# Telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF S.T.A.R.S (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

**APRIL 2021** 

VOL 53 ISSUE: 9



# STARS

STARS is the SouthTowns' largest ham radio club, with our clubhouse and

tower located at the Town of Hamburg Recreation Center, Lakeview Rd.

To learn more about STARS, visit wb2elw.net.

During Covid restrictions, we have remained active with online meetings, collaborative contesting, our two nets, and local UHF chat.

So, warm up those radios and join us ON THE AIR and ONLINE!

Saturdays 10 AM HF net 3.925 MHz;

Mondays 8:30 PM UHF 446 MHz simplex chat for locals - bet you can hear us!

**Tuesdays** 7:30 PM VHF UHF net 147.090 (107.2) and 442.325 (88.5)

**Zoom** general meetings: first Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

Email Joe KB2JDB, club secretary, if you'd like to be invited!

Need help getting on the air? Let us know...

Thanks and 73! joe@joeclaus.com

The Telstar would like to thank all of those who wrote in with notes, suggestions, content submissions, etc.

All ideas are welcomed and encouraged! If there is something you would like included in next month's edition, please email: **TELSTAR@WB2ELW.COM** 

We are always in search of new and exciting content and feedback from our audience is what keeps the ball rolling.—-WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT TO SEE MORE OF?—-

Likewise, if something was published in error—please reach out via email so that corrections can be made, lawyers contacted and settlements reached.

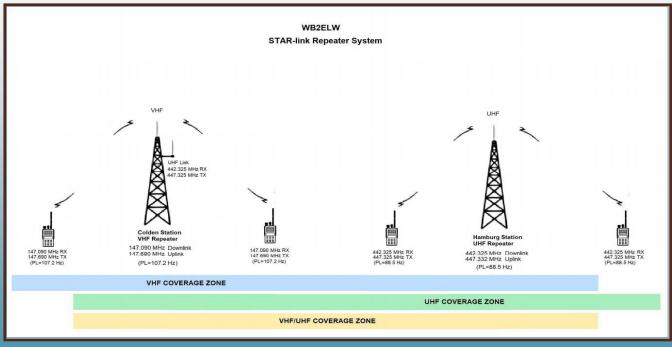
Enjoy & please try to make it a point to pop in to the zoom meeting—new faces keep the hobby exciting and maybe you'll get a participation trophy for the best zoom background! Who knows!?

THIS MONTHS GENERAL MEETING WILL AGAIN TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM. DETAILS ALONG WITH A <u>CLICKABLE LINK</u> TO JOIN CAN BE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE TELSTAR.

NO PRESENTATION THIS MONTH. WE HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT! PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE LICENSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS AND STARS WELCOMES ALL GUESTS—BRING A FRIEND!

### THE STAR-LINK REPEATER SYSTEM IS BACK UP AND RUNNING.

MIKE (KB2FX) AND KEN (KC2AYK) HAVE MANAGED TO GET COLDEN (VHF) BACK ONLINE AND FUNCTIONING! GREAT TO HEAR SOME OF YOU 2METER GUYS BACK ON THE AIR!



# US regulator FCC to introduce digital modes practical test for amateur examinations



In a proposal that aims to make new changes to the Amateur Radio Service, the USA regulator FCC introduces the idea of having a *digital modes* practical test as part of the amateur radio examination.

This follows a series of public consultations aimed at "making Ham Radio great again", where the FCC has asked amateur radio clubs and organizations how to improve the Amateur Radio Service. One of

the more popular answers were related to bringing back the practical CW skills requirement, but after looking at actual amateur radio bands usage officials decided FT8 will be the most important skill for the next generation of hams.

The test will apply to all future examinations for Tech, General or Extra classes. Extra class license holders as well as current holders of vanity call signs will have to take the FT8 proficiency test periodically to ensure the level of competence necessary to operate in the amateur radio bands.

The proposal also includes other significant changes, like lowering spurious emissions requirements for handhelds that cost less than US\$35 and introducing fines for inaccurate RST reports.

\* (FROM AN EMAIL GROUP AND AMATEUR EXTRA STUDY COURSE I AM A PART OF. AFTER REACHING OUT TO TOM, HE ADVISED ME THAT SPOTS WERE LIMITED BUT AVAILABLE)

-MATT KD2UOE

### Hi Everyone

We will begin the Operating Class on April 15. This will be a comprehensive survey of the many ways to get on the air and enjoy the hobby. We have lined up a team of subject matter experts as guest lecturers who will introduce you to their special interests.

There is no exam. The sessions are stand-alone so you can attend the ones you are most interested in. We want to provide the answers to the questions you may have always been afraid to ask and hopefully get you involved in some new things.

Here's the list of topics...the schedule isn't finalized yet, so stay tuned for that.

Also some topics only take an hour or so, thus we may have multiple topics on the same nite.

- 1. All About Operating, Amateur Radio Organizations, Ham Radio Awards
- 2. DXing
- 3. QSLing
- 4. VHF/UHF Weak Signal Work
- 5. Imaging Operating (ATV and SSTV)
- 6. Remote Station Control over Internet
- 7. CW in the No-code Era
- 8. Digital Modes
- 9. Contesting
- 10. Logging Software
- 11. Propagation
- 12. Amateur Satellites
- 13. Backpacking and Portable Operation
- 14. Setting Up an HF Station
- 15. Disaster, Public Service, EMCOMM
- 16. Traffic Handling
- 17. Lightning Protection and Grounding

EMAIL: tom.christovich@gmail.com TO ENROLL!





# 2021 Dayton Hamvention Cancelled

Citing "several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," the Dayton Hamvention Executive Committee has announced the cancellation of the 2021 event, scheduled for mid-May. The announcement cited the slower-than-expected rollout of the COVID vaccine as well as the even-more contagious variant that has emerged in recent weeks.

This is the second consecutive year in which the pandemic has forced cancellation of the world's largest hamfest. The committee says tickets that were deferred from last year will be deferred again, and that plans are in the works for another on-air Hamvention QSO Party on what would have been the Hamvention weekend.

Click here to visit the CQ Newsroom where you'll find more news and information of interest to ham radio operators

CQ Amateur Radio www.cq-amateur-radio.com



# Report from the Field: Warren County Hamfest 2021

## -Joe KB2JDB



A contingent of hams from WNY celebrated the Ides of March in Youngsville, PA, at an ARRL sanctioned hamfest sponsored by (aptly named) BSA Venture Crew 73. Just  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Hamburg it provided a nice, fairly covid-safe respite from a year free of fests. Despite its modest size, it offered a bunch of mostly ham-related gear; radios, tuners, power supplies, HF antennas, the usual connectors and fittings, and more heat shrink than I've seen in a lifetime. No, really, large enough to splint your arm! I grabbed up enough gear for the next 2 months of projects.

The WNY group included Kurt N2EJT, Joe KB2JDB, Matt KD2UOE, Neil KD2VLH, Matt K2EAG, Angela N3ARB, and Ken K2BNY

# Report from the Field: Warren County Hamfest 2021

The event was a first for Matt KD2UOE and his brother Neil KD2VLH—who both equally enjoyed the experience.



(LtoR) KD2VLH, K2BNY, K2EAG, N3ARB, KD2UOE (FRONT)



## The K7RA Solar Update

03/26/2021 (http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-673)

### Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports:

On March 21 and 22 two new sunspot groups, 2811 and 2812, appeared. Average daily sunspot number this week faded a bit from 19 to 17.9, but average daily solar flux went from 78.1 to 78.6. Neither change is significant.

We haven't seen a day with no sunspots since March 1, so that brings the percentage of spotless days so far this year to 38%, down from 57% last year and 77% in 2019. Geomagnetic activity was steady throughout this week, with average daily planetary A index rising from 10.3 to 13.3, and average middle latitude A index from 7.3 to 10.4. But geomagnetic conditions were disturbed at higher latitudes.

Alaska's College A index, measured near Fairbanks, was 40 and 45 on March 20 - 21. This was reflected in a report from N6QEK/KL7 in North Pole, Alaska (a town southeast of Fairbanks, not at the North Pole), who wrote, "HF frequencies here in the interior of Alaska were wiped out for the BARTG RTTY contest. FT8 signals were almost nonexistent as well."

Saturday was the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and fall in the Southern Hemisphere, positive indications for HF propagation.

Predicted solar flux over the next month is 80 on March 26 - 27; 75 on March 28 - 31; 70 on April 1 - 2; 80 and 81 on April 3 - 4; 82 on April 5 - 7; 81 on April 8; 80 on April 9 - 10; 78 and 76 on April 11 - 12; 75 on April 13 - 14; 76 on April 15; 77 on April 16 - 17; 76 on April 18 - 20, 77 on April 21, and 78 on April 22 - 28. Solar flux is expected to peak at 82 on May 2 - 4.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on March 26; 5 on March 27; 25 on March 28; 20 on March 29 – 30; 12 on March 31; 8 on April 1 – 3; 5 on April 4 – 7; 15, 18, and 20 on April 8 – 10; 5 on April 11 – 15; 25, 22, 20, 15, and 8 on April 16 – 20; 5 on April 21 – 23; 25 on April 24, and 20 on April 25 – 26.

Here's the geomagnetic activity forecast for March 26 – April 20 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

### The geomagnetic field will be:

- quiet on April 1, 6 7, 12 13
- quiet to unsettled on March 26 27, 31, April 5, 14, 18
- quiet to active on April 2 4, 15, 20
- unsettled to active March 29, April 8, 11, 19
- active to disturbed March 28, 30, April 9 10, 16 17

Solar wind will intensify on March (28,) 29 - 30, (31,) April 2 - 3, (4 - 6, 8 - 9,) 10 - 11, (12, 16 - 17,) 18 - 19, (20)

# CAMP ROAD TOWER GETS A FACELIFT



This was a pretty neat sight to behold—the 130+foot tower located behind Tim Horton's on Camp Rd in Hamburg gets a facelift in the form of updated feedline and some new elements. The tower is located adjacent to our shop and we've gotten to know some of the guys from SBA COMMUNICATIONS who were spearheading this project—However, despite that and numerous pleas they refused to install any amateur radio antennas or equipment - no dual banders, no HF vertical and DEFINITELY NO BEAM! I still walked away with a business card, a few laughs and a potential job offer—thought you all would enjoy!

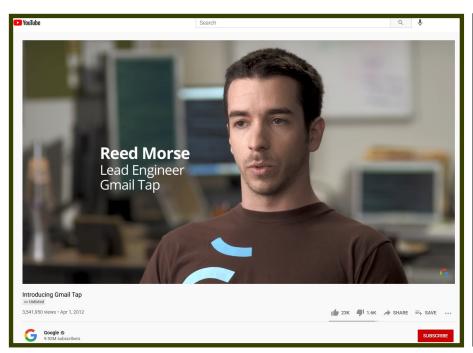
73 -Matt KD2UOE



# World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) 2021 is Sunday, April 18.

03/31/2021 World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) 2021 is Sunday, April 18. On that day in 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union (<u>IARU</u>) was formed in Paris. Today, the IARU is a worldwide federation of national amateur radio organizations. The IARU has chosen "Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone" as its WARD 2021 theme, acknowledging the many ways throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that amateur radio has remained a welcome respite for its variety of activities and opportunities -- even helping overcome online fatigue and social isolation. ARRL has <u>information</u> to help all radio amateurs plan for World Amateur Radio Day.

-ARRL



New from Google products— "Google Tap" a new, old way to communicate...

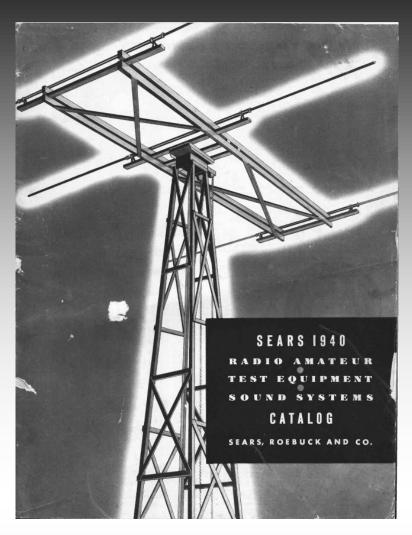
This one should make you old timers happy—things really do come around full circle!

Check out the video via the link below to learn more about how google is implementing low tech in our high tech world to keep us all connected!

-kd2uoe

**INTRODUCING GMAIL TAP**— "IT'S A DOT AND A DASH TO TALK TO THE WORLD"

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KhZKNZO8mQ



# **HOW TIME FLIES:**

WHAT A FIND! I WAS EMAILED THIS .PDF OF AN OLD 1940 SEARS ROEBUCK CATALOG.

WHAT A THROWBACK.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO EN-JOY THE ENTIRE CATALOG.





 $Sears\_1940\_Amateur\_Radio\_Catalog.pdf$ 

ASTATIC NEW MODEL DN DYNAMIC MICROPHONE





#### **Moving Coll Type** Microphone

The Model "DN" is replete with new engineering accomplishments. Outstanding features incorporate Moving Coll. System. 18 Jac. 18 Jac.

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#### High or Low Impedance in the Same Mike

In the Same Mike

The first commercial high disclity microphone, by present day standurds, was the Brush crystal sound cell type introduced in 1903. Today, Brush sound cell microphones, more than ever before, are generally accepted the world over as standard for the most exacting exam measurements and for all applications in which the highest quality is required. The diaphragm type of crystal microphone was developed to secure greater output. In general, this type has been characterized by some for present of the higher frequencies than the sound cell type. Consequently, Brush and its licensess have pioneured in developing special methods of compensation, to secure marked ingrovement in quality.

As a good general purpose microphone, the Brush AT is without equal. Never before that such a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a universal microphone been offered at the price. Its many features are housed within a such a universal microphone cell the price of the price of the serial price of P.A. Amplifiers. Conveniently variable tone control of bass and treble. "Mellow Quality" or good articulation as desired. Effective output of samplifier (also transmitter) may be increased by eliminating unnecessary place. Control of feet-back. High of to wimpedance operation, via., cryutal impedance (22,000 chms at 1,000 cps.) or 50,300 or 50,000 or 500 ohms. Conversion of impedance easily and quickly accomplished. Crystal capacity unusually high (007 mid.), permitting the use of considerably more cable than with ordinary microphones. Moderately directional. No compensation necessary for cable length. Peatition of microphone complete with 3-p

(8)

TURNER

#### SHURE

# "UNIPLEX" Uni-Directional Microphone

Microphone

Response 30 to

18,000 cycles at

the live year response 10,000

18,000 cycles at

the live year response

to the live year

to the liv

(A)

(C)

## 3 lbs. 57 PT 8248 Price \$19.11

Model 700B

Mesponse, 20 to
10,000 cycles,
10,000 c

# "Rocket"

\*\*Rocket\*

Response from 30 to 16,000 cyclus.
Out of 10,000 cyclus.
Out of 10,000 cyclus.
Out of 10,000 cyclus.
Out of 10,000 cyclus.
Out per bar. Special moisture-waled Grafoit Bimorph crystal and other exclusive "Ultra" features, Model 765A—"ROCKET" Crystal Microphone. Complete with 25-11.
Sandidad single complete with 25-11.
Sandidad single complete with 25-12.
Sandidad singl

#### Streamliner

Sireamliner

@ Gives voice and
music reproduction highly suitable
for low cost public
address. Benuitibily
streamlined; rich
stin Chrone Enish. %
in.—27 thread for stand. Diameter. Zh. in.
CRYSTAL MODEL. Respume 30 to 10,000 cycles. 0

cays AL Model. Spans 30 to 10,000 cycles. Output—53 db. Grafull Bamoeph cystal, fully moss-ture-proofed. Complete with 7-6t. cable. Shap wt., 2 lbs. 57 PT 8252 Price. \$9.70

#### "Millitary"

Fits naturally, comfortably in the palm of the hand. Light and compact, takes made a palm of the hand. Light and compact, takes natural space in pretain a part of the fits and the response and the response and high comported with beight Sasin grille and bars against a background of thickes rate Cray. Excellent response and high comported witch locks in the CON' position when suched by the components with the properties of the control external circuits can be furnished or special order. An ideal unit for special announcers.

Size: 34 inches high; 24 inches wide, 15; inches thick, Complete with removable Szepenston Hook, and 7-ft, shedhed rubber jacketed cable with spring cable projector. Shipping capit, pound, See Page 2 for Sears Easy Terms.

57 PT 8253—Complete with switch.

Price......\$13.23

Page 61





# (H)

Universal Press-to-Talk Sets

© Combinus microphone and ruceiver in one unit. Double
pole press switch in receiver end. Can be operated in
ridder hand with equal cure. 2000 ohms receiver. Recommended for "Dack" transmitter, portable two-way systems, yachts
and similar uses. Has 5-bot, 4-conductor cable. Shipping
weight, I pund 8 doueset.
57 PT \$224 - With Single Button Carbon Mike,
\$28 52

Price. \$8.53 57 PT 8225—With High Impedance Crystal Mike. ...\$16.76

#### Universal Model W Carbon Mike

#### Universal XX Carbon Microphone

Universal XX Carbon Microphone

Double Barton. Unquestionably the most popular microphone of its type on the market. Its high output lineares
maintain volume on either high or low gain amolifiers. Highly
publied chrome plated. Diameter, 2% inches. Trockness, 1%
onches. Duradumirum diaphrisgm. Frequency range 40 to
6,000 qas. Impedance 200 ulms per batton. Shipping weight,
1 noand. 57 PT 8227—Price \$5.88 M. Indixes or out, regardless of climate or temperature you get sure-free operation with this superb instrument. Designed for the man who can't afford to have a faiture. Response range 50: 6 9000 - 90. Dustrum level—54 ch. Removable connector with Jocking feature. Cost, cripp reproduction of affect speech or small. Gammatal limits, thigh impediants. M-inch 1-27 thread. Zo-foot cable. Shipping weight, 6 lbs. See Page 2 For Easy Payment Terms.

Turner Model 99 Dynamic Microphone

#### Turner Model 68 Crystal Microphone

Designed to give better high frequency response than the ordinary crystal. Narrow heam packup reduces feedback. Wind and blast proofed. Compressivel for boroneint changes. An ideal make for radio annature use. Chrome case. Range 40 to 9000 cpt. Ostoni–54 db. § inch 7-27 thread. High impedance. 25-foot cable. Shipping weight, 3 posends 50 ounces. See Page 2 For Easy Payment Terms.

57 PT 8229—Price. \$14.70

#### Turner Model 55R Crystal Microphone

The lowest prized crystal microphone on the market. A very popular unit with Radio Amateurs. Entirely satisfale for all except the most exacting irradiabations. Respirate 30 to 7000 cps. Semi directional characteristic reduce feed-back and reflections. Output—56 db. High impediance. 15-foot callet. Shipping, weight, 3 pounds. 57 PT 8230-Price.

Amphanal type MC1 connectors for microphones, phono pickups, and speakers. Single conductor utilizes shall for second coorductor. Accommodates table up to 4 inch. Chrome plated. Shipper of the coupling ring. MC1F. Female. 29c with coupling ring. MC1F. Female. 29c ring the coupling ring. MC1F. Female. 29c ring the coupling threads. 24c ring the confidence of the coupling threads. 24c ring the confidence of the confidence of

57 PT 8238-Type MC3F three conductor Female with thread 87 PT 8236-Type SP-PC3F three contact Pennale for charais mounting. . . 59c

Manual Cable Connectors. Metal cased. Male plays fit standard tube socket. Shipping weight, each. 3 ounces

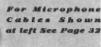
67 PT 8237—4 prong Mais.
57 PT 8238—4 contact Female.
57 PT 8238—5 prong Mais.
57 PT 8240—5 contact Female.
57 PT 8241—6 prong Mais.
57 PT 8241—6 prong Mais.
57 PT 8242—6 contact Female. 15c 15c 15c 15c Microphone Plug suitable for either two or three conductors. Bakelite shell. Shipping weight, plug or jack, 3 ounces. 

Amperite Line Impedance Match-ing Transformer. Enables use of low impedance microphone and cable lengths up to 5000 feet with high imped-ance amplifiers. For 25, 50, or 200-000 microphones. Shipping weight, 3 pounds,

57 PT 8245.....\$3.53







#### **Mutual Conductance Tube Testers**

57 87 On Easy Terms Only \$7 Down

True Dynamic Mutual Conductance circuit, Fila-ment Voltages are available from 1 to 110 volts. Provisions are made for gas tests, shorts, and leskage tests. Continuity test for ballast tubes. Sockets for all types new in use.

all types new in use.

Ranges of the Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter D.C. Volts.

Ranges of the Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter D.C. Volts.

0.10-50-250-500-1000 at 1000 ohms per volt. D.C.
Milliamperes 0-19-50-250; Resistance 2 to 500 ohms, 15 and 3 megohms. A.C. Volts 6-10-50-250-500-1000 at 400 ohms per volt. A special decibel chart permits readings against volts—10 to 42 decibels. The front-illuminated RED DOT guaranteed indicating instrument has two-color "GOOD-BAD" scale.

Attractive all-metal case. Removable cover. Case size in 154,211 % fils, in. high when closed. Operates on 60-cycle A.C. 110-120 volts. Shgg, wt., each set, 30 lbs. See Page 2 for Easy Terrus.

57 PT 08300—Model 1616. Cash Price. ... \$71.87

Model 1616 Tube Tester as above without Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter section.

#### **Emission Type Tube Testers**

\$4851 On Easy Terms Only \$5 Down

Individual Switching of terminals insures non-obsolescence. Filament voltages from 1 to 110 inclusive. New chart sets 230 types. Approved RMA emission circuis. The social sets of the set

#### Model 1610

#### Six Range **Signal Generators**

\$4410

On Easy Terms Only \$5 Down

Model 1630 is an outstanding Signal Generator for extreme accuracy. Triple-shedding eliminates the most negligible leaks. Covers 100 Ke. to 30 Mc. in six ranges. Unusually large dial with wicely spaced divisions (direct vernier type from 100 Ke. to 30 Me.) has total scale length of 152g in. Each coil is individually calibrated and tracked for inserrity over the entire range. A continuously variable attenuator of the pad type offers steps from zero output to full output. For 10-voil 60-vcie Ac. operation. Metal case, size, 1434-783-815 inches. A snap-on metal cover. See Page 2 for Easy Terms.

7 PT 0.8304—Model 1630. Complete with cover and accessories. Shipping weight, 30 lbs.
Cash Price.

484-1848.



#### Big Meter-Long Scale **Tube Testers**

This new Tube Testers

This new Tube Tester has a large 6inch soale RED DOT Lifetims guaranteed Measuring instrument. You
have assurance against feature obsolescence because filament Voltages
are provided in twenty steps, from

1 Volt to 110 Volts and all transformer connections
are made for use on future tubes with voltages between
these ranges. With this tester any one can make
accurate tests with the greatest speed and full customer
confidence.

accurate tests with the greatest speed and full customer considence.

The Model 1612 has a fully balanced RMA circuit and leakage test for Cathode and Heater and inner elements, with short tests between any two elements, check for open filaments, and any two elements, hot leakage check, separate section tests of multi-section tests of section tests of multi-section these, separate plate test of full-wave rectifiers.

Illuminated specia-cult chert. Streamlined, heavy scamicles sized case, Size is 15/x11/46 inches. For scamicles sized case, Size is 15/x11/46 inches. For Stipping weight, 30 onands.

\$7.FT.083.07—Model 1612 Counter Type.

\$7.FT.083.07—Model 1613 Portable as illustrated above, but has a detachable cover with attucked landle. Case size with cover—15/x11/x61/s in. Shipping weight, 30 lbs.

Model 1613.

See Page 2 for Easy Payment Plan Page 36

#### Laboratory Condenser Bridge

Condenser Bridge

Model 1640 checks the capacity, at 80 cycles, of all condensure—paper, electrolytic or mica—from .0025 to 250 microforads. Also provides testes for shorts, opens, isolage and break.

Solaton and the state of the state of

Tester operates from 110-voit 60-cycle A.C. The bridge has four resistive arms. By moving these resistors in unison it is possible to maintain a resistance balance and at the same time vary the ratio of the capacities under test. Sturdy metal case, 14 § 25 %; 7 % inches, has lustrous black susce enamel fances. Lasther straphasedle. Rubber feet on two sides of case for convenience. The etched panel color is silver and red on black. Allow 10 days for chipment. See Page 2 for Easy Payment Terms.

5 7 PT \$1898 — Model 1640. Complete with Access.

#### **Push-Button Vibrator Tester**

- \* New. Improved. Tests all stand-ard 6-Volt Vibrators.
- \* Easy to operate. Roll chart has 107 key settings.

\* Flexible push-button switching.

• Flexible push-button switching.

A new Vibrator Tester for checking all 6-volt Vibrators. Features the "Red Dot" Lifetime Guaranteed Triplett Meter. Obselescence proof push-button feature eliminates difficulties experienced in keeping other types up to the minute. It conclusively checks all standard makes of six-volt vibrators as used in automotive and home buttery radio receivers. Red Dot Lifetime Guaranteed instrument has three scales: 0-10 voits to show input voltage to vibrator for start or running tests. . A two-cone, two-color ment; scale used in conjunction with the load rheostat shows vibrator conditions with the load rheostat shows vibrator conditions. GOOD or BAD. . . . 0-100 scale permits inter-comparison of sibrature output under standardized input conditions. His tip jack facilities for oscilloscope connections. Like provisions have been made for connecting external buffer condensers if desired. Cane 14/x27 ½x4½ in, black suede electro enamel fasish. Leather strap handle as convenience for portability. Etched panel. Snap-on metal cover. Rubber feet on bottom and back of case. 7 PT 68329—Model 1671 complete with cover and \$7 PT 68329—Model 1671 complete with cover and \$7 PT 68329—Model 1671 complete with cover and \$7 PT 68320—Model 1671.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

## ISS Ham Station Fully Operational Again

The amateur radio station aboard the International Space Station is once again fully operational. The ARRL says a March 13 spacewalk to swap out an antenna cable put the ham station in the Columbus module back on the air. That station had been off since a January 27 spacewalk that included replacing an 11-year-old feedline segment. That cable



The International Space Station (NASA photo)

apparently had problems since the Columbus ham rig could neither transmit nor receive using it.

The original feedline was re-installed during the March 13 spacewalk and APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) signals were once again monitored from the ISS the following day. The station in the Columbus module, generally operating as NA1SS, is the primary station for school contacts and other ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) activities. While it was off the air, ARISS contacts continued, using the second ham station in the Russian service module.

Posted by CQ Newsroom at 8:09 AM



# APRIL CONTEST CALENDAR:

# ROOKIE ROUNDUP

#### About

#### **Contest Objective & Mission:**

**Mission:** To encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators ("Non-Rookies") are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

**Objective:** Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read: http://www.arrl.org/hf-contesting-guidelines

#### Date:

Sunday, April 18, 2021, using SSB.

Contest Period: 6 hours (from 1800 to 2359 UTC)

"Old Timers" (THAT'S YOU!) should also take note of this event. Consider opening your station up to a rookie (or two) and become an elmer. Remember, the more operators are on the air, the more fun the 'Roundup will be for everyone.

Be sure to read the rules before the event. It is also helpful to be familiar with the logging and submission processes ahead of time. You're in the right place; browse this page for information and tips on operating the Rookie Roundup. We hope to hear you on the air!

http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

## Always Listening

#### - Matt KD2UOF

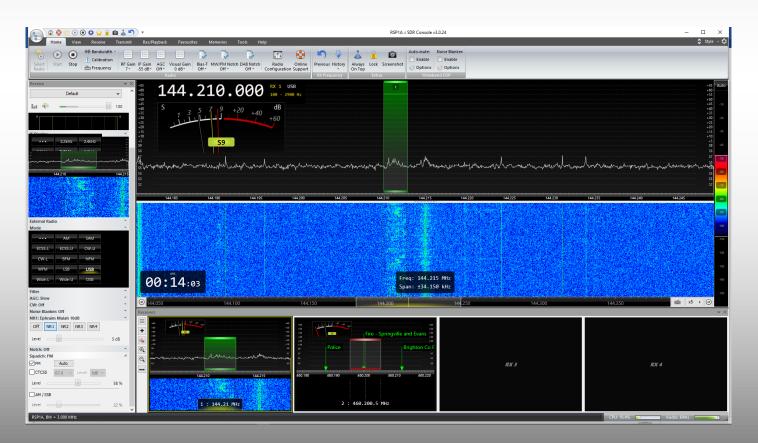
For weeks I've been aspiring to get on 2meter SSB. I have been in pursuit of a good (but inexpensive) 2m all mode rig for weeks as fellow hams all but beg me to partake in the weekly 2m SSB net that takes place at 8pm Wednesdays on 144.210 USB...

Today I remembered that the Net was going on and I took the opportunity to listen via SDR - FOR THE FIRST TIME.... HOW COOL!

Lesson learned—there's always a way to tune in—just have to put the pieces together. For now I can only listen, but hope to catch some of you on the air on 2m SSB in the near future.

Many on the net are using vertically polarized antennas and lower power.

Here's a screenshot of the SDR software, great signals coming in on the roof mounted discone antenna.



Monitoring Wednesday Night's 8pm —2meter SSB (144.210 usb) Net via SDR Console software and the rsp1a SDR from SDR Play (featured on next page).

## Always Listening

#### -Matt KD2UOE

"The SDRplay RSP1A is a powerful wideband full featured 14-bit SDR which covers the RF spectrum from 1kHz to 2GHz. All it needs is a computer and an antenna to provide excellent communications receiver functionality. Combined with the power of readily available SDR receiver software (including Windows-based 'SDRuno' supplied free of charge by SDRplay), you can monitor up to 10MHz of spectrum at a time. A documented API allows developers to create new demodulators or applications around the platform."



I cannot say enough good things about this SDR—it will do so much more than those \$30.00 dongles available online... very good rx, easy to set up, great customer service and warranty and easy to take on the go...

This allows the user to pack up a laptop or smartphone and a small antenna (ie. Roll up jpole or mag mount) and essentially set up 15 different receivers at once.- - plus scan!

I'm ashamed to admit that I've even fed (accidently) 15watts into the front end of this thing—with no noticeable damage...that's saying something.

Truly a great addition to any shack...and as shown, something that is far too underutilized.

Have fun!

-KD2UOE

### **Communications from Colorado Springs**

By Michael Fetto, KB2FX April, 2021 Telstar

On a recent trip to Colorado Springs, CO, I was able to communicate with some of the STARS members via IRLP. The purpose was twofold, to say hello to some of the gang and to test the STARS IRLP connection from another end. In summary, mission accomplished. We had several people talking from WNY to a couple of Colorado Amateurs on two occasions and the IRLP interconnect and audio quality were excellent.

This was accomplished from Colorado Springs via the Colorado Repeater Association, Inc. repeater network. This system has multiple analog repeaters at five sites along the Colorado Rockies that provides continuous coverage from north of Boulder down to New Mexico. Repeater interconnection is accomplished on a VHF backbone with connections to IRLP and Echolink. Details can be researched on their website: <a href="http://www.w0cra.org/">http://www.w0cra.org/</a>.



In addition to a radio, I also took a bike. While riding, I took the above photo of Cheyenne Mountain. Look carefully to the center to see dozens of towers and antennas for broadcast, cellular, LMR, military and amateur services. That is the location of the 145.160 repeater I was using.

I also took a (car) ride to Pikes Peak one morning. Unfortunately, the summit was inaccessible due to road ice and wind, but I was able to drive up to 11,500' AMSL. While the surface temperature ( $\sim 5,800'$  AMSL) was about 50 degrees, the temperature at that altitude was a whopping 11 degrees F.

While mobile, I was talking with a couple of HAM associates on the Rocky Mountain Ham Radio DMR system. This is a wide-coverage DMR network that also extends along the Rocky Mountains and is interconnected via a microwave network to include three states. The system has north, central and south talk groups as well as a Rocky Mountain Wide talk group. On a previous trip, KC2AYK and myself chatted on the Southern Colorado Net Talkgroup via the Brandmeister network. Details on this system can be researched at <a href="https://www.rmham.org/">https://www.rmham.org/</a>. This system is extensively used for mountain rescue coordination.



Pikes Peak Summit. Photo taken from the north on Pikes Peak Toll Road. Just to the south of Pikes Peak is Almagre Mountain, where the local Rocky Mountain Ham Radio DMR repeater is located.

This is one of the most beautiful regions of our nation. If you have never been there, I highly recommend that it be put on your travel list. And, don't forget to bring a radio!

### -Michael Fetto, KB2FX

# gRohn Tower for Sale

For sale, a lightly used climbable communications tower. Used only for UHF simplex to the Southtowns. Some light winter storm damage, easily repaired with a hammer. Sold in as-is, where-is condition. Bring a friend, or several. Disassembly may require the assistance of the Hamburg Fire Depart aerial truck.

of Buffalo, or on Google Earth.

Asking \$1000 or trade for a basket of imported handheld radios.





Contact Joe KB2JDB@wb2elw.net by April 1st.

# FEATURED HAM SITE OF THE MONTH:

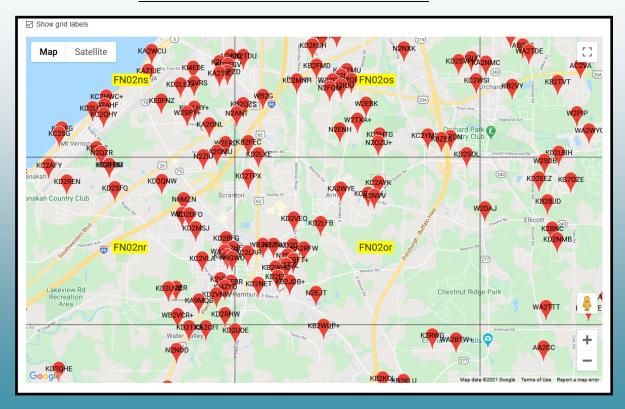
#### THIS MONTHS FEATURED WEBSITE IS:

# https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map

♦ Amateur Radio License Map   H ×   +   +   +   -   -   -   -   -   -   -		
		⊌ ☆
Ham Info	Home Log in	
Amateur Ra	adio License Map	
Use this map to find amateur	radio license holders in the USA. Click here for more info.	
<ul> <li>Select the type of input (c</li> <li>Enter an appropriate sear</li> <li>Hit the button.</li> <li>Scroll down see the map.</li> </ul>	allsign, gridsquare, zip code or street address) on the left. rch value on the right.	
The selection determines the	center of the map.	
When the map appears, you	can adjust the zoom level and drag the map around. If you're looking at a sparsely populated area, you'll probably need to zoom out.	
	ing, it will reload with stations for the new area. You can also click on the gridsquare labels to center tha map on that square. Use the "Show grid labels" ove the gridsquare lines and labels if they get in the way.	
Click on a marker to see nam	e and address info.	
<ul><li>Callsign</li><li>Gridsquare</li><li>Zip code</li><li>Street address</li></ul>	Callsign  Enter a callsign.  Show the map	
☑ Show grid labels		

# HERE IS WHAT THE WEBPAGE LOOKS LIKE - YOU CAN SEARCH BY CALL SIGN, GRIDSQUARE, ZIP CODE OR EVEN STREET ADDRESS...

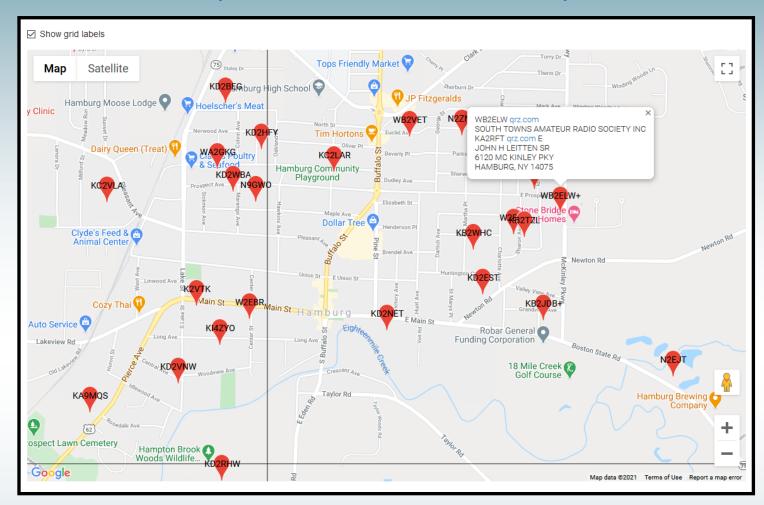
#### HOW MANY FAMILIAR CALL SIGNS CAN YOU LOCATE?



# FEATURED HAM SITE OF THE MONTH:

THIS MONTHS FEATURED WEBSITE IS:

# https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map



The TelSTAR would like to thank Scott KB2KOL for this submission. This site does a good job of displaying operators close to you! HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE NEIGHBORS THAT ARE RADIO ACTIVE?

# FEATURED HAM SITE OF THE MONTH:

THIS MONTHS 2ND FEATURED WEBSITE IS:

http://ac6v.com/

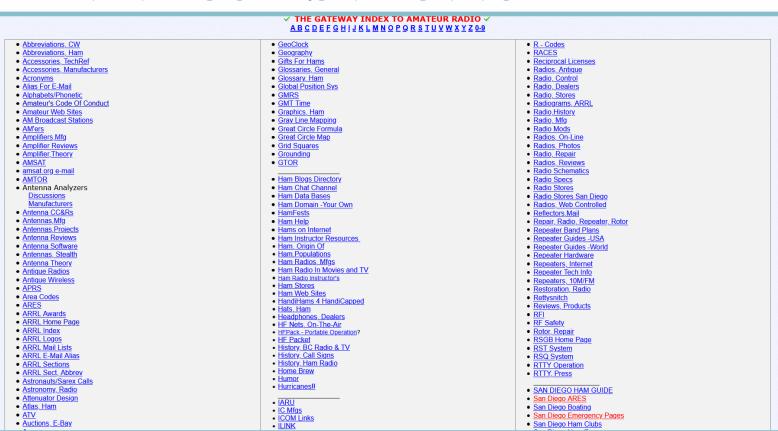




THIS WEBSITE IS JUST TOO GOOD TO PASS UP - WE HAD TO SHARE!

EVER FIND YOURSELF BORED BUT WANT TO READ UP ON RANDOM AMATEUR RADIO STUFF —-THIS IS YOUR SPOT!

AC6V'S PAGE IS APTLY NAMED THE "GATEWAY INDEX TO AMATEUR RADIO"... CHECK IT OUT NEXT TIME YOU'RE WAITING FOR THAT NET TO START OR LOOKING FOR THE NEXT PROJECT FOR THE WORKBENCH!



#### **MY LIFE WITH HAM RADIO**

#### -EMMA-LEE OVITT

Hi I'm Emma I am 8 years old and I have a dad his name is Matthew J Ovitt and he loves ham radio. We run about 10 radios. We do worked all states for the USA. We have about 12 different antennas around the house. My dads Elmer, Joe kb2jdb, has been my dads Elmer for about a year. You can look up hams at <u>qrz.com</u> please look us up. Callsign is Kd2uoe kilo delta 2 uniform Oscar echo. Our first state was New Hampshire.

My favorite radio is the TYT and the Icom . I like the Icom because there are so many bands and frequency's. I like the TYT because it's very small and nice to hold.

But I think ham radio is very cool and this is my Mini telstar article.

-73 Emma (echo mike mike alpha).

# STARS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOLEDGE, THANK AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING HAMS WHO DECIDED TO TEST WITH US! NICE JOB! WE WILL BE LISTENING FOR YOU ON THE AIR!

KD2WBA	Frank, Michael P
KD2WBB	Willard, Wallace L
KD2WBC	Fafinski, Paul A
KD2WBD	Korczykowski, Lawrence L
KD2WBE	Reichert, James M
KD2WBF	Neal, William
KD2WBG	Reichert, Austin J

### IT'S APRIL—BUT APPLICATION FEES ARE NO JOKE!

Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the collection of application fees for the amateur radio service and certain other services will NOT begin on April 19, 2021.

Although April 19, 2021 is the date the rules in the FCC Report and Order adopted last December generally take effect – i.e., one month after the R&O was published in the March 19, 2021 Federal Register – certain parts of those rules, including collection of the application fees for the amateur radio service, will NOT begin on that date.

The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice that the fees will not take effect until:

- \* the requisite notice has been provided to Congress; AND
- \* the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated; AND
- \* the Commission publishes [FUTURE] notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules.

The League's counsel for FCC matters estimates that the effective start date for collecting the fees will be sometime this summer, but regardless of the exact timing we will have advance notice.

Tom Abernethy, W3TOM Director, Atlantic Division

# ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit

02/10/2021

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified ARRL Field Day rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. For Field Day 2021:

• Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

An *aggregate* club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The <u>ARRL Field Day</u> web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day <u>Facebook page</u>.

#### THIS PAGE WILL NOT CHANGE:

BELOW PLEASE FIND A COPY OF THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM AS WELL AS THE NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM.

THE LINKS ABOVE EACH WILL TAKE YOU TO THE CORRESPONDING FILE ON THE WB2ELW WEBSITE AND ALLOW YOU TO PRINT THEM.

#### **RENEWAL FORM (CLICK HERE)**

## South Towns Amateur Radio Society 2021 Membership Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_\_Class \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_ Email Address Are you a member of the ARRL? YES NO FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: Additional Names and Calls \_\_\_\_\_Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_ \_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_ Dues: STARS annual dues payable by January 1 Single \$24 Student Membership (to grade 12 or full-time college student) \$8 RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DUES (checks payable to STARS) TO: Joe Barrile KD2LHF 6073 Dover Road Lake View, NY 14085

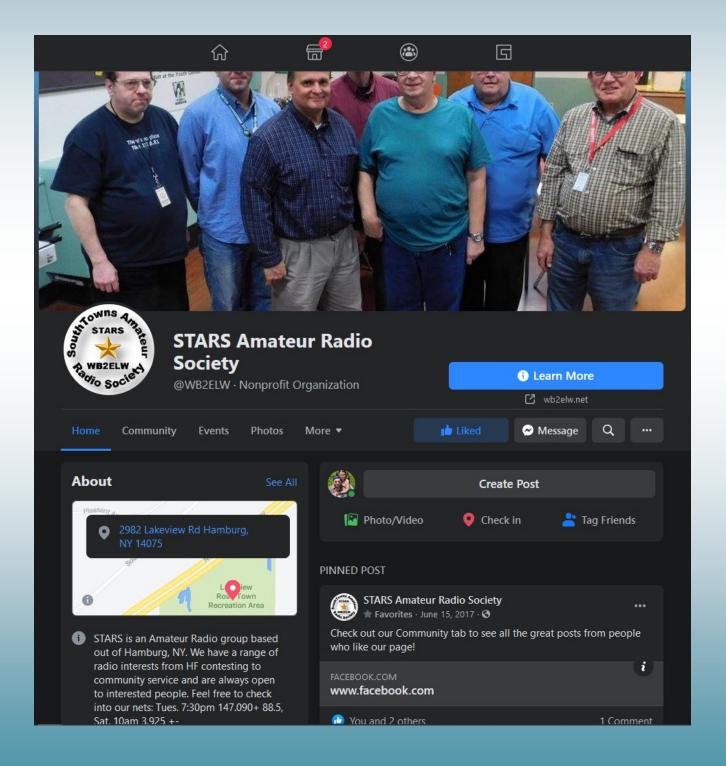
#### **APPLICATION FORM (CLICK HERE)**

Membersh Membersh	nateur Radio Society nip Application
Name Call Sign	
Address Class	·
City State	Zip
Phone	
Email Address	
Are you a member of the ARRL? YES NO	
Please list any other amateur radios clubs you belong t	o:
Do you know a club member? If yes, who?	
Bands and/or operating modes used:	
Occupation:	
Signature:	Date:
Dues: STARS annual dues payable on January 1 are: Single Membership \$24; Family Membership \$27; Student Membership (to grade 12 or full-time college student) \$8. New members joining after January will pay dues on a pro-rated basis of \$2/mo (single): \$2.25/mo (family); \$.67/mo (student) for the remainder of the year. All new members must pay a \$5 initiation f when submitted.  Mail application and dues (checks paya Joe Barrile KD2LHF, 6073 Dover Road,	ee. Dues must accompany application  ble to STARS) to:  Lake View, NY 14085
On Not Write Below This Line)	
Dues Received By: Date: Date:	
	Secretary
President Vice President	
President Vice President Financial Secretary Treasurer	Director (2yr)

Just a friendly reminder of the STARS Amateur Radio Society Facebook Page...

If you are on Facebook—stop by, like and share!

Here is a link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WB2ELW">https://www.facebook.com/WB2ELW</a>



# MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING:

First session THURSDAY APRIL 1ST at 7:00pm (Business Meeting) followed by General Meeting after. (ALL ARE WELCOME!)

NO PRESENTATION SCHEDULED THIS MONTH - PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR PRESENTERS AND IDEAS! Have one? Let us know.

**ZOOM CREDENTIALS AND LINK:** 

# **CLICK HERE TO JOIN MEETING**

Meeting ID: 859 544 1881

Passcode: 888888

## **BLUE & UNDERLINED:**

WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING IN TELSTAR IN BLUE LETTERS AND UNDERLINED, IT MEANS IT IS AN INTERNET LINK. CLICK ON IT TO OPEN THE ASSOCIATED LINK IN A BROWSER.

HERE, TRY THIS! (CLICK HERE)





THANK-YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO KEEP THE CLUB IN ORDER AND FUNCTIONING (BOTH LOCALLY AND FROM AFAR)....

THANKS RICK (W2RLN) FOR RUNNING THE TUESDAY NIGHT NET AND ALWAYS BEING PROMPT AND PRESENT,. AND THANKS TO BOB (WA2YSJ) FOR YOUR COMMITMENT WITH THE HF NET ON SATURDAY MORNINGS!

THANKS ESPECIALLY TO MIKE (KB2FX) AND KEN (KC2AYK) FOR HANDLING THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THINGS, BEHIND THE SCENES.... IT'S A LOT OF WORK AND WE ALL APPRECIATE YOU!

-STARS MEMBERS

# **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

President - Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

Vice President - Allen Mitzo, WA2TTT

Secretary - Joe Claus, KB2JDB

Financial Sec'y - Joe Barrile, KD2LHF

Treasurer - John Leitten, KA2RFT

Director (1 yr.) - Jon Hall, AA2CC

Director (2 yr.) - Bob Koster, KA2WYE

kc2ayk@wb2elw.net

wa2ttt@wb2elw.net

kd2lhf@wb2elw.net

aa2cc@wb2elw.net

# GIZMOS, GADGETS AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU!?

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? GOT SOMETHING TO SELL OR TRADE? THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND HERE!

FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR I.S.O. (IN SEARCH OF) OR WANTED TO SELL AD TO THE TELSTAR AT:



HAVE MANY HP DESKTOP P.C. TOWERS, OPERATIONAL, CLEAN W/ FRESH INSTALL OF WINDOWS 7 OR 10. MAKE FOR GREAT SHACK COMPUTERS, SOME COULD USE RAM OR EXTRA HARD DRIVE. MANY ARE 15 OR 17.

ASKING \$30.00/EACH—OR TRADE FOR HAM GEAR.

-MATT KD2UOE



# GIZMOS, GADGETS AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU!?

# Gear from James Blosser KC2QG (SK)

Radio Shack TRC-495 Base Station Transceiver 40C

Radio Shack 10M Transceiver HTX-10

Ham-Key

MFJ Econo Keyer II MFJ-401C

Qty 2 Audio & Video Selector VSW81

MFJ-260C 300W Dry Dummy Load

Radio Shack Stereo Speaker Selector

Pyramid 13.8V Power supply 6A 8A Surge

Mirage BD-35 144/440 Amplifier -- 45W on VHF, 35W on UHF

ARRL Small Antennas for Small Spaces 2ED (Book)

Arrl Operation Manual for Amateurs 11th edition

The ARRL Handbook for radio communications Volumes 1-6 (2021)

MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II

Uniden Speaker BC7

Tenway UV5R PRO

Radio Shack 100 Channel Programmable Scanner 800MHz Hyperscan

Radio Shack Pro 2066 150 channel Trunking Scanner

GT-3TP Dual Band Handheld (Baofeng 8W)

Ideaworks mini digital multiband receiver with alarm clock

CCRANE shortwave reel antenna

Cannon Battery Charger only for Cannon Battery

Comet Duplexer CF-706

World radio tv handbook (2020)

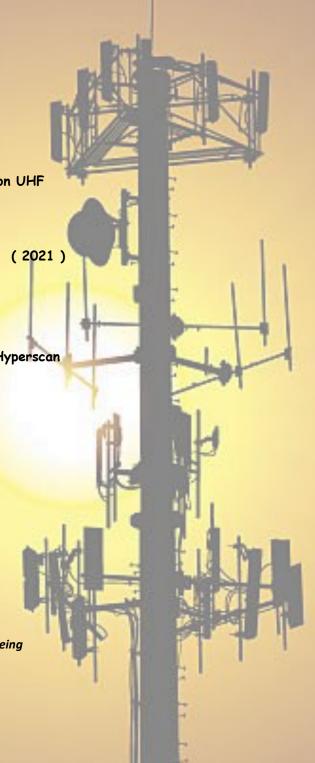
ARRL Repeater Directory 2020

Radio Shack DX-399 Portable SW Receiver

Gear listed here is to be offered to STARS members only for the time being

Interested parties are asked to contact Jon AA2CC (716)361-8757

- Jon AA2CC



# GIZMOS, GADGETS AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU!?

(4) LINKSYS SPA941 VOIP PHONES W/ POWER ADAPTER (READY TO USE WITH HAMSHACK HOTLINE) - \$20/EA

-MATT KD2UOE

Cushcraft #10-4CD 4 element 10 Meter yagi on a 16' boom (new-still in the box) \$175.00

Cushcraft #A503S 3 element 6 Meter yagi on a 6" boom (new -still in the box) \$130.00

Alliance #HD-73 heavy duty antenna rotator w/control box and length of control cable (like new) \$150.00

Midland #23-126 field strength indicator/standing wave bridge (vintage) \$15.00

Heathkit #GD-1B grid dip meter w/coils (vintage) \$15.00

Vibroplex keyer paddle (vintage) s/n 260796 \$20.00

Heathkit #DX-35 (vintage) 50 watt xtal controlled cw/am transmitter \$50.00

Drake #2-NT (vintage) 70 watt xtal controlled cw transmitter \$50.00

Bird #25-T-MN 25 watt RF load (new) \$20.00

Microwave Assoc. #44004 100 watt RF load (used) \$50.00

Antenna mount kit (chimney) up to 1-1/2" mast \$15.00

1 pr heavy duty galvanized mount brackets wall or pole to antenna mast \$20.00

1 pr heavy duty galvanized mount brackets pole to antenna mast \$30.00

1 pr heavy duty galvanized mount brackets telephone pole to antenna mast \$50.00

Anyone interested in any of the above can contact me by e-mail or telephone (<u>WA2YSJ@roadrunner.com</u> or 716-947-4974 there is an answering machine)