

FIELD DAY RESULTS PROMISING



SSB STATION; LEFT TO RIGHT: RICK NEUBECK, KD2GEF, KEN POKIGO, KC2AYK, & PAT GROOM KC2VWG.

STARS held the annual Field Day event at its Clubhouse, near the Hamburg Town Arena at the Hamburg Town Park. Several club members shared the responsibility of operating the station from 2 PM, Saturday, June 25th

through 2 PM, Sunday, June 26th.

STARS chose to participate in the event as a "3E" station. That meant the use of emergen-

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FIELD DAY RESULTS PROMISING

Cy power, with three active operating positions. Two of the positions were used for CW, while one was used for SSB. The emergency power was provided by a gasoline powered generator and a solar panel.

Good results were experienced on 40 meters while using an off-center fed dipole antenna. Notable QSOs include contact with stations in the states of Washington and California, as well as the country of Argentina. Puerto Rico was also contacted.

This year's point total is estimated to be 6850. That beats last year's total of 5000. Since we took first place in category 3E last year, it is expected that we will earn the same honor this year.



ABOVE: POWER GENERATOR

BELOW: GENERATOR FEED INTO RADIO SHACK



ABOVE: WALL DISPLAY OF THE N1MM LOGGING SCREEN

BELOW: GERRY MAIRA, KA2MGE, OPERATES ONE OF THE CW POSITIONS



BELOW: BATTERY CHARGING BY SOLAR CELL



YAESU FTM-400DR AND APRS

Within the past few years, **STARS** acquired two new Yaesu System Fusion digital repeaters for the Club-house station. Shortly thereafter, Yaesu FTM-400DR digital radios began appearing in member's vehicles. The radios are loaded with many features, including GPS (ground positioning system) and APRS (Automatic Packet/Position Reporting System). Those two features allow a vehicle to be tracked during a trip, with results visible on a map on the aprs.fi network. Other capabilities of the radio include sending and receiving packet messages, and the inclusion in a defined group of your associates.

However, despite the increased number of these units owned by **STARS** members, very few of them appear on the APRS map. It seems that many members either do not prefer to activate their APRS, or don't know how to set up the feature. By the way, this kind of tracking is actively used by amateurs providing services for ARES/RACES events. That's what enables a unit's progress to appear on computer screens.

The rest of this article will provide the basic information for getting one of these radios active on APRS. Keep in mind, there are many other aspects about this system. Again, we will only cover the bare basics.

First, you will notice that the FTM-400DR radio has two sections to it. You see one on top of the other on the usual control panel display. Call them band "A" and

band "B", with the top display showing band "A". You will also notice that one is brighter than the other. That's the active channel; this is what will be used when you key your microphone. Each of the two sections can be tuned to channels of your choice.

For APRS use in this area, program the "B" band for 144.39 MHz. Do not include an offset transmit frequency. Do not set any CTCSS tone on input or the output. This is where your APRS information will be transmitted and received. Leave band "A" as the dominant section. Use band "A" for your regular voice communication on a channel of your choice.

Now for some settings. Press and hold the second button from the top on the right side of the radio



(DISP/SET-UP). This will open the "Setup Menu".

Next, select the "APRS" button in the left column. This will open the APRS menu.

Scroll down and select line 23 for "Callsign (APRS)". Then, enter your callsign. Make sure to follow it with a "-9" for a car, or "-7" for a portable. Then enter by using the "ENT" button in the lower right corner.

Back to the APRS menu, select line 4 for "APRS Modem". Touch that line to turn on the APRS modem. To return to the previous setup menu, press and hold the DISP/SETUP button for one or more seconds.

That's the minimal information to get started. There are many more parameters which may be set. For information about them, check out the YAESU FTM-400DR APRS manual. It does NOT come with the ra-

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YAESU FTM-400DR AND APRS

dio purchase. It's nearly 100 pages long, and can be downloaded or read at:

<http://yaesu.com/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=8042&FileCatID=150&FileName=FTM%2D400DR%5FAPRS%5Fmanual%5F1309%2DA0.pdf&FileContentType=application%2Fpdf>

With these settings made, there is still one more item for activating your APRS ability. You must turn your APRS beacon on. From the home display, use the third button down on the right side for "Function". Tap it one to get the functions screen. This will give you one of three displays. You are looking for the display with a "Beacon" button, top row, 2nd from right.



This "Beacon" button activates your radio's ability to send APRS info. Press it once, and you will see a filled in white circle, just to the left of the time in the upper right corner of your control head display. Press it again, and you will see the an empty circle. Press it a third time and the circle disappears.

When the full circle appears, your APRS will transmit your position on a timed basis. When the empty circle appears, your position is transmitted by the "Smart Beacon" system - changes in your travel direction, speed or altitude will trigger a transmitting beacon. When the circle disappears completely, your APRS transmissions have been shut off.

Again, this has been a very basic introduction for activating your APRS with minimal setup. Once active, your movement will be seen at the <http://aprs.fi> site.

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	●

EXTRA TESTING INFO

On July 1st, a new set of questions was implemented for the amateur extra exams. If you are studying for this exam, you may want to check your text material to make sure it's labelled for exams from 2016 to 2020.

A quick review of the new material suggests a more difficult exam. The new question pool is found at:

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

Are you already licensed as an extra? We would appreciate your review of the new question pool. So, if you can, take a practice exam with the new pool questions, and let us know what you think. Use these links:

<http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>

<http://arrlexamreview.appspot.com/>

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

<http://hamexam.org/>

<http://aa9pw.com/radio/>

Then, send us a note with your impressions of the new exam questions to:

wb2elw@verizon.net

HAMFESTS

07/09 [2016 NW PA Hamfest](#)

Location: Greene Township Municipal Building
9333 Tate Road
Erie, PA 16501

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association

Website: <http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us/>

07/10 [RAGS 2016 Hamfest](#)

Location: American Legion Post 787
5575 Legionnaire Drive
Cicero, NY 13039

Sponsor: Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse

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

07/16 [Batavia Hamfest](#)

Location: Alexander Fireman's Recreation Grnds
10708 Alexander Road (Route 98)
Alexander, NY 14005

Sponsor: Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w2so.org>

(control-click on name for more info)

BATAVIA HAMFEST

Outdoor Flea Market - FREE Tailgating 6 am - till?

Buy/Sell Ham radio gear

Overnight Camping Allowed- Arrive after 6 PM on Friday (the night before hamfest) .

Only \$7.00 admission includes free tailgating and free indoor spaces

VE Exam 8:00 AM. To Pre register for test contact John Maxwell maxwell@acsu.buffalo.edu

or Call 716-404-9256

(Breakfast and lunch available)

WEST SENECA TECH CLASS ENDS

West Seneca CERT, EMPact America and STARS sponsored a technician training class for the past few months. Held at the Ebenezer School Building in West Seneca, the class concluded with an examination session on June 22nd.

Some of the students tested early, some tested on June 22nd, and others plan to take the exam later.

Congratulations to all, including the following list of those who have already passed the exam.

Ryan Acanfora	call pending
Joe Barrile	KD2LHF
Peter Buckel	call pending
Michael Hacker	KD2LHQ
Adrian Jaques	KD2LCS (general)
Jason Jaques	call pending
George Kaczmarek	call pending
Kurt Kojm	KD2LFC
Mark McCormick	KD2LIH
André Pigeon	call pending
Louise Toth	call pending
Mike Wison	KD2LHR
Sal Zarbo Jr	KD2LIG

(Others are expected to test at a later date)

Best wishes go to those testing at a later date.

The teaching team was led by Bob Koster, KA2WYE. It included instructors Shane Brady, WB2WPM, Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY, & Tomm Dean, KA2NXY.

Volunteer Examiners included Dave Hryn, KD2IPQ; Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY; Scott Barto, KB2KOL; Shane Brady, WB2WPM; Jim Starr, N2TFA; and Tomm Dean, KA2NXY. Linda Jablonski, KC2YMM, and Ed Jablonski, KC2YMN were "On Call".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To **STARS** members:

I would like to express my thanks to the **STARS** club and especially **Joe Kurcz, KD2FZD**, and **Jon Hall, KC2QKB**, for your time and effort in unburdening the widow of Ed, N2RAM (SK) in clearing out the accumulated gear that Ed had amassed.

Not having been too active in **STARS** of late, I almost forgot the kindred spirit hams have.

Thanks again,

Ralph (Ron) KA2WCU

He can send CW at speeds faster than the mind can comprehend. His log is hand written on parchment paper with gold columns. When he says "is this frequency in use", all others go QRT. When he works 20-meters, the over the horizon radars shut down out of respect. He has been known to request auroral events at will. His tubes never seem to age. His audio is cleaner than a classical music FM radio station. He is, the most interesting ham on the bands. **Who is this guy? Let us know at wb2elw@verizon.net.**



EXAM SITES

6/28/2016

[Lancaster](#)

Sponsor: Lancaster ARC
 Location: Lancaster ARC- Club House Building
 525 Pavement Road
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

7/02/2016

[Jamestown](#)

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

7/09/2016

[Wellsboro PA](#)

Sponsor: Tioga County ARC
 Location: Senior Citizens Center
 2 State Street
 Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

7/09/2016

[Coudersport PA](#)



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

7/12/2016

[Niagara Falls](#)

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

7/13/2016

[Canandaigua](#)



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

07/16/2016

[Alexander](#)

Sponsor: Lancaster ARC
 Location: Batavia Hamfest
 @ Alexander Firemen Grounds
 10708 Alexander Road
 Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

7/16/2016

[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)

7/16/2016

[Hamburg](#)

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



7/19/2016

[Meadville PA](#)

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

(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



<u>Start and Finish</u>	<u>Contest Title</u>	<u>Sponsor's Website</u>
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
Fridays 0100Z - 0229Z	QRP Fox Hunt (summer)	www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm
Fridays, 0145Z - 0215Z	NS Weekly RTTY Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Fridays, 0230Z - 0300Z	NS Weekly Sprint	www.ncccsprint.com
Jul 1, 0000Z - Jul 1, 2359Z	RAC Canada Day Contest	wp.rac.ca/category/prog/
Jul 2, 0000Z - Jul 2, 0400Z	FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
Jul 2, 0000Z - Jul 3, 2359Z	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	yv5rcv.org/reglasindep.aspx
Jul 2, 1100Z - Jul 3, 1059Z	DL-DX RTTY Contest	www.drcg.de/dldxrtty
Jul 2, 1400Z - Jul 3, 1400Z	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	arifano.it/contest_marconi.html
Jul 2, 1500Z - Jul 3, 1500Z	Original QRP Contest	www.qrpcc.de/contestrules
Jul 2, 2000Z - Jul 3, 2000Z	PODXS Ø7Ø 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint	www.podxs070.com
Jul 3, 1100Z - Jul 3, 1700Z	DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	www.darc.de/referate
Jul 4, 0001Z - Jul 10, 2359Z	10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party	www.ten-ten.org
Jul 4, 1900Z - Jul 4, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, CW	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
Jul 5, 0100Z - Jul 5, 0300Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	arsqrp.blogspot.com
Jul 7, 1700Z - Jul 7, 2100Z	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
Jul 9, 0000Z - Jul 9, 0400Z	FISTS Summer Sprint	www.fistsna.org
Jul 9, 1200Z - Jul 10, 1200Z	IARU HF World Championship	www.arrrl.org/iaru-hf-championship
Jul 9, 1200Z - Jul 10, 2359Z	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com
Jul 10, 2000Z - Jul 10, 2159Z	CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	www.cqc.org/contests
Jul 13, 1900Z - Jul 13, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, SSB	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
Jul 16, 0700Z - Jul 16, 1459Z	Russian Radio Team Championship	news.srr.ru
Jul 16, 0800Z - Jul 16, 1400Z	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	vkcc.com/australian-vk-contests
Jul 16, 1200Z - Jul 17, 1200Z	DMC RTTY Contest	digital-modes-club.org
Jul 16, 1400Z - Jul 16, 1759Z	Feld Hell Sprint	http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
Jul 16, 1800Z - Jul 17, 0559Z	North American QSO Party, RTTY	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Jul 16, 1800Z - Jul 17, 2100Z	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	www.cqww-vhf.com
Jul 17, 0900Z - Jul 17, 1600Z	RSGB Low Power Contest	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
Jul 18, 0100Z - Jul 18, 0300Z	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	qrptest.com/pigrun
Jul 21, 0030Z - Jul 21, 0230Z	NAQCC CW Sprint	naqcc.info/sprint201607.html
Jul 21, 1900Z - Jul 21, 2030Z	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, Data	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
Jul 27, 0000Z - Jul 27, 0200Z	SKCC Sprint	www.skccgroup.com
Jul 30, 0000Z - Jul 30, 2359Z	WAAAE "Full Day of Hell" Feld Hell Sprint	http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
Jul 30, 1200Z - Jul 31, 1200Z	RSGB IOTA Contest	www.rsgbcc.org/hf



(control +click to activate a link)



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

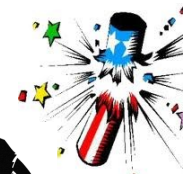
SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

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



Jun 19 - Jul 1 W3M
 Jun 26 - Jul 2 K2BSA/8
 Jun 29 - Jul 10 W1G
 Jun 30 - Jul 2 W6A
 Jun 30 - Jul 1 N7GMH
 Jul 1 - Jul 31 various
 Jul 1 - Jul 6 K2B
 Jul 2 K4F
 Jul 2 W3LRC
 Jul 2 K4RC
 Jul 2 W5KID
 Jul 2 - Jul 3 W0NOZ
 Jul 2 W8DGN
 Jul 2 - Jul 3 WE8DX
 Jul 3 - Jul 15 W3R
 Jul 4 - Jul 10 N2M
 Jul 7 - Jul 9 W9WAP
 Jul 9 - Aug 21 TM160NT
 Jul 9 N2AAR
 Jul 9 - Jul 12 W5H
 Jul 9 N16IW
 Jul 14 - Jul 18 N7B
 Jul 14 - Jul 17 KY4BG
 Jul 15 - Jul 18 K5E
 Jul 16 W6PW/100
 Jul 16 NC4MC
 Jul 16 - Jul 18 PD17MH
 Jul 16 W3UU/70
 Jul 16 K4NWJ
 Jul 16 - Jul 24 W5I
 Jul 17 - Jul 23 N5S
 Jul 17 - Jul 18 W0WIT
 Jul 18 - Jul 24 W9IMS
 Jul 18 - Jul 22 WN7BSA
 Jul 20 - Jul 25 W9W
 Jul 22 - Jul 24 W7W
 Jul 22 - Jul 23 W0DBQ
 Jul 22 W2HO
 Jul 23 - Jul 31 K4P
 Jul 23 - Jul 24 W7C
 Jul 25 - Aug 1 VC2Q
 Jul 25 K7U
 Jul 29 - Jul 30 W9A
 Jul 30 - Aug 30 NN4SA

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club 50th Anniversary
 Boy Scouts Trail To Eagle Program
 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Hanover and Gettysburg
 Chisholm Trail Amateur Radio Club 60th Anniversary
 Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial
 Boeing's 100th Anniversary
 K2B 13 Colonies
 45th Annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival
 City of Laurel July 4th Celebration
 Colonial Williamsburg Special Event
 Independence Day Observance
 Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
 Open House on 40th birthday of Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club
 The Refugee Tract
 Whiskey Rebellion Festival
 Carranza Memorial Service
 44th Annual Iola Car Show
 160 Anniversary of Nikola Tesla Birth
 2016 Geneseo Air Show
 Hurst Amateur Radio Club 50th Anniversary
 USS Midway Museum Ship; Independence Day Special Event
 Boeing 100th Anniversary (Seattle)
 Corvette Homecoming
 Oblivion '2016 - art inspired by Burning Man
 100th Anniversary of the San Francisco Radio Club
 Candor NC Peach Festival
 MH17 Memorial Event
 Mt Davis, the Highest Spot in PA SOTA (Summits On The Air)
 Operation Red Sleigh
 Red River Bridge War
 National Speleological Society (NSS) 75th Anniversary Convention
 Winnebago Grand National Rally
 Brickyard 400
 Catalina Council BSA Pimaree
 50th Anniversary Wisconsin State Waterski Tournament
 ARCA/Williams Hamfest
 Baseball's Field of Dreams
 Hudson Valley Chalk Festival
 91st Annual Chincoteague Pony Swim
 NPS 100th Anniversary at Crater Lake
 North of 50/CQ Zone 2
 Utah Days of '47 Parade
 Swiss Days
 Apollo XV 45th Anniversary Special Event



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