

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 279

MARCH 2005

Ham Radio Saves a Ham in Alaska

Two Alaskan hikers on a day outing in rugged mountains near Anchorage saw their afternoon turn into something entirely unexpected February 12. One of them--Jesse Jones, KL1RK--slipped and fell more than 200 feet down a steep ravine, losing his snowshoes in the process. Jones found himself trapped between a low overhang on one side and a swift-moving stream on the other. Even worse was the fact that his descent could continue into the water at any moment, and almost certain death from hypothermia. With more than 10 feet on the ground, the loss of his snowshoes meant he could not walk out. On the plus side, Jones had taken along his 2-meter handheld transceiver. After several unsuccessful tries, he finally was able to access the wide-area WL7CVG repeater atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant.



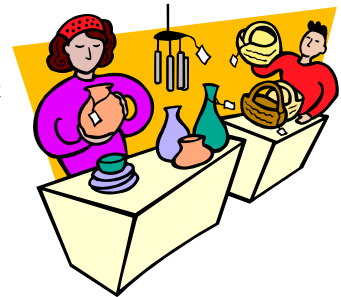
Above: Jesse Jones KL1RK was saved by amateur radio.

"As a control operator for the repeater, I heard his weak 'Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!' call just a few minutes after 4 PM local time," reports Jim Wiley, KL7CC. "I immediately called 911 and was placed in contact with the local fire department rescue coordinator. I was able to pass on Jesse's messages to the local rescue coordinator, including coordinates from a GPS unit he was carrying." Wiley says the rescue coordinator's office called out the local mountain

March Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, March 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

In place of a normal program, we will be holding a mini-hamfest at this meeting. Sellers can bring amateur radio gear, computer equipment, or anything else that they think that would interest buyers.



If possible, sellers should bring their own tables. If not possible, there will be a limited number of card tables available to use.

This is an event just for fun, so there will be no charge for sellers or buyers.

Why not come out and bring a friend with you!

rescue group and the Alaska State Troopers, who immediately left for the scene.

The rescue team met with Jones's climbing partner, who had been able to hike out to a place where he could assist the rescuers. Jones was able to keep in touch via 2 meters to report his condition, but his signal into the repeater was marginal. Although uninjured, the sub-zero cold was numbing his extremities to the point that he was having trouble operating his transceiver.

Unable to execute the rescue themselves, the team called an Air National Guard unit, which flew a helicopter to the scene. While the presence of high-voltage power lines just above Jones' position complicated matters, the chopper was able to lower some para-rescue jumpers to a nearby location, from which they could rappel to his position and,

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STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual Dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$10.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month) plus the \$5 initiation fee for a total of \$15.50.

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors at the business meeting. The applications are then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members who are joining ARRL for the first time or who are renewing their membership should send their ARRL membership forms to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

Club Net

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

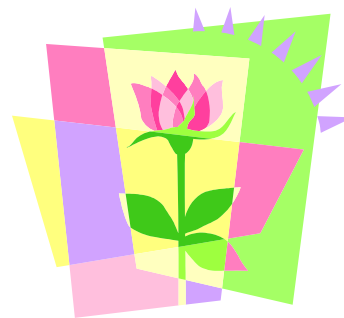
STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.



Spring into the Season at STARS

I hope that all of you are surviving the winter this year. Although it has not been nearly as bad as western New Yorkers are custom to, it has been peculiar. Back and forth from winter to spring-like conditions can only mean many of us will suffer cold and flu-like symptoms for weeks. The bright side is Easter and spring is now in the foreseeable future.

If you missed last months meeting, you missed a great program on Message Handling. Anne Fanelli W12G who has years of experience in the field was our quest speaker. Anne and Jim Sojka WB2TJO, our program chairman, setup a working 2-meter station and handed out free CDs and documentation to the attending membership. Anne also helped us draft a message to Bruce Settlemyer KC2GJX, our past director who has since moved to Arizona. It was an enjoyable evening and I would personally like to thank Anne and Jim for presenting a very informative program.



As spring approaches with Hamfests on the horizon, STARS will kick off the season, this month, with our annual Mini Hamfest Meeting. This is your first chance this year to sell those hidden treasures and there's always the chance to purchase that rare item you have been looking for.

As with winter, spring has its share of severe weather conditions and we will be having another seasonal program in April. Judy Levan N2TEZ with National Weather Service has us on the schedule for a SKYWARN program. This program fits nicely in to the mix of emergency service and amateur radio. It offers us the chance to re-educate and renew or support for the SKYWARN system.



Although it's still winter, it's beginning to look like spring at STARS.

73, Keith KC2DGC
STARS President

The Greater Buffalo "Winter" Hamfest

WNY's Largest Indoor Hamfest - Jam Packed

Sunday March 6th 2005

Prizes *Drawings *Commercial Vendors
 *Ham Gear *Electronics *Computers *Fun
 All You Can Eat.Pancake Breakfast

**Sellers: Reserve Your Tables "On Line"
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/gbwhf_table_info.htm
 or call: 716- 825-7097 (Chuck)
 or Email: kc2blh@aol.com

Hamfest Web Site:
<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>

Main Transit Fire Hall
 6777 Main St. Williamsville, NY
 1/16th mile from Transit Rd (RT 78)

Admission is \$6.00. Doors open 7:30 AM to general public. Vendors admitted at 6 AM to set up.

Sponsored by:
 Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

STARS member Gerry Maira KA2MGE activated STARS Nike Base club station for the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) on February 19-20.

Gerry racked up an impressive total of 929 QSOs for a claimed score of 707,898 points.

Below is a summary of his QSOs and Countries per band:

Band	QSOs	Countries
160:	14	13
80:	40	26
40:	100	54
20:	407	78
15:	333	60
10:	35	23

Travel Bug WB2ELW

After bouncing around several caches south of Salt Lake City, Utah, Travel Bug WB2ELW made its way north in late January to a cache named Malad Overlook near Malad City, Idaho. It is located near an exit on Interstate 15 in southern Idaho. The picture below shows the nice view from the cache.

The cache received a couple of visits during February but neither cacher had the time to move the travel bug on. The cache does seem to be easily accessible and should be receiving many more visits.

To follow the travels of the travel bug WB2ELW, go to <http://www.geocaching.com>. On the left side of the page, click on "Track Travel Bugs." Then, on the right side of the next page, enter the tracking number TBGFQY and click on "SEARCH."



Herbert Hoover

Herbert Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce who had always supported amateur radio 100%, was elected President of the United States in November 1928. Although most remember his administration as coinciding with the onset of the Great Depression, it was also the time of the greatest growth in amateur radio history. From the 1929 total of 16,289 to the 1933 count of 41,555, amateur radio grew 255% in 4 years. Before his death at the age of ninety on October 20, 1964, Hoover would live to see his son, Herbert Hoover Jr., W6ZH, elected President of the ARRL, and see an amateur running for President of the United States (Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA/K3UIG). Whatever historians may think of his administration, hams will always remember him as a Friend to Amateur Radio.

Excerpt from TARA News 2/98

ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

STARS Nike Base Club station will be activated so members can participate in the 2005 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone). The contest runs from 7:00 PM EST Friday, March 4 to 7:00 PM EST Sunday, March 6.

This is one of the big international contests of the year where US and Canadian hams try to work as many amateur stations in as many DXCC countries as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.



The hours that the Nike Base station will be open for the contest will depend upon the level of member interest. If you would like to participate (no prior experience is necessary!) call Scott Barto KB2KOL at 648-1435 to let him know.

Technician Classes

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) held a Technician class license course during January and February. Instructors for the course were LARC President Joe Gearhart WV2NY and LARC Past President Luke Calianno N2GDU.

STARS VE Team Liaison Terry Rockhold K2OO served as liaison for the VE exams given the class on February 23. Also serving as VEs were Bill Klepser WB2AIV and Peter Orendorf AB2KG.



Five students took the exams and all of them passed to qualify for their new Technician class licenses. Also taking advantage of the exam session was a current Technician Plus class ham who qualified for an upgrade to General class.

FCC Proposes Holding the Line on Vanity Call Sign Fee

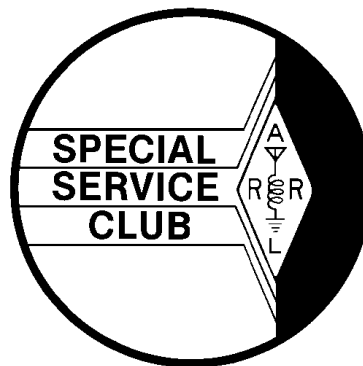
The FCC has proposed retaining the current \$20.80 Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee for the 10-year license term. The fee went from \$16.30 to \$20.80 last August. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2005" (MD Docket 05-59) released February 15, the FCC says it's proposing to collect more than \$280 million in regulatory fees for fiscal year 2005, as mandated by Congress "to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities."

The FCC anticipates 8000 vanity call sign applications during FY2005--up from 7800 applications in FY2004--and it expects to raise \$166,443 from vanity call sign fees.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>.

The ARRL Letter 2/18/05



STARS Board of Directors

President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Vice President	Scott Barto	KB2KOL
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VVC
Director	Jim Sojka	WB2TJO
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions on 3/12, 5/14 and 7/9 in 2005 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM. Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registering will reduce time at exams. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lancaster ARC Club House, 525 Pavement Road, Lancaster. For information on or to pre-register for Lancaster exams, call Joe Gearhart WV2NY at 892-2760 or e-mail him at wv2ny@adelphia.net. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 and 6/4 during 2005 starting promptly at 10 AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration preferred. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 or e-mail wb2aiv@arrl.net.

PROS holds test sessions as needed at 585 North Star Road, East Aurora. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.

Some exams do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

Ham Radio Saves a Ham in Alaska

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after a few hours, extricate him.

Briefly hospitalized for a checkup, Jones was released just before midnight, cold and a bit hungry, but otherwise okay. Wiley says several local hams also assisted the effort, either directly or by their connection with local emergency service groups.

Additional details of the rescue and photos are available on the ARRL Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/02/24/1/>.

The ARRL Letter 2/25/05

FCC Affirms \$4000 Fine for Missouri Ham

The FCC has affirmed a \$4000 fine for Paul D. Westcott, KC0OAB, of Purdy, Missouri, for "willful and repeated failure to respond to Commission requests for information about his station." The Commission released a Forfeiture Order in the case on February 16. The FCC reports it has received "numerous complaints" alleging that KC0OAB for several months now has been transmitting CW "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" on 7.030 MHz. While complainants assert the transmissions constitute broadcasting, the FCC contends they interfere with other amateur communications "due to an apparent lack of station control." The FCC proposed the forfeiture November 30 in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL).

"A licensee cannot ignore the directives in a Bureau inquiry letter," the FCC said in the November NAL. "We, therefore, conclude that Paul D. Westcott apparently willfully and repeatedly failed to respond to Commission correspondence."

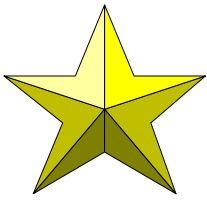
While Westcott did reply to an initial FCC Enforcement Bureau inquiry last June, the Commission says he failed to respond to a subsequent Warning Notice and Request for Further Information in early September, a Warning Notice--Failure to Reply in mid-October or to the November NAL, issued by the Commission's Kansas City field office.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told ARRL that Westcott assured him "some time ago" in an informal conversation that the transmissions were for Morse code practice, but neither he nor the FCC's Kansas City field office have received any formal responses from Westcott since last June.

A June 21, 2004, letter from Hollingsworth requested information from Westcott regarding an attached complaint about the KC0OAB Morse code transmissions. In his response Westcott reiterated the code practice claim. The June FCC letter also asked Westcott when he had begun the CW transmissions and for evidence that the transmissions--consisting largely of biblical text--were actually being used for that purpose. Hollingsworth further asked Westcott to address the complaint "as it related to allegations of religious broadcasting."

Hollingsworth says his office continues to receive complaints about the ongoing KC0OAB transmissions on 40 meters. The Commission gave Westcott 30 days to pay the fine or risk facing collection proceedings through the US Department of Justice.

The ARRL Letter 2/18/05



STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input, with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Use a PL of 141.3 Hz for the Nike Base remote receiver.

STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 out/in, with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 107.2 Hz.)

CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.wb2elw.com>.

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:30 PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATION

The club Nike Base HF Station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena.

STARS

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(716) 656-0865
k200@bigfoot.com