

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

DECEMBER 2009

VOL 43 Issue 4

2010 CLUB ELECTIONS

Elections were held at the November meeting. Congratulations to the 2010 STARS Officers and Directors!

President: Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Vice President: Jim Starr N2TFA
Treasurer: Jack Cullum KB2ESM
Secretary: Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Financial Secretary: Judy Levan N2TEZ
Director (2-yr term): Ken Pokigo KC2AYK

They will be sworn in at the December meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday December 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Avenues). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

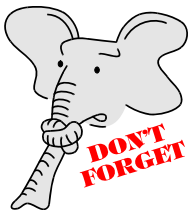
In addition to inducting the Club Officers for 2010, KB2JDB and KA2WYE will show a presentation about EMP.

After, we'll be enjoying our annual Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop. Members are invited to bring finger foods to share. (Desserts are always a favorite!)



We look forward to seeing you there!

HAVE YOUR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



Don't forget to renew your membership.

STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to continue to help keep us great.

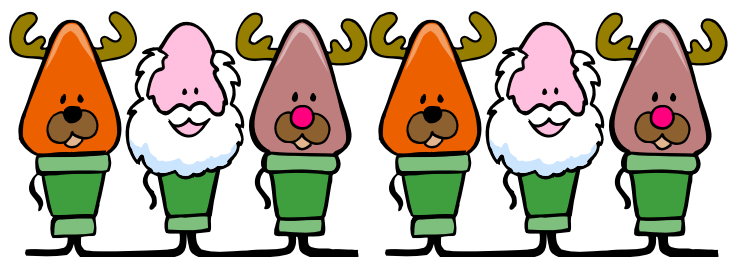
STARS dues are \$21 for individual members, \$27 for a family, and \$8 for student members. A renewal application is again included in this month's Telstar.

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

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

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!

6th: John Powers KC2IUN
15th: Richard Gerster K2RWG
17th: Jim Livingston N2SKT
31st: Mick Waclawski KB2MSW



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 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.

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL

A NEW Technician Question Pool will be released in January 2010 and will become effect on July 1, 2010. So if you know someone studying for a Tech class license, let them know the current question pool is only good through June 2010!

Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation.

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS held a VE Session on November 21st. Congratulations to President-Elect Wayne W2ZDP on his upgrade to Extra! Also, James Missal and Drew Laudenslager passed the Technician test. Congratulations and welcome to ham radio!



Led by John KB2VWC, the VE Team consisted of Scott KB2KOL, Jim N2TFA, and Judy N2TEZ.

STARS will be holding test sessions in 2010 on: 1/16, 3/20, 5/15, 7/17, 9/18, and 11/20. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact John Crawford KB2VWC at 649-5933.

LARC Holds it's VE tests on the last Tuesday of selected months (usually every other 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 will be hold test sessions on the first Saturday of the month (except when falling on a holiday weekend, when they will be on the second Saturday) 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.



SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 11th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2009. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe.



The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, NOQE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999.

2009 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 5 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2009 your year to do so!

You can find a list of participating stations and QSL information on the web at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

FCC JOINS SOCIAL NETWORKING

The Federal Communications Commission has created its identity on the social networking site Twitter.

Twitter allows users to post text based messages of up to 140 characters displayed on the FCC profile page and delivered to site subscribers. The Commission's Twitter page has already attracted almost 2000 followers. The site can be found at <http://twitter.com/fccdotgov>

TEST QUESTION "APPS" AVAILABLE

ARRL has announced the availability of a new suite of Amateur Radio mobile software -- designed specifically for use with the Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch.

The applications -- or "apps" -- are named [ARRL Technician](#), [ARRL General](#) and [ARRL Extra](#) and function as an electronic version of practice exam flash cards.

Amateur Radio exam candidates can use the applications as a study companion to the ARRL license manuals and classroom instruction. The apps include all the possible questions and answers that will be on each of the license tests. Users can flag questions that need more review, segment questions for study by sub-element, or even study the questions in a random order.

The ARRL apps are produced and sold by McNyder Software who has partnered with ARRL to provide the iPhone app series. The ARRL apps are available for \$1.99 each on Apple's iTunes "App Store."



MFJ PURCHASES CUSHCRAFT ANTENNAS

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. has purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product line from Laird Technologies.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, president and founder of MFJ. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased HY-gain in 2000.

The Cushcraft products, which will still be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire, include a wide range of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas. MFJ says it will add more new products to the antenna line.

A special customer support number has been set up (662-323-5803) to handle Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product technical support, parts requests, and customer services.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. also owns Ameritron, Mirage, and Vectronics.

VANITY CALL SIGN CHANGES

The FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.



According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The FCC proposes to amend their rules to reflect existing procedures to the vanity call sign program. In addition, Amateur Radio clubs would be limited to only one vanity call sign; clubs that currently hold more than one call sign will not be able to obtain any more call signs, but will be able to renew or modify their existing station grants.

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register* (through the end of January).

In other Vanity Call news—the cost of Vanity call was raised to \$13.40 in September. It was the second consecutive year for the rate increases in the Vanity call program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing the call sign for the 10-year term.



NEW ANTENNAS ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

On Saturday, November 21, astronauts Mike Foreman and Randy Bresnik completed the second EVA (extra-vehicular activity) -- NASA's term for a spacewalk -- of their mission. While on the 6 hour, 8 minute EVA, Foreman installed the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas for 2 meters and 70 cm on the *Columbus* module.

NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that this new antenna -- along with another VHF antenna -- was developed by ARISS in cooperation with the European Space Agency to support an experiment involving the mar-

itime Automatic Identification System (AIS).

"Both antennas were installed on the Earth-facing starboard edge of the *Columbus* module," he explained. "The AIS antenna is forward and the ARISS antenna is aft. The ARISS team is planning to migrate some stowed Amateur Radio gear to take advantage of the new antenna." Frequencies available for transmission to and from *Columbus* will be 2 meters, 70 centimeters and 13 cm. To start, two radios for 2 meters and 70 cm that don't see much use on the ISS will be moved and installed in *Columbus*.



The space shuttle *Discovery* returned to Earth on Friday, November 27, bringing Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, back from her stay on the ISS.

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DECEMBER CONTESTS

ARRL 160 Meter CW — 4 Dec 2200Z-6 Dec 1600Z; Exchange: RST and ARRL/RAC section if US/VE. www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL 10 Meter Phone/CW — 12 Dec 0000Z-13 Dec 2400Z; Exchange: RS(T) and State/Province or serial. www.arrl.org/contests

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec 4-Dec 7, 1400Z-1100Z, Fredericksburg, TX. Hill Country Amateur Radio Club, N5P. Opening of the George H. W. Bush Gallery at the National Museum of the Pacific War, and commemorating the hams that served in WWII. 14.255 21.275 7.275 3.940. QSL. Nimitz Foundation, 328 E Austin St, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. *Also sponsored by the amateurs of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, TX.*
info@NimitzFoundation.org or www.kerrhams.org

Dec 5, 1700Z-2359Z, San Deigo, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Operations Room, NI6IW. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. SSB 14.320 7.050 PSK-31 7.070 CW 14.060 7.055 D-STAR 2m/70cm SOCAL rep. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Station, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.
kk6fz@arrl.net

Dec 5-Dec 6, 1400Z-2200Z, Baltimore, MD. ARC of the National Electronics Museum, W2W. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. 14.241 14.041 7.187 7.041. Certificate. ARCNEM, Box 1693 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21230. *QSL and certificate available.* k3nem.org

Dec 7, 0000Z-2359Z, Wilmington, NC. Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, NI4BK. Pearl Harbor Day from Battleship *North Carolina*. 14.255 14.030 7.255 7.030. QSL. Azalea Coast ARC, PO Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406. *Will be usin restored original WWII CW equipment.* www.ac4rc.org

Dec 7, 1500Z-2245Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. Pearl Harbor Day. SSB: 15 20 40 m Gen & above RTTY sub-band 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

Dec 16-Dec 26, 1300Z-0500Z, Granite Peak, MT. Beartooth Climbers, W7G. Radio and Science at the Summit of Montana. 146.52 14.280 3.920 20 m and 80 m weather permitting. QSL. Coordinator, 20 Tai Ln Apt 5, Bozeman, MT 59715.

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Across

1. Ant. meas.
5. Cousin of 38-across
10. Caucasus region prefix
14. Part of DE, on phone
15. Lid like
16. PW1 maker
17. Part of 23 across
18. Eastern zone-36 prefix
19. NA or SA, e.g.
20. Encoder, in a way
22. Last stage, with 62 across
23. Measuring dev.
24. W5LFL's employer, once
26. SDR part
29. Band booking
31. RX starter
36. Prefix with -band
38. Parasitic array
41. Part of a score, maybe
42. Political pundit?
45. Apple spray
46. Theories
47. Lisbon prefix
48. Seminal radio textbook author
50. Equipment seller
52. Homer's neighbor
53. Eastern zone-28 prefix
56. Dir., for one
58. Dit dah doer
62. See 22 across
67. Tea type
68. Dig, so to speak
69. Eight in some circles
70. HS denizen
71. Part of some joints
72. Dayton digs
73. QSL bureau process
74. Put up, as a crank-up, say
75. Lodges

Down

1. DVM predecessor
2. "QSY!"
3. "___ Thing"
4. Q followers
5. JD1 name
6. "Get ___!"
7. It's a gas
8. Probably contains a 41 across
9. W5 sect.
10. KP4 name
11. Harbor vessel
12. Turin prefix
13. Apache or Cheyenne, e.g.
21. Gates' job
22. Hole goal
25. Span's partner
26. Amateur 24 across partner
27. Having two parts
28. RIT button
30. Swindles
32. 90 degrees
33. Illegal lighting?
34. Belfast prefix
35. Cut down
37. School session
39. Ready for firing
40. "Geel!"
43. Kink companion
44. Gut bug
49. MI, MO and MT QP mo.
51. Give in
54. Water walker
55. Bratislava prefix
57. CD followers
58. SB-401, 301, 201 and 101, once
59. EME artifact
60. Y2K part
61. Menu option
63. CPU part, abbr.
64. EP place
65. Take home
66. SM-land rugs
68. Took the cake, say

2010 STARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Are you a member of ARRL? YES NO

Do you want to receive your Telstar by email? YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: Additional names and information:

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

CALL SIGN _____ NAME _____

CLASS _____ BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____

DUES: STARS Annual dues payable by January 1

SINGLE \$21 FAMILY \$27 STUDENT (through grade 12) \$8

RETURNED COMPLETED FORM AND DUES (Checks payable to STARS) to:

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