telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

FEBRUARY 2017

VOL 50 Issue 6

STARS 2017 GOALS

Field Day participation. Chairs: Scott KB2KOL and Patrick KC2VWG			
NYS QSO party participation (3rd Saturday in October). Chair: John KA2RFT			
Conduct fundraising events.	Chairs: Don K2PMC and Jon AA2CC		
Acquire new equipment (possibly headsets for contesting, repeater amplifier). Chair: vacant			
Attend Buffalo & Fredonia mini-maker faire(s). Chairs: Bob KA2WYE and Joe KB2JDB			
Club build project (\$0.44 CW oscillator for sure, CW audio filter, antenna analyzer, baluns). Chair: vacant			
Install Mosley Pro 57B Yagi, VHF and UHF horizontal	yagis. Chair: John KA2RFT		
Present at least 4 monthly programs: (Paul WA2DII solar generators, Skywarn, etc.). Chair: Larry WA2TLY.			
Training/introduction to club equipment at the clubhouse. Chairs: Patrick KC2VWG and Scott KB2KOL			
Run General and Extra Class training classes.	Chair: Ed N2ING		
Install satellite antennas at the clubhouse.	Chairs: Ed N2ING and Larry WA2TLY		
Repeater system progress - Hamburg and Colden. Chairs: Ken KC2AYK and Patrick KC2VWG			

CLUB OFFICERS

President Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

Vice President Paul Blachowski, WA2DII

Secretary Scott Barto, KB2KOL

Financial Sec'y Patrick Groom, KC2VWG

Treasurer John Leitten, KA2RFT

Director (1 yr.) Jon Hall, AA2CC

Director (2 yr.) Allen Mitzo, WA2TTT

Clubhouse Chair Patrick Groom, KC2VWG

Fundraising Chair Don Niles, K2PMC

Hospitality Chairs Joe Kurcz, KD2FZD-SK

Richard Neubeck, W2RLN

Net Control Stations Scott Barto, KB2KOL (VHF)

Bob Lehning, WA2YSJ (HF)

NYQP Chair John Leitten, KA2RFT

Photographer Richard Neubeck, W2RLN

Program Chair Larry Plumb, WA2TLY

Repeater Chairs Pat Groom, KC2VWG

Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

Special Events Chairs Joe Claus, KB2JDB

Bob Koster, KA2WYE

Telstar Editor Tomm Dean, KA2NXY

VE Team Liaison Tomm Dean, KA2NXY

Webmaster Don Niles, K2PMC

WE GOOFED - NOT!

Last month's *Telstar* failed to include any mistakes for our ever vigilant armchair editors to find. (We figured we would give them a break for one month.)

Actually, we very much appreciate any errors that are brought to our attention. It helps us do better.

If ewe sea sum thing that is knot correct, pleas lettuce no at the a dress bee low.

wb2elw@verizon.net

STARS MEETINGS

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

☆

☆

☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\cancel{\sim}}$

☆

☆

★ STARS meetings are usually at 7:00 PM on the
 ★ first Thursday of each month, at the Hamburg
 ★ Memorial Youth Center, 200 Prospect Avenue
 ★ (near Hawkins Avenue) in Hamburg.

☐ This month's meeting will be on February 2nd, at
☐ 7:00 PM, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center.

All are welcome,

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$

☆

☆

The STARS board usually meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month, at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse.

The next board meeting will be **February 23**rd, at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse, 2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.

All members are welcome.

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)

CLUB NETS

Tuesdays 7:30 PM 147.09 MHz (repeater)

Saturdays 10:00 AM 3.925 MHz +/- QRM

JOSEPH KURCZ, KD2FZD-SK

It is with sadness we report the passing of STARS member Joseph Kurcz, KD2FZD, on January 5th Joe first came to our attention in 2014 by asking about becoming an amateur operator. It didn't take long for him to study and pass the examination.

Most recently, he served as one of the club's hospitality chairs, along with Rick Neubeck, W2RLN.

Also of note, he worked the STARS displays at the Buffalo and Fredonia Mini-Maker Faires.

As a youngster, Joe emigrated from Hungary, shortly before the invasion by the Soviet Union. He served in the United States Army, with service in the Viet Nam War. Following his service, he worked as an electrician in the area's steel mills.

Joe lived alone, near Frontier High School. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his son, Joseph, his daughter, Kimberly, and the rest of his family.

ANTENNA CLIMB

Do you have a tall antenna tower? Has anyone trained you how to climb it?

Check out this drone video of a repair technician climbing a 1500 foot TV tower (that's taller than the Empire State Building!)

Pay particular attention to how the climber uses a double set of hooks to secure his every step. That system ensures that any slip can only result in a two foot fall.

TV Tower Climb

(Control + click on the above link.)

Thanx to Larry Plumb, WA2TLY, for bringing this drone video to our attention.

WANTED

I still need some more "Keys" for my Mini CPO project. I plan to make a kit of all parts to make 50 sets for Mini-Maker Faires, Hamfests, demos, etc.

Wanted: an ancient old-style computer keyboard.



The type I need for my Mini CPO project is the early kind with a "clicky" sound.

This IBM style keyboard had individual key switches which can be removed. The plug is probably NOT a PS-2, but the large XT, or phone style modular plug.

I will strip it for parts. Please look in the deep corners of your shack.

Thanks and 73.

Joe, KB2JDB

joeclaus@msn.com

NOT WANTED

Shack Cleaning SALE!

<u>Icom IC-7200</u> - 160 to 6 meters - like new - with handles & all supplied accessories. \$700.00

<u>LDG RBA-1 to 1 Current Balun</u> - Brand NEW - 200 watt 1.8 to 30 MHz. \$20.00

<u>15 WATT Solar Panel with Controller</u> - in protective wooden box (NOT a Harbor Freight Panel) - \$40.00

For more information, text or call:

Paul WA2DII @ 262-6156

RENEWALS OVERDUE

Did you renew your **STARS** membership yet? If so, fine job. If not, no more mister "nice guy" (watch out for the voodoo curses coming). Protect yourself with the renewal form attached to this newsletter.

SABRES TICKETS ENCORE RAFFLE!

A <u>trio</u> of tickets to a Buffalo Sabres hockey game will be raffled off at the February 2nd meeting.

Here's your chance to attend an event where you can make noise, act silly, mug for the kiss cam, and cheer for our hockey team.

But, you have to win the tickets at the meeting!

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/

HAMFESTS

2/25 Winter Hamfest

Location: Big Flats American Legion

45 Olcott Road South

Big Flats, NY

Sponsor: LIM Amateur Radio Group

Website: http://www.ka2lim.com/7.html

(control-click on name for more info)

MEETING SPEAKER

The February 2nd meeting will include a presentation by **Tony Randazzo**, **N2ONY**, from RW Antennas.

Tony was a motivating force behind the recent Ham O Rama fair held recently in West Seneca.

He is interested in enlarging the Ham O Rama for next year. In that regard, he is seeking the participation of many of the amateur radio clubs in the area.

He would like to discuss his visions for such an major event. He will explain his expectations of clubs that do assist in the sponsorship.

Come on down this Thursday and hear his plans.

SUPER BOWL POOL ON!

All spaces in the STARS Super Bowl pool are filled.

Prizes are: 1st quarter, \$100; half, \$300; 3rd quarter, \$100; & final, \$500.

TESTING RESULTS

STARS held amateur radio license examinations at their VE session on Saturday, 1/21/17.

Six candidates earned new credentials.

Wilhelm Aubrecht	KD2MSF	Technician
Clyde Hutchins	KD2MSG	General
John Husted	KC2DZR	General
Alvin Robinson II	KD2MSH	Technician
Thomas Sausner	KD2MSI	Technician
Kevin Tirpak	KD2MSJ	Technician

The STARS VE team included Thomas Dean,
KA2NXY; Gregory Hoerner, AC2MO; Edward Ja-

blonski, KC2YMN; John Leitten, KA2RFT; and

Matthew Starr, N2TFA. .

44 CENT KEYER

There's been a lot of recent interest in what is called, "the 44 cent code oscillator". In today's world, something that costs less than half a dollar doesn't seem to appeal to many people, as anything of value.

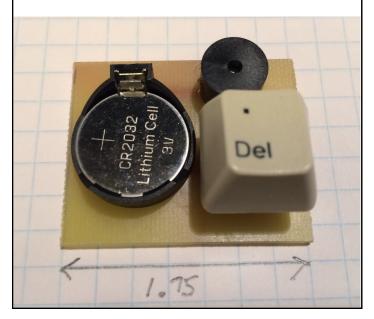
Well, the 44 cent keyer definitely has value! Even though its price is not that much, it provides a great alternative to much more expensive equipment for practicing code.

It's simple. That makes it ideal for beginner projects. Its main components are a single key from an old keyboard, a buzzer, and a button battery.

This will be featured as one of the "club build" projects in the coming year.

Oh, in case you missed it, check out the "WANTED" item on another page. It is a request for some of the used parts that will be needed for the project.

Thanx to Joe Claus, KB2JDB, for this information.



TUESDAY EVENING NET

Wow! The Tuesday evening **STARS** net on 2 meters has reached its 100th edition.

Check it out at 7:30 PM on a 147.09 MHz repeater.

FL TO NY VIA JT65

In what is believed to be a first, **STARS** club members held a Florida to New York QSO by using the JT65 communications mode on 20 meters.

Larry Plumb, WA2TLY, was operating in Hamburg at 25 watts.

Meanwhile, **Don Niles**, **K2PMC**, operated from Florida using his ICOM IC-7000 at 20 watts into his 80 meter OCF dipole at 60 feet.

Operation reportedly was 20 db below the noise level.

While the speed was not the fastest (13 characters per minute), the ability to communicate over great distances using low power was awesome!

Thanx to both operators for a great achievement!

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE LAST MEETING...

Rick Neubeck, **W2RLN**, would like to see the August picnic become more of a family picnic on a Saturday.

Motion by Al Mitzo, WA2TTT, and seconded by Jon Hall, AA2CC. to make the STARS picnic the first Saturday of August, no business, just picnic.

Chair: Rick Neubeck, W2RLN

SKYWARN TRAINING?

Within the past few weeks, some members have raised the question as to whether the STARS club would be willing to host a SKYWARN training session. Such a session would train observers to be the "on site" eyes and ears" for the National Weather Service.

Stay tuned for further developments!

REFLECTIONS...

(Items from past Telstar issues)

This is page 4 (of 4) from the April 1977 Telstar. It was the first edition following the infamous Blizzard of '77. It contains the only references to snow in the entire issue.

69/09

Well, it looks like the club has finally got off to its 1977 start. Hope that all members will give the new officers their help and co-operation, especially with club projects and activities. Speaking of projects, we finally got hold of the repeater boards. Unfortunately, no active club member knows much about repeaters or how to construct one. That will not stop the project. We do have the receiver and transmitter boards and antennas. As far as I can tell, the receiver oscillator needs a coil, the logic board needs to be drilled, parts procured and constructed for same, appropriate crystals and feedlines also to be purchased. We need the following magazines to get things moving;

'73 mag July 76 and September 75
ARRL VHF manual

If anyone has these magazines or book, please call Paul WB2ABD at 826-7659. I would like to borrow them so I can see what the logic board and receiver control oscillator need. As yet, we don't even know if these boards work. Let's find out. We may not need ke the rather expensive cavities.

I have not been able to get over to the clubhouse this winter to work on the Collins gear. WB2HIL informs me that he has a relay that might work. I did get over to the site this week with Guz the Prez, and the shack shipped a bit of snow and accumulated d a few birds, which were liberated post haste. Some snow got onto the Collins gear, but damage was not in evidence as it was already covered with plastic.

Since we have some nice weather, hope you all had a chance to get out and check over the antenna farm. We found some problems with the 40 meter quad where the snow drift covered up the bottom leg, and the 2 meter beam has some broken elements. Both appeared to be working fine. Go check 'em out.

EXAM SITES

02/04/2017 <u>Jamestown</u>

Sponsor: CARSC

Location: Prendergast Library

509 Cherry Street 2nd fl conf rm

Contact: Russell D. Trippy (716) 489-4279

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/04/2017 North Tonawanda

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas

Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters

495 Zimmerman Street - Training Rm

Contact: William F. Klepser (716) 839-3525

Time: 10:00 AM (Registration preferred)

02/15/2017 Lyons

Sponsor: Drumlins ARC

Location: Wayne Co Office of Emergency Mgmt

7336 State Route 31

Contact: Sabrina Hamill (585) 727-2091

Time: 6:30 PM (No Walk-ins)

02/18/2017 <u>Bath</u>

Sponsor: Civil Defense Center

Location: Route 54

Contact: Gary D. Stratton (585) 520-5514

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/18/2017 <u>Erie PA</u>

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association

Location: Greene Twnshp Mun Bldg Rm 114

9333 Tate Road

Contact: Ronald J. Rycek (814) 833-6829

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/18/2017 Rochester

ester

Sponsor: Rochester ARA

Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Contact: Donald W. Kiser (585) 613-1035

Time: 9:45 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/21/2017 <u>Meadville PA</u>

Sponsor: Crawford ARS

Location: St Brigid Church Social Hall

383 Arch Street

Contact: J S Jamie. Tolbert (814) 337-2315

Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins; preregister!)

02/25/2017 Perry

Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA

Location: Brick Presbyterian Church

6 Church Street

Contact: Lawrence Omans (585) 322-4829

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)



- 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 <u>www.perlu</u>	uma.com/Phone Fray Contest Rules.pdf
Weds	1300Z - See web	CW Ops Weekly Mini-CWT Tests	www.cwops.org/cwt.html
Wed & Fri	0200Z - 0329Z	QRP Fox Hunt (winter)	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
	: - Feb 1, 2100Z	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	http://www.ukeicc.com/
	: - Feb 4, 2359Z	Triathlon DX Contest	triathlon-dx-contest.gr
	: - Feb 5, 2359Z	Vermont QSO Party	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
	: Feb 5, 2359Z	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	www.ten-ten.org
•	: - Feb 5, 1159Z	Black Sea Cup International	bscc.ucoz.ru/index/0-21
	: - Feb 5, 1109Z : - Feb 5, 1200Z	F9AA Cup, CW	www.site.urc.asso.fr
· ·	: - Feb 5, 12002 : - Feb 4, 2359Z	Minnesota QSO Party	www.w0aa.org
			agcw.org/index.php/en
	: Feb 4, 1900Z	AGCW Straight Key Party	
	: Feb 5, 0400Z	British Columbia QSO Party	orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html
· ·	: - Feb 4, 2100Z	FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	fistsna.org
· ·	: - Feb 5, 1759Z	Mexico RTTY International Contest	www.rtty.fmre.mx
· ·	- Feb 5, 0400Z	North American Sprint, CW	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
· ·	: - Feb 7, 0400Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	arsqrp.blogspot.com
Feb 11, 00002	Z - Feb 12, 2359Z	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	www.cqwpxrtty.com/rules.htm
	Z - Feb 12, 1000Z	SARL Field Day Contest	www.sarl.org.za
	Z - Feb 11, 1300Z	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
	Z - Feb 12, 2359Z	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	www.skccgroup.com
-	Z - Feb 12, 1200Z	KCJ Topband Contest	www.kcj-cw.com
	Z - Feb 12, 1200Z	Dutch PACC Contest	pacc.veron.nl
	Z - Feb 12, 1500Z	OMISS QSO Party	www.omiss.net
	Z - Feb 11, 2100Z	FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	fistsna.org
	Z - Feb 12, 2300Z	AWA AM QSO Party	www.antiquewireless.org
	Z - Feb 12, 2300Z Z - Feb 13, 0259Z	CQC Winter QSO Party	www.coloradogrpclub.org
· ·	Z - Feb 13, 0259Z Z - Feb 17, 2359Z	ARRL School Club Roundup	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
		•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Z - Feb 14, 2359Z	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	www.podxs070.com
	Z - Feb 15, 2030Z	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	agcw.org/index.php/en
	Z - Feb 19, 2359Z	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
	Z - Feb 26, 2359Z	Novice Rig Roundup	novicerigroundup.com
	Z - Feb 18, 1000Z	SARL Youth Day Sprint	www.sarl.org.za
•	Z - Feb 19, 1159Z	Russian PSK WW Contest	https://www.rdrclub.ru/
	Z - Feb 18, 2059Z	Feld Hell Sprint	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
-	Z - Feb 20, 0400Z	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
-	Z - Feb 22, 0200Z	SKCC Sprint	www.skccgroup.com
Feb 22, 01307	Z - Feb 22, 0330Z	NAQCC CW Sprint	naqcc.info
-	Z - Feb 22, 2100Z	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	http://www.ukeicc.com/
-	Z - Feb 26, 2200Z	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	www.cq160.com/rules.htm
	Z - Feb 26, 1800Z	REF Contest, SSB	concours.r-e-f.org/contest/
	Z - Feb 26, 1300Z	UBA DX Contest, CW	www.uba.be/en/traffic-news
	Z - Feb 26, 0159Z	South Carolina QSO Party	scqso.com/rules
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Z - Feb 26, 0159Z	North American QSO Party, RTTY	www.ncjweb.com
	Z - Feb 26, 0339Z Z - Feb 26, 1700Z	High Speed Club CW Contest	www.highspeedclub.org
	Z - Feb 26, 1700Z Z - Feb 26, 1600Z	SARL Digital Contest	
-		•	www.sarl.org.za
Feb 26, 15002	Z - Feb 27, 0059Z	North Carolina QSO Party	www.sarl.org.za http://rars.org/ncqsoparty L
	(control +click to a	astivata a link)	A
	(COMPON TONCE TO C	ichvare a nnk)	\mathbf{C}

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 - Feb 28	N9SES	JY1 Memorial 2017
Feb 2 - Feb 6	W7L	Discovery of Jupiter's Moons lo Europa Ganymede Callisto
Feb 4	WD6RAT	2017 Palm Springs Hamfest at the Palm Springs Air Museum
Feb 4	K3HWJ	Groundhog Day Special Event Station
Feb 4	NB4RC	Hillsboro Lighthouse Special Event
Feb 11	NI6IW	Mt. Surabachi Flag Raising Special Event
Feb 16 - Feb 17	N4M	Samuel F.B. Morse Exhibition
Feb 17	N4HLH	SES H L Hunley Commemorative Station N4HLH
Feb 18	W5BMC	12th Annual EAGLE EXPO
Feb 18	W0EBB	13th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" winter operating event
Feb 18 - Mar 18	VI8BOD	Bombing of Darwin by Japanese Aircraft 1942-02-
Feb 18 - Feb 20	W0JH	Frozen Lake Portable: Ice Station W0JH
Feb 18 - Feb 19	K4US	George Washington Birthday
Feb 18	W8WRC	WRARC 7th Anniversary
Feb 22 - Feb 26	N4DAB	59th Daytona 500/2017 Speedweeks
Feb 22	WS7G	George Washington's Birthday
Feb 22	N7E	Snow Bird Field Day
Feb 25	W0FSB	72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima



Feb 25 - Mar 6



NE150







USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

(control + click to use link)

http://www.arrl.org/home ARRL MAIN SITE:

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

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/ STARS REFLECTOR:

STARS WEBSITE: http://www.wb2elw.net

wb2elw@verizon.net TELSTAR EDITOR:

2017 STARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

CALL SIGN	LICENSE CLASS			
NAME				
ADDRESS				
PHONE				
E-mail address				
Are you a memb	per of ARRL?	УES	NO	(circle one)
Do you want to	receive your <i>Telstar</i> by email?	YES	NO	(circle one)
If no, plea	se include \$15 additional to cover	the cost	of prin	ting and postage
FOR FAMILY N	MEMBERSHIPS: Additional Name:	s and Calls	3	
CALL	NAME	 		CLASS
CALL	NAME			CLASS
CALL	NAME			CLASS
DUES:	STARS Annual dues payable by	January 1	l	
	SINGLE		\$24	4
	FAMILY		\$27	7
	STUDENT (through Gra	de 12)	\$8	3

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DUES TO: PATRICK GROOM KC2VWG

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **STARS**) 4320 SALEM DR

BLASDELL NY 14219-1039