

THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

JANUARY 2012

VOL 45 Issue 5

SENECA NATION LICENSING CLASS PRODUCES NEW AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

STARS instructors completed a technician training class for the Seneca Nation on November 30th. Sponsored by the Seneca Nation's Emergency Management Office, classes took place on 5 successive Wednesdays at their facility. Led by Ed Patton, N2ING, with assistance from Robert Koster, KA2WYE, the instructor team included John Leitten, KA2RFT; Keith Patterson, KC2DGC; Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP; and Tomm Dean, KA2NXY.

Welcome to: **Debra John, KD2BIA; Yonnie Schlicht, KD2BIB; Clifford Garlow, KD2BIC** Others are expected pending future examinations.

BUFFALO NEWS NOTES STARS AVAILABILITY

In their December 4th edition, the Buffalo News highlighted a recent presentation to the Town of Hamburg board about STARS availability for emergency communications. Keith Patterson's recent appearance at the board meeting recounted the abilities and equipment that could be available to the Town for emergency purposes. Town Supervisor, Steven Walters, noted that Town communications had failed at least 3 time since he took office.

To see the full article, use this link: <u>STARS/Hamburg</u>

NEW CLUB OFFICERS

President	Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK			
Vice President	John Leitten, KA2RFT			
Secretary	Keith Patterson, KC2DGC			
Financial Sec'y	Judy Levan, N2TEZ			
Treasurer	John Czuba, W2IV			
Director	Jon Hall, KC2QKB			
Director	Pat Groom, KC2VWG			
Clubbourg Chain	Pat Groom KC2V/MG			

Clubhouse Chair	Pat Groom, KC2VWG	
Telstar Editor	Tomm Dean, KA2NXY	
Webmaster	Marc Fruth, N2UBT	

BLUE AND UNDERLINED

Control + click for Internet link.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The past few years have been ones of despair for STARS; that is for sure. The tower guy wire being hit, causing the tower to come down was just the start. We then found out our insurance was nothing more than home renter's type insurance. That is, once you read the exclusions (Form XYZ_123 and a dozen more), which they never sent us until we filed a claim. We found out we had nothing but the tables and chairs insured. Strike three was proceeding to put a new tower up. We ran into a paperwork mess with the town. About this time the grape vine had STARS going down for the count. Some were already sending their condolences. Others were posting "RIP STARS" on social networks. ON top of all of this we have had very active key members die, move out of the area, or their job was forcing them to adjust their hobby time. Things looked very black indeed.

Along comes the sun burning off the dark cloud. We have just a few I's to dot and T's to cross and the agreement with the town will be ready to sign. The agreement is now fair for both sides. We have rights, as does the town. That was a long hard negotiation with the town. I can't say enough for the diligence and expertise of Ed, KB2KVA. He is a lawyer by day and the saver and defense lawyer of STARS by night. Without his input and word wrestling with the town lawyer, there would not be a fair agreement.

We dumped our old insurance company like a hot potato. Our new insurance company knows what we are and what we do. All of our equipment, including the tower (to be), is listed on the policy. No exclusions – NONE! We also pay less than we did before. So, we have a win-win here with our new company.

We have some new officers for 2012. We have new chairpersons for our different positions. A new Telstar editor, Tom, KA2NXY, has been doing a wonderful job. He has not missed a beat. The high quality of the club paper is still being maintained. Pat KC2VWG is doing a great job as clubhouse chairperson, again, not missing a beat. The things going on at club house are just as exciting as in the past.

Everything with the club is on track. The club is as strong, even stronger than it was before all these problems hit us.

What is going to happen in 2012? For one, the tower

is going up. We will need all the help we can get for this. The new (to us) free standing tower needs to be painted. The rotor needs to be checked out. Tons of work is needed just to get ready to put it up.

The reason for this letter? The club is NOT going down the tube. If you have not renewed your membership as it might be putting your money down a sewer, no fear. **STARS IS HERE TO STAY**.

You no longer need to be just a paper member. You have skills we need and could use. Within the club I know we have very talented people. Not just ham skills but skills needed for the upcoming plans. There is nothing new in this letter for the members who attend meetings. They know what is going on. If you have been missing meetings, now is the time to get active again. You may have given up on STARS, but STARS has never given up on you. Come back and enjoy the fun you had in the past. I, for sure, **AND OTHERS**, will give you a big smile. That in itself has to be worth paying your dues and coming to the meetings. Hi Hi Hi

John, KA2RFT

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW

It's time to renew your STARS membership. A 2012 renewal form is included on the last page. Individual memberships are \$24, families are \$27, and students are \$8.

STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

Mail the form along with your dues to:

JUDY LEVAN N2TEZ 120 UNIVERSITY BLVD DEPEW NY 14043-2974

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED AT DECEMBER MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

(photos by Keith Patterson, KC2DGC)

The annual holiday party took place at the December meeting, held at the Hamburg Youth Center. In addition to the traditional pizza and wings, members contributed a wide variety of desserts and side dishes. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP, for services rendered as STARS president, and to Edward Taublieb, KB2KVA, for professional legal services regarding recent antenna issues and other negotiations with the Town of Hamburg.

Left-over desserts that were not reclaimed, were donated to the Town of Hamburg Emergency Dispatch Office, to be shared with emergency service dispatchers and police officers.



New officers (L to R) John Leitten, KA2RFT, John Czuba, W2IV, Keith Patterson, KC2DGC, Judy Levan, N2TEZ, Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK, sworn in by Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP.



John Leitten, KA2RFT, and Tomm Dean, KA2NXY, award certificate of appreciation to Edward Taublieb, KB2KVA.



Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK, accepts gavel from out-going president Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP.



John Leitten, KA2RFT awards certificate of appreciation to outgoing president, Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP.

FROM THE PAST PREZ



For the past two years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your President. We have seen several challenges surface that have caused some pacing of the floor. More than a few heated discussions have occurred at the Board of Directors meetings, but through it all we have

worked together, and our Club has emerged stronger.

I would like to thank Keith Patterson, KC2DGC and Ed Taubleib, KB2KVA for their numerous hours of work, getting a written agreement with the Town of Hamburg covering our Clubhouse. For years we operated with no more than a handshake and a Gentleman's agreement, but all things change, and I feel that we will better for it.

I would also like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their help in guiding the Club into a new era, where we all will greatly enjoy the fruits of their work.

To you, the rank and file of the membership, Thank You for your support, not just for me, but the entire Board of Directors. Your continued support is making OUR club, the BEST around.

Last, but not least, my congratulations to Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK, our new President. Ken will lead us with great vigor, and keep our Club moving forward.

As you read this, the Holidays will be gone , and added to our memories. I hope that all had a wonderful holiday season and I hope that all will have a Happy and Joyous New Year.

Wayne, W2ZDP Past Prez

HAMFEST

01/28/12 - Lockport ARA Hamfest

Location:	Lockport, NY Ruhlman Rd,South Lockport Fire Co.		
Type:	ARRL Hamfest		
	Lockport Amateur Radio Association		
-	http://lara.hamgate.net/		

VE MANAGER NEEDED

STARS has an opening for the position of VE (Volunteer Examiner) Manager. Duties include the scheduling of exams and personnel, and liaison activities with the ARRL/VEC. (STARS usually offers exams on the 3rd Saturday of each odd-numbered month, at 9:00 AM.)

The ideal candidate would be an amateur extra who is certified as a VE by the ARRL.

If interested, contact Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK; or John Leitten, KA2RFT.

STARS MEETINGS

STARS meetings are at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the Hamburg Youth Center, 200 Prospect Avenue (near Hawkins Avenue) in Hamburg.

The next meeting is January 5th, at 7:00 PM

All are welcome.

DAYTON HAMVENTION SEEKS NOMINATIONS

Frank Beafore, WS8B - Chairman Hamvention® Awards Committee

With great pleasure, Hamvention leadership again announces solicitations for nominations for the 2012 Dayton Hamvention Awards. This prestigious award is the "Academy Award" of our radio amateur avocation. For over a half century, Hamvention has been recognizing those that have given so much to the radio amateur community.

As in previous years, we are proud to honor three deserving individuals with the Technical Excellence, Special Achievement, and Amateur of the Year Awards. Recently, we added a forth category - Club of the year. Please go to our web site and obtain the official nomination forms. To be considered for any award the nominations must be submitted no later than January 15, 2012.

Nomination forms are on-line at: <u>http://hamvention.org/awards.php</u>

AREA VE SESSIONS

01/07/2012

N. Tonawanda

Sponsor:ARA of the Tonawanda'sLocation:Fire Headquarters Training RoomTime:10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

01/07/2012

Jamestown

Sponsor: CARS Location: Prendergast Library Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

01/21/2012

Hamburg

Sponsor:STARSLocation:Hamburg Youth CenterTime:9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

01/22/2012 <u>Geneseo NY</u>

Sponsor:Genesee Valley ARALocation:Livingston County Government CenterTime:5:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

01/31/2012

Lancaster

Sponsor:Lancaster ARCLocation:Lancaster ARC- Club House BuildingTime:7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

(control +click on City for more info)

STARS MEMBERS HELP NWS SKYWARN EVENT

On Saturday, December 3rd, the National Weather Service (NWS) observed their annual Skywarn Recognition Day. NWS stations throughout the country invited amateur radio operators to assist them in a <u>Special Event</u> on multiple amateur radio frequencies.

STARS members at the Buffalo NWS office included Keith Patterson, KC2DGC; John Leitten, KA2RFT; John Czuba, W2IV; and Tomm Dean, KA2NXY.

The amateurs at the Buffalo NWS office made 518 contacts in 47 states, including 65 other NWS offices. Foreign contacts included 10 other countries.

STARS VE SESSION

STARS will be holding a VE Test Session on Saturday, January 21st, at 9:00 AM. The session will be held at the Hamburg Youth Center (200 Prospect Avenue, corner of Hawkins Avenue.)

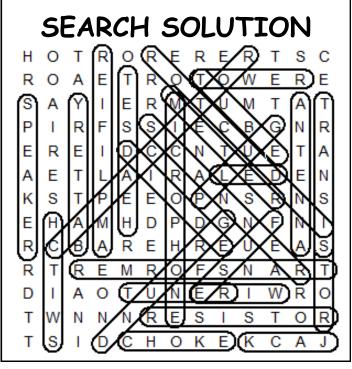
All candidates should bring the following originals (plus a copy of each item) to the test session:

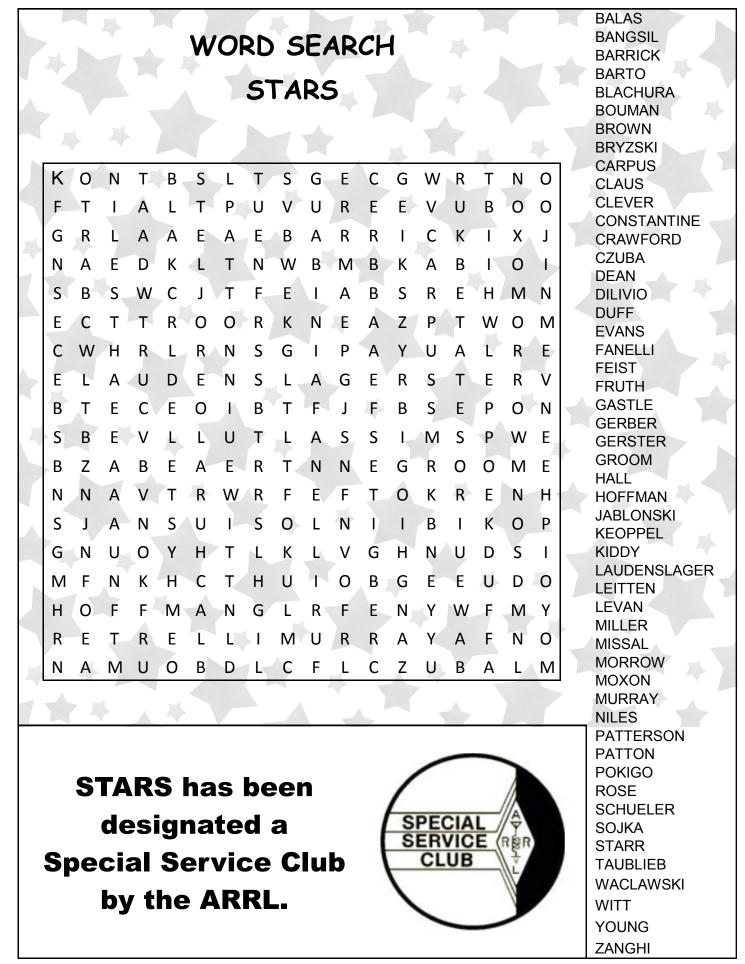
- 1. An original photo ID.
- 2. Your current amateur radio license (if any).
- 3. Any applicable Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE).
- 4. A test fee of \$15.00
- 5. Your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) or your Social Security Number (SSN).

REPEATER OFF SERVICE

The STARS 2 meter repeater (147.09 MHz) is out of service, pending antenna/transmission line repairs.

LAST MONTH'S WORD





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CONTEST CALENDAR

CONTEST LINKS:

http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php

Start and Finish

Jan 1, 0000Z - Jan 1, 2400Z Jan 1, 0000Z - Jan 1, 0100Z Jan 1, 0800Z - Jan 1, 1100Z Jan 1, 0900Z - Jan 1, 1200Z Jan 7, 0000Z - Jan 7, 2400Z Jan 7, 1300Z - See website Jan 7, 1500Z - Jan 8, 1500Z Jan 7, 1500Z - Jan 7, 1800Z Jan 7, 1800Z - Jan 8, 2400Z Jan 8, 0900Z - Jan 8, 1059Z Jan 8, 1000Z - Jan 8, 1400Z Jan 8, 1800Z - Jan 8, 2400Z Jan 10, 0200Z - Jan 10, 0400Z Jan 11, 1300Z - See website Jan 13, 0200Z - Jan 13, 0300Z Jan 14, 0000Z - Jan 15, 2359Z Jan 14, 1200Z - Jan 15, 2359Z Jan 14, 1200Z - Jan 15, 1200Z Jan 14, 1800Z - Jan 15, 0600Z Jan 14, 2000Z - See website Jan 18, 2300Z - See website Jan 19, 0130Z - Jan 19, 0330Z Jan 21, 0000Z - Jan 21, 0400Z Jan 21, 0000Z - Jan 22, 2359Z Jan 21, 0200Z - Jan 21, 0300Z Jan 21, 1200Z - Jan 22, 1200Z Jan 21, 1200Z - Jan 22, 1200Z Jan 21, 1600Z - Jan 21, 1800Z Jan 21, 1800Z - Jan 22, 0600Z Jan 21, 1900Z - Jan 23, 0400Z Jan 22, 0900Z - Jan 22, 1500Z Jan 27, 2200Z - Jan 29, 2200Z Jan 28, 0600Z - Jan 29, 1800Z Jan 28, 1200Z - Jan 29, 1200Z Jan 28, 1300Z - Jan 29, 1300Z Jan 28, 1700Z - Jan 29, 1700Z Jan 28, 1900Z - Jan 28, 2300Z Jan 29, 1400Z - Jan 30, 0800Z Jan 29, 2000Z - Jan 29, 2359Z

Contest

ARRL Straight Key Night New Years Snowball Contest SARTG New Year RTTY Contest AGCW Happy New Year Contest **PSKFest CWops Weekend Mini-CWT Test** Original QRP Contest QRP Pet Rock Sprint ARRL RTTY Roundup DARC 10 Meter Contest Midwinter QSO Party

Kid's Day

ARS Spartan Sprint CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test SNS and NS Weekly Sprints Hunting Lions In the Air 50 MI QRP Club Jan QRP Contest WW Peace Messenger Cities

North American QSO Party

EUCW 160 Meter Contest Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint LZ Open Contest YLISSB QSO Party Locust QSO Party HA DX Contest **UK DX RTTY Contest** Feld-Hell Gridloc Sprint North American QSO Party **ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes** International United Teenager Contest

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest **REF French Contest** BARTG RTTY Sprint **UBA** Contest 50+ Winter Field Day WAB Top Band Phone Contest Classic Exchange **QRP** Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

Sponsor's Website or Contact

www.arrl.org/straight-key-night ev5agb.com/index.htm www.sartg.com www.agcw.org www.podxs070.com www.cwops.org/onair.html www.grpcc.de www.grparci.org/contests www.arrl.org/contests www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest trafficbureau.veron.nl www.arrl.org/kids-day www.arsqrp.blogspot.com www.cwops.org/onair.html www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html lionshuntingintheair.lionwap.org www.migrp.org www.s59dcd.si www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php www.uft.net www.antiquewireless.org naqcc.info

www.lzopen.com www.ylsystem.org www.k6vva.com/lqp www.ha-dx.com www.ukdx.srars.org



www.feldhellclub.org www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php www.arrl.org/contests www.grz.ru/contest/detail/140.html www.cq160.com concours.ref-union.org/contest www.bartq.orq.uk www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules www.spar-hams.org www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest www.classicexchange.org www.grparci.org/contests



ARRL events in light blue

(Control + click to activate a link)



SELECTED SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

•12/31/2011 | 72 Rag Chew New Years Special Event

•Dec 31-Jan 1, 1315Z-1900Z, K1R, Northfield, MA. 72 Rag Chew Group. 7.272 7.271. Certificate. Robert Lobenstein, WA2AXZ, 1958 E 36th St, Brooklyn, NY 11234. <u>www.ragchewers.com</u>

•01/01/2012 | SKCC 6th Anniversary

• Jan 1–Jan 31, 0000Z–2359Z, K3Y, All cities, states and call areas. Straight Key Century Club. 14.050 10.120 7.055 3.550. QSL. Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 618 Seminole Dr, Erie, PA 16505. Celebrating 6 years of steady growth to over 8,500 members on CW. Contact Roger Kepner, W6SQQ, PIO <u>www.skccgroup.com</u>

•01/02/2012 | Ham Radio University/NLI Section Convention

• Jan 2-Jan 8, 0000Z-2359Z, W2V, Bethpage, NY. New York City - Long Island Section. 14.260 14.070 7.250 7.035. QSL. Philip Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre W, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. Special Event Station W2V will be operated by Ham Radio University committee and moderators all week using all modes and bands, including ARRL RTTY Roundup. QSL to Phil Lewis N2MUN with SASE, LOTW and eQSL. DX stations can use W2 Bureau to N2MUN. www.grz.com/w2v or www.hamradiouniversity.org

•01/28/2012 | 164th Anniversary of the Discovery of Gold in California

• Jan 28-Jan 29, 1600Z-2300Z, AG6AU, Coloma, CA. El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club. 21.348 14.248 7.248 AG6AU repeater. QSL. EDCARC, PO Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. From the Marshall Gold Discovery Site in Coloma, CA. <u>www.edcarc.net</u>

For more Special Events, 'control + click' on this link:

http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

(control + click to use link)

CONTESTS:http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendarhttp://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php

- HAMFESTS: <u>http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar</u>
- SPECIAL EVENTS: <u>http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations</u>

STARS WEBSITE: <u>http://www.wb2elw.com/</u>

STARS REFLECTOR: <u>http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/</u>

TELSTAR EDITOR: wb2elw@verizon.net

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2012 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				
CLA	LASS BIRTHDAY (Month/Date)					
CALL SIGN	NAME					
CLA	SS BIRTHDAY (Month/Date)					
CALL SIGN		NAME				
CLA	SS BIRTHDAY (Month/Date)					
DUES: STARS	Annual dues payable by January 1					
	SINGLE \$24					
	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						
	12					

DEPEW NY 14043-2874