CUBESAT PROJECT ANNOUNCED

AMSAT-UK has announced a new amateur satellite project -- FUNcube <<http://www.funcube.org.uk/>> -- an educational single cubesat project that features a 435-145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW operation. According to AMSAT-UK, FUNcube will "enthuse and educate" young people about radio, space, physics and electronics. "The idea of FUNcube is to combine an educational project to excite young people with a simple linear transponder for radio amateurs to use with either legacy modes like CW and SSB, or, still to come, digital ones," said IARU Region 1 Satellite Coordinator Graham Shirville, G3VZV. Shirville is also affiliated with AMSAT-UK and ARIS-Europe.

FUNcube's target audience consists of primary and secondary school students. The new satellite will feature a 145 MHz telemetry beacon that will provide a strong signal for the pupils to receive. "A simple receiver board is being developed," Shirville explained. "This can be connected to the USB port of a laptop to display telemetry in a fun way for the kids to learn. FUNcube will contain a materials science experiment, from which the school students can receive telemetry data that they can compare to the results they obtained from similar reference experiments in the classroom." FUNcube is the first cubesat designed to benefit this age group and is expected to be the first British cubesat to reach space.

According to Shirville, FUNcube would be launched into a Sun Synchronous Low Earth Orbit (about 600-700 km above the Earth) using one of the many launch opportunities that exist for cubesat missions. According to QST Editor and satellite expert Steve Ford, WB8IMY, since FUNcube will be in a low orbit, amateurs from all around the world, including North America, should be able to access it.

FUNcube will carry a UHF-to-VHF linear transponder that will have up to 1 W and that can be used by radio amateurs worldwide for SSB and CW communications. Measuring just 10x10x10 cm and with a mass of less

(Continued on page 7)

AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

Aug 7-Aug 10, 1200Z-2359Z, Canton, OH. Canton Amateur Radio Club, W8AL. Annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Donald E. Perry, WQ8J, 968 Culverne Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44647. www.w8al.org

Aug 8, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Operations Room, NI6IW. US Coast Guard Birthday 1790 and National Navajo Code Talkers Day. SSB 14.320 7.250 PSK-31 7.070 CW 14.060 7.055 D-STAR 2m/70cm SOCAL rep. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. kk6fz@arrl.net

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.



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

(Continued from page 6)

than 1 kg, it will be the smallest ever satellite to carry a linear transponder. The choice of frequencies will enable radio amateurs to use their existing VO-52 or DO-64 station.

A key feature of the satellite is the absence of an on-board computer. For reliability and maximum power efficiency, Shirville explained that the design has been kept as "straight-forward as possible," with satellite control being achieved using simple commands.

Shirville said the project should take less than a year to build: "Then we need to find a cubesat launch opportunity. We believe that this is an achievable mission with a relatively short timescale."

Aug 8-Aug 9, 1600Z-2000Z, Glenville, NY. Glenville Park Planning Commission, N2Y. CanalFest 2009 Celebrate Erie Canal Heritage-Ham Radio Demo. 14.245 7.245 PSK 14.070 CW 14.060. QSL. Larry Eaton, KC2BLC, 7 Wagon Wheel Ln, Scotia, NY 12302-3708. kc2blc@arrl.net

Aug 9, 1200Z-2000Z, Humboldt Peak, CO. Old Goats QRP Expedition Team, NOB. Colorado 14er activation of Humboldt Peak (14064'). 143.425 14.060 7.040. QSL. Guy Hamblen, N7UN, 16 Dongan Ln, Newfoundland, NJ 07435. n0b-14er.blogspot.com

Aug 9, 1300Z-2200Z, Sudbury, Fire Tower, MA. Central Mass Amateur Radio Club, W1BIM. Celebration of Smokey Bear's 65th birthday. 50.250 28.430 14.260. QSL. Ray Doucette, 2 Dawes Rd, Stow, MA 01775. QRZ.com/KB1OUW

Aug 13-Aug 15, 1600Z-0100Z, Punta Gorda, FL. Peace River Radio Association, Inc, W4C. Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Hurricane Charley. 14.250 7.235. QSL. PRRA, PO Box 510943, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0943. August 13, 2004, we went Eye to Eye with Charley. k7cxw@arrl.net or www.w4dux.org

Aug 13-Aug 17, 0000Z-0000Z, Denver, NY. Sponsored by KC8SKK, N2Y. 40th Anniversary of 1969 Woodstock Music Festival. 1.865 MHz thru 70 cm. QSL. Brian S. Floutz, 6140 SHuron River Dr, South Rockwood, MI 48179-9509. floutz@sbcglobal.net

Aug 15, 1500Z-2100Z, Hastings, NE. Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska, KOA. Annual Celebration of the invention of Kool-Aid. 14.275 7.250. Certificate. Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska, PO Box 6, Hastings, NE 68901. w0www.org

Aug 15-Aug 16, 1500Z-0200Z, New York City, NY. Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum *, WA3KEY/2. Intrepid 66th Anniversary and Former Crewmembers Reunion. 28.555 21.355 14.252 7.243 3.865. Certificate. WA3KEY, PO Box 498, Quakertown, PA 18951. *Co-sponsor USS Intrepid Former Crewmembers Association. www.wa3key.com/events.html

Aug 15-Aug 17, 0559Z-0559Z, Window Rock, AZ. NARC, N7C. Commemorating the Navajo Code Talkers. 14.265 7.265. QSL. N7HG, PO Box 3611, Window Rock, AZ 86515. n7hg@citlink.net

(Continued on page 8)

AUGUST UHF CONTEST

1800 UTC Saturday, August 1 -
1800 UTC Sunday, August 2
[click here for rules](#)

10 GHZ & UP CONTEST

6 AM local time Saturday, August 15 -
Midnight local time Sunday, August 16

(Continued from page 7)

Aug 22, 1400Z-2100Z, Miamisburg, OH. R.L. Drake Amateur Radio Club, W8CYE. Celebrating 66 years of R.L. Drake communications excellence. 28.360 18.100 14.260 7.260. Certificate. Drake ARC, c/o Gary Hardwick, 498 Lake Front Dr, Lebanon, OH 45036.

Aug 22-Aug 23, 1500Z-2000Z, Harrison Township, MI. Metro Detroit SATERN, N8SE. Selfridge Air National Guard Base Annual Air Show. 147.200 146.565 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Ann-Marie Ruder, K8AMR, 15708 Brin-gard Dr, Detroit, MI 48205. Times are daily.

Aug 28-Aug 30, 1200Z-0400Z, Titusville, PA. Fort Venango Mike and Key Club, W3ZIC. Sesquicentennial of Oil Production. 160 80 40 20 m CW and SSB. QSL. Fort Venango Mike and Key Club, PO Box 99, Cranberry, PA 16319. 1600Z Aug 28-0400Z Aug 29 and 1200Z Aug 29-0400Z Aug 30 www.w3zic.com

Aug 28-Aug 30, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. 2nd running of the Indianapolis MotoGP. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495. Certificate and QSL available. www.w9ims.com

Aug 29, 1200Z-2000Z, Manassas, VA. Ole Virginia Hams, W4OVH. Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). 146.970 14.225 7.225 3.825. QSL. Ole Virginia Hams, PO Box 1255, Manassas, VA 20108-1255. aldugas@juno.com or www.w4ovh.net

Aug 29, 1400Z-2000Z, Ponchatoula, LA. Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, K5R. 4th anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 14.250 7.250. QSL. K5R, PO Box 1324, Hammond, LA 70404. www.selarc.org

Aug 29-Aug 30, 1500Z-2300Z, Port Townsend, WA. Jefferson County & Port Ludlow Amateur Radio Clubs, W7R. Fort Worden Radio Station 100 Year Anniversary. 14.265 7.255 3.920 SSB CW PSK RTTY. QSL. W7R Special Event, PO Box 88, Chimacum, WA 98325. Operating from the original 1909 radio building at historic Fort Worden, WA. www.olympus.net/community/jcsrc or www.n7pl.org

Aug 30, 1400Z-2100Z, Hanover, KS. Crown Amateur Radio Association, KOASA. Hollenberg Pony Express Station Festival. 14.240 14.040 7.040 3.540. Certificate. Crown Amateur Radio Association, 11551 West 176th Terr, Olathe, KS 66062. www.armlmidwest.org/ponyexpress.html

SPECIAL BONUS SECTION ADDED TO "ARRL HAM RADIO LI- CENSING MANUAL"

The most common question asked by new radio amateurs is "Now that I have my license, what kind of radio should I get?" The ARRL, in an attempt to help newcomers to Amateur Radio answer that very question, has added a bonus supplement to the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual. "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" is aimed at the new Technician licensee ready to acquire a first radio, a licensee recently upgraded to General class and wanting to explore HF or someone getting back into Amateur Radio after a period of inactivity.

The guide features two main sections -- one covering gear for the VHF and UHF bands, and one for HF band equipment, including a VHF/UHF and an HF glossary of terms you will encounter. The guide also urges you to discover just what you want to do with Amateur Radio and where you want to do it from. This guide will help you select the right rig for what you want to do.

"Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" isn't a traditional "buyer's guide" with feature lists and prices for many radios. Manufacturer's Web sites and catalogs from radio stores have plenty of information on the latest models and features.

Second only to "What kind of radio should I get?" "What kind of antenna do I need?" is the most common question asked by the new amateur. Don't worry! "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" talks about all kinds of antennas -- from "rubber dummies" to verticals to dipoles to Yagis; it even explains rotators and antenna gain.

An explanation of power, filters and digital signal processing (DSP), as well as special features commonly found on VHF/UHF and HF radios are also included in the guide.

You can purchase the book through the ARRL store. ARRL members who are logged on to the ARRL Web site can view the guide online at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/choosingaradio/>.