

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

DECEMBER 2010

VOL 44 Issue 4

THE VIEW FROM BEHIND THE GAVEL

Recently it was suggested that an "APRIL FOOLS" type article, the kind that QST prints, be the headline for a Telstar article. It would read something like this:



"STARS VOTES TO DISBAND"

The article would go on to cite the reasons, poor meeting attendance, the same faces showing up for ALL the club sponsored activities, the same club officers year after year. So... the same few members were tired of having to do all the work, and said, "This is not worth it". The club properties were sold off and the proceeds donated to charity. Period, end of sentence, end of club.

I don't think that the general membership wants this hypothetical scenario to become reality, but what do we do to increase the involvement of our valued members. Remember, as I have stated before, this is your club, do you want just a few members to decide the future of your club for you. I certainly hope not. We have a wonderful clubhouse with a station that rivals all around. Although we have only one wire antenna up at present, all HF bands can be worked and this is available to all members for just the price of your membership dues. So if you're new to the hobby and don't have a HF station yet or now live in a condo or an apartment with little or no antennas, this the perfect spot to enjoy working the HF bands on phone, CW, and many of the digital modes. The clubhouse is open every Thursday night, but we can open it during the daytime if someone wants to come out.

DECEMBER MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday December 2 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.

After the 2011 Club Officers are inducted, 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!

The benefits of membership are many, but also come a few responsibilities. Let's all pitch in and make our presence known and keep the April Fools from becoming an "April Reality"

Also, at this time, I would like to wish all members "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" and a "BOUNTIFUL NEW YEAR"

73's, 88's

President Wayne, W2ZDP

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!

John Powers KC2IUN
Richard Gerster K2RWG
Jon Kiddy KC2WLV
Mick Waclawski KB2MSW



UPCOMING MEETING DATES

With the upcoming holidays, here are some meeting dates to note:

December 2 Regular Club Meeting—Holiday Party
7PM Hamburg Youth Center

No Board meeting scheduled in December.

January 6 Regular Club Meeting 7PM

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 NETS

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

STARS WB2EZX 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 2m Sunday morning Net at 10:30AM on the STARS Repeater 147.090

2010 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Vice President: Scott Barto KB2KOL
Treasurer: Don Niles K2PMC
Secretary: Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Financial Secretary: Judy Levan N2TEZ
Director: Ken Pokigo KC2AYK
Director: John Crawford KB2VWC

Clubhouse Chair: Don Niles K2PMC
Telstar Editor: Judy Levan N2TEZ
Webmaster: Marc Fruth N2UBT

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS held a VE Session on November 20th.



Congratulations to Wally Constantine KC2WLY and Roger Bean K2SLZ on their upgrades to Extra and Bruce Galbraith KC2TRS and Conrad Barrick KC2WRY on their upgrades to General!

Led by John KB2VWC, the VE Team consisted of Scott KB2KOL, Jim N2TFA, Ed N2ING and Judy N2TEZ.

STARS will be holding test sessions in 2011 on: 1/15, 3/19, 5/14, 7/16, 9/17, and 11/19. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact John Crawford KB2VWC at 649-5933.

2011 CLUB ELECTIONS

Elections were held at the November meeting. Congratulations to the 2011 STARS Officers and Directors!

President: Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Vice President: Scott Barto KB2KOL
Treasurer: Don Niles K2PMC
Secretary: Keith Patterson KC2DGC
Financial Secretary: Judy Levan N2TEZ
Director (2-yr term): Jon Hall KC2QKB

They will be sworn in at the December meeting.



WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU MISSED THE LAST CLUB MEETING...

Excerpts from the November Meeting Minutes

President's Report: W2ZDP

- Called for a motion and vote to install Don Niles K2PMC as interim Treasurer for the remainder of 2010
- Started a club equipment inventory in preparation of acquiring a new club insurance company for 2011
- Announced the 160 meter dipole feed with ladder line has been put up at the club station to operate on all HF bands
- Announced a new STARS 2 meter net every Sunday at 10:30 AM local on the club repeater

Vice President's Report: KB2KOL

- Reported DX openings on 10 and 15 meters
- Called for the appointment of an on-line club Face Book administrator to establish the web page
- Announced the 2010 Field Day results have been posted to the ARRL web site

Tower Committee Report:

- Repainting work needs done on the replacement tower.
- There was lengthy discussion as to move forward with the tower replacement project. A motion was made to move forward with the tower replacement project, provided club funds are available. Motion carried with 10 votes for and 1 vote against.

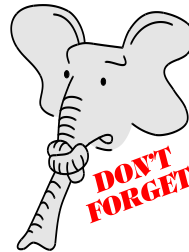
(Editor's Note: Not necessarily the opinion of the Board or anyone else... but isn't it sad that on such an important decision for the future of this club...whether to invest well over \$1000 in the construction of a new tower...only eleven members showed up to have their voices heard...)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES TO ADD SURCHARGE IN ADDITION TO DUES INCREASE FOR 2011

As you read in last month's Telstar, the Board of Directors voted to increase the dues of STARS individual membership from \$21 to \$24.

At the November Board meeting, in looking for other options to offset the club expenses, the Board voted that those club members who wish to continue to have their newsletters delivered via USPS rather than via email will be required to pay \$6 to cover the cost of printing and postage for 2011.

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.

If you renew by January 1st STARS dues are \$21 for individual members. After January 1st, the cost rises to \$24.

Prices for Family membership (\$27) and Student membership (\$8) remain the same for 2011.

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

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day ([SRD](#)) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 4, 2010. 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. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their [local participating NWS office](#), working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.



Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, *Winlink* and the use of e-mail reflectors."



In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are [asked to include a weather report of their location](#) in their exchange. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735.

Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2010 your year to do so!

The Buffalo office of the National Weather Service will again take part in SKYWARN Recognition Day. If you are interested in being at operator at the Buffalo office, contact Judy N2TEZ at judith.levan@noaa.gov

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

NEW SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED IN WESTERN NEW YORK



Steve Ryan, N2ITF, of Ashville, New York, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL Western New York Section, effective November 2. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, made the appointment in consultation with Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, after Scott Bauer, W2LC, announced his resignation for personal reasons on October 31. Bauer had served as Section Manager since January 2000.

Ryan will complete the current term of office that continues until September 30, 2012. He is currently the president of the Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association, an ARRL affiliated club; his wife, Diane, KC2SOA, serves as the club's secretary. The couple has an active interest in public safety and public service communications. Ryan brings more than 30 years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator to the Section Manager position.

-ARRL News

QUICKSTATS POLLS

Have you checked out the ARRL's QuickStats page (www.arrl.org/quickstats)? Let your voice be heard! Quickstats is a way for the ARRL to get a pulse on the amateur radio hobby and it's operators. For example, recent questions included: From an operator's point of view, have modern Amateur Radio transceivers become too complex? Looking back over the last several years, do you think the amount of time you spend on the air has increased or decreased? Results from this QuickStats poll are published in *QST* QuickStats page, located in the rear advertising section. Along with monthly poll results, *QST* QuickStats offers colorful charts and graphs that highlight interesting Amateur Radio statistics.

FIELD DAY RESULTS PUBLISHED



The December issue of [QST](#) has the 2010 ARRL Field Day results. But the ARRL Field Day website has a searchable [results database](#). Be sure to also check out the 193 comments in the [Field Day Soapbox](#). It's not too soon to start making plans for next year -- the 2011 ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 25-26, 2011.

Here's a look at the Western New York top results:

1	W2RDX	16,510	3A	4,042	2	W2AN	42	Rochester DX Assn
2	K2ZR	13,525	2AB	1,301	5		34	Buffalo Lighthouse Crew
3	W2BC	7,382	1E	1,733	2		4	
4	W2LZ	3,945	2AB	380	5	W2CD	9	Walton RA
5	W2XRX	3,598	3A	1,047	2		17	Xerox ARC
6	K2WNY (K2SH & K2UD,	3,450	1B2B	304	5		2	WNY QRP Society
7	W2AE	3,180	5A	591	2		45	RA of Greater Syracuse)
8	AI2U	3,142	9A	587	2		38	Keuka Lake ARA
9	W2SO	2,810	8A	721	2		10	Lancaster ARC
10	KD2A	2,742	1A	1,070	2		9	The Crashing Tower Group
11	WA2DQL	2,656	2F	609	2	KZ2R	39	Orleans Cty ARC
12	W2SEX	2,542	4F	515	2		26	ARA Tonawands
13	WB2ELW	2,514	2A	655	2	K2VTK	24	STARS
14	W2RME	2,496	3A	353	2	W2MK	27	CVARA
15	K2IWR	2,358	4A	694	2		35	Skyline ARC/Liverpool Am Repeater Club
16	WB2VUO	2,355	3AB	220	5		4	Amherst U-U Hams
17	W2FHA	1,974	3A	325	2	N2ZWO	17	Ft Herkimer ARA
18	W2OW	1,796	3A	437	2		25	Binghamton ARA
19	W2PE	1,764	3AC	406	2		15	RA of WNY
20	K2AOQ	1,644	2A	416	2		6	435 hammers
21	W2OSC	1,586	4A	404	2		15	Fulton ARC / Oswego RACES-OCEC
22	W3SW	1,502	1B2	626	2		2	Andrew Schaefer, Binghamton
23	W2MO	1,444	3A	220	2		16	Madison-Oneida ARC
24	K2OQ	1,174	3F	315	2		5	Carousel RC
25	W2ZJ	1,062	3AC	168	2		25	ARA of the Southern Tier



DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS:

(In addition to SKYWARN Recognition Day!)

Christmas in Bethlehem (GA) Dec 4-Dec 5, 1700Z-1700Z, WR4BC, Bethlehem, GA. Barrow Amateur Radio Club. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.875. QSL. Barrow Amateur Radio Club, 287 Crescent Ct, Winder, GA 30680. A unique collectable QSL will be issued, complete with the Bethlehem Christmas Postmark, to arrive at your QTH before Christmas. barrowhamradio.org

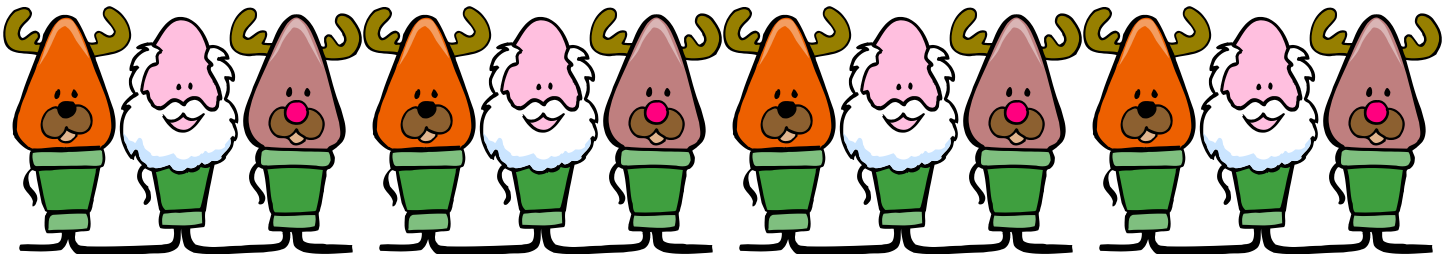
Pearl Harbor Commemoration Dec 4-Dec 5, 1500Z-2130Z, N4WIS, Virginia Beach, VA. USS Wisconsin Radio Club. 14.264. QSL. USS Wisconsin Radio Club, PO Box 6682, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. n4wis.org

Pearl Harbor Day Dec 7, 1500Z-2245Z, W5KID, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs. Gen bands CW in QRP bands. QSL. W5KID, 305 S River Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Primary frequency is 20 meters. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; Fleet Marine Force established 1933 Dec 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV41) Museum Radio Operations Room. SSB 14.320 7.250 D-STAR 012C 2m/7cm SOCAL rpters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. kk6fz@arrl.net

Santa Net Dec 11, 2030Z-2359Z, W2HO, Newburgh, NY. Orange County (NY) Amateur Radio Club. 7.200 3.920. QSL. Orange County Amateur Radio Club - Santa, PO Box 624, Cornwall, NY 12518. Santa Claus will be making a special appearance to talk to all good girls and boys on Santa Net. A special QSL card will be sent out immediately after the event, from Santa himself, to the call sign used. Santa trusts the license holder will pass the QSL card along to the child. www.ocarc-ny.org

Bethlehem, New Mexico Dec 18, 1500Z-2300Z, KC5OUR, Belen, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. 21.372 14.272 7.272. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. gsl.net/KC5OUR



LOCAL 2 METER NETS

Day	Time	Repeater	
Sunday	1030 AM	147.09	STARS
Sunday	7PM	146.865	Erie County ARES/RACES
Sunday	8PM	146.82	Lockport Amateur Radio Association LARA
Monday	7PM	146.91	Radio Amateurs of Western New York RAWNY
Monday	730PM	147.255 PL 107.2	Lancaster Amateur Radio Club LARC
Monday	9PM	145.11	Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association CCAFMA
Tuesday	7PM	147.09	West Seneca CERT
Tuesday	730PM	146.625 PL 127.3	Northern Chautauqua Amateur Radio Club NCARC
Wednesday	8PM	146.91	BARRA Tech Net
Wednesday	9PM	146.94	Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association CCAFMA
Thursday	8PM	146.955	ARATS

2011 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
If no, please include \$6 additional to cover the cost of printing and postage.

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 (Note: dues increase to \$24 AFTER January 1)
FAMILY \$27
STUDENT (through grade 12 OR full-time college student) \$8

RETURNED COMPLETED FORM AND DUES (Checks payable to STARS) to:
Judy Levan N2TEZ
120 University Blvd
Depew, NY 14043-2874