

DECEMBER MEETING AND SOCIAL

The December meeting of **STARS** will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, December 5, 2013, at the Hamburg Youth Club, 200 Prospect Avenue, Hamburg.

The meeting will feature the annual Holiday Party, with food and beverages provided. Specifically, pizza, coffee, and soft drinks will be available at no charge. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share with others. The dish should be "finger food" or a dessert.

Election and installation of **STARS** officers for 2014 will take place. The following members were nominated at the last meeting:

President

Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

Vice President

John Leitten, KA2RFT

Treasurer

John Czuba, W2IV

Financial Secretary

Judy Levan, N2TEZ

Recording Secretary

Mettieirene Wagner, KD2DFQ

Board of Directors

**Patrick Groom, KC2VWG; or
Jon Hall, KC2QKB**

Write-in candidates are acceptable.

NEW COLUMN

This issue features the inaugural column "Up with Antennas" by **Don Niles, K2PMC**. The column appears on page 4.

Don has been with the club for many years as a member, and also the Clubhouse Chairman. Members with antenna issues always know they can get the proper answer from Don.

RENEWALS DUE

The deadline for renewal of **STARS** membership is January 1st, 2014. An application form is attached to the end of this newsletter.

Please take a moment to complete the form and send it to **Judy Levan, N2TEZ**.

In addition to access to the Nike Base Clubhouse radio station, with all its equipment, your membership will guarantee reception of *Telstar*.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK
Vice President	John Leitten, KA2RFT
Secretary	Linda Jablonski, KC2YMM
Financial Sec'y	Judy Levan, N2TEZ
Treasurer	John Czuba, W2IV
Director (1 yr.)	Pat Groom, KC2VWG
Director (2 yr.)	Conrad Barrick, KC2WRV

Clubhouse Chair	Pat Groom, KC2VWG
Telstar Editor	Tomm Dean, KA2NXY
Webmaster	Greg Hoerner, KD2DJV

WE DID NOT GOOF

Know won brought are attention two any mistake in the last issue of *Telstar* .

If ewe sea sum thing wee did knot get rite, lettuce no:



wb2elw@verizon.net

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 the link to open.

Try it! → [sample link](#) (control + click)

FIELD DAY 2013 RESULTS

Last June, STARS participated in the national Field Day activities.

The results are now available. Published in the ARRL's QST magazine, STARS was in group 2E, with a total of 902 QSOs, scoring 3356 points. That was 10th place (highest NYS entry) in that category.

You can see all the results in the December issue of QST. STARS (WB2ELW) can be seen on page 83, in the 3rd column, 3rd entry from the bottom.

Kudos to all who participated on behalf of STARS.

STARS MEETINGS

STARS meetings are usually 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 December meeting will be **December 5th**, at 7:00 PM, at the Hamburg Youth Center.

All are welcome,

The STARS board usually meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse, just west of the Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.

However, to avoid conflict with the holiday season, there will be no board meeting for the month of December.

CLUB NETS

Saturdays	10:00 AM	3.925 MHz +/- QRM
Sundays	9:30 AM	28.380 MHz
Sundays	10:30 AM	147.09 MHz (repeater)
4th Saturdays	9:00 AM	Tim Hortons Cafe 342 Buffalo St, Hamburg

AMATEURS & CHOKES

As amateur radio operators, we are familiar with most electronic components. We know resistors, capacitors, transistors, and other items, including chokes.

So it is with pride that we report that one of our members was able to put his training to use recently.

Scott Barto, KB2KOL, was at the Gowanda High School recently, and was able to recognize a choke when he saw it. However, the choke was not a coil of wiring, but a student who had an obstruction of his air passage. Scott came to the student's assistance, and cleared the blockage by provided a life-saving maneuver, known as the Heimlich Maneuver.

Dr. Robert Anderson brought Scott's life-saving activity to the attention of the school board during a recent meeting, as reported in the Gowanda News.

Congratulations to Scott for his choke handling skills.

(Thanx to Dave Lawton, N2OZE, for bring this information to our attention.)

2013 SKYWARN™ RECOGNITION DAY

Dec. 6th, 7 PM to Dec. 7th, 7 PM

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN™ radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN™ operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

If you are a SKYWARN™ operator and would like to staff the Buffalo NWS station, contact **Judy Levan, N2TEZ**, at judith.levan@noaa.gov.

All amateurs are encouraged to make radio contacts with the NWS offices.

(See details at: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>)

ANNUAL SURVEY ON SAMPLE LINKS

On page 2 of each issue of *Telstar*, just below the listing of **STARS** officers, is a piece titled, "**BLUE AND UNDERLINED**".

The item explains how Internet hyperlinks used in *Telstar* are blue and underlined, and that they can be activated by holding down the "Ctrl" key on your keyboard, and then using your mouse to click on the link.

In each issue, the "sample link" will take the user to a video, unrelated to amateur radio, but quite entertaining. The link is changed for each monthly issue.

In an effort to fine tune the selection of these "sample links", we are conducting the first annual survey to find out which links are best rated by the membership. Check them out and vote by letting us know which sample link is your favorite. Let us know at:

wb2elw@verizon.net

Here are the links for 2013 (control-click on the underlined blue labels to see the videos):

Jan 2013	Elevator
Feb 2013	Fly Boards
Mar 2013	Kites
Apr 2013	Dogs Soda
May 2013	VW Factory
June 2013	Wedding Crack Up
July 2013	Motorcycle
Aug 2013	Shadows
Sept 2013	Balancing
Oct 2013	Bridge Hits
Nov 2013	Human Tower
Dec 2013	Model RR

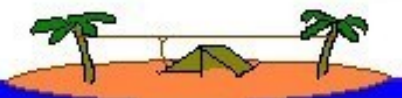
CLUBHOUSE LAYOUT

If anyone has any ideas for the layout of the clubhouse, please make them known to **Pat Groom, KC2VWG** and **Jon Hall, KC2QKB**.

UP with antennas



by Don - K2PMC



This is the first of a series of columns about antenna theory and construction that I hope will shed some light on what many of the newer members of the amateur radio hobby find confusing and difficult to understand. I hope that the information in this and future columns will shed some light on this important aspect of amateur radio.

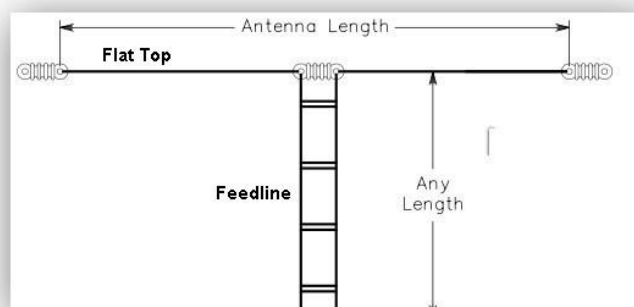
The 3 major components of any amateur radio station are the transmitter, the receiver and the antenna. Years ago the transmitter and receiver were separate units. However, with the technology of today they have become integrated into what we now refer to as transceivers. Interestingly enough the transceivers of today are all pretty much equal in their ability to hear a signal or transmit a signal. The \$500 transceiver will hear a signal almost as well as the \$5000 transceiver. The big difference being that the high priced transceiver has more features, commonly called "bells and whistles" than the less expensive model. There are instances where the \$500 model will outperform the \$5000 one. How can this be? The big factor in performance is the antenna. Power and "bells and whistles" connected to a poorly designed inefficient antenna system will invariably lose out to the less expensive model connected to a good antenna.

A well designed, efficient antenna can make a low powered station sound like a kilowatt on the other end. I hope that by the end of this series the reader will have a better understanding of why I consider the antenna to be number 1 in your shack.

One phenomenon that I have observed recently is that more and more amateur radio operators are buying,

rather than making their own HF antennas. Now, I can understand purchasing a multi band beam or vertical antenna because there are design and construction techniques employed in these types of antennas that exceed the skills or parts availability of many of us. But, the question I keep asking myself is why would someone pay big bucks for a hundred feet or so of wire with maybe a balun thrown in when the same, or in many cases, a better antenna can be home brewed for a fraction of the cost? Keep in mind that the purpose of this column is to inform new amateurs about the basics of antenna design. What I hope to do in this column is to demystify the world of antennas.

The wire antenna is sometimes called the flat top and the transmission line is sometimes called the feed line.



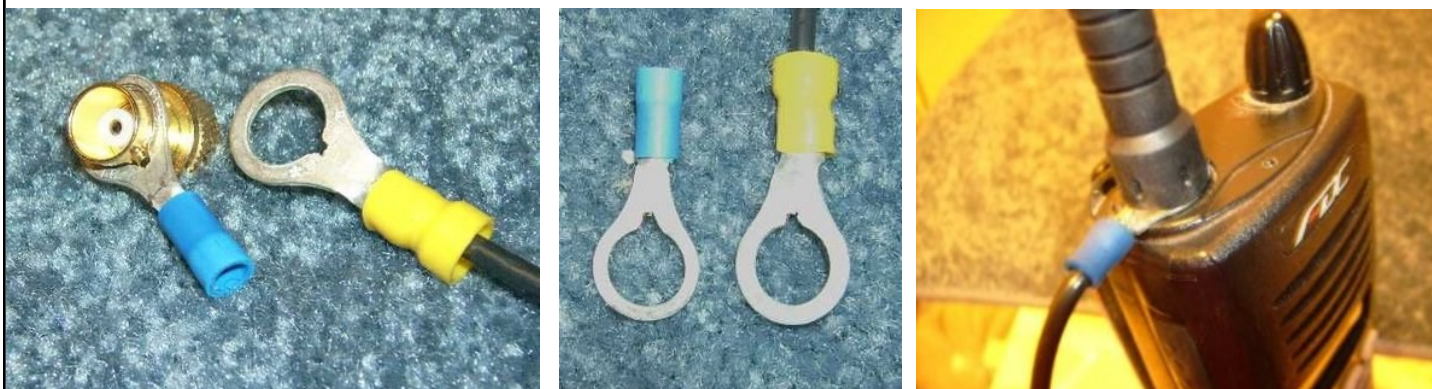
The role of the transmission line is to deliver RF energy (power) to the antenna. The antenna's job is to send the RF energy into the ionosphere. To do this efficiently, the transmission line must be properly matched to the antenna. In next month's column we will discuss the importance of matching.

Easy HT Improvements

By Dale Kubichek, N6JSX
(reprinted from eHam.net)

We all know OEM (original equipment manufacture) HT rubber-duffy antennas are a dismal compromise, at best, facetiously called "helical-dummy-loads." There are a few ways to improve your HTing distance and experience. First and foremost consider buying an after-market antenna, like the Diamond SRH77CA-SMA or RC77CA-BNC, or make a more economical full $\frac{1}{4}$ wave BNC Brass Whip and add a Tail. I found my 2m Brass Whip to work well on 70cm too.

Second, is to improve the antenna's counterpoise; an HT body is a very poor counterpoise! A product I saw decades ago, called the 'Tiger-Tail', seemed to have been the answer to this problem but it was just too easy for HAMs to reproduce, killing its sales. The Tail is a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave +5% counterpoise wire hung from the HT antenna connector creating a mock $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole. The trick in making an affective Tail is to insure a good tight fit to the HT connector. I duplicated the Tail by using ring terminals but a problem with ring terminals are those darn BNC posts. I over came this by filing a small notch inside the ring to fit



But with the advent of HT's going to a SMA connector the BNC post issue disappears making this Tail a much simpler and far easier to attach.

The Tiger-Tail is a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave + 5% length of wire hung from the HT connector. Thomas & Betts ring-crimp-terminals:

SMA = 1/4" eye for 14-16AWG wire (blue) T&B #14RB-14X

BNC = 3/8" eye for 10-12 AWG wire (yellow) T&B #10RC-38X

Black 14-16AWG stranded wire is soldered to the ring. (I do not crimp my tails but solder the tail wire to the ring terminal.)

The hardest part of using this Tail is getting the wire to hang straight.

For more of this article, use this link: <http://www.eham.net/articles/31035>

For other eHam articles, use this link: <http://www.eham.net/>

(Thanx to John Czuba, W2IV, for recommending this item for Telstar.)

TESTING NEEDS

- Legal photo ID (a driver's license is excellent!)
- Current license and/or CSCE documents, if any, and a non-returnable photocopy of each
- Federal Registration Number (FRN); if none, then Social Security Number (SSN)
- \$15 in cash, check or money order
- Two #2 pencils with erasers, and a pen

[\(more info\)](#)

VE SESSION RESULTS

STARS conducted an examination session on November 16th, 2013. All six candidates passed their examinations. One candidate went on to the next level, and also passed that exam.

New Technicians:

Jonathan Berman	KD2FCI
Kelly Ann Brown	KD2FCJ
Tom Miller	KD2FCK

New General:

Eric Penoyer	KD2FCL
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New Extras:

James Sajdak	KC2JIB
Mark Wolf	W2MAW

Volunteer Examiners included **John Czuba, W2IV**; **Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY**; **Tomm Dean, KA2NXY**; and **Jim Starr, N2TFA**.

The licenses were issued on Friday, November 22nd. Two days later, at least three of the newly licensed amateurs were on the air, heard checking into the Erie County ARES/RACES net.

Congratulations to all the new and upgraded amateur operators.

EXAM SITES

12/07/2013 [North Tonawanda](#)

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas
 Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters
 495 Zimmerman Street - Training Rm.
 Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/07/2013 [Jamestown](#)

Sponsor: CARS
 Location: Prendergast Library
 509 Cherry Street 2nd fl conf rm
 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/11/2013 [Niagara Falls](#)

Sponsor: Niagara Radio Club, Inc.
 Location: Venture Forthe, Inc.
 3900 Packard Road
 Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/14/2013 [Orlando FL](#)

Sponsor: AES Orlando
 Location: Amateur Electronic Supply
 621 Commonwealth Avenue
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/21/2013 [Rochester](#)

Sponsor: Rochester ARA
 Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139
 1 Lomb Memorial Drive
 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/21/2013 [Erie PA](#)

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association
 Location: Greene Twnshp Mun Bldg Rm 107
 9333 Tate Road
 (use district justice entrance)
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[\(control-click on City for more info\)](#)

CONTEST CALENDAR



Start and Finish	Contest Title	Sponsor's Website
Dec 1, 1300Z - Dec 1, 1600Z	SARL Digital Contest	www.sarl.org.za/
Dec 3, 0200Z - Dec 3, 0400Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/
Dec 5, 1800Z - Dec 5, 2200Z	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html
Dec 6, 0230Z - Dec 6, 0300Z	NCCC Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
Dec 6, 2200Z, - Dec 8, 1600Z	ARRL 160-Meter Contest	www.arrl.org/160-meter
Dec 7, 0000Z - Dec 7, 2400Z	TARA RTTY Melee	www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html
Dec 7, 0600Z - Dec 7, 0800Z	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
Dec 7, 1200Z, - Dec 8, 2400Z	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/
Dec 7, 2000Z - Dec 8, 1959Z	EPC Ukraine DX Contest	http://ut7fp.kiev.ua/2010epc-ukr-dx/EPC%20Ukraine_eng.html
Dec 7, 2300Z - Dec 8, 2300Z & Dec 14, 2300Z - Dec 15, 2300Z	AWA B Kelley Meml CW Contest	www.antiquewireless.org/
Dec 8, 0000Z - Dec 8, 2400Z	Ten-Meter RTTY Contest	www.rttycontesting.com/tenmeterrttycontest/rules.html
Dec 11, 0130Z - Dec 11, 0330Z	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	naqcc.info/sprint201312mw.html
Dec 11, 1300Z - Dec 11, 1400Z & Dec 11, 1900Z - Dec 11, 2000Z & Dec 12, 0300Z - Dec 12, 0400Z	CWops Mini-CWT Test	www.cwops.org/onair.html
Dec 13, 0230Z - Dec 13, 0300Z	NCCC Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
Dec 14, 0000Z, - Dec 15, 2400Z	ARRL 10-Meter Contest	www.arrl.org/10-meter
Dec 16, 0200Z - Dec 16, 0400Z	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/
Dec 16, 1800Z - Dec 16, 2000Z	NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	http://naqcc-eu.org/sprints/rules/current.pdf
Dec 18, 0130Z - Dec 18, 0330Z	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	http://naqcc.info/sprint201312mw.html
Dec 20, 0230Z - Dec 20, 0300Z	NCCC Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
Dec 20, 2100Z - Dec 20, 2400Z	AGB-Party Contest	www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm
Dec 21, 0000Z - Dec 21, 2359Z	Feld Hell Sprint	https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
Dec 21, 0000Z - Dec 21, 2400Z	OK DX RTTY Contest	www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM
Dec 21, 1400Z, - Dec 22, 1400Z	Croatian CW Contest	www.9acw.org/
Dec 22, 1800Z - Dec 22, 2359Z	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Dec 25, 0000Z - Dec 25, 0200Z	SKCC Sprint	www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/
Dec 26, 0830Z - Dec 26, 1059Z	DARC Christmas Contest	www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules/
Dec 27, 0230Z - Dec 27, 0300Z	NCCC Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
Dec 28, 0000Z - Dec 28, 2359Z	RAC Winter Contest	https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/
Dec 28, 1500Z, - Dec 29, 1500Z	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	www.kkn.net/stew/
Dec 28, 1500Z, - Dec 29, 1500Z	Original QRP Contest	www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrp.html
Dec 29, 0000Z - Dec 29, 1159Z	RAEM Contest	http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2012/rules_eng_2012.php



(Control + click to activate a link)



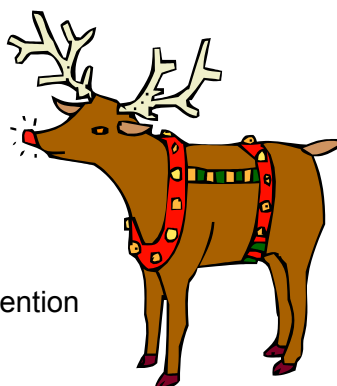
For more information on contests: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

(Note: At press time on December 1st, contests for December had not yet been posted on the ARRL website. Please check the site listed above for the latest entries.)

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

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

11/30/2013	Boorman House Christmas Special
11/30/2013	Radio on the Square
11/30/2013	The First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth
12/05/2013	Flight 19 Memorial
12/06/2013	SKYWARN Recognition Day
12/07/2013	Bethlehem Christmas Special Event
12/07/2013	Cambridge Amateur Radio Association's 100th Birthday Celebration
12/07/2013	Grand Coulee Dam Special Event
12/07/2013	Pearl Harbor
12/07/2013	Pearl Harbor Commemoration
12/07/2013	Santa Net
12/07/2013	Santa's Block Party Remembering Pearl Harbor
12/07/2013	Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, 80th Anniversary Celebration
12/10/2013	Rudolph Country Christmas
12/13/2013	Friday the 13th Special Event Operation
12/14/2013	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
12/14/2013	Shore Acres Holiday Lights
12/14/2013	Wheeling Light Fest
12/15/2013	Bill of Rights Day in Bakersfield
12/15/2013	Christmas City Special Event
12/18/2013	Christmas in Bethlehem
12/21/2013	Christmas In Bethlehem
12/28/2013	US Claims Midway Island in 1867
12/29/2013	Ham Radio University / NLI Section Convention



USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

(control + click to use link)

ARRL MAIN SITE:	http://www.arrl.org/home
ARRL ATLANTIC DIV.:	http://www.atldiv.org
CONTESTS:	http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar
	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php
HAMFESTS:	http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar
STARS REFLECTOR:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/
TELSTAR EDITOR:	wb2elw@verizon.net

