

THE NEW STARS WEBSITE: www.wb2elw.net



STARS WB2ELW

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Send Mail to:
South Towns Amateur Radio Society
6120 McKinley Pky.
Hamburg, NY 14075

- The ARRL
- ARRL Contest Calendar
- Learn the Digital Modes
- Learn the Morse Code
- WNY Repeaters

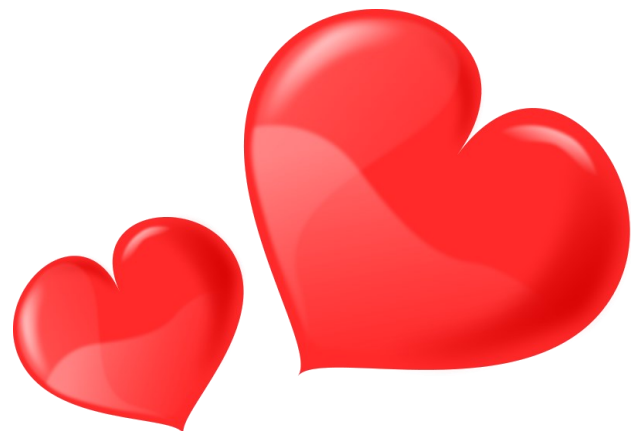
STARS is one of the largest general interest amateur radio clubs in Western New York. While the club is headquartered in Hamburg, New York, our members come from all over the region. Dubbed "The Learning Club," members' interests and expertise are diverse. STARS offers a variety of benefits to its members, the local amateur radio community, and the public.

000537 visitors to our site since June 5, 2014

The new **STARS** website has been launched. It is in a developmental stage, with many more options to be added. However, it is available now for many functions that will be useful to amateur radio operators.

The site, managed by **Don Niles, K2PMC**, will be the subject of the February **STARS** meeting, February 5th, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center on Prospect Avenue.

Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to see an interactive website up and running on the projection screen.





FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ken Pokigo,
KC2AYK

Last month at the regular club meeting we reviewed our accomplishments from 2014 and reviewed ideas for the future. There were several great things that we completed as an Amateur Radio club in 2014. I hope that everyone is proud of the state of our club.

We were able to complete almost all of our objectives that we set out to do and we continued to maintain the financial health of our club. The Board of Directors and myself have promised to keep our club on the move and make sure we stay financially sound.

At the general membership meeting last month we spent some time to create a list of ideas to setup our goals and objectives for 2015. We received quite a bit of good feedback from our members and comprised a wish list for the club this year. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to review these ideas, make sure that we commit to those that are in the best interest of the Club and advise our direction forward.

One of our main goals at the Board meeting in January was to finalize the **STARS** goals and objectives for 2015. After some good discussion, the Board has agreed upon and approved our list.

Here are the **STARS** 2015 official "goals and objectives":

- Complete the upgrade of WB2ELW website,
- Complete installation of an IRLP node,
- Implement UHF repeater operation at the club-house location,
- Install a satellite antenna system at the club-house,
- Complete the N1MM linking project,
- Complete a rebuild of antenna interface box,

- Offer several monthly programs,
- Conduct a "Homebrew Build Project",
- Participate in Field Day,
- Participate in the NYS QSO Contest,
- Participate in additional contests,
- Conduct 1 major fundraiser,
- Implement a **STARS** display at Burgerfest in Hamburg.

These are the major items that we plan to tackle this year. If you have any questions about any of these items just contact a member of the board for a more detailed description.

We ask for your participation and support in helping us accomplish these goals. We encourage members to get involved and even offer to take charge when necessary.

This is going to be another fun year. We can make it happen together!

Your President,
Ken, KC2AYK

**STARS has been
designated a
Special Service
Club**



OPEN YOUR CAR FROM FURTHER DISTANCES

Did you ever press the button to unlock your car door and find that you were too far away for it to work?

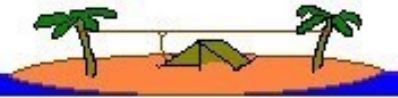
Well, there's an easy solution to extend the working distance of your device.

What is it? Find out for yourself by clicking on the "sample link" found on page 2.

UP with antennas



by Don - K2PMC



In this month's column I am going to revisit the vertical antenna. When most people think of a vertical antenna they think of a 1/4 wave of wire or tubing, some radials and fed with coax. The antenna I am going to discuss this month is indeed a vertical. However, it looks more like a horizontal antenna. Figure 1 is a diagram of an interesting 40 meter vertical.

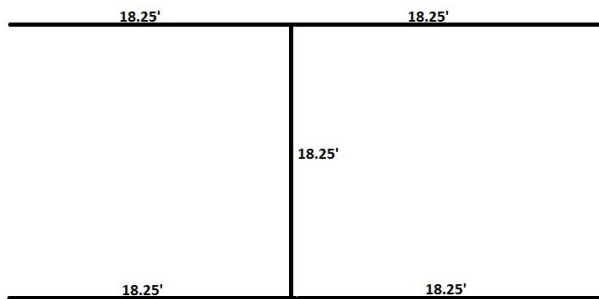


Figure 1

Purists would call this a form of a T antenna. However, inasmuch as this antenna is my own design, I'm going to call it the 40 Meter H antenna for obvious reasons. As you can see, it is made of five wires, each 18.25 feet long, four of which are horizontal. The design of the antenna is such that the horizontal radiation is cancelled and the energy is radiated vertically by the 1 vertical wire. The vertical wire is barely more than an eighth wave long and exhibits an impedance in the neighborhood of 12 ohms or so. The two top wires act as a capacitance hat to raise the impedance of the vertical wire by reducing the capacitive reactance. (Remember way back when we discussed capacitive and inductive reactance?) The bottom two wires act as a counterpoise to reduce ground losses and keep the antenna efficiency at a reasonable level.

Now that I've reviewed the technical aspects of the antenna, let's look at the practical side. This antenna is about the same length as a 20 meter dipole and when mounted near the ground stands less than 20 feet high. Let's see how this antenna stacks up against a full sized (~66 feet) 40 meter dipole at a height of 20 feet. Figure 2 is a 10 degree azimuth projection of the 40 meter H and that 20 foot high dipole.

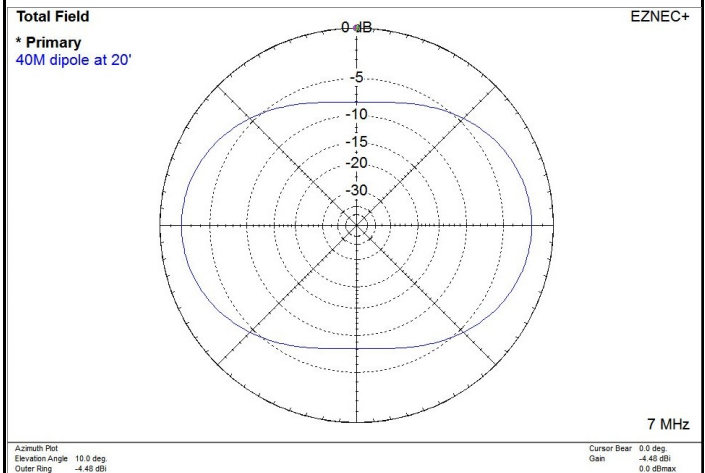
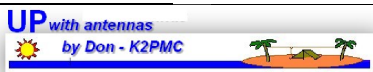


Figure 2

The dark black circle is the H antenna and the blue pattern is the dipole. As you can see, at no point on the compass does the dipole outperform the 40 Meter H. The best the dipole can do is -2 db directly broadside. At distances greater than 1,000 miles or so, the H antenna will perform significantly better than the dipole. But, don't be surprised if the guy 300 miles away is S9 on the dipole and barely readable on the H antenna. The H antenna is a long distance antenna. And for the ham who is space, height and wallet challenged it offers a good opportunity to compete with the big boys for some DX. Or, to have a solid rag

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



chew with a ham 2,500 miles away.

As they say on TV, "but wait, there's more....."

Figure 3 is an SWR plot of the H antenna. As you can see, it is less than 2 to 1 across the entire 40 meter band.

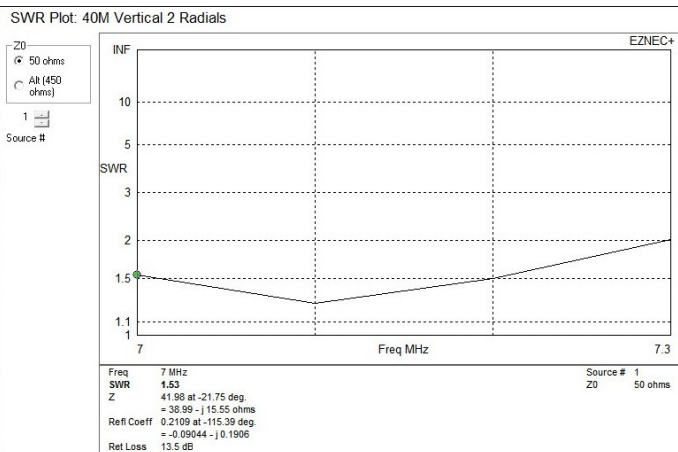


Figure 3

I modeled this antenna over land that would be considered pastoral or heavy clay (farm land) and also land that would be considered poor, rocky or mountainous. The results vary only slightly. Remember, with every coax fed antenna you will need a current choke installed at the feed point to minimize feed line radiation.

All in all, I'd say that's a pretty good use of 91.25 feet of wire.

One last thing before I close for this month. I've been writing this column for well over a year. The idea was to provide a better insight into the world of antennas, especially for the newer hams. However, it has been disappointing that during this entire period only one individual has inquired about a specific antenna. Oddly enough, he was a ham with many years experience. Everyone needs feedback, whether positive or negative. The lack thereof indicates either total displeasure or apathy on the part of the reader. Writing a monthly column is not a simple task. It takes time and research to provide a worthwhile prod-

uct. If it's not good enough, or not hitting the target, then why continue doing it ?

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.)

NEW COAXIAL CABLE FOR SALE

New coax, never used, with factory silver-plated PL-259 connectors, from DX Engineering.

75 foot of DXE-400 Max 50 ohms,

Gas injected foam, tape foil covered by copper braid shield,

UV-resistant poly jacket, direct-bury, made in USA!!

Attenuation per 100 foot = 1.8 DB @ 150 MHz.

Lists for \$97.45 - yours for \$75.00

For info, call Paul, WA2DII, at 716 262-6156.

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/

PAPERLESS LICENSES

ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004

January 29, 2015

Starting February 17th, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization - as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new li-

cencees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The FCC said that applicants or licensees who include a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants who do not provide a FCC Registration Number (FRN) at the examination point will receive a printed license as well as an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web at:

http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=contact_fcc_support ,

or via telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

HAMFESTS

01/31/2015 [Lockport Amateur Radio Hamfest](#)

Location: South Lockport Fire Company
5666 South Transit Road
(Use Ruhlmann Road Entrance)
Lockport, NY

Sponsor: Lockport Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.lockportara.us/>

02/28/2015 [Winter Hamfest](#)

Location: Big Flats America Legion Hall
45 Olcott Road South
(near Interstate 86, Exit 49)
Big Flats, NY

Sponsor: LIM Amateur Radio Group

Website: <http://www.ka2lim.com>

(control + click on name for full information)

54TH ANNUAL WINTER HAMFEST

LOCKPORT
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION

REPEATER
W2RU1
146.22/.82

The Areas Longest Running Winter Hamfest

SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST, 2015

8:00 AM UNTIL NOON

South Lockport Fire Company
5666 South Transit Rd. Lockport NY USA
(Use Ruhlmann Road Entrance)

General Admission \$ 5

Hourly Prizes Drawings

1x At 9:00 am
1x At 10:00 am
1x At 11:00 am

Baofeng UV-5R Plus

BREAK OUT OF THOSE WINTER DULDRUMS

Join us and find that great deal, meet up with old friends or make some new ones.

For Table Reservations or Additional Info. Contact:

Steve Ortnor - KD2GBD
716-491-3158 (2pm - 9pm)
lara.hamfest@gmail.com

Grand Prize - Noon Drawing

Baofeng UV-5R Plus & Accessories

See Our Website - www.lockportara.us

Winter Hamfest

February 28th 2015

Big Flats American Legion

\$5 Entry

\$10 for a flea market table

Food Available

50/50

VE Testing

\$100 Grand Prize (Need to be present to win)

Doors open to public at 8:00 am

Vendors welcome at 6:00 am

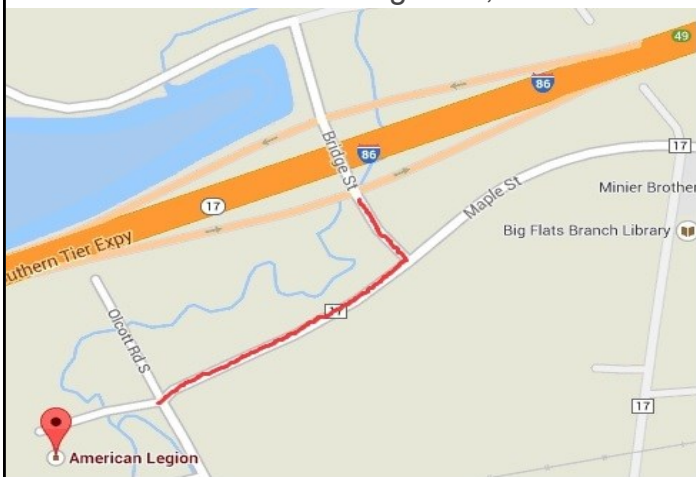
Contact Phone number 607-739-7305

Website: www.ka2lim.com/7.html

Shake off the winter blues and come out and have a cup of coffee and a conversation with friends and maybe find a new toy in the flea market.



Rt. 86 Exit 49 Big Flats, NY




AREA EXAM SITES

02/07/2015 [North Tonawanda](#)
 Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas
 Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters
 495 Zimmerman Street - Basement
 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/07/2015 [Jamestown](#)
 Sponsor: CARS
 Location: Prendergast Library
 509 Cherry Street 2nd fl conf rm
 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/11/2015 [Niagara Falls](#)
 Sponsor: Niagara Radio Club, Inc.
 Location: Venture Forthe, Inc.
 3900 Packard Road
 Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/21/2015 [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)

02/21/2015 [Rochester NY](#) 
 Sponsor: Rochester ARA
 Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139
 1 Lomb Memorial Drive
 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/22/2015 [Geneseo](#)
 Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA
 Location: Livingston County Government Center
 2 Court Street Rm 205
 Time: 5:30 PM (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 conducted a Volunteer Examination session on Saturday, January 17th, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center.

Three candidates appeared, and took five examinations (one took all three levels). All candidates passed all examinations taken.

Congratulations to these new amateurs:

James Black	AC2PR	Extra
Patrick Strawder	KD2HXG	Technician

Also, congratulations for upgrading to:

Ronald Welch	KD2HRN	General
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The VEs responsible for making this session possible were:

Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY;
Shane Brady, WB2WPM;
Tomm Dean, KA2NXY;
Gregory Hoerner, AC2MO;
John Leitten, KA2RFT (on call); and
Jim Starr, N2TFA.

CONTEST CALENDAR



Start and Finish	Contest Title	Sponsor's Website
Jan 31, 0000Z - Feb 1, 2400Z	Worldwide EME Contest	www.dubus.org
Jan 31, 1300Z - Feb 1, 1300Z	UBA Contest	www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
Feb 1, 0000Z - Feb 1, 0400Z	North American SSB Sprint Contest	http://ssbsprint.com/rules/
Feb 2, 1630Z - Feb 2, 1730Z	OK1WC Memorial Contest	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
Feb 3, 0200Z - Feb 3, 0400Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	www.arsgrp.blogspot.com
Feb 4, 0200Z - Feb 4, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 4, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Feb 6, 0200Z - Feb 6, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 6, 0230Z - Feb 6, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Feb 6, 1400Z - Feb 8, 0200Z	YL-OM Contest	www.ylrl.org
Feb 7, 0000Z - Feb 7, 2359Z	Triathlon DX Contest	www.triathlon-dx-contest.gr
Feb 7, 0000Z - Feb 8, 2400Z	Vermont QSO Party	www.ranv.org
Feb 7, 0000Z - Feb 8, 2359Z	YLISB QSO Party	www.ylssystem.org
Feb 7, 0001Z - Feb 8, 2359Z	Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party	www.ten-ten.org
Feb 7, 1200Z - Feb 8, 1159Z	Black Sea Cup International	www.bscc.ucoz.ru
Feb 7, 1200Z - Feb 7, 2359Z	Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com
Feb 7, 1400Z - Feb 7, 2400Z	FYBO Winter QRP Field Day	www.azscqrpions.com
Feb 7, 1400Z - Feb 7, 2359Z	Minnesota QSO Party	www.w0aa.org
Feb 7, 1600Z - Feb 7, 1900Z	Straight Key Party	www.agcw.de
Feb 7, 1600Z - Feb 8, 0400Z	British Columbia QSO Party	http://orcadxc.org
Feb 7, 1800Z - Feb 8, 1759Z	XE Int'l RTTY Contest	www.rtty.fmre.mx
Feb 7, 2300Z - Feb 8, 2300Z	AM QSO Party	www.antiquewireless.org
Feb 8, 0000Z - Feb 8, 0359Z	North American Sprint	www.ncjweb.com
Feb 8, 1400Z - Feb 9, 0800Z	Classic Exchange	www.classicexchange.org
Feb 8, 1900Z - Feb 8, 2130Z	Milwaukee FM Simplex Contest	www.w9rh.org
Feb 9, 1300Z - Feb 13, 2359Z	School Club Roundup	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
Feb 11, 0130Z - Feb 11, 0330Z	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint	http://naqcc.info
Feb 11, 0200Z - Feb 11, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 11, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Feb 13, 0200Z - Feb 13, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 13, 0230Z - Feb 13, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Feb 14, 0000Z - Feb 15, 2400Z	CQ WW RTTY WPX	www.cqwprrty.com
Feb 14, 1000Z - Feb 15, 1000Z	SARL Field Day Contest	www.sarl.org.za
Feb 14, 1100Z - Feb 14, 1300Z	Asia-Pacific Sprint	http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
Feb 14, 1200Z - Feb 15, 1200Z	Dutch PACC Contest	www.dutchpacc.com
Feb 14, 1500Z - Feb 15, 1500Z	OMISS QSO Party	www.omiss.info
Feb 14, 1600Z - Feb 15, 0400Z	New Hampshire QSO Party	www.w1wqm.org
Feb 14, 1700Z - Feb 14, 2100Z	FISTS CW Winter Sprint	www.fists.org/operating.html#sprints
Feb 14, 2100Z - Feb 15, 0100Z	RSGB - First 1.8 MHz Contest	www.rsgbcc.org
Feb 15, 0100Z - Feb 15, 0700Z	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	www.podxs070.com
Feb 15, 1700Z - Feb 15, 1900Z	Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge	www.gsl.net/ws1sm/contest.html
Feb 16, 0200Z - Feb 16, 0400Z	Run For the Bacon	www.fqgrp.org
Feb 18, 0200Z - Feb 18, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 18, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Feb 18, 1900Z - Feb 18, 2030Z	Semi-Automatic Key Evening	www.agcw.de
Feb 20, 0200Z - Feb 20, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 20, 0230Z - Feb 20, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Feb 21, 0000Z - Feb 22, 2359Z	ARRL Int'l CW DX Contest	www.arrl.org/contests
Feb 21, 0600Z - Feb 22, 1800Z	REF Contest	http://concours.ref-union.org/contest
Feb 21, 0800Z - Feb 21, 1000Z	SARL Youth Day Sprint	www.sarl.org.za
Feb 21, 2000Z - Feb 21, 2200Z	Feld-Hell Bingo Sprint	www.feldhellclub.org
Feb 22, 0100Z - Feb 22, 0259Z	CQC Winter QSO Party	www.cqc.org
Feb 22, 0900Z - Feb 22, 1700Z	High Speed Club CW Contest	www.highspeedclub.org/
Feb 25, 0200Z - Feb 25, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 25, 1300Z - See website	CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Feb 27, 0200Z - Feb 27, 0330Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Feb 27, 0230Z - Feb 27, 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Feb 27, 2200Z - Mar 1, 2200Z	CQ WW 160 Meter SSB	www.cq160.com
Feb 28, 1300Z - Mar 1, 1300Z	UBA Contest	www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
Feb 28, 1800Z - Mar 1, 0600Z	North American QSO Party RTTY	www.ncjweb.com












(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>



Feb 1-Mar 1, 0000Z-0500Z,	CG350F	50th Anniversary of the Canadian Maple Leaf Flag	
Feb 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-0000Z,	KB9GSY	JY1 Memorial	
Feb 6-Feb 8, 0000Z-2359Z,	PA70OV	Special Event Station PA70OV	
Feb 7-Feb 8, 1500Z-2200Z,	K5C	Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station	
Feb 14-Feb 22, 0000Z-2359Z,	N4DAB	2015 Daytona Speedweeks/Daytona 500	
Feb 14-Feb 15, 1521Z-1521Z,	NI8G	Birthdate and Birthplace of Thomas A. Edison	
Feb 14, 1500Z-2100Z,	K8BF/FYAO	Freeze Your Acorns Off - FYAO	
Feb 14-Feb 15, 1500Z-1700Z,	K4US	George Washington Birthday	
Feb 14, 1600Z-2000Z,	WE7GV	Green Valley Amateur Radio Club Ladies Valentine's Day Event	
Feb 14-Feb 16, 1600Z-2355Z,	W0JH	Ice Station WØJH Frozen Goose Lake Portable 02/14/2015 Mt	
Feb 14, 1700Z-2359Z,	NI6IW	Surabachi Flag Raising Special Event	
Feb 15-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z,	K9C	Children's Interstitial and Diffuse Lung Disease Awareness	
Feb 17, 1600Z-2200Z,	N4H	The 151st anniversary of the sinking of the USS Housatonic	
		by the H L Hunley	
Feb 21, 1400Z-2200Z,	W0EBB	11th Annual "Freeze Your Keys	
Feb 21-Feb 23, 0000Z-0000Z,	WS7G	George Washington's Birthday	
Feb 21-Feb 22, 1830Z-1830Z,	W4P	Protect the Panther	
Feb 25, 1400Z-2300Z,	W7ASL	Snowbird Field Day at Red Mountain Park	
			

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