

EXPANDED FREQUENCIES!

Remember when television channels in the country were changed from analog to digital? That was done several years ago, with the intent of saving frequency space. You see, the old analog TV channels each occupied 6 megahertz of space. That would be enough space for nearly 500 channels for FM two way radios (such as amateur, police or fire operations).

Well, the fruits of that policy are coming to amateur radio. After years of planning, the FCC has realigned the frequency spectrum in such a way that amateurs will now have nearly twice the operating spectrum previously available. The realignment was necessary to make the new-ly found space available to other radio services, as well as amateur operators. So, effective July 1, 2017, the newly expanded amateur frequency bands are as follows:

BAND	CURRENT RANGE	NEW RANGE
80 meters	$3.5 \rightarrow 4.0 \text{ MHz}$	$4.0 \rightarrow 5.0 \text{ MHz}$
40 meters	$7.0 \rightarrow 7.3 \text{ MHz}$	$7.4 \rightarrow 8.0 \text{ MHz}$
20 meters	14.0 $\rightarrow$ 14.35 MHz	14.65 $\rightarrow$ 15.4 MHz
15 meters	$21.0 \rightarrow 21.45 \text{ MHz}$	$20.0 \rightarrow 21.0 \text{ MHz}$
10 meters	$28.0 \rightarrow 29.7 \text{ MHz}$	$30.0 \rightarrow 33.5 \text{ MHz}$
6 meters	50.0 $\rightarrow$ 54.0 MHz	44.0 $\rightarrow$ 50.0 MHz
2 meters	144.0 $\rightarrow$ 148.0 MHz	148.0 $\rightarrow$ 154.0 MHz
70 centimeters	420.0 $\rightarrow$ 450.0 MHz	$360.0 \rightarrow 420.0 \text{ MHz}$

Amateurs should begin preparations for these changes as soon as possible. Unless your radio gear is home-built, you may need professional assistance to realign the frequencies in your ra-

(Continued on page 5)

# CLUB OFFICERS

	President Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK		
Vice President		Paul Blachowski, WA2DII	
	Secretary	Scott Barto, KB2KOL	
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	Special Events Chairs	Joe Claus, KB2JDB Bob Koster, KA2WYE	
	Telstar Editor	Tomm Dean, KA2NXY	
	VE Team Liaison	Tomm Dean, KA2NXY	
	Webmaster	Don Niles, K2PMC	
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# 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!

<u>sample link</u> (control + click)

# WE GOOFED

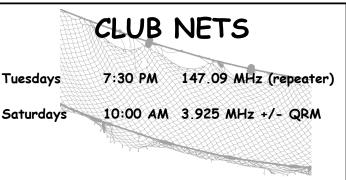
John Czuba, W2IV, and Jon Hall, AA2CC, report that the word, "MARCCH" appeared in the newsletter's heading. It should have been "MARCH".

Thanx to John & Jon for notifying us about this error. We 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





# NEXT MEETING SPEAKER

At the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, **Pat Groom**, **KC2VWG**, will provide a presentation on oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers, especially as they apply to amateur radio.

There will be "hands on" opportunities with these items.

If you have any RFI causing device, bring it down!

# STARS 2017 GOALS

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# WIND & ANTENNAS

A few weeks ago, our area experienced winds gusting above 50 mph. One such wind storm coincided with our weekly 2 meter radio net. Intermittent crackling noises were evident from our repeater (Hamburg).

It became obvious that our antenna's connections were compromised in high winds. They will be checked in the near future, as a replacement beam is installed for the HF frequencies.

Timing is dependent upon our ability to schedule the local fire company's tower ladder.

Member help will be needed. Further discussions will occur at our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

# STARS TO HOST NWS SKYWARN TRAINING

STARS will host the National Weather Service's presentation of SKYWARN training at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Completion of the program leads to certification as a volunteer observer for the National Weather Service, during unusual weather situations.

NWS SKYWARN TRAINING		Upcoming training is listed in the table below. For more information, and to register for a training session, use this link: <u>http://www.weather.gov/buf/Skywarn</u> or jon.hitchcock@noaa.gov		
DATE	COUNTY	LOCATION	ADDRESS	SPONSOR
Tuesday 4/18/2017 7 PM	Erie	Buffalo State College	Bulger Communication Center Room West 2 Buffalo, NY 14222	Western NY AMS Chapter and Dr. Stephen Vermette
Tuesday 4/18/2017 7 PM	Chautauqua	Saint Peter Church	12 Elm St Westfield, NY 14787	Chautauqua and Erie Amateur Radio Club

# CAN YOU HELP A HAM?

Sidney Emmons, K8ZES is eighty years old, with nearly half a century as an amateur radio operator. He lives in an adult residence in Orchard Park,

He is seeking help in setting up an antenna on his patio, for limited 2meter and/or 6 meter operation.

If you live in the area of Armor Duells Road (between Route 219 and California Drive, see if you can help.

He's at Brookdale (formerly known as Orchard Glen):

Sidney Emmons 6055 Armor Duells Road, Apt 239. Orchard Park, NY 14127

Contact **Jon Barkhurst**, **WB8NTA**, for details at 740-558-9907, or at <u>jonbarkhurst@embargmail.com</u>.

# TECHNICIAN CLASS

EMPact America, West Seneca CERT and Elma CERT, in cooperation with STARS, will be offering a technician class, beginning on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Classes will be held in the basement of EM-Pact America, 7615 Seneca Street, in East Aurora.

Classes will be three hours long, each Wednesday, for about six weeks. The classes are free, however, a fee is **charged** for a text book, and for the final exam.

Registration can be done through EMPact America website, or through <u>mamcculloch@empactny.org</u>.

Under the direction of **Robert Koster**, **KA2WYE**, past classes have produced many new amateur operators.

# ICOM 765 OUT OF SER-VICE FOR REPAIR

The primary radio at the club shack is out for repair. It has been replaced with the backup Yaesu.

# FOR SALE - FT-450D

Yaesu FT-450D HF amateur band radio, with DSP and ATU in mint condition; hardly used (taken out of the box once). New models are about \$800. Asking price for this one is **\$525**.

This is a great unit for newly licensed amateur operators, and costs only a fraction of the price of a \$3,000 top of the line model.

Contact:

Jim Meahl, KB2JM meahls@netzero.com (716) 622-9474

# AMATEUR OPERATORS NEEDED

Every year, several events take place where amateur radio operators provide the necessary communications for successful outcomes. In this area, those events include the Tour de Cure (for diabetes), Ride for Roswell (cancer treatment), and the MS Bike-athon (for multiple sclerosis).

The amateur radio operations are conducted under the auspices of the **Erie County ARES/RACES** team. They coordinate communications for event checkpoints, route patrols, sweep vehicles, participant assistance units, and other functions. They welcome assistance from all amateurs.

If you would like to participate in this activity, get in touch with the ARES/RACES team. The best way to do this is by attending one of their meetings. They take place on the second Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM, at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway (just east of Union Road), Cheektowaga.

You can also check out the ARES/RACES website at:

http://ecar.wnyserv.com/

Your assistance would be appreciated!

#### EXPANDED FREQUENCIES

dio. Most equipment from the common amateur radio manufacturers (ICOM, Yaesu, & Kenwood), rely on programmed integrated circuits for frequency limits. These are not easily adjustable. Unless and until manufacturers devise a way to modify these radio characteristics, your current radio may not be useable.

This may be the right time to replace your radio with a newer model with the updated frequencies. This may be dependent upon the cost for adjusting your old radio. We'll have to wait and see how much the makers will charge for this work.

Here's another thing to consider. You may want to sell your current radio. However, if you go this route, you will want to act fast. You see, these frequency changes are not well known yet. So, <u>SELL FAST</u>, before most potential buyers realize that things have changed. Once known, the market will disappear. Few knowledgeable people will want to buy these things.

We'll share more information as it becomes available.



# HAMFESTS

# 4/11 RAWNY MINI HAMFEST Location: The Church of the Nativity 1530 Colvin Blvd. Tonawanda, NY Sponsor: Radio Association of Western NY Website: http://w2pe.com/

#### 4/22 DRUMLINS HAMFEST

Location:	Palmyra VFW Post 6778
	4306 Route 31
	Palmyra, NY 14522
Sponsor:	Drumlins Amateur Radio Club
Website:	<u>http://drumlinsarc.us</u>

(control-click on name for more info)

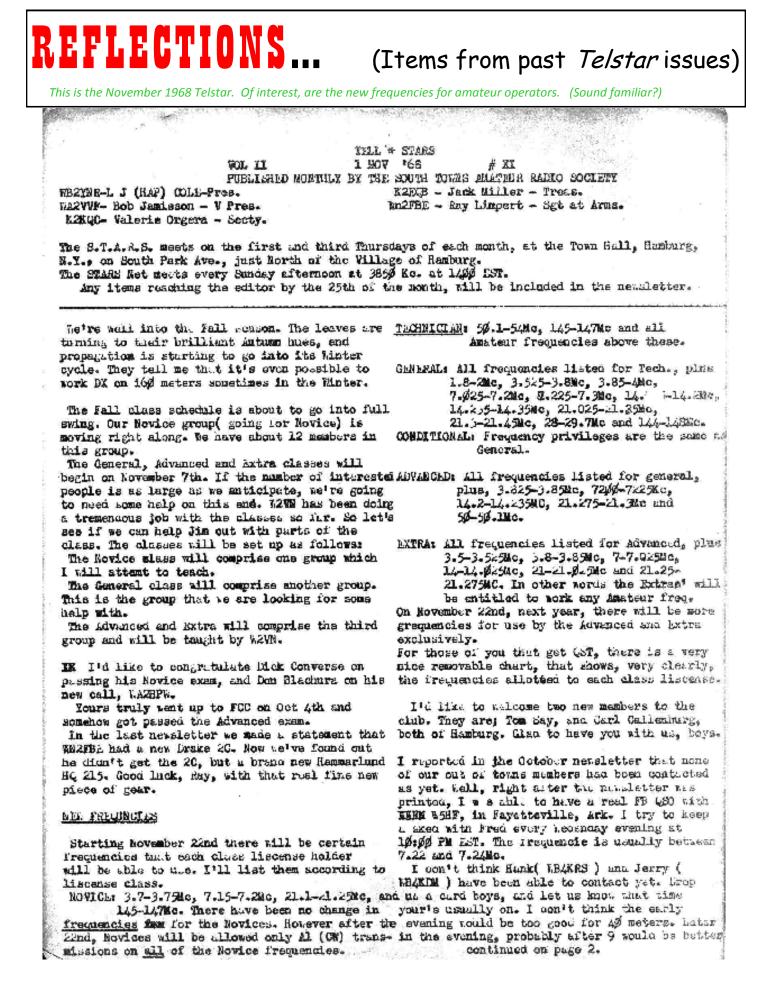
# **VE SESSION RESULTS**

**STARS** conducted an examination session on March 18, 2017. Seven candidates appeared, taking eight examinations, resulting in new licenses.

Wilhelm Aubrecht	AC2VA	Extra
James Keough	KD2LYE	General
Anthony Love	KD2NFW	Technician
Gregory Plumb	KD2NET	Technician
Kevin Tirpak	KD2MSJ	General
David Tormey	KD2NFQ	Technician
Gregory Whittemore	KD2NFR	Technician

Of interest, **Wilhelm Aubrecht** (now AC2VA, formerly KD2MSF) was the first person to take and pass the revised Extra examination administered by our team.

Volunteer Examiners included Scott Barto, KB2KOL; Shane Brady, WB2WPM; Thomas Dean, KA2NXY; and Matthew Starr, N2TFA. John Leitten, KA2RFT served as "short notice - on call" back-up.



# Hamvention<sup>®</sup> 2017

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#### www.hamvention.org



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# EXAM SITES

#### 4/01/2017

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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)	

#### 4/01/2017 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)	

#### 4/5/2017

Sponsor:

<u>Springville</u>



Location: Bertrand Chaffee Hospital Board Room 222-East Main Street Contact: Ray Feness (716)-289-0612 Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 4/08/2017 <u>Jamestown</u>

CCARET

Sponsor: CCAFMA

Location:	Jones Hill Auditorium	
	51 Glasgow Avenue	:
Contact:	Darlene J. See	(716) 450-9752
Time:	12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)	

#### 4/09/2017 <u>Little Valley</u>



**(S)** 

Sponsor:	Little Valley Vol Fire Dept	
Location:	Little Valley Fire Hall 101 Third St - 2nd fl Banquet Hall	
Contact:	Hyler J Gray	(716) 945-2055
Time:	3:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)	

4/11/2017	<u>Niagara Falls</u>
Sponsor:	Niagara Radio Club, Inc.
Location:	Venture Forthe, Inc.
	3900 Packard Road
Contact:	Darren Wade. Robbins (716) 478-9663
Time:	6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
4/15/2017	<u>Rochester</u>
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)
4/22/2017	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)

# TESTING NEEDS

- Free; no charge for examination

- 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** 

Phone Frav

Weds	0230Z-0300Z
Weds	1300Z - See web
Wed & Fri	0100Z - 0229Z
Fridays,	0145Z - 0215Z
Fridays,	0230Z - 0300Z
Apr 1 00007	- Apr 2, 2359Z
	- Apr 1, 0800Z
Apr 1, $04002$	- Apr 2, 0400Z
$\Delta pr 1, 10002$	- Apr 2, 04002
	- Apr 2, 2000Z
Apr 1, 14002	- Apr 2, 20002
	- Apr 2, 1600Z
$\Delta pr 2 00002$	- Apr 2, 10002
$\Delta pr 2,00002$	- Apr 2, 2030Z
	- Apr 3, 2030Z
	- Apr 4, 0300Z
	- Apr 5, 2100Z
Apr 6, 20002	- Apr 6, 2000Z
Apr 6, 1700Z	- Apr 6, 2100Z
	- Apr 9, 1300Z
Apr 8 1200Z	- Apr 9, 1200Z
	- Apr 9, 2359Z
Apr 8 1200Z	- Apr 9, 2359Z
Apr 8, 1400Z	- Apr 9, 2000Z
	- Apr 9, 0200Z
	- Apr 9, 2359Z
Apr 8, 2100Z	- Apr 9, 2100Z
	- Apr 9, 1900Z
	- Apr 9, 1700Z
	Z - Apr 10, 0200Z
Apr 12, 0030	Z - Apr 12, 0230Z
	Z - Apr 12, 2030Z
	Z - Apr 15, 2100Z
Apr 15, 0500	Z - Apr 15, 0859Z
	Z - Apr 16, 0559Z
Apr 15, 1200	Z - Apr 16, 1159Z Z - Apr 16, 2359Z
Apr 15, 1200	Z - Apr 16, 2359Z
	Z - Apr 16, 1300Z
Apr 15, 1800	Z - Apr 15, 2159Z
Apr 15, 1800	Z - Apr 16, 1800Z
Apr 15, 1800	Z - Apr 16, 1800Z
Apr 16, 1200	Z - Apr 16, 2200Z
Apr 16, 1800	Z - Apr 16, 2359Z
Apr 17, 0200	Z - Apr 17, 0400Z
Apr 17, 1400	Z - Apr 17, 2000Z
Apr 17, 1900	Z - Apr 17, 2300Z
Apr 22, 0800	Z - Apr 22, 1800Z
Apr 22, 1200	Z - Apr 23, 1200Z
	Z - Apr 23, 1200Z
	Z - Apr 23, 2300Z
	Z - Apr 23, 2059Z
	Z - Apr 25, 2300Z
	Z - Apr 26, 0200Z
	Z - Apr 26, 2100Z
	Z - Apr 27, 2030Z Z - Apr 29, 2359Z
Apr 29, 0000 Apr 29, 0001	Z - Apr 29, 2359Z Z - Apr 30, 2359Z
	Z - Apr 30, 2359Z
	Z - Apr 30, 2159Z
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CW Ops Weekly Mini-CWT Tests **QRP** Fox Hunt NS Weekly RTTY Sprint NS Weekly Sprint 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest LZ Open 40-Meter Sprint Contest PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Contest Mississippi QSO Party Missouri QSO Party SP DX Contest EA RTTY Contest North American SSB Sprint Contest RSGB RoLo SSB RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW **ARS Spartan Sprint** UKEICC 80-Meter Contest SARL 80-Meter QSO Party NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest JIDX CW Contest OK/OM DX Contest, SSB SKCC Weekend Sprintathon QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party Texas State Parks on the Air New Mexico QSO Party Georgia QSO Party Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest International Vintage Contest HF Hungarian Straight Key Contest 4 States QRP Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB Holyland DX Contest ES Open HF Championship Worked All Provinces of China YU DX Contest CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest Michigan QSO Party EA-QRP CW Contest Feld Hell Sprint Ontario QSO Party North Dakota QSO Party WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB Run for the Bacon QRP Contest Low Power Spring Sprint 144 MHz Spring Sprint QRP to the Field SP DX RTTY Contest UK/EI DX Contest, CW Nebraska QSO Party BARTG Sprint 75 222 MHz Spring Sprint SKCC Sprint **UKEICC 80-Meter Contest** RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data Feld Hell Sprint 10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital Helvetia Contest Florida QSO Party

#### Sponsor's Website



www.perluma.com/Phone Fray Contest Rules.pdf www.cwops.org/cwt.html www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter rules.htm www.ncccsprint.com www.ncccsprint.com contests.wsstvc.org/rules Izopen.com/Izocc40/indexF.htm www.podxs070.com www.arrlmiss.org www.w0ma.org www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl concursos.ure.es/en ssbsprint.com/rules www.rsgbcc.org/hf www.rsgbcc.org/hf arsgrp.blogspot.com www.ukeicc.com www.sarl.org.za www.nrau.net jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html okomdx.crk.cz www.skccgroup.com grparci.org www.tspota.org www.newmexicogsoparty.org www.georgiagsoparty.org gc.qst.ru/en/section/32 contestvintage.beepworld.it hskc.ha8kux.com http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss\_rules.pdf nagcc.info www.rsgbcc.org/hf iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest www.erau.ee www.mulandxc.org/438 yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2017 www.cgmmdx.com/rules www.migp.org/Rules.htm www.eagrp.com sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub www.va3cco.com/oqp w0nd.com wab.intermip.net www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup grpcontest.com/pigrun http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints www.zianet.com/grp pkrvg.org/strona,spdxrttyen.html www.ukeicc.com gcwa.org/chapter025.htm www.bartg.org.uk sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints www.skccgroup.com www.ukeicc.com www.rsgbcc.org/hf/ sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub www.ten-ten.org www.uska.ch www.floridagsoparty.org

#### (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

Mar 15-Apr 15	NP2VI/100	USVI Transfer Centennial VI M Y
Apr 1-Apr 9	VE100VIMY	Canadian Amateurs Remember WWI Battle of Vimy Ridge
Apr 1-Apr 2	W5C	Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary
Apr 3-Apr 9	WOW	Petal-Southern Mississippi Pow-Wow
Apr 4-Apr 9	W4S	43 Annual SUN n FUN International FLY - IN & EXPO
Apr 7-Apr 9	AC4RC	70th annual North Carolina Azalea Festival
Apr 8	NI6IW	Doolittle Raid Special Event
Apr 11	NY2SP/100	New York State Police 100 year anniversary
Apr 13-Apr 17	KB7QPS	First Space Shuttle Launch
Apr 14-Apr 15	various calls	Maritime Radio Day
Apr 15-Apr 30	W8P	100th Anniversary of the Michigan State Police
Apr 15-Apr 16	W7ZA	GHARC Birthday Event
Apr 20-Apr 23	NN4SA	Apollo 16, 45th Anniversary
Apr 22	W8PRC	5th Annual Earth Day Celebration
Apr 22	W5BMC	Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival
Apr 22	N9E	Earth Day 2017
Apr 22	W8TFC	Feast of the Ramson
Apr 22	KM1CC	International Marconi Day
Apr 22-Apr 23	WS8EOC	Michigan State Police 100th Anniversary
Apr 22	OE17ATOM	OE17ATOM from nuclear energy to SOLAR energy Chisholm
Apr 22	WA5PC	Republic of Texas International Boundary Marker Anniversary
Apr 22	W1BSA	WIDGA ON the USS Massachuseus
Apr 25-Apr 30	* 🔨	150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail
	$\rightarrow$	
Apr 25-Apr 27	W5M	
Apr 28-May 8	N5B	City of Baton Rouge 200th Anniversary
Apr 29-May 5	KM4RE	Russell Elementary's 19th Annual 27-hour Space Shuttle Mission Simulation
Apr 29	W2M	Samuel F. B. Morse Day
Apr 29	N4M	Samuel F. B. Morse Exhibition

### USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

(control + click to use link)

ARRL MAIN SITE:	<u>http://www.arrl.org/home</u>
ARRL ATLANTIC DIV.:	<u>http://www.atldiv.org</u>
CONTESTS	<u>http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar</u>
	<u>http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php</u>
HAMFESTS:	<u>http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar</u>
STARS REFLECTOR:	<u>http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/</u>
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