

STARS LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO: EDWARD TAUBLIEB, KB2KVA

At the March meeting of the **STARS** Board of Directors, the motion was made and carried to award Life Membership to **Edward Taublieb, KB2KVA**. The general membership approved the motion at the April meeting.

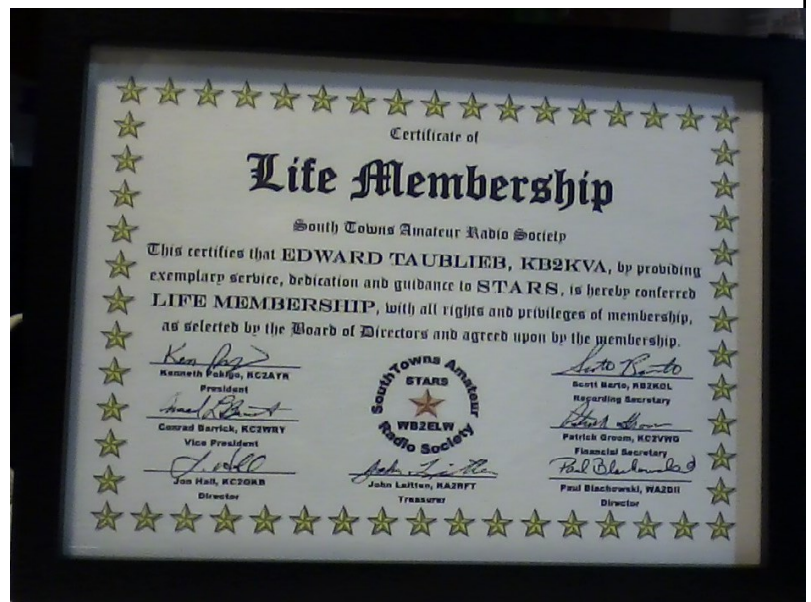
Some members may recall Ed from his regular attendance at the annual Field Day, as he operated to improve the **STARS** team score. Or, perhaps, you may remember the guitar music that permeated those Field Day gatherings (that was from Ed).

Aside from amateur radio, you may have interacted with him at [The String Shoppe](#), a

quality instrument locale at 524 Ontario Street in the Riverside section of Buffalo.

Newer members may recall a field trip to his home on Lake Ontario, for the purpose of installing amateur antenna equipment.

Not as well known by newer club members, is the fact that Ed is an attorney. As such, he has been responsible for the agreement between **STARS** and the Town of Hamburg for the "Nike Base Clubhouse". Through those legal skills, Ed has contributed greatly to the success of **STARS**. Life membership is a small token of our appreciation.



Buffalo Mini Maker Faire

Saturday, May 7, 2016

**10am to
4pm**

Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211
716.896.5200
Sciencebuff.org
@buffalomakers
#buffalomakers
buffalominimakerfaire

HELP WITH THE MINI-MAKER FAIRE

STARS has agreed to staff a table at the **Mini-Maker Faire**, scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, from 10 AM to 4 PM, at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

The **STARS** display will include displays, literature, operating radios and demonstrations of how amateur radio is in use today. The objective will be to encourage interest in joining the amateur radio community.

If you can provide some of your time to staff this event, contact **Bob Koster, KA2WYE**, at 649-7272, or at ka2wye@arrl.net. Early volunteers will be placed on a "free admission" list.

HAM RADIO CLASS

Get your HAM Radio License

Topics Include:

- Radio Waves & Signals
- Electrical Laws, Power, & the Metric System
- Electronic Components & Radio Circuits
- Propagation, Antennas & Feed Lines
- Basic Amateur Radio Station Equipment
- Power Sources & Interference
- Communicating With Other HAMs
- Voice, Code, Text, Video & Digital Modes
- Call Signs, License Regulations & Privileges
- Safety & Amateur Radio
- Test Preparation
- Final Class Test for Technician & General Licenses

Wednesday Nights Starting May 4th

6 to 7 Consecutive Weeks
Test date to be announced

Class is FREE, but

ARRL Course Book - \$25.00
Payment for Book is due on 1st day of class

ARRL VE Test Fee - \$15.00
Payment for Test is due on test day
The test will be offered for all classes of licensee including Technician General and Extra

West Seneca Emergency Operations Center

900 Mill Street
West Seneca, NY 14224

Register online at
www.wscert.net
www.EMPactNewYork.org



AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

West Seneca CERT, EMPact America, and STARS will conduct a training course for new amateur radio operators.

The class will run for 5 weeks, beginning Wednesday, May 4th, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. It will be held at the West Seneca Emergency Operations Center at the West Seneca School Ebenezer Building, 900 Mill Road.

There is no charge for the course, however, participants will be required to obtain the specified book. Also, a standard \$15 exam fee will be required.

The class will be led by the **STARS** instructor team, lead by **Robert Koster, KA2WYE**. If you are interested in assisting with this course, contact Bob at

ka2wye@arrl.net.

More information can be found at the West Seneca Cert site: wscert.net/ham.

HELP WITH THE CLASS

If you can help with the technician class listed above, contact Bob Koster, KA2WYE - ka2wye@arrl.net

UP WITH ~~ANTENNAS~~ MICROPROCESSORS

by Don Niles, K2PMC

This month I decided to write a short article about a topic that has really caught my interest and also that of thousands of others. What I am referencing is the ever expanding world of small processors, commonly referred to as microprocessors. However, the only thing micro about today's microprocessors is their size because their speed and processing power is truly outstanding.

Today, just about everyone has heard of the Arduino, or the Raspberry Pi, or the Beaglebone, etc. The technical knowledge or prior skills required to gain a reasonable understanding of these marvels can be a daunting task. Nevertheless, many hams have spent a lot of time learning and understanding the technical requirements of these systems. Not to worry, because in this article I am going to go in a different direction.

I'm going to discuss some of the finer points of a family of microprocessors referred to as 'PicAxe' processors. The PicAxe, like the Raspberry Pi, was also born in the UK. However, that's where the similarity ends. The PicAxe is a microprocessor, whereas, the Raspberry Pi is a complete computer system. Unlike the Arduino platform, the PicAxe doesn't require a voluminous collection of library routines and a strict, non-forgiving programming language known simply as "C". Also, unlike the Raspberry Pi it doesn't require an operating system such as Linux to perform its tasks. Does this mean the PicAxe platform is better than the Pi or the Arduino? Definitely not. What the PicAxe offers is another tool to enable you to "do your thing". And, because of its low cost (\$3-\$5, depending upon model) and simplicity of use, it is something that, in my opinion, should receive first consideration when contemplating a new project.

The PicAxe processors are built upon an easy to learn Basic Language platform. The Basic Language in various forms has been with us for many decades. If you have ever read about or even written a Basic program, you will immediately notice the similarity.

Recently, hardware vendors have been capitalizing on the popularity of the Arduino platform and the market has virtually exploded with mini modules that can do almost anything. Interestingly, the PicAxe can also work quite well with many of these modules. Or, you can use it to cobble together your own project, such as I did with the 'Parking Assistant', a link to which appears at the end of this article.

What kind of projects can the PicAxe handle? LED displays of all kinds are no problem. Motor control, no problem. Sensors (heat, light, proximity, etc.), no problem. Relay control, no problem. Serial communications, no problem. And the list goes on. The PicAxe line of processors can do a heck of a lot of things, without the need for big subroutine libraries and a lot of complicated programming.

The PicAxe processors are upward compatible. If you decide to expand the scope of your project to include more functionality you may have to upgrade to a more powerful PicAxe processor. The code you've been using with your smaller PicAxe will work error free on the larger processor. Your only concern is the pinouts may change when moving to the larger processor.

If you haven't guessed it already I will admit, I am a fan of the PicAxe. It is a simple, yet powerful tool that has a multitude of applications, not only to ham radio but in our everyday life. An example of that is a project I recently completed for my Florida QTH.

I have a row of cabinets in my garage aligned against the back wall. Ergo, it was important to me to park the car so that I had enough room to open the doors and still provide enough room for the garage door to clear the rear end of the car. I initially used the tried and true ball on a string approach which worked

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well. But, I thought that this would be a good beginner project for my entrance into the microprocessor environment. This link will show you the results.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkyNfu_Tiu4

I hope you've enjoyed this article and, as always, your questions and/or comments are encouraged.

73,
Don
Don, K2PMC

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

STARS 2016 GOALS

Participate in ARRL Field Day	●
Participate in the NYS QSO Contest	●
Participate in Hamburg's Burgerfest	●
Conduct fundraising events	●
Conduct a "Homebrew Build Project"	●
Hold at least 4 monthly programs	●
Install satellite antenna at clubhouse	●
Acquire new equipment	●
Investigate linking repeater systems	●
Enhance back-up power for repeater	●

COMING EVENTS

Field Day June 25-26, 2016

Burger Fest July 16, 2016



NWS SKYWARN TRAINING

Upcoming training is listed in the table below. For more information, and to register for a training session, use this link:

<http://www.weather.gov/buf/Skywarn> or
jon.hitchcock@noaa.gov

DATE	COUNTY	LOCATION	ADDRESS	SPONSOR
Tuesday 5/3/2016 7 PM	Ontario	Ontario County Safety Training Center	2914 County Rd 48 Canandaigua, NY 14424	Ontario County Office of Emergency Services
Wednesday 5/4/2016	Niagara	Niagara County Public Safety Training Facility	5574 Niagara St Extension Lockport, NY 14094	Niagara County Office of Emergency Services
Friday 5/6/2016 7 PM	Monroe	Seneca Waterways Council, BSA HQ	2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd Rochester, NY 14623	Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)
Monday 5/23/2016 6:30 PM	Erie	Erie County Fire Training Academy	3359 Broadway Cheektowaga, NY	Erie County Department of Emergency Services
Wednesday 6/1/2016 7 PM	Erie	Lancaster Emergency Management Office	525 Pavement Rd Lancaster, NY 14086	Lancaster Emergency Management Office

AMATEURS NEEDED FOR BICYCLE EVENTS

With good weather approaching, it's time for many organizations to hold their annual bike-a-thons. Amateur radio operators are of great importance to these events. Amateur volunteer assistance is being sought.

The first event is the Tour de Cure in Niagara Falls on June 4th (American Diabetes Association).

Next is the Ride for Roswell in Amherst on June 25th (Roswell Park Cancer Institute).

Finally, the Bike MS will be on August 6th in Evangola State Park (National Multiple Sclerosis Society).

Amateur radio operators are needed for these events. Erie County ARES coordinates the communications. However, you do NOT have to be an ARES member to volunteer for these posts.

If you would like to participate, you can attend the planning meeting at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 9th, at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga. Or, contact **Joe Tedesco, KC2DKP**:

kc2dkp@arrl.net

More information is at: www.ecar.wnyserv.com/

WHAT DO AMATEURS DO ON BIKE EVENTS?

So, you may wonder, "What does an amateur radio operator do on a bike event?"

Amateurs use their equipment and skills to provide communications for the bike events. Sometimes, these events are spread over 100 mile long routes.

The center of their activity is staffing the operations headquarters for amateur radio activity. This center is usually co-located with officials holding the event, as well as public service agencies/law enforcement.

Staging is another function. This is where amateur radio equipment and tracking devices (APRS) are installed/checked in vehicles for the course.

The "sweep" unit is a vehicle used to mark the last event participant. It is the sweep's function to make sure no riders are left behind without proper assistance.



View from a sweep unit following the last riders in the 2015 Bike MS event, with 2 miles left on the route.

The "sag" is another type of unit. Often a truck, with amateur radios installed, its purpose is to bring riders back when they (or their bike) can no longer function.

Amateur radios (and operators) are also associated with "bike repair" trucks. These are usually provided by bicycle repair agencies. Amateurs/radios are often assigned to them.

Another function is the radio operator assigned to a "rest stop". Rest stops usually have toilet facilities, and sometimes provide snacks. The radio is important in reporting progress, and requesting more supplies.

In summary, it's the amateur radio operators and their equipment that acts like the nervous system for the event. Progress reports, requests for more supplies, calls for emergency services and other support are all dependent upon amateur radio.



<http://hamvention.org/>

NEW EXTRA EXAMS

Have you been studying for the extra exam? If so, you probably have books or other study materials.

Keep in mind that the question pool for the extra exam has been revised and the new questions will be used for all extra exams after July 1, 2016.

So, it may be to your advantage to take your extra exam before that date. If you don't, there may be new material/topics you will need to know.

Specifically, the updated question pool will include items about digital technology, SDR (software defined radio), and other modernized items.

STARS will conduct their last exam session before the change on May 21st. You can find other exam opportunities at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

You can see the new question pool at:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=365>

HAMFESTS

5/20-22 [Dayton Hamvention](#)

Location: Hara Arena
1001 Shiloh Springs Rd
Dayton, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Assn (RARA)

Website: www.hamvention.org

5/28 [Rochester Hamfest](#)

Location: Kodak Theater on the Ridge
200 West Ridge Road
Rochester, NY

Sponsor: Rochester Amateur Radio Assn (RARA)

Website: www.RochesterHamfest.org

6/04 [Barnard Hamfest of Rochester](#)

Location: Barnard Fireman's Field
360 Maiden Lane
Rochester (Greece), NY

Sponsor: Rochester Radio Rptr Assn (RRRA)

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

(control-click on name for more info)

FIELD DAY PLANS

STARS has begun planning for the 2016 Field Day, scheduled for June 25-26th.

Similar to last year, **STARS** will center its activities at the Nike Base Clubhouse radio station, just west of the Hamburg Ice Arena, 2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.

Generator equipment and temporary antennas will be available to keep the spirit of "emergency communications". Multiple radios/modes will be available.

Get ready for another great radio event!

EXAM SITES

5/04/2016

[Springville](#)



Sponsor: CCARET
 Location: Bertrand Chaffee Hospital Board Room
 222-East Main Street
 Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/07/2016

[North Tonawanda](#)

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas
 Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters
 495 Zimmerman Street - Training Rm
 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/07/2016

[Jamestown](#)

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

5/10/2016

[Niagara Falls](#)

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

5/11/2016

[Canandaigua](#)



Sponsor: SQUAW Island ARC
 Location: Ontario Co. Safety Training Facility
 3019 County Complex Drive
 Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/14/2016

[Coudersport PA](#)



Sponsor: Potter County VE Team
 Location: Sweden Vly Faith United Meth Church
 1451 Route 6 East
 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/17/2016

[Meadville PA](#)

Sponsor: Crawford ARS
 Location: St Brigid Church Social Hall
 383 Arch Street
 Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins)

5/21/2016

[Hamburg](#)



Sponsor: STARS
 Location: Hamburg Youth Center
 200 Prospect Avenue
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/21/2016

[Rochester](#)



Sponsor: Rochester ARA
 Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139
 1 Lomb Memorial Drive
 Time: 9:45 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/22/2016

[Geneseo](#)

Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA
 Location: Livingston County Government Center
 2 Court Street Rm 205
 Time: 5:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/31/2016

[Lancaster](#)

Sponsor: Lancaster ARC
 Location: Lancaster ARC- Club House Building
 525 Pavement Road
 Time: 7:00 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.

[\(more info\)](#)

CONTEST CALENDAR



Start and Finish	Contest Title	Sponsor's Website
Weds 0230Z-0300Z	Phone Fray	www.perluma.com/Phone Fray Contest Rules.pdf
Weds 1300Z - See web	CW Ops Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Weds & Fri 0200Z - 0329Z	QRP Fox Hunt	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm
Fridays, 0145Z - 0215Z	NS Weekly RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Fridays, 0230Z - 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
May 1, 1300Z - May 1, 1900Z	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	www.agcw.org/index.php/en
May 2, 1900Z - May 2, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, SSB	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
May 3, 0100Z - May 3, 0300Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	arsgrp.blogspot.com
May 4, 2300Z - May 5, 0300Z	MIE 33 Contest	www.ztv.ne.jp/isoda/33
May 5, 1700Z - May 5, 2100Z	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
May 7, 0001Z - May 8, 2359Z	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW	www.ten-ten.org/index.php
May 7, 0800Z - May 7, 1400Z	Microwave Spring Sprint	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
May 7, 1200Z - May 8, 1159Z	ARI International DX Contest	www.ari.it
May 7, 1200Z - May 8, 1200Z	F9AA Cup, PSK	www.site.urc.asso.fr
May 7, 1200Z - May 8, 2359Z	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com
May 7, 1300Z - May 8, 0700Z	7th Call Area QSO Party	ws7n.net/7QP
May 7, 1500Z - May 8, 0300Z	Indiana QSO Party	www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html
May 7, 1700Z - May 8, 2359Z	Delaware QSO Party	www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm
May 7, 1700Z - May 7, 2100Z	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
May 7, 2000Z - May 8, 2359Z	New England QSO Party	www.neqp.org/rules.html
May 11, 1900Z - May 11, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, Data	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
May 12, 0030Z - May 12, 0230Z	NAQCC CW Sprint	naqcc.info/sprint201605.html
May 14, 1200Z - May 15, 1159Z	HPC World Wide DX Contest	psklub.gr/contest
May 14, 1200Z - May 15, 1159Z	CQ-M International DX Contest	www.cq-m.ru/en/rules.html
May 14, 1200Z - May 15, 1200Z	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	www.contestvolta.it
May 14, 1400Z - May 15, 0200Z	Arkansas QSO Party	www.arkqsoparty.com/#!/rules/c205y
May 14, 1400Z - May 15, 2359Z	MARAC USA QSO Party	countyhunter.com
May 14, 1500Z - May 15, 1500Z	Portuguese Navy Day Contest	www.nra.pt
May 14, 1700Z - May 14, 2100Z	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
May 14, 2300Z - May 15, 0300Z	50 MHz Spring Sprint	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
May 15, 1000Z - May 15, 1400Z	WAB 7 MHz Phone	wab.intermip.net/Contests.php
May 15, 1300Z - May 15, 1659Z	UA2 QSO Party	www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/382.html
May 16, 0100Z - May 16, 0300Z	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	fpgrp.org/pigrun
May 19, 1900Z - May 19, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, CW	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
May 20, 1800Z - May 20, 2159Z	Slobozhansky Sprint Contest	tdr.at.ua/index/rules2015/0-13
May 21, 0600Z - May 21, 2100Z	UN DX Contest	undxc.kz/bez-rubriki/2015-2
May 21, 0800Z - May 22, 1100Z	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	www.nzart.org.nz/activities
May 21, 1200Z - May 22, 1200Z	Aegean RTTY Contest	www.aegeandxgroup.gr
May 21, 1200Z - May 22, 1200Z	EU PSK DX Contest	www.eupsk.com
May 21, 1200Z - May 22, 1200Z	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, CW	concursos.ure.es/en
May 21, 1600Z - May 21, 2159Z	Feld Hell Sprint	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
May 21, 2100Z - May 22, 0200Z	Baltic Contest	www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english
May 25, 0000Z - May 25, 0200Z	SKCC Sprint	www.skccgroup.com
May 28, 0000Z - May 29, 2359Z	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	www.cqwp.com/rules.htm
May 28, 0800Z - May 28, 2359Z	Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Dig	www.nra.pt
May 29, 1300Z - May 29, 1600Z	SARL Digital Contest	www.sarl.org.za



(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>

Apr 29 - May 1	W4G	Mile High Radio	
May 1 - May 31	K5STO	Stone County Mississippi Centennial Celebration	
May 7 - May 8	WA2AXZ	12th Anniversary of the 72 Rag Chew Group	
May 7 - May 10	W7G	1869 Transcontinental Rail Road Golden Spike Commemorative	
May 7	W2EF	Grover Cleveland Birthplace	
May 7 - May 10	W7G	NPOTA Special Event Station W7G - Golden Spike National Historic Site	
May 7 - May 13	KM4RE	Russell Elementary's 18 th Annual 27-hour Space Shuttle Mission Simulation	
May 7 - May 8	W2RCA	The Radio Club of America Spring 2016 QSO Party	
May 7	WE7GV	Titan Missile Museum Special Event	
May 8 - May 14	W9IMS	Grand Prix of Indianapolis	
May 13 - May 14	W8MVC	SCOUTFEST 2016	
May 14	K2GQ	2016 Roseland ARC QSO Party 70 th Anniversary Celebration	
May 14	K4RC	Jamestown Landing Day Special Event	
May 14 - May 22	W5I	Perrin Air Force Base Special Event	
May 14 - May 22	W5I	Perrin Field Museum Special Event	
May 14	NI6IW	USS Midway Museum Ship; Battle of Coral Sea Special Event	
May 15 - May 21	W4A	National EMS week	
May 19 - May 22	W7E	Overland Expo West	
May 20	K2CAM	Celebrating Lindbergh's Flight Across the Atlantic	
May 21 - May 22	W2GSB	American Airpower Museum	
May 21	W5KID	Armed Forces Day	
May 21	W9DUP	Armed Forces Day	
May 21 - May 22	W0IN	Joplin Tornado Memorial	
May 23 - May 29	W9IMS	Indianapolis 500 (100 th Running!)	
May 26 - May 30	K5E	Burning Man - Flipside	
May 27 - May 30	K1A	Memorial Day Special Event Station	
May 28	N6OOD	Annual Veterans and K-9s Unite for Survival and Independence	
May 28	N7M	Minidoka Field-In-A-Day	
May 29 - May 31	K7M	Klickitat County World War I Memorial	
May 30 - Jun 5	W0YL	100 th Anniversary of Red Cross in Iowa	
May 30	WW2COS	Memorial Day	
May 31	W3J	127 th Anniversary of Johnstown Flood	

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