

SHOW AND TELL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting of STARS, on February 2nd, will include a "Show and Tell" presentation.

All members are urged to bring in something used in amateur radio they would like to share with the group. Examples could include special direction-finding antennas, jump kits of radio gear for rapid portable deployment, vintage/antique radio equipment, home brew kits, unusual radio accessories, spark gap transmitters, or even something as simple as a vacuum tube (what's that?).

Although not required, you can give us a "heads up" as to what you are bringing at:

wb2elw@verizon.net

NEW MEETING FORMAT

At the January meeting, President Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK, raised the issue of the format of the monthly meetings. It was decided that each meeting should have a presentation on some aspect of interest to amateurs.

Toward that end, STARS is seeking your input as to what kind of presentations we can use. If you have a favorite topic, or you can present a program, please contact STARS through the Telstar editor, at:

wb2elw@verizon.net



FUTURE TOPICS

The March 1st meeting will include a presentation by
Jim Reville, N2QNG.

The subject will be
"Understanding Trunked
Radio Systems".



BLUE AND UNDERLINED

When you see something in Telstar in blue letters and underlined, that means it is an Internet link. Hold the "Control" key and click on it to open a link to an Internet site.

(control + click) [Sample Link](#)

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	Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP
Director	Jon Hall, KC2QKB
Director	Pat Groom, KC2VWG

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

HAMFESTS

02/12/2012 - [Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH
Richland County Fairgrounds
750 North Home Road

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamfest.w8we.org>

02/25/2012 - [ARAST Winterfest](#)

Location: Horseheads, NY
New York State National Guard Armory
128 Colonial Drive

Sponsor: Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier

Website: <http://www.arast.org>

02/26/2012 - [WashFest 2012](#)

Location: Castle Shannon, PA
Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall
3600 Library Road (Route 88)

Sponsor: The Wireless Association of South Hills

Website: <http://n3sh.org>

(control + click on name for more info)

WE GOOFED!

The last issue inadvertently omitted the name of Wayne Carpus, W2ZDP from the list of Board Officers. Wayne, as immediate past president is automatically a "Director" for one year.

Thanx to Scott Barto, KB2KOL for correcting us.

If you see something we did not get right, let us know:

wb2elw@verizon.net

FINAL OPPORTUNITY

What? You mean you haven't yet renewed your STARS membership? If we don't receive your renewal form by the end of the month, you will be dropped from the membership roster!

This means you will lose all the special privileges of a STARS member, including new issues of Telstar.

A renewal form is on the last page.



UPGRADE CLASSES

Discussion at last month's meeting included the possibility that STARS will conduct classes for those amateurs interested in upgrading their licenses to general or extra categories.

If you are interested in such training, or can help provide it, let us know at:

wb2elw@verizon.net

CONGRATULATIONS

STARS member Judy Levan, N2TEZ has been named Acting Meteorologist in Charge at the Buffalo office of the National Weather Service. She replaces Tom Niziol, who retired from federal service and took a new job with the Weather Channel.

VE SESSION RESULTS

STARS conducted a VE examination session on Saturday, January 21st. The VE team, led by John Crawford, KB2VWC, included Scott Bartow, KB2KOL; John Czuba, W2IV; Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY; and Tomm Dean, KA2NXY. Congratulations to:

Yonnie Schlicht: upgraded from Technician, KD2BIB, to General, KD2BML.

The next STARS VE examination session will be on March 17th, 2012, at the Hamburg Youth Center

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.

EXTRA QUESTION POOL TO BE REVISED

The current pool of test questions used for the extra examinations will expire on June 30th, 2012. A new pool will be placed in effect the next day.

Any current extra study guide or question/answer books will be obsolete after that date.

If you are studying for the upgrade to extra, and you have study materials, you may want to complete the process before June 30th.

STARS will conduct amateur examinations on Saturday, March 17th and Saturday, May 19th.

AREA VE SESSIONS

2/04/2012

[N Tonawanda](#)

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawanda's
Location: N Tonawanda Fire Headquarters
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

2/04/2012

[Jamestown](#)

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

2/18/2012

[Erie, PA](#)

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association
Location: Greene Twnshp Mun Bldg Rm 107
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

2/18/2012

[Rochester](#)

Sponsor: Rochester ARA
Location: RIT Gleason Engr Bldg 9 Rm 3139
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/26/2012

[Geneseo](#)

Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA
Location: Livingston County Government Center
Time: 5:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

(control +click on City for more info)

STARS THANKED BY THE CHURCH OF STS PETER AND PAUL

Food collected during the December meeting was donated to the Western New York Food Bank via the collection center at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Hamburg.

STARS received a letter from **Karin Dusza**, the Parish Outreach Coordinator, thanking members for the generous gift of food.

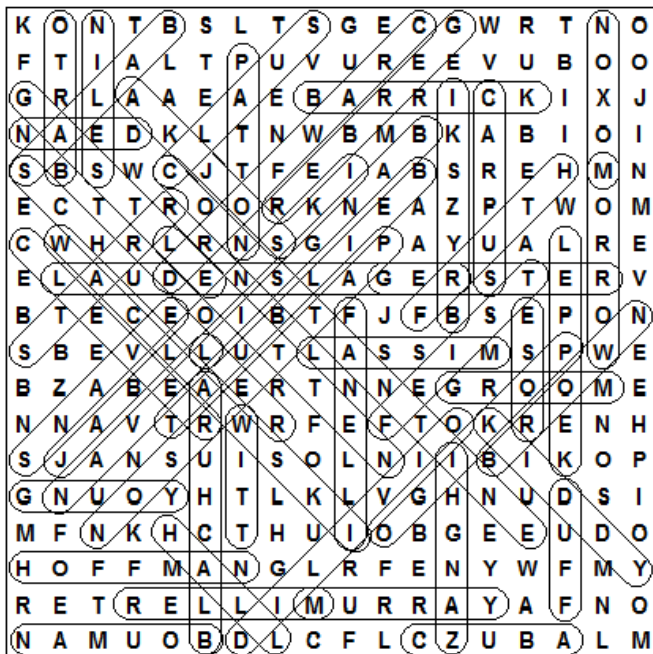


GET INVOLVED

Let the editor know what you like or don't like about the **TELSTAR** news letter. Or, better yet, write an article.

Contact the editor: — wb2elw@verizon.net

LAST MONTH'S WORD SEARCH SOLVED



CLUB NETS

Saturdays	10:00 AM	3.925 MHz +/- QRM
Sundays	9:30 AM	28.30 MHz
Sundays	10:30 AM	147.09 MHz (repeater)
4th Sundays	9:00 AM	Peg's Place Restaurant Athol Springs

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. All are welcome.
- ★ The next meeting is February 2nd, at 7:00 PM
- ★ The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 PM on the
- ★ fourth Thursday of each month at the Nike Base
- ★ Clubhouse. All members are welcome.
- ★ Occasional changes are made for holidays and
- ★ special events.

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

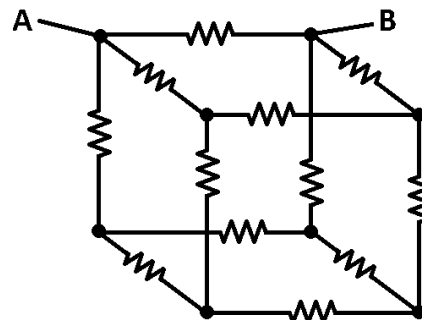


WIN A STARS HAT AND MUG

Remember the puzzle from the November 2011 issue?
Well, we changed a few things!

Be the first to send the correct answer to wb2elw@verizon.net and win. Deadline: 6 PM, February 2, 2012. STARS members only; one entry per person.

CUBE PROBLEM



Each resistor in the cube is 60 ohms.

What is the total resistance between A and B?

ME AND MY BIG MOUTH

I began teaching at the license preparation classes conducted by STARS about 2 year ago. Most recently, I was at the technician training program at the Seneca Nation. As we spoke about the certification exam at the end of the class, I told the students they would see every question possible before they took the test.

I told the class that in most multiple choice questions, you could rule out two choices as inappropriate. I also told them there were many Internet sites where they could take practice exams.

My original amateur license was earned in the 1970s. I upgraded twice, earning an advanced license. Not willing to learn code at any faster rate, I was content. Even after the code requirement was dropped from the extra license, I had no interest in upgrading.

Just before the 4th class session, I began to wonder what it was like to take a practice exam on the Internet. I entered the www.qrz.com site and began the extra exam. The process was easy. Each question provided immediate feedback as to whether or not I answered correctly. At the end of the exam, I found I had scored 62%. Wow! I had not studied any of the extra material, and I was only 6 questions shy of a passing score. With a little study, I could do this!

Shortly thereafter, I opened my big mouth. At the class preceding the exam session, I asked the lead instructor if I could take the extra test when the class took their technician test. He said, "Yes," and the race was on.

I began reading the ARRL extra license manual and continued taking the practice tests. By the time the test date arrived, scores on the practice tests ranged from 58 to 68%. I declined taking the test. (Foot in Mouth, Part 1!)

Study continued, as did the practice tests. In two weeks, another test session was available. Four more

practice tests yielded only one passing score. I again declined the test. (Foot in Mouth, Part 2!)

However, my determination was set. More study ensued. Thereafter, I began passing the practice tests. Within 5 days, I was ready, scoring as high as 88%.

I checked the ARRL site for available exams. What luck! There was an upcoming test session in North Tonawanda. Furthermore, that test was scheduled for the evening, just right for a night owl who can't bear to get up early. If I didn't make this exam, the next available date was 3-4 weeks later. Since I felt I knew the material, I wanted to test ASAP. That would free me to enjoy the holiday period.

The test, sponsored by RAWNY, took place in the old Wurlitzer building. Of the five present, I was the only one testing for the extra ticket. I answered the questions I knew. If I got them all right, I would pass. I then returned to the more difficult questions. When done, I rechecked each question, and handed in the papers.

Eternity began. The first VE started marking the test. I knew that more than thirteen questions wrong would fail. I watched the VE's red felt marker as he lined up the answer key. One... Two... Three... Four... Five... Six... Seven... Eight... That was it. The process was repeated by the other two VEs, with the same result. Paperwork was completed, and the lead VE said, "You passed."

Tomm Dean, KA2NXY /AE

e2008	2011-11-21	22:06:05	62.00%
e2008	2011-11-27	09:08:27	68.00%
e2008	2011-11-29	10:37:24	64.00%
e2008	2011-12-02	09:37:40	68.00%
e2008	2011-12-12	12:19:25	58.00%
e2008	2011-12-13	12:33:05	74.00%
e2008	2011-12-14	11:28:20	70.00%
e2008	2011-12-17	12:32:47	74.00%
e2008	2011-12-18	13:34:52	72.00%
e2008	2011-12-19	06:59:20	78.00%
e2008	2011-12-19	09:35:49	82.00%
e2008	2011-12-19	18:28:13	84.00%
e2008	2011-12-19	21:11:57	88.00%
e2008	2011-12-19	22:58:41	84.00%

CONTEST CALENDAR

CONTEST LINKS:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php>

Start and Finish

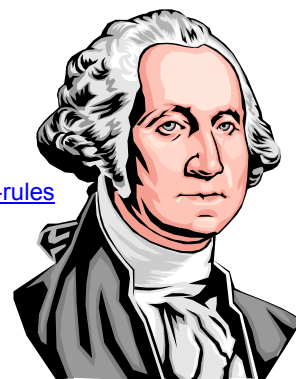
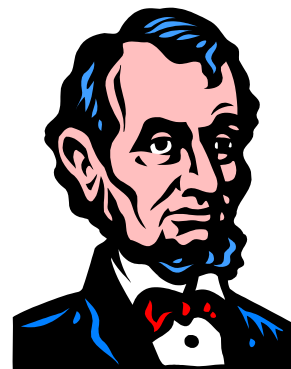
Feb 3, 0200Z - Feb 3, 0300Z
 Feb 4, 0000Z - Feb 5, 2359Z
 Feb 4, 0000Z - Feb 5, 2400Z
 Feb 4, 0000Z - Feb 5, 2400Z
 Feb 4, 0001Z - Feb 5, 2359Z
 Feb 4, 1200Z - Feb 5, 1200Z
 Feb 4, 1400Z - Feb 4, 2400Z
 Feb 4, 1400Z - Feb 4, 2400Z
 Feb 4, 1600Z - Feb 4, 1900Z
 Feb 4, 1600Z - Feb 5, 0400Z
 Feb 4, 1700Z - Feb 5, 2359Z
 Feb 4, 1800Z - Feb 5, 1759Z
 Feb 5, 0000Z - Feb 5, 0400Z
 Feb 7, 0200Z - Feb 7, 0400Z
 Feb 8, 1100Z - Feb 9, See web
 Feb 10, 1400Z - Feb 12, 0200Z
 Feb 11, 0000Z - Feb 12, 2400Z
 Feb 11, 1100Z - Feb 11, 1300Z
 Feb 11, 1200Z - Feb 12, 1200Z
 Feb 11, 1500Z - Feb 12, 0300Z
 Feb 11, 1500Z - Feb 12, 1500Z
 Feb 11, 1600Z - Feb 12, 0400Z
 Feb 11, 1700Z - Feb 11, 2100Z
 Feb 11, 2100Z - Feb 12, 0100Z
 Feb 12, 0000Z - Feb 12, 0400Z
 Feb 12, 1400Z - Feb 13, 0800Z
 Feb 12, 1900Z - Feb 12, 2130Z
 Feb 12, 1900Z - Feb 12, 2300Z
 Feb 13, 1300Z - Feb 17, 2359Z
 Feb 14, 8 PM - Feb 15, 2 AM
 Feb 15, 0130Z - Feb 15, 0330Z
 Feb 15, 1900Z - Feb 15, 2030Z
 Feb 17, 2100Z - Feb 18, 2100Z
 Feb 18, 0000Z - Feb 19, 2400Z
 Feb 18, 2000Z - Feb 18, 2200Z
 Feb 18, 2300Z - Feb 19, 2300Z
 Feb 24, 2200Z - Feb 26, 2200Z
 Feb 25, 7 PM - Feb 25, 11 PM
 Feb 25, 0600Z - Feb 26, 1800Z
 Feb 25, 1300Z - Feb 26, 1300Z
 Feb 25, 1500Z - Feb 26, 0300Z
 Feb 25, 1800Z - Feb 26, 0600Z
 Feb 26, 1700Z - Feb 27, 0300Z
 Feb 27, 0100Z - Feb 27, 0259Z

Contest

SNS and NS Weekly Sprints
 YLISSB QSO Party
 EPC WW PSK Contest
 Vermont QSO Party
 Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party
 Black Sea Cup International
 FYBO Winter QRP Field Day
 Minnesota QSO Party
 Straight Key Party
 British Columbia QSO Party
 Delaware QSO Party
 XE Int'l RTTY Contest
 North American Sprint
 ARS Spartan Sprint
 CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test
 YL-OM Contest
 CQ WW RTTY WPX
 Asia-Pacific Sprint
 Dutch PACC Contest
 Louisiana QSO Party
 OMISS QSO Party
 New Hampshire QSO Party - CW
 FISTS CW Winter Sprint
 RSGB - First 1.8 MHz Contest
 North American Sprint
 Classic Exchange
 Milwaukee FM Simplex Contest
 Maine FM Simplex Challenge
 School Club Roundup
 PODXS Valentine Sprint
 NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint
 Semi-Automatic Key Evening
 Russian WW PSK Contest
 ARRL Int'l CW DX Contest
 Feld-Hell Annual WAS Sprint
 AM QSO Party
 CQ WW 160 Meter SSB
 Pennsylvania FM Sprint
 REF Contest
 UBA Contest
 Mississippi QSO Party
 North American QSO Party
 North Carolina QSO Party
 CQC Winter QSO Party

Sponsor's Website

www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
www.ylssystem.org
www.epcwwdx.srars.org/index.php/contest-rules.html
www.ranv.org
www.ten-ten.org
www.bscc.ucoz.ru
www.azscqrptions.com
www.w0aa.org
www.agcw.de
orcadxcc.org
www.fsarc.org
www.fmre.org.mx
www.ncjweb.com
www.arsqrp.blogspot.com
www.cwops.org/onair.html
www.ylrl.org
www.cqwprrty.com
jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
www.dutchpacc.com
laqso.w5yl.org
www.omiss.info
www.w1wqm.org
www.fists.org
www.rsgbcc.org
www.ncjweb.com
www.classicexchange.org
www.w9rh.org
www.qsl.net/ws1sm/contest.html
www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
www.podxs070.com
naqcc.info
www.agcw.org
www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/384.html
www.arrl.org/contests
www.feldhellclub.org
www.antiquewireless.org
www.cq160.com
www.harcnet.org
www.ref-union.org
www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
www.arrlmiss.org
www.ncjweb.com
www.w4nc.com
www.cqc.org



(Control + click to activate a link)



ARRL events in **light blue**

SELECTED SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

02/04/2012 Commemorating Groundhog Day at Punxsutawney Airport

- Feb 4, 1400Z-2100Z, K3HWJ, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club. 14.330 7.183 3.845 147.390 PL 173.8. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. sites.google.com/site/punxyhamclub

02/11/2012 Thomas Edison Birthday Memorial

- Feb 11-Feb 12, 1500Z-2200Z, NI8G, Milan, OH. Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club. 28.385 21.385 14.285 7.285. QSL. Jack Hubbard, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. Times are daily. NI8N1@yahoo.com

02/11/2012 Thomas Edison's Birthday

- Feb 11, 1500Z-2100Z, W2EF, Caldwell, NJ. West Essex Amateur Radio Club. 146.55 21.377 14.277 7.177. Certificate. West Essex ARC, 34 Eastern Pkwy, Caldwell, NJ 07006. www.wearc.org

02/18/2012 Freeze Your Acorns Off

- Feb 18, 1500Z-2100Z, K8BF, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service. 21.315 14.315 7.215 3.815. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. 7th Annual FYAO QRP operating event. www.portcars.org

02/18/2012 George Washington Special Event

- Feb 18-Feb 19, 1600Z-2100Z, K4US, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. 14.240 7.240 7.035. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. Commemorating George Washington's 280th birthday from his estate. k4us@mvarc.com or www.mvarc.org

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-calendar>

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php>

HAMFESTS:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

STARS WEBSITE:

<http://www.wb2elw.com/>

STARS REFLECTOR:

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

TELSTAR EDITOR:

wb2elw@verizon.net

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 _____

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 \$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
DEPEW NY 14043-2874