

WEST SENECA CERT TECHS

Last month the Telstar announced the success of the West Seneca CERT but a photo was not available at press time. Well, here they are! Congratulations to the Techs of the West Seneca CERT. Classes were conducted by STARS members Keith KC2DGC, Wayne W2ZDP, Bob KA2WYE, and Tom KA2NXY and the VE session team was led by John KB2VWC.



STARS Associate members are:
Conrad Barrick KC2WRY; William Cleary KC2WRZ;
Suzanne Grieco KC2WSA; John Gullo KC2WSB; Suzanne Kobee KC2WSC; Joann Lowczys KC2WSD; Gwen Macool KC2WSE; Susan Patterson KC2WSF; Dianne Roof KC2WSG; Donald Roof KC2WSH; Karen Roward KC2WSI; George Sheehan KC2WSJ; Kenneth Thompson KC2WSK; and Jean Yager KC2WSL.

APRIL MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday April 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center, corner of Hawkins and Prospect Streets. All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Hope to see you there!

SKYWARN AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING



SKYWARN™ is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained weather spotters for the National Weather Service (NWS).

The NWS has a number of devices for detecting severe thunderstorms—included in these are Doppler radar, satellite, and lightning detection networks. However, the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter.

By providing observations, SKYWARN™ spotters assist National Weather Service members in their warning decisions and enable the National Weather Service to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property. Storm spotters are, and always will be, an indispensable part of the severe local warning program.

If you've been through SKYWARN training before, remember your certification is only good for three years!

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

KB2JDB Joe Claus
K2PMC Don Niles
N2ING Ed Patton
KC2LQQ Daniel Sojka



FCC ISSUES NOTICE: GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS AND AMATEUR RADIO

On March 24, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the [FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules](#) relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

— ARRL News



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

SUCCESSFUL VE SESSION

STARS held a VE Test Session on Saturday March 20th at the Hamburg Youth Center. The session was led by John KB2VWC with VEs Scott KB2KOL, Ed N2ING and Judy N2TEZ.

Congratulations to Joseph Coffaro KB2WHB on upgrading to General! As provided by our by-laws, Joe becomes a non-voting Associate member of STARS for 2010. Welcome to STARS, Joe!

The next STARS VE session is scheduled for May 15th. For more information, or to register for the test, contact John Crawford KB2VWC 649-5933.

LARC holds it's VE tests on the last Tuesday of the month. Contact John Maxwell W2JM at maxwell@buffalo.edu / OR - Joseph Gearhart WV2NY at : 894-2407 / wv2ny@roadrunner.com .

ARATS holds test sessions on the first Saturday of the month 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.

2010 CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Wayne Carpus W2ZDP
Vice President:	Jim Starr N2TFA
Treasurer:	Jack Cullum KB2ESM
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

FCC AND REGULATORY ITEMS

At its 2010 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized the EC to develop ARRL positions on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making concerning vanity and club station call signs.

VANITY CALL SIGNS

In order for a vanity call sign to be assigned to an amateur, the call sign must be assignable at the time the application is processed. Even if a licensee is deceased, the call sign is not available if the license is still active in the FCC database. When the FCC receives what it calls "proper documentation of the licensee's passing", it then cancels the license as of the licensee's date of death. Currently, the procedure for canceling a license due to the grantee's death is outlined on the FCC's Web site, but is not codified in their rules. The FCC proposes to amend the rules to codify these procedures by adding a new paragraph to Section 97.21.

The FCC calls its rules "ambiguous" concerning call signs that become available for reassignment "as to whether the waiting period runs from the date of death or the date that the Commission cancels the license in light of the licensee's death." As such, they are proposing to amend the rules "to clarify that a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death is deemed to have been canceled as of the date of death, regardless of when the licensing database is updated to reflect the licensee's death."

To expand the pool of available call signs, the ARRL asks that the FCC permit the issuance of call signs with prefixes NA-NZ, WC, WK, WM, WR and WT and with three letter suffixes. The ARRL also asks the FCC to revisit the issue of special event call signs at a later date to determine whether the public interest would be served by expanding the options for special event call signs beyond the current 1x1 format.

CLUB CALL SIGNS

The ARRL agrees with the FCC proposals with regard to applications to modify a club station license grant,

but proposes that the signatures of two officers of the club, neither of whom shall be the new trustee, be required on any application to change a trustee. Calling this an "internal club matter," the FCC proposes to amend the rules to require that applications requesting a change in trustee include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA): "Additionally, we believe that by accepting applications only from the licensee the club station record in ULS shows is the trustee of the club station, the CSCSA can minimize the number of disputed applications that are filed with us."

The ARRL does not support the FCC proposal to limit a club to one license grant and one call sign. Clubs often have more than one station, particularly in the case of repeater stations. The FCC proposal would not correct the perceived problem of an individual obtaining multiple vanity call signs as the trustee for a club, because there would be no bar to the creation of multiple clubs. Instead, the EC, on behalf of the ARRL, offered the following alternative proposal to address in several ways the shortage of Group A vanity call signs (1x2, 2x1 call signs, and 2x2 call signs beginning with AA-AG and AI-AK that are not sequentially assigned):

- Except for in memoriam call signs, no new Group A call signs should be issued to club stations. Existing Group A call signs held by clubs would be grandfathered.
- The pool of available Group A call signs should be expanded by permitting the first character of a two-character Group A call sign suffix to be a numeral as well as a letter (for example, W23A). As the result of modifications to the ITU Radio Regulations adopted in 2003, such call signs are now permitted for amateur stations.
- To address particular shortages of Group A call signs in offshore areas, prefixes that are assigned to locations without postal addresses and prefixes that are unassigned should be made available in the offshore areas that do have postal addresses.
- Applicants for Group A vanity call signs should be required to affirm on the application that they are United States citizens.

— ARRL News

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

(excerpts from the meeting minutes)

President Wayne Carpus W2ZDP reported on the following:

- Explained reasons for proposing a upgrade to the club repeater from analog to digital such as D-Star, the cost, securing a government grant, using P-25 as an cost effective alternative
- Announced having a SKYWARN program at a regular meeting this spring

Financial secretary Judy Levan N2TEZ announced:

- Club rosters are available

Director Ken Pokigo KC2AYK reported on the following:

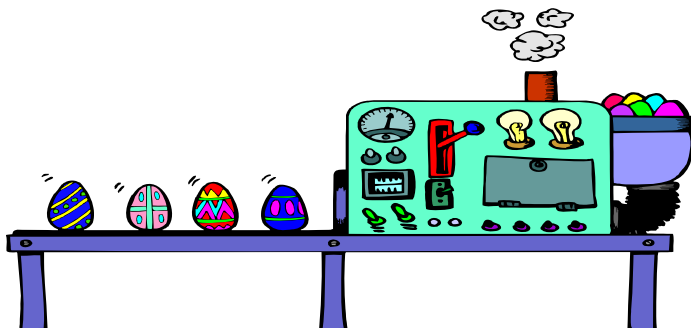
- 10 members of the Wesleyen Church Youth Group are interested in a radio related project with 1 member interested in a technician license
- Reviewed club amateur radio VHS tapes and recommended some for meeting program viewing
- Announced a balloon project meeting, Thursday night, March 18, 2010 at the Nike Base club station

Old Business:

- Don Niles K2PMC announced the North Evans Fire Company shelter facility has been scheduled for the STARS 2010 Field Day.

Good Of The Club:

- Program for the evening was gadget demonstration



APRIL HAMFESTS

Saturday April 17th

Newark, NY at the Marbleown Fire Department
6416 Silver Hill Road

Sponsored by the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club
(<http://www.drumlinsarc.org>)

Talk-In: 146.745 (no tones) (Backup 146.685 no tones)

Contact: David Taylor, KB2KBY
228 West Jackson Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

Phone: 315-597-4293

Email: kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

Sunday April 18th

Port Crane, NY at the Port Crane Fire Company
844 Route 369

Sponsored by the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association (<http://w202.org>)

Talk-In: 146.865 (PL 146.2)

Contact: Brian Adee, K2DLB or Ford Drake, AB2HS
1060 Bunn Hill Road
Vestal, NY 13850

Phone: 607-752-3230 or 607-754-1214

Email: k2dlb@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.

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.

ARRL REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1755

Senate Bill 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee.

S 1755 points out that "[t]here is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the 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 the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110

Stat. 56 (1996)).

- 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 stakeholder entities and organizations, including Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications.

Please contact Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) and Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX-6), urging them to send this bipartisan bill to the House floor for adoption. A sample letter can be found [on the ARRL website](#). Send your letters urging consideration of S 1755 by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Rep Waxman via fax at 202-225-2525, and to Rep Barton via fax at 202-225-1919.

For more information on S 1755, please visit the [ARRL Government Relations Web page](#).



Maritime Radio Day is held annually to commemorate the era of nearly 90 years of manual maritime radio. It does only work in wireless telegraphy (wt). All amateurs are invited to take part and work especially with former radio officers of the merchant marine and navy. See page Rules for detailed information and take part in this CW only event.

When: April 10th 12 UTC until April 11th 12 UTC

Working frequencies / bands used
1854khz - 3520khz - 7020khz - 14052khz
21052khz - 28052khz

For more information visit:

<http://www.doese-apprt.de/mrd/index.html>

ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December.

The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the www.getscores.org scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the www.getscores.org Web site or by logging your contacts directly into a www.getscores.org Web page. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at www.getscores.org. Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

Who Can Participate?

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies, just as in the Novice Roundup. Just like in the Novice Roundups of years past (when Novices could work anyone and non-Novices could only work Novices), Rookies may work anyone, be they Rookie or non-Rookie; however, non-Rookies are limited to only working Rookies.

Awards

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized.

Go to www.getscores.org for more information on how to participate. Be sure to check out the April 2010 issue of QST for complete rules and other information. The first Rookie Roundup -- SSB -- will be held on Sunday, April 18 from 1800 UTC-2359 UTC. The Rookie Roundup -- a fun event for all amateurs!

CBS's AMAZING RACE FEATURES A MORSE CODE TASK

During the March 14th episode of the CBS Show Amazing Race, contestants were at La Main de Massiges. At the height of World War I, this strategic hill, coveted by the Germans and fiercely defended by the French, was the site of intense fighting.

In the show, dressed as American Doughboys, teams would join their French brothers on the front line of this historic conflict and carefully pick their own battle of "In the Trenches" or "Under Fire".

In "In the Trenches", teams bunker down into a World War I trench and choose a communication area. Then, with the battle raging around them and only a field manual for reference, they had to translate a message being sent to them in Morse code.

In "Under Fire", teams had to get on their bellies in a muddy field booby trapped with barbed wire and crawl 100 yards to a machine gun nest. While the battle rages, teams had to retrieve a written message from a French soldier and then crawl back to safety. In both cases, teams would then have to attach their message to a homing pigeon that would deliver the news to headquarters that the war is over.

While most teams chose "Under Fire", one team was forced to perform the Morse Code task. Given a book with the morse alphabet inside, the code ripped along at a pretty good clip (between 10 and 15 wpm) and was compounded with the WW I airplanes flying over and the bombs exploding nearby. Despite several attempts, the team was not able to correctly decipher the code and was eliminated from the race.

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

Apr 8-Apr 10, 1600Z-2359Z, Avondale, AZ. Team PIR, K7PIR. NASCAR Subway Fresh 500. 14.255 7.255 14.070 PSK31. QSL. Team PIR, 1211 W Wood Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85029. www.kg9jp.com/k7pir

Apr 9-Apr 10, 1430Z-2330Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 98th anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St., Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

Apr 10, 1500Z-2000Z, Pine Bluff, AR. Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club, K5DAK. Railroadiana -- Commemorating the 819 Steam Locomotive. 14.250. QSL. E. Glenn Wolf Jr, 210 S Estates Cove, White Hall, AR 71602.

Apr 10, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Operations Room, NI6IW. USS Midway Decommissioned 1992 and First Launch of Space Shuttle Columbia 1981. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070 D-STAR 2m/70 SOCAL rpters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101-5811. kk6fz@arrl.net

Apr 10-Apr 11, 0000Z-0000Z, Goshen, IN. Goshen Amateur Radio Club, K9TSM. 45th Anniversary of the Palm Sunday Outbreak, April 11, 1965. 28.450 14.280 7.280 3.280. QSL. Elkhart County SkyWarn, PO Box 315, Goshen, IN 46527-0315. May request certificate \$3. www.goshenarc.org

Apr 13-Apr 16, 1400Z-1400Z, Southampton, Ha, ENGLAND. RSGB, GB2TT. Over 200 yrs since 1st Operation of Admiralty Shutter Telegraph. 14.200. QSL. John Wakefield, MOXIG, Oakhurst, Lower Common Rd, West Wellow, Romsey, HA SO51 6BT, ENGLAND. www.qrz.com/db/gb2tt

Apr 17, 1100Z-2357Z, Fire Island, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB. Boy Scout Camporee. 14.225 7.175 3.850 14.070 PSK. QSL. W2GSB BSC, PO 1356, West Babylon, NY 11704. Info@gsbarc.org or www.gsbarc.org

Apr 23-Apr 25, 1800Z-1800Z, Henderson, KY. Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, W4A. 200th Birthday of John James Audubon. 21.290 18.150 14.290 7.190. QSL. Tri State Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 4521, Evansville, IN 47724. wa2usa@aol.com

Apr 24, 1400Z-2300Z, Earth, TX. Ransom Canyon Amateur Radio Club, W5E. 40th Anniversary of Earth Day in Earth Texas. 18.150 14.260 7.260. QSL. Robert C. Boyd, WA5VSK, 98 S Lakeshore Dr, Ransom Canyon, TX 79366.

Apr 24, 1400Z-2100Z, Madison, MS. Jackson Amateur Radio Club, W5B. Andrew Jackson Council BSA celebrating 100 years of Scouting. 14.240 7.238 3.862. QSL. Bill McLarty, KM5GE, 2728 Quail Run, Jackson, MS 39211. km5ge@arrl.net or www.msham.org

Apr 24, 1500Z-2000Z, Gary, TX. Panola County Amateur Radio Club Inc, WA5PC. Only international boundary marker within the US. 14.250. Certificate. Panola County Amateur Radio Club Inc, 380 CR 1241, Gary, TX 75643. www.wa5pc.org

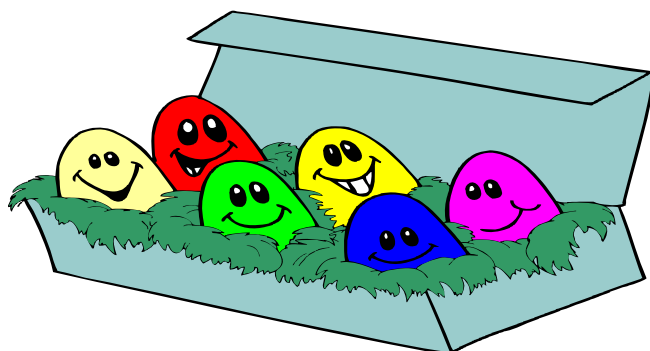
Apr 24, 1600Z-2300Z, Petaluma, CA. Sonoma County ACS and Sonoma Mountain Repeater Soc, K6P. Butter & Egg Days Parade, honoring Petaluma as the Egg Capital of the World. 21.290 21.045 14.280 14.045 146.91. QSL. Matt Ilonummi, KE6LPO, PO Box 2922, Petaluma, CA 94953-2922. repairguy.net/ACS

Apr 24-Apr 25, 1500Z-0500Z, Jacksonville, TX. Cherokee County Amateur Radio Club, K5JVL. 6th Annual Drakes on the Lake. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. Certificate. CCARC, PO Box 8285, Jacksonville, TX 75766. www.k5jvl.net

Apr 24-Apr 26, 1400Z-0559Z, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, N9L. Boy Scouts of America Lincoln Trail Hike. SSB 14.225 7.225 14.030 7.030. QSL. SVRC, C/O American Red Cross, 1045 Outer Park Dr, Springfield, IL 62530. www.svrc.org

Apr 30-May 2, 1300Z-2300Z, Barry, IL. Hannibal (MO) Amateur Radio Club, K9P. United States Practical Shooting Association Event. 14.265 7.265. QSL. Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1522, Hannibal, MO 63401. www.wOkem.com

APRIL CONTESTS	
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 2
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 3
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 4 to 2359Z, Apr 5
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 4 to 1500Z, Apr 5
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 4 to 0500Z, Apr 5 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 5
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 4 to 1800Z, Apr 5
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 6
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 10
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 11
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 0359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 11 to 2100Z, Apr 12
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 12
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 12
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 13
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 15
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z-1800Z, Apr 18
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 18
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 0500Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 24
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 25 to 1259Z, Apr 26
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 25 to 0300Z, Apr 26
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 25 to 1700Z, Apr 26



Your ad could be here!

If you have a business that you'd like STARS members to know about, you can place a business card-size ad in the Telstar. It'll only cost you \$10 for a full year of advertising!

Contact Judy at n2tez@msn.com