

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

JULY 2011

VOL 44 Issue 11

THE VIEW FROM BEHIND THE GAVEL

Wayne, W2ZDP, President

Summer is now in full swing, weather permitting, and I hope that all are taking advantage of the warmer temps to repair existing or erect new antennas. I haven't started that 160 meter antenna project yet, but there should be plenty of good weather yet.

Keith, KC2DGC, and his group of instructors, has completed another successful Technician Class course, where 9 of 9 candidates took and passed their exams. Congrats to the latest new hams, and I hope to hear all of you on-the-air in the very near future.

The summer Hamfest season is in full swing again. Several of our members went to Dayton and while the crowd seemed smaller this year, bargains were plentiful. I attended the Rochester Hamfest and unfortunately rain spoiled some of the day, but it was a nice outing anyway.

A work party re-erected the 160 meter dipole antenna, not just for Field Day, but get the clubhouse station back on the air, Thanks to Keith, KC2DGC, Conrad, KC2WRY, John, W2IV and Pat, KC2VWG for braving the elements to get the job done. Along with coffee and donuts, I supplied the moral support.

Field Day this year was held at the Clubhouse. We were trying to obtain a site in the West Seneca area, to be closer to where many of our newer members come from, since West Seneca is one of the south towns, but the timing was a little off, we will try ear-

(Continued on page 2)

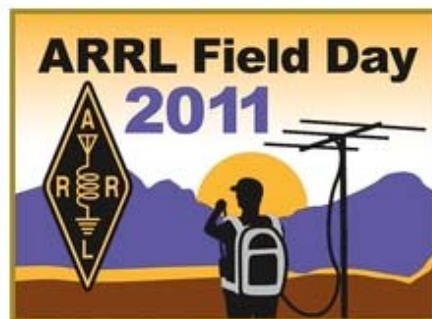
JULY MEETING

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday July 7 at the Hamburg Youth Center.

All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required. We look forward to seeing you there!

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY!

KC2YMN	Ed Jablonski
KC2WRZ	Bill Cleary
K2DCB	Danielle Bangsil
KB2OUT	Tony Balas
KB2VWC	John Crawford
KB2YJ	Gary Zanghi
N2DNK	Edgar Bangsil
W2KRB	Kristopher Bangsil



www.arrl.org

Check out the photo library on www.wb2elw.com to see Field Day photos!

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 the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) 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.

(Continued from page 1)

lier next year. The Weather was cool but the enthusiasm of the members that participated in the set-up, operation and teardown was hot. The list is longer than will permit noting here but thanks to all whom contributed to this year's efforts.

The Wouxoun HT raffle is a success, with all of the 50 tickets sold. The drawing will be held at the August Meeting and Summer Picnic; I hope to see all of you there for fun and to put a face to your on-air contacts.

See you Thursday!

-Wayne W2ZDP

SPACE WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER TO CONTINUE BROADCASTS ON WWV AND WWVH

In April 2011, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) informed the public that as of September 6, 2011, it would no longer broadcast its geophysical alert message on WWV and WWVH. The ARRL has now



learned that the SWPC has changed its mind and will keep broadcasting these messages that inform listeners of the solar flux, the mid-latitude A and K indices and space weather storms, both current and predicted. Due to listener feedback, the SWPC is considering updating the broadcast; in addition to providing the current daily solar flux at 2800 MHz, the SWPC is evaluating adding more frequent observations at 2695 MHz. According to the SWPC website, other improvements to the message content will also be evaluated.

STARS JULY VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday July 16th. The session will be held at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Aves.)



All candidates should arrive by 9AM. Walk-ins will be allowed, but pre-registering will help speed up the processing the day of the test.

All candidates should bring the following to the test session:

1. An original photo ID or two other original forms of ID, plus a photocopy of the ID(s) to be turned in to the examiners for their records.
2. Your current amateur radio license (if any) plus a photocopy of it.
3. The original copies of any applicable Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) plus a photocopy of each.
4. A test fee of \$15.00
5. Your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN). Your application for a new or upgraded amateur radio license will be rejected by the FCC if you do not provide one of these numbers.

For more information, or to register for the test, contact John Crawford KB2VWC 649-5933.

SUCCESSFUL TECHNICIAN CLASS AND VE SESSION

On Tuesday May 31st, the STARS VE team tested the latest STARS Technician Class students. Nine of nine candidates successfully passed their Technician class exams.

Congratulations to:

Kenneth Kushka KD2AIA

Gregory Merriam KD2AIB

David Rinow KD2AIC

Homer Hershberger KD2AID

Ann Sheehan KD2AIE

Dana Jurgielewicz KD2AIF

Thomas Schuster KD2AIG

Melissa Draudt KD2AIH

Scott Oberther KD2AII



As provided by our by-laws, they become non-voting Associate members of STARS for 2011.

Welcome to STARS!

Kudos to Keith KC2DGC and his team of instructors!

ANNUAL BATAVIA HAMFEST & COMPUTERFEST

Sponsored by Genesee Radio Amateurs
W2RCX

Saturday July 30th, 2011
Firemen's Recreation Center
10708 Route 98
Alexander, New York 14005
Gate opens at 7:00 AM
Admission only \$5.00



FIRST STARS KIT-BUILD SESSION A SUCCESS

by Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

The 1st STARS kit-building session to build the Digital mode PC sound card interface was a great success. The event took place at the Nike Base Club Station on June 21st at 7:00pm. There were 10 active participants and some motivational visitors.

The objectives of the event were accomplished. A bunch of technically interested people spent time together and learned some new things about electronics and had some fun doing it. In all, 10 PC sound card interfaces were built up. The group had a chance to practice their soldering skills for the first time or dust off the cobwebs from their old soldering irons and test them out again. Some soldering irons were even "red" with passion. Here is a picture of an assembled PCBA and unit.



We spent a lot of time doing the assembly of the units and did not do a whole lot of circuit theory explanation. We can dig deeper into this during the next stage which is to actually put the devices to work for us. This will definitely require us to understand more of how the circuit works. Some of you

may be up and running quickly on your own. For those of you who may need help, let me know and we will plan another session as a device set-up and testing. Each person will likely be using different radios to interface to so we have to address these on a one on one basis. We can talk about this at the next club meeting. Also during the meeting we will be talking about the software that we can use and will have samples available.



I would like to thank all who participated and hope that this was an enjoyable experience for you just as it was for me. We will plan another get together in the near future for those of you who missed out the first time.

73 for now.
Ken KC2AYK



Additional photos can be found on the www.wb2elw.com photo library!

ARRL, NWS UPDATE

Memorandum of Understanding



The National Weather Service (NWS) has updated its *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* with the ARRL. The updated MoU serves "as a framework within which volunteers of the ARRL may coordinate their services, facilities and equipment with the NWS in support of nationwide, state and local early weather warning and emergency communications function." The ARRL and the NWS have had a formal working arrangement since 1986.

The NWS, in the *MoU*, acknowledges that Amateur Radio operators can be of valuable assistance in early severe weather warning and tornado spotting. Through its SKYWARN program, the NWS recognizes that Amateur Radio operators have assisted as communicators and weather spotters since the program began in the late 1960s. "In areas where tornadoes and other severe weather have been known to threaten, the NWS recruits volunteers and trains them in proper weather spotting procedures," the *MoU* states. "These dedicated citizens help keep their local community safe by conveying severe weather reports to their local NWS forecast office. SKYWARN spotters are integral to the success of our nation's severe weather warning system."

Through the *MoU*, the ARRL will encourage its Field Organization, including ARES®, to "contact and cooperate with National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologists for the purpose of establishing organized SKYWARN networks with radio amateurs serving as communicators and spotters." The ARRL will also encourage its Section management teams "to provide specialized communications and observation support on an as-needed basis for NWS offices in other weather emergencies, such as hurricanes, snow and heavy rain storms, and other severe weather situations." In turn, the NWS will work with ARRL Section ARES® volunteers to establish SKYWARN networks, and/or other weather emergency and alert systems.

—ARRL News

ANTI DISTRACTED DRIVING MEASURE INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE

Federal legislation to ban use of handheld phones and other mobile devices while driving has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. According to published news reports, Representative Carolyn McCarthy of New York said the legislation titled the "Safe Drivers Act of 2011" would direct the Department of Transportation to set a national standard to prohibit drivers from using hand-held mobile devices, except in certain emergency situations. The legislation, as now proposed, states a hand-held device would at this time not include voice-operated, vehicle-integrated, or hands-free devices that allow an individual to operate that device without the use of either hand - except to activate or deactivate a feature or function.

In addition to developing a national handheld ban, the legislation would also require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on all aspects of distracted driving. In particular, the study would look at cognitive distraction which involves whether drivers can still be dangerously distracted while using mobile phones even when they are operated with hands-free devices or voice commands.

Within two years of the proposed law's passage, the Department of Transportation would be required to report on its findings and possibly tighten its restrictions even further on the use of all mobile device used in vehicles. States that did not comply with the Federal government's standard within two years would be penalized by having 25% of their federal highway funding withheld.

It's unknown whether or not the use of handheld push-to-talk microphones used by two-way radio users such as police, fire, delivery services, CB operators and hams would be exempted from McCarthy's proposed national ban.

--Amateur Radio Newslite

THE IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Radiosport fans are gearing up for the summer's biggest HF competition: the IARU HF World Championship. This 24 hour long contest is the highlight of the summer HF contesting season, affording plenty of opportunities to work DX from all around the globe on CW and SSB, as well as make QSOs with many IARU officials and Member-Society club stations. "The IARU HF World Championship is one of Radiosport's unique events," explained ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "It's the only major contest that uses International Telecommunication Union (ITU) zones as part of the exchange, and the only contest that gives special multiplier status for IARU Member-Society stations and IARU officials."



There are many ways to get in on the fun. You may choose to enter as either a single operator using either SSB only, CW only or a mixture of both modes. Single operator stations can choose from three power levels: High Power (greater than 150 W), Low Power (between 5 and 150 W) or QRP (5 W or less). Or why not get some friends together at one station and participate as a Multioperator station with a single transceiver?

The IARU HF World Championship begins at 1200 UTC on Saturday, July 9 and goes until 1200 UTC on Sunday, July 10. Paper logs should be mailed to IARU International Secretariat, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06111-0905 USA. All logs must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than 1200 UTC August 9, 2011.

THE 4TH ANNUAL K.L.A.R.A. HAMFEST

Best Little Hamfest in the Southern Tier
 Saturday, August 14
 Howard, NY (mapping programs/devices - 7481 Hopkins Road, Hornell, NY)
 Great location - easy on, easy off I-86
 Hearty breakfast!
 Tickets \$5/person - 1 flea market spot included with each \$5 ticket
 Door prizes, grand prizes!

Welcome to new STARS members
 Jim Bernsdorf KC2WPW
 David Ludlow KG4LQT

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In August of 2006, we lost a valued STARS member — Terry Rockhold K2OO — Newsletter editor. At that time, I agreed to take on the task and compile the Telstar.

After five years, I announced at the June Board meeting my intention to step down as Telstar Editor.

It's been a great experience, but it's time for someone else to step up and takeover. I will help whoever takes over as STAR editor as much as I can.

Drop me or Wayne W2ZDP an email if you think the newsletter is something that you'd like to do!

— Judy N2TEZ
 n2tez@msn.com

