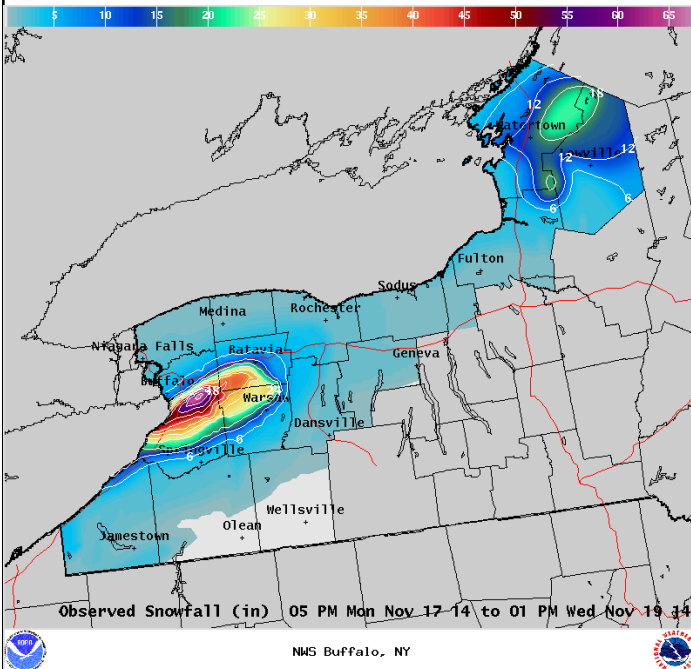


SNOWEMBER TO REMEMBER



The **National Weather Service** said it best:
The epic November 17-19th 2014 lake effect event will be remembered as one of the most significant winter events in Buffalo's snowy history. Over 5 feet of snow fell over areas just east of Buffalo, with mere inches a few miles away to the north. There were 14 fatalities with this storm, hundreds of major roof collapses and structural failures, thousands of stranded motorists, and scattered food and gas shortages due to impassable roads. Numerous trees also gave way due to the weight of the snow, causing isolated power outages. While this

storm was impressive on its own, a second lake effect event on Nov-19-20 dropped another 1-4

continued on page 6

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Elections for **STARS** officers were held at the November meeting. Those officers will be installed at the coming December 4th meeting/holiday party. Congratulations to:

Kenneth Pokigo, KC2AYK

President

Scott Barto, KB2KOL

Vice President

John Leitten, KA2RFT

Treasurer

Mettieirene Wagner, KD2DFQ

Recording Secretary

Judy Levan, N2TEZ

Financial Secretary

Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY

Director - 2 years

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 1ST

It's that time of year again!

Applications for renewal of membership in **STARS** are due on January 1, 2015. A renewal form is on page 10.

TELSTAR MAILING COSTS INCREASED

Previously, the charge to receive *Telstar* by mail has been \$6 per year. That price covered the \$5.88 for a year's worth of stamps, but did not cover the cost of paper, ink, printing, envelopes or labeling.

At the October board meeting, the charge to receive *Telstar* by mail was increased to \$15. The new price takes effect on January 1, 2015.



**NWS
Special
Event**

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

For 2014, Skywarn Recognition Day will take place on December 6th, from 0000Z to 2400Z.

During that period, amateur radio operators are encouraged to contact as many National Weather Service stations as possible.

Further details can be found at:

www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/opsprocedures.php

FREE MEMBERSHIPS

Traditionally, **STARS** has bestowed no-cost associate memberships on those amateurs taking licensure examinations with **STARS**.

Such memberships include receiving issues of *Telstar*, the monthly newsletter of **STARS**.

All such memberships expire at the end of the calendar year in which the examination is taken.

Amateurs whose associate memberships will conclude this month are invited to apply for full membership in **STARS**. To do so, complete the application attached to this issue of the newsletter, and submit it (with appropriate membership fees) to the address listed on the application.



CLOSINGS ON WIVB

Should poor weather cause any scheduled **STARS** activity to be cancelled, the closing message will found on WIVB Channel 4 Buffalo.

If multiple closings exist, WIVB will not include all closings on the television broadcasts; however ALL closings will appear on their website:

www.wivb.com/closings/

UP with antennas



by Don - K2PMC



In this month's article I'm going to depart a bit from the normal format of the column and review a system that I used in my RV for several years with excellent results. The XYL and I had a lot of fun in our 5th wheel RV. We spent many weekends in local area parks, like Letchworth and Evangola. One year, we took the RV to Dayton and had a great time.

With the RV, I wanted an antenna that was fairly easy to erect and put out a decent signal. I tried a multitude of wires slung into trees or run across the RV and they all worked to a degree, but overall, I was not happy with the performance. Of course, the reason those antennas did not perform well is that they were low and essentially NVIS antennas. So, long distance contacts were not as satisfying as I wanted.

What I needed was an antenna that provided a good signal at a relatively low height. It also had to be a multiband antenna. Low angle of radiation at a low height, of course, means some sort of vertical antenna. So I began to investigate the options and ended up with a system that really did the job for a portable RV antenna.

I designed and built my own version of a mobile antenna, but ended up with a commercially built antenna for one main reason which was automated band changing. My system was basically a tapped coil with a 4 foot whip and capacity hat on the top. Band changing required going out and sliding a tap to the proper position. Not too hard in the day, but a pain in the neck at night. So I opted for a commercially built antenna with a memory controller unit. The antenna I chose was the "Mini-Tarheel Screwdriver" antenna with the Ameritron memory controller. With this setup I could

change bands quite easily.

Setting up the antenna was quite easy. I have a bunch of surplus fiberglass poles that I use in my antenna experiments and they really came in handy for my camper setup. I used 7 poles which, including the 4 foot whip, gave me an overall height of 30 feet. In Figure 1 you can see my installation and how the poles are attached to the camper ladder with bungee cords.



Figure 1

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



The 2 wires you see coming from the top are not guy wires, as the poles don't need guying when attached to the ladder. These wires are the full sized 40 meter radials for the Mini-Tarheel. Figure 2 is a close up view of the installation.



Figure 2

You can see the current choke I wound using RG-58 coax attached to the pole.

In Figure 3 you can see the entire antenna system which is not very visible when viewed from the road.

The secret to this system are the 2 radials. Without them, the performance degrades significantly. Don't waste your time trying to use the ladder as a counterpoise. It is very inefficient. In my system, I used 2 full sized 40 meter radials which were 32 feet long. You can shorten them by as much as 20% with a slight



Figure 3

degradation in efficiency. I would not suggest cutting them any shorter than that. Unfortunately when it comes to radials, one size does not fit all, so I made cuts in the radials at 16 feet and 10 feet. I used quick connectors to connect the sections together. On 40 meters I used all sections connected together. On 20, 17 and 15 meters, I used the 16 foot sections, and on 12 and 10 meters I used the 10 foot sections.

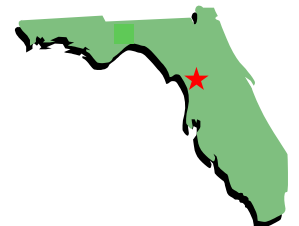
Using this system from my camper, I worked many JA, VK and ZL stations on 40 meters running 50 watts. I also worked many DX stations running QRP on 40 meters. It's pretty easy to work DX on 20 meters and up, but when you can work them on 40 meters with low power you know your antenna is working well.

I hope you enjoyed this month's article which came to you from sunny Citrus Springs, Florida.

73 and see you next month,

Don

Don, K2PMC



(Editor's note: If you have questions or comments regarding anything from "Up with Antennas", feel free to email Don Niles at: k2pmc@arrl.net.)

feet of snow over nearly the same area and compounded rescue and recovery efforts. Storm totals from the two storms peaked at nearly 7 feet, with many areas buried under 3-4 feet of dense snowpack by the end of

the event.

65 inches	S. Cheektowaga
63 inches	Lancaster
60 inches	Gardenville
57 inches	West Seneca
51 inches	Elma
48 inches	Hamburg
<u>6.2 inches</u>	Buffalo airport



PHOTO BY JOHN LEITTEN, KA2RFT



PHOTO BY JANE DEAN



PHOTO BY JOHN LEITTEN, KA2RFT



PHOTO BY JANE DEAN



PHOTO BY TOMM DEAN, KA2NXY



PHOTO BY TOMM DEAN, KA2NXY

AREA EXAM SITES

12/06/2014 [North Tonawanda](#)


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

12/06/2014 [Jamestown](#)

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

12/10/2014 [Niagara Falls](#)

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

12/17/2014 [Lyons](#) 

Sponsor: Drumlins ARC
 Location: Wayne Co Office of Emergency Mgmt
 7336 State Route 31
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/20/2014 [Erie PA](#)

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association
 Location: Greene Twnshp Mun Bldg Rm 114
 9333 Tate Road
 (use district justice entrance)
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

12/20/2014 [Rochester NY](#) 

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

(control-click on City for more info)



- Free; no charge for examination

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
- Calculators are permitted as long as any programming has been cleared.

[\(more info\)](#)

TESTING RESULTS

STARS held amateur radio license examinations on Saturday, 11/15/14.

One candidate earned new credentials.

Paul Gannon **KD2HOP** **Technician**

The STARS VE team included **Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY**; **Shane Brady, WB2WPM**; **Thomas Dean, KA2NXY**; **John Leitten, KA2RFT** (on call); and **Jim Starr, N2TFA**.

WANNA BE A VE?

VEs are "Volunteer Examiners". They are amateur radio operators who volunteer their time to run the amateur licensure examinations.

You can find out more about becoming a VE from this website:

www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners

CONTEST CALENDAR



Start and Finish	Contest Title	Sponsor's Website
Dec 2, 0200Z - Dec 2, 0400Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	www.arsgrp.blogspot.com/
Dec 3, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org
Dec 4, 1800Z - Dec 4, 2200Z	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html
Dec 5, 0145Z - Dec 5, 0215Z	NCCC RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html
Dec 5, 2200Z - Dec 7, 1600Z	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	www.arrl.org/160-meter
Dec 6, 0000Z - Dec 7, 2359Z	ARRL EME Contest	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
Dec 6, 0000Z - Dec 6, 2359Z	TARA RTTY M��le��	www.n2ty.org
Dec 6, 0600Z - Dec 6, 0800Z	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	http://grp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
Dec 6, 1200Z - Dec 7, 1200Z	VU International DX Contest	www.arsi.info/contests/international
Dec 6, 1600Z - Dec 7, 1559Z	Top Operators Activity Contest	www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html
Dec 6, 2300Z - See website	AWA Bruce Kelly QSO Party	www.antiquewireless.org/awa-on-the-air.html
Dec 7, 0000Z - Dec 7, 2359Z	Ten Meter RTTY Contest	www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/
Dec 7, 1200Z - Dec 7, 2359Z	Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com
Dec 7, 1300Z - Dec 7, 1600Z	SARL Digital Contest	www.sarl.org.za
Dec 7, 2100Z - Dec 7, 2259Z	Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	www.cqc.org/contests/snow2014.htm
Dec 8, 1630Z - See website	OK1WC Memorial Contest	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
Dec 9, 0200Z - Dec 9, 0400Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	www.arsgrp.blogspot.com
Dec 10, 0130Z - Dec 10, 0330Z	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint	http://naqcc.info/sprint201412.html
Dec 10, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org
Dec 12, 0145Z - Dec 12, 0215Z	NCCC RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html
Dec 12, 0230Z - Dec 12, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Dec 13, 0000Z - Dec 14, 2359Z	28 MHz SWL Contest	http://swl.veron.nl/Rules_28MHz_SWL_Contest.htm
Dec 13, 0000Z - Dec 14, 2359Z	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	www.arrl.org/10-meter
Dec 13, 1700Z - See website	UBA Winter Contest	www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
Dec 14, 2000Z - Dec 14, 2359Z	Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	http://qrparci.org/contests
Dec 15, 0200Z - Dec 15, 0400Z	Run For the Bacon	www.fpqrp.org
Dec 15, 1630Z - See website	OK1WC Memorial Contest	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
Dec 17, 0130Z - Dec 17, 0330Z	NAQCC Milliwatt Sprint	http://naqcc.info
Dec 17, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org
Dec 18, 2100Z - Dec 18, 2300Z	Russian 160 Meter Contest	www.radio.ru/cq
Dec 19, 0145Z - Dec 19, 0215Z	NCCC RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html
Dec 19, 0230Z - Dec 12, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Dec 19, 2100Z - Dec 19, 2400Z	AGB-Party Contest	www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm
Dec 20, 0000Z - Dec 20, 2400Z	Feld-Hell Rudolf Hell Sprint	www.feldhellclub.org
Dec 20, 0000Z - Dec 21, 2400Z	OK DX RTTY Contest	www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM
Dec 20, 0001Z - Jan 4, 2359Z	Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	http://nllw.net
Dec 20, 1400Z - Dec 21, 1400Z	Croatian CW Contest	www.9acw.org
Dec 21, 1800Z - Dec 21, 2359Z	ARRL Rookie Roundup	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Dec 22, 0200Z - Dec 22, 0400Z	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/
Dec 22, 1630Z - See website	OK1WC Memorial Contest	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
Dec 24, 0000Z - Dec 24, 0200Z	SKCC Straight Key Sprint	www.skccgroup.com
Dec 24, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org
Dec 26, 0145Z - Dec 26, 0215Z	NCCC RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html
Dec 26, 0230Z - Dec 12, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Dec 26, 0830Z - Dec 26, 1059Z	DARC XMAS Contest	www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en
Dec 27, 0000Z - Dec 27, 2359Z	RAC Winter Contest	www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests
Dec 27, 1200Z - Dec 28, 1159Z	Iron Ham Contest	www.araucariadx.com
Dec 27, 1500Z - Dec 28, 1500Z	Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challeng	www.kkn.net/stew
Dec 27, 1500Z - Dec 28, 1500Z	Original QRP Contest	www.qrpcc.de
Dec 28, 0000Z - Dec 28, 1200Z	RAEM Contest	http://raem.srr.ru
Dec 29, 1630Z - See website	OK1WC Memorial Contest	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
Dec 31, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org
Jan 1, 0000Z - Jan 1, 2359Z	ARRL Straight Key Night	www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

(Control + click to activate a link)

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



SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

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

12/04/2014	Orion Spacecraft Launch special event		
12/05/2014	Monongah Mine Disaster of 1907		
12/05/2014	SEC Championship Game		
12/06/2014	200th Anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent		
12/06/2014	20th Battle of Great Bridge		
12/06/2014	407th Anniversary of Capture of Captain John Smith		
12/06/2014	73rd Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol		
12/06/2014	Santa Net		
12/06/2014	W2W - Pearl Harbor Commemoration		
12/13/2014	50th Anniversary of the Cullman Amateur Radio Club		
12/13/2014	B-36 Special Event		
12/13/2014	Celebrating the 13th Annual Country Christmas in Rudolph Wisconsin		
12/13/2014	Christmas City Special Event		
12/13/2014	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Special Event		
12/13/2014	Shore Acres Holiday Lights Festival		
12/15/2014	Battle of the Bulge Memorial Station		
12/18/2014	Christmas in Bethlehem		
12/19/2014	Memorial Station for the Victims of Flight MH17 Malaysian Airlines		
12/25/2014	FOCUS Magazine 25th Anniversary & 100th Issue		
12/26/2014	Happy Holidays Special Event		
12/27/2014	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/
STARS WEBSITE:	http://www.wb2elw.net
TELSTAR EDITOR:	wb2elw@verizon.net



2015 STARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-mail address _____

Are you a member of ARRL? YES NO

Do you want to receive your *Telstar* by email? YES NO

If no, please include \$15 additional to cover the cost of printing and postage

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: Additional Names and Calls

CALL _____ NAME _____ CLASS _____

CALL _____ NAME _____ CLASS _____

CALL _____ NAME _____ CLASS _____

DUES: **STARS** Annual dues payable by January 1

SINGLE	\$24
FAMILY	\$27
STUDENT (through Grade 12)	\$8

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DUES TO: JUDY LEVAN N2TEZ
 120 UNIVERSITY AVE
 DEPEW NY 14043-2974