

telstar



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

ISSUE 294 JUNE 2006

STARS Field Day 2006

STARS Field Day 2006 will be held at Glen Meadows Park in Hamburg on June 24-25. See page 4 for a map and directions to the site.

Field Day has a long tradition as an emergency preparedness exercise, operating equipment "in the field" using power sources other than the commercial mains.

Set-up for STARS Field Day 2006 will begin around 10 AM on Saturday morning. This can be a real learning experience as bows and arrows or slingshots are used to fire lines over trees to haul wire antennas into the air. Generators will be set up to provide emergency power.

Then at 2 PM on Saturday afternoon, the contesting will begin and the airwaves will come alive with stations from all over the US and Canada and parts of Central and South America, including the Caribbean. The contesting will continue until 2 PM on Sunday afternoon (rain or shine). We will be planning a supper around 6 PM on Saturday

STARS will be running stations on CW and SSB. They may also be demonstrating other modes such as RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, ATV, etc.

Everyone is invited to come and operate or log stations or just to hang out and have fun! Even if you don't have HF privileges, you can operate under the supervision of another amateur with a higher class license. This is a great chance to learn how to improve your operating skills.

So, bring your lawn chairs, your family and your neighbors and come on out. The park provides very nice surroundings. Although the park normally closes at dusk, we have been given a permit to be there all night.

June Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, June 1 at the club's Nike Base club station (1.75 miles east of Route 20 on Lakeview Road). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

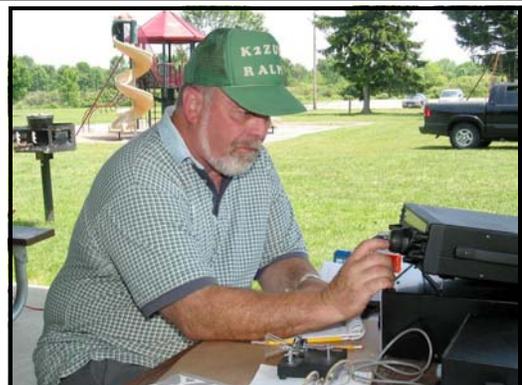
John Leitten KA2RFT and Scott Barto KB2KOL will be our featured speakers. They will go over the plans for STARS Field Day 2006, answer your questions and explain how you can help make the event a great success!



There also will be a mini flea market, so bring your items to sell out of your car! Bring your own tables. Like past years, this is just for fun, so there will be no charge to the sellers nor to get in.

The meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on.

In case of bad weather, monitor STARS 147.090 MHz repeater for information on the status of the meeting.



Ralph K2ZUW at the Field Day 2005 CW station.

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. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.

From Your President

Hello everyone! I'm just back from the Dayton Hamvention. I did not get a chance to see a lot of the Hamvention since I was "Working", but from what I did see, it looked like it was quite a successful event.

If it's June, then it must be Field Day. Set up will start on Saturday June 24 at about 10:00 AM with the contest starting at 2:00 PM. As in the last few years, we will be at Glen Meadows Park located in the Village of Hamburg. Field Day is a great learning and training exercise for the old timers and the new ham radio operators. If you were at Field Day last year, you know what a fun time everyone had, so don't miss out this year. Maybe the bands will start opening up, and it may prove to be some great DXing.

We will have our Yaesu FT-847 there for you to operate in real pile up conditions, so why not give it a try. Everyone will have a chance to come out and operate or just socialize.

This upcoming weekend (June 2,3 and 4, 2006) is also the Rochester Hamfest. The event runs from Friday though Sunday at the Monroe County Fair Grounds. I will try to attend the ARRL leadership meeting at the Hamfest. If I do get a chance, then I will report back to you what was discussed in next month's column.

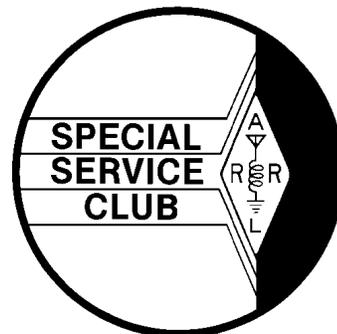
Events

June

- 1 Hurricane season begins
- 10-12 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 17 Kids' Day
- 18 Amateur Radio Week begins
- 18 Lightning Awareness Week
- 20 Take Your HT to Work Day
- 24-25 Field Day

Sincerely,

Bob (KA2WYE) Koster
STARS President



Rochester Hamfest

The Rochester Hamfest, Computer and Hobby Show will be held June 2 through June 4, 2006 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, Route 15A, Rochester, NY. This is the largest hamfest in our area and is attended by many Buffalo area hams.

The outdoor Flea Market will open at 6 AM on Friday, June 3 and will run continuously all weekend. The indoor vendors in the Exhibit Hall will be open from noon to 5:30 PM on Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM on Saturday and 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Sunday.

Tickets are \$9.00 at the gate. Outdoor flea market vendor permits are \$10.00 per 10' x 20' parking space. For ticket information, call (585) 538-9555 before 9 PM. For other information, call (585) 424-7184 during business hours.

Bob Josuwelt WA3PZO, *CQ* Public Service Editor, will present a program on public service and emergency communications titled Field Day is Not Enough from 9 to 10 AM in the Dome Center Room A (Second Floor).

An ARRL Forum will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the Dome Center Room A (Second Floor). This will be hosted by Bill Edgar N3LLR and Tom Abernethy W3TOM. ARRL Atlantic Division Director and Vice Director, respectively).

STARS Board member Judy Levan N2TEZ along with Bob Hamilton N3QOT, both of the National Weather Service, will present a program on SKYWARN training. This will be held in the Dome Center Room A (Second Floor) from noon to 1 PM on Saturday.

Scott Bauer W2LC, ARRL Western New York Section Manager will conduct a Western New York Section meeting on Saturday from 3 to 4 PM in the Henrietta Room (First Floor). The WNY section meeting will be combined with an ARRL Official Observer program moderated by Duane Traver WV2B, Official Observer Coordinator for the Western New York section.

Kevin Kedzierski WA2FKV of RAWNY will be giving W2RUF code proficiency tests on the Dome floor all day Saturday.

Ed Gable K2MP and Bill Dobson N3WD, ARRL Field Checkers, will check your QSL cards for WAS, VUCC and DXCC all day Saturday in the Dome. Bill will also check cards for the 3.905 Century Club Awards. Go to www.arrl.org for details and forms. For questions, contact k2mp@arrl.net.

VE testing will be done in the First Floor Henrietta Room starting at 9 AM. Walk-ins will be accommodated up to the capacity of the testing facility. You must be at the test site prior to the start time to complete your paperwork. Building doors will open at 8:30 AM.

Bob Bracket KD2IM, Amateur Radio Coordinator, will present a program on amateur radio support for the Empire State Games to be held in Rochester for four days beginning July 26. There will be nearly 6,000 athletes representing 28 sporting events. A minimum of 100 amateur radio operators will be needed to provide essential communications for the event. Volunteers will receive a uniform and entry to venues at no cost.

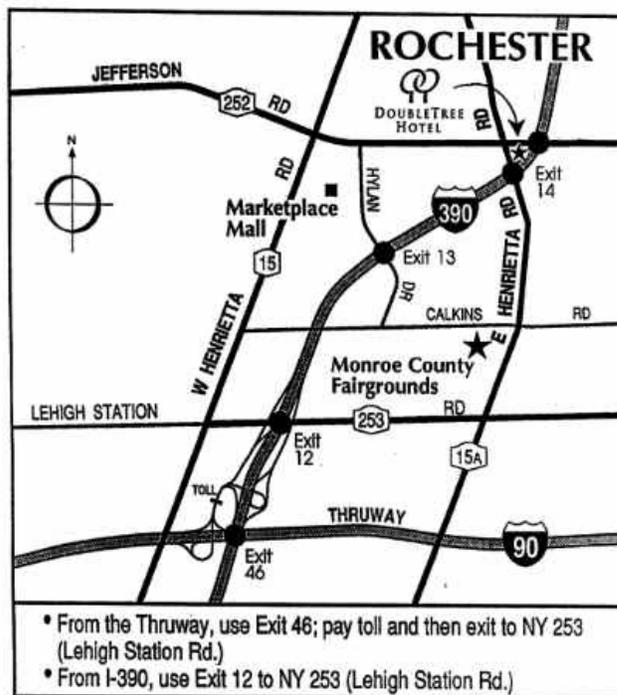
This year there will be an ADSL Wi-Fi internet service hot spot at the Rochester Hamfest, so bring your laptop.

ICOM factory representatives will be at the event with a huge display of their latest products. You can see, feel and ask questions about their current lineup of equipment.

Talk-in can be found on the 146.88 MHz (-600) (PL 110.9 Hz) repeater manned by members of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association.

For more information, check out their web site at: <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/>.

To download their 2006 brochure, go to: <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/hfbroch6.pdf>.



STARS Field Day 2006 Site

STARS Field Day 2006 will be held at Glen Meadows Park on Olympiad Drive in Hamburg.

If you are coming from the north:

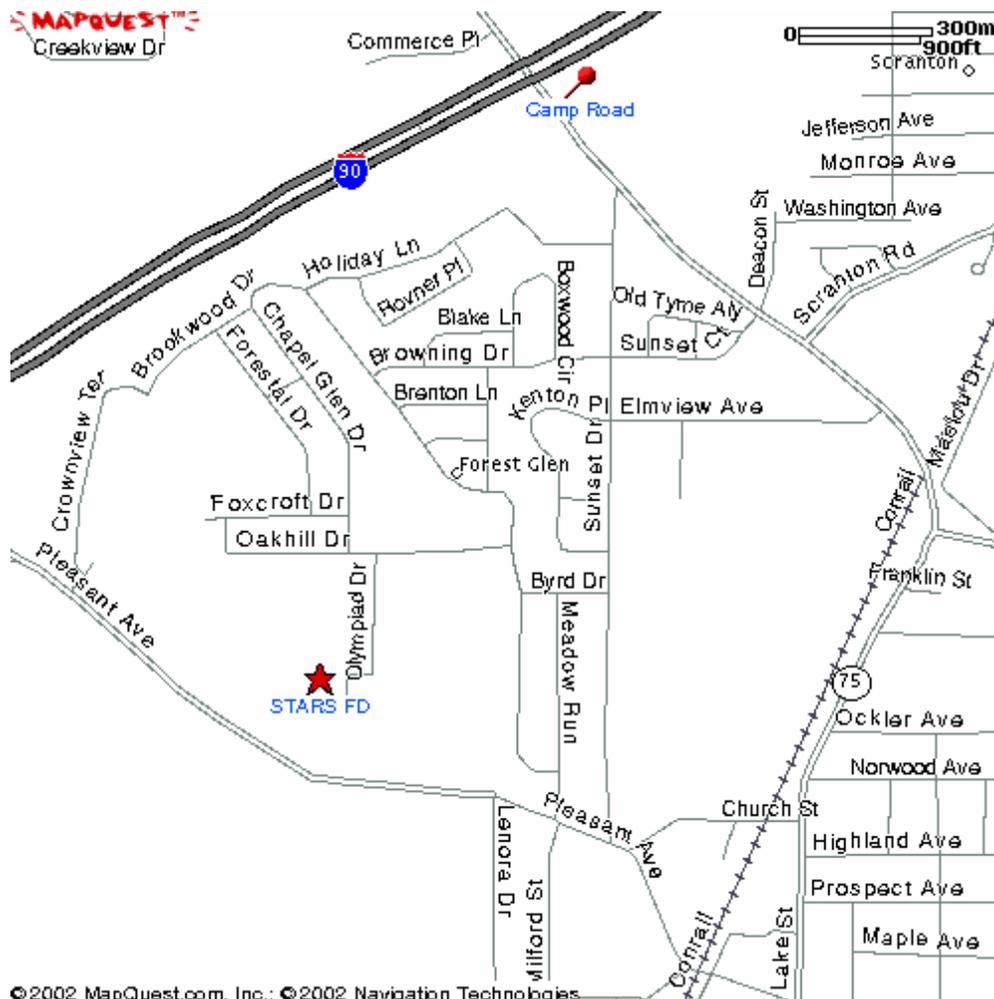
Go south on Route 75 (Camp Road) from the Hamburg exit of I-90.
Right on Sunset Drive
Right on Byrd Drive
Right on Brookwood Drive
Left on Oak Hill Drive
Left on Olympiad Drive into Glen Meadows Park.

If you are coming from the south:

Go north on Route 75 (Lake Street) from Main Street.
Left on Pleasant Ave.
Right on Sunset Drive
Left on Byrd Drive.
Right on Brookwood Drive
Left on Oak Hill Drive
Left on Olympiad Drive into Glen Meadows Park.

STARS Field Day site will center around the shelter which is at the far end of the park. This is a nice park with trees for our wire antennas. The park says it closes at dusk, but we have permission to be there all Saturday night.

Please note that some maps show Olympiad Drive connecting to Pleasant Ave. It doesn't, so you must enter the park from Oak Hill Drive.



STARS Board of Directors

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VVC
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions on 7/8/06 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 Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on the first Saturday in the month (except when falling on a holiday weekend, when they will be on the second Saturday) starting promptly at 10 AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration is highly recommended. For information on or to pre-register for ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 or e-mail k2yw@hotmail.com.

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.

FCC Won't Say Publicly When It Will Act on Morse Code Issue

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC might act on

either Amateur Radio proceeding.

"They're at different points in the process," an FCC staffer said, refraining from saying anything that might suggest a commitment. "One is farther along in the review chain than the other." The staff member indicated that the "omnibus" proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse proceeding in the WTB pipeline.

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," one staff member demurred. Neither would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006.

"They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

Earlier this year an WTB staffer, speaking without attribution, told ARRL, "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

Bill Cross, W3TN, the FCC Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division staff member who typically addresses Amateur Radio-related proceedings during Dayton Hamvention's FCC forum, won't be attending this year's show.

When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the FCC drops the Morse requirement.

The ARRL Letter 5/19/06



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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