## telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

FEBRUARY 2011

VOL 44 Issue 6

#### REQUESTING YOUR INPUT!

The Board of Directors is requesting input from the club members. We've set up a quick 10 question survey on the SurveyMonkey website at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VMNMFKP

Don't be afraid! They're very easy questions and it should only take you a few minutes to answer the survey.

Some of the questions include:

- How long have you belonged to STARS?
- Why did you originally join STARS?
- Why do you renew your STARS membership?
- What activities have you participated in during the past 5 years? (e.g. Field Day; Earth Science Day; Regular Meetings; Board Meetings; Dinner Meetings; VE Sessions; Balloon Project; Seneca Nation Project; Tower Project; Open Clubhouse)
- What kinds of club functions or activities would pique your interest the most? (Building things e.g. small kits, spud guns, antennas; Hands on demos at club meetings; Slide shows on various aspects of amateur radio e.g ham radio software, antenna design, contesting; Training Sessions e.g. Improving CW skills, how to get into digital transmissions)
- How do you prefer working on ham radio related projects? What types of things currently interest you about Amateur Radio? (VHF & UHF Communications; HF; DXing; Contesting; QRP; CW; RTTY; PSK31; Slow Scan TV; and Fast Scan TV)
- Anything else you would like to share? If you do not regularly attend meetings, is there a better day/night?, etc. Get on the soapbox.

This is YOUR chance to be heard!

We're listening!



### HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

Bob Koster KA2WYF



#### 2011 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: Jon Hall KC2QKB

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

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



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

#### SUCCESSFUL VE SESSION

STARS conducted a successful VE session on Saturday January 15th at Hamburg Youth Center.

Cgongratulations to Dorothy Button KC2ZQQ who earned her Technician class license.

As provided by our by-laws, those that pass tests at a STARS VE session are awarded non-voting Associate memberships for 2011.

The VE team led by John Crawford KB2VWC consisted of Scott KB2KOL, Jim N2TFA and Ed N2ING.

The next scheduled VE Session is Saturday March 19th. Contact John KB2VWC for more information.

# NEW QUICKSTATS POLL QUESTIONS ON ARRL WEB SITE



Four new poll questions have been published on the QuickStats page (http://www.arrl.org/quickstats) on the ARRL Web site. Let your voice be heard!

Questions in this month's QuickStats poll include:

- Do you use a computer to send or receive CW?
- Do you subscribe to any publications that you read online?
- Do you have a separate room in your home that's dedicated strictly to your ham station?
- When operating SSB, do you use a speech processor?

Visit the <u>QuickStats page</u> and be sure to bookmark it in your browser. Results from this QuickStats poll will be published in the March 2011 issue of QST on the QuickStats page, located in the rear advertising section of the magazine. Along with monthly poll results, QST QuickStats offers colorful charts and graphs that highlight interesting Amateur Radio statistics.

### EMCOMM BILL REINTRODUCED

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as <u>HR 81</u>. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill --  $\underline{HR}$  2160 - in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate --  $\underline{S}$  1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

On Wednesday, January 26, Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced Senate Bill 191, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2011.. 5 191 has been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Lieberman is the Chairman of the committee, while Collins is the Ranking Member.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

Like HR 81, S 191 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law. The study shall:

1.) Include a review of the importance of Amateur Radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property

in the United States, as well as recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts and improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

2.) Identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other federal departments, agencies and Congress.

In conducting the study, S 191 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications communities."

- ARRL News

#### HAMEXAM.ORG

The amateur radio test website formerly www.kbOmga.net has been updated and is now www.hamexam.org.

The new site features:

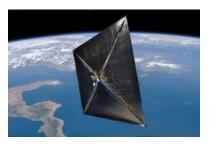
- Completely redesigned user interface
- New weighting algorithm forces you to see all questions once before repeating those you had trouble with
- New stats page shows detailed sub-element and group statistics with graphs
- Reset stats for a sub-element or group
- Question filtering allows you to restrict the subelements or groups you see while using the flash cards

If you studying for a VE exam, check out this site and see what a great help it will be!

#### AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: NASA'S NANOSATELLITE HEARD BY HAMS

When a NASA nanosatellite -- NanoSail-D -- ejected unexpectedly on January 17 from the Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology Satellite (FASTSAT), the agency called upon Amateur Radio operators to help track it. NASA asked radio amateurs to listen on 437.270 MHz for the signal and verify that NanoSail-D was operating. NASA received almost 470 telemetry packets from 11 countries.

The NanoSail-D beacon sent an AX.25 packet every 10 seconds; the packet contained data about the space-



craft's systems operation. Listen <u>here</u> for a recording of the nanosatellite's beacon, made by Hank Hamoen, PA3GUO, on January 21.

Once the NanoSail-D team received confirmation that the nanosatellite did indeed ejcect, NanoSail-D principal investigator Dean Alhorn quickly enlisted Alan Sieg, WB5RMG, and Stan Sims, N4PMF, to try to pick up NanoSail-D's radio beacon. Both hams work at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. "The timing could not have been better," Sieg said.

"NanoSail-D was going to track right over Huntsville, and the chance to be the first ones to hear and decode the signal was irresistible." Right before 2300 UTC on January 17, they heard a faint signal. As the spacecraft soared overhead, the signal grew stronger and the operators were able to decode the first packet: NanoSail-D was alive and well. "You could have scraped Dean off the ceiling. He was bouncing around like a new father," Sieg recalled.

According to NASA, the nanosatellite was last heard at 1354 UTC on January 21. Telemetry indicates that the sail deployed on schedule and the satellite is now believed to be out of power, which NASA said was to

be expected. NASA is now asking for visual tracking and sighting reports of NanoSail-D, which is about 650 km above the Earth. According to the agency, when the nanosatellite's sail reflects off the Sun, it could be up to 10 times as bright as the planet Venus - especially later in the mission when the sail descends to lower orbits. You can track NanoSail-D on the web at <a href="http://spaceweather.com/flybys/">http://spaceweather.com/flybys/</a>. NASA estimates that NanoSail-D will remain in low Earth orbit (LEO) between 70 and 120 days, depending on atmospheric conditions.

-ARRL News

#### ARISSAT-1 BLASTS OFF

At 0132 UTC January 28, a Soyuz-U rocket lifted off from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan carrying the Russian Progress M-09M cargo vehicle to orbit for a rendezvous with the International Space Station (ISS).

In addition to delivering fuel, oxygen, food and other supplies, the Progress contains the new AMSAT ARISSat-1 Amateur Radio satellite. Progress is scheduled to dock with the space station on January 30 at 0240 UTC.

ARISSat-1 will be manually jettisoned from the ISS during a spacewalk on February 16. The satellites features a new software defined transponder that will provide simultaneous 2-meter FM, CW, BPSK transmissions, as well as a Mode U/V (70 cm uplink, 2 meter downlink) transponder.

More information is available at the AMSAT-NA website at <a href="http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php">http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php</a> and in the February issue of QST magazine.



#### KEEPING A LOG BOOK

At one time, keeping a log of your contacts was an FCC requirement. The FCC has dropped this requirement in recent years, but many amateurs, both new and old, still keep logs.

#### Why Keep a Log?

If keeping a log is optional, why do it? Some of the more important reasons for keeping a log include:

- Legal protection If you can show a complete log
  of your activity, it can help you deal with interference complaints. Good recordkeeping can help you
  protect yourself if you are ever accused of intentional interference, or have a problem with unauthorized use of your call sign.
- Awards tracking A log helps you keep track of contacts required for DXCC, WAS, or other awards. Keeping a log lets you quickly see how well you are progressing toward your goal.
- An operating diary Your log book is a good place for recording general information about your station. You may be able to tell just how well that new antenna is working compared to the old one by comparing recent QSOs with older contacts. The log book is also a logical place to record new acquisitions (complete with serial numbers in case your gear is ever stolen). You can also record other events, such as the names and calls of visiting operators, license upgrades, or contests, in your log.

#### Paper and Computer Logs

Many hams, even those with computers, choose to keep their logs on paper. Paper logs still offer several advantages (such as flexibility) and do not require power. Paper logs also survive hard-drive crashes! Preprinted log sheets are available, or you can create your own. Computers with word processing and publishing software let you create customized log sheets in no time. On the other hand, computer logs offer many advantages to the serious contester or DXer. For example, the computer can search a log and instantly tell you whether you need a particular station for DXCC. Contesters use computer logs in place of dupe sheets to weed out duplicate contacts before they happen, saving valuable time. Computer logs can also tell you at a glance how far along you are toward

certain awards. Computer logging programs are available from commercial vendors. Some programs may be available as shareware (you can download it from a website and pay for the program if you like the way it works). If you can program your computer, you can also create your own custom logging program, and then give it to your friends or even sell it!

— From the ARRL Handbook

## WHAT IS THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM?

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized approach to incident management that:

- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies.
- Establishes common processes for planning and managing resources.
- Allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

Want to learn more? FEMA offers two online courses that are free.

ICS 100 - Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features, principles, and organizational structure of ICS. <a href="https://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp">https://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp</a>

IS-700.a NIMS: An Introduction , introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). <a href="https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700a.asp">http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700a.asp</a>

#### FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb 5, 1500Z-2100Z, Columbia Special Event Station W5NAC, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. www.w5nac.com

Feb 5-Feb 6, 1500Z-2100Z, 107th Anniversary of the Great Baltimore Fire W3B, Baltimore, MD. Baltimore City RACES. 14.270 7.280 3.865. QSL. Baltimore City RACES, 1201 E Cold Spring Ln, Baltimore, MD 21239. bcraces.org

Feb 5-Feb 7, 0000Z-2359Z, President Ronald Reagan's 100th Birthday N6R, Thousand Oaks, CA. Ventura County Amateur Radio Society. 21.320 14.255 7.260 3.820. QSL. VCARS, N6R, c/o Peter S. Heins, N6ZE, 1559 Norwich Ave, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. <a href="https://www.qrz.com/db/n6r">www.qrz.com/db/n6r</a>

Feb 5-Feb 7, 0400Z-0600Z, AM Transmitter Rally WA1QIX, Townsend, MA. AM Fone / Radio Engineering Associates. 1.885 3.885 7.295 14.280. QSL. Radio Engineering Associates AMTR Logging, 79 Tyler Rd, Townsend, MA 01469. www.classeradio.com/amtr.htm

Feb 5-Feb 6, 1500Z-2100Z, Thomas Edison Birthday NI8G, Milan, OH. Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club. 28.370 21.270 14.270 7.270. QSL. Jack Hubbard, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. ni8n1@yahoo.com

Feb 7-Mar 7, 1600Z-2300Z, DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL IOTA NA-213 W1AFV/W4, Dauphin Island, AL. Estey Family Amateur Radio Club. 18.140 21.355 14.255. QSL. Carl Estey, 10021 Drew Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55431. Will be operating with a Buddipole Antenna System. QSOs with everyone are welcome, particularly QRP and stations running mobile or portable. wa0cqq@arrl.net

Feb 17-Feb 19, 1700Z-2359Z, Centennial celebration of the first US Air Mail flight W6F, Petaluma, CA. Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society. 21.290 14.280 146.91R. QSL. SCHS, PO Box 1373, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Flight by Fred J. Wiseman from Petaluma, CA to Santa Rosa, CA on February 17/18, 1911. Co-sponsors: Salvation Army and Auxiliary Communications Service. <a href="fredwiseman.org">fredwiseman.org</a>

Feb 19, 1400Z-2200Z, 7th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event WOEBB, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club. 14.285 14.060 7.285 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. wOebb@juno.com

Feb 19-Feb 20, 1600Z-2100Z, George Washington Special

Event K4US, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon ARC. 14.240 7.240 7.038. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22306. <u>K4us@mvarc.com</u>

Feb 19, 1500Z-2300Z, 6th Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off K8BF, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service. 21.315 14.315 7.215 3.815 EchoLink KC8RKV node. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. www.portcars.org

Feb 19-Feb 20, 1500Z-2200Z, Commemoration of the 66th anniversary of the Battle for IWO JIMA and the Flag Raisings WOFSB, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate & QSL. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703. #10 SASE for card; \$1 no envelope for certificate.

Feb 21-Feb 23, 0001Z-0400Z, George Washington's Birthday W57G, Moses Lake, WA. Columbia Basin DX Club. 18.135 14.250 3.880 7.230. QSL. Brian Nielson, 11650 Road 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. Celebrating George Washington's birthday near the town of George in the state of Washington. w7bjn@nwi.net

Feb 23-Feb 24, 1800Z-2359Z, Leo Meyerson (WOGFQ) special event station WOG, Palm Springs, CA. QCWA, Leo Meyerson, Chapter 154, Greater Palm Springs Area. 14.265. Certificate. QSL to operator, contacted, Various. Honoring Mr.Leo Meyerson, WOGFQ, who celebrating his 100th birthday. Leo is founder/owner of W.R.L (World Radio Laboratories) of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is famous for the GLOBE line of amateur radio equipment. Times are daily. popeye67@msn.com

Feb 23-Mar 6, 0001Z-2359Z, Siege Days at the Alamo WA5DTK, San Antonio, TX. Central Texas Contest Group. 14.250 14.050 7.240 7.040. QSL. Barry Brewer, 601 Wagon Wheel Tr, Pflugerville, TX 78660. Please note, see URL for updated times of operation. <a href="https://www.ctdxcc.org">www.ctdxcc.org</a>

Feb 25-Mar 7, 0000Z-2359Z, 90th Anniversary of The Festival of States W4F/K4O/ N4S, Saint Petersburg, FL. St Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. 28.450 14.250 7.080 3.050 . Certificate & QSL. St Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2217, Saint Petersburg, FL 33731. <a href="https://www.sparcclub.org">www.sparcclub.org</a>

Feb 26-Feb 27, 1400Z-2359Z, Lost Dutchman Gold Mine Legend W7W, Tempe, AZ. Superstition Amateur Radio Club. 21.251 14.251 7.251 3.651. QSL. Steve Gurley, KY7W, 1104 E Campus Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282. wb7tjd.org























FEBRUARY CONTESTS -	(Contest names are "clickable" links)
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	+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 4
J	+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
9	+ Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 5 to 1159Z, Feb 6
S	+ Vermont QSO Party	1300Z, Feb 5 to 0300Z, Feb 6 and 1300Z, Feb 6 to 0300Z, Feb 7
	+ FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
,	+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
7	+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 5 to 0800Z, Feb 6
3	+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 5
•	+ Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
	+ Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 5 to 1759Z, Feb 6
	+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6
	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 7
	+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 9
V	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Feb 9 and
9		1900Z-2000Z, Feb 9 and
S		0300Z-0400Z, Feb 10
	+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 11
,	+ PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	2000 local, Feb 11 to 0200 local, Feb 12
7	+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 12 to 2400Z, Feb 13
3	+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 12 to 1000Z, Feb 13
•	+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 12
	+ Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 12 to 0300Z, Feb 13
	+ New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 12 to 0400Z, Feb 13 and 1200Z-2200Z, Feb 13
	+ FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 12
	+ RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 12 to 0100Z, Feb 13
V	+ North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13
S	+ SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Feb 13
6	+ Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 13 to 0800Z, Feb 14
	+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 18
9	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 16
7	+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 18
3	+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20
•	+ Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 19
	+ AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 19 to 2300Z, Feb 20
	+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 21
	+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 23
_	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 24
V	+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 25
S	+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 25 to 2159Z, Feb 27
E	+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 26 to 1800Z, Feb 27
	+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 26 to 1300Z, Feb 27
7	+ Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
7	+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27
3	+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 27
	+ North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 27 to 0300Z, Feb 28
	+ CQC Winter QSO Sprint	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 28