

telstar



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

ISSUE 284

AUGUST 2005

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Licensing Requirement

On July 19, the FCC finally issued the long-awaited Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on amateur radio license restructuring. They have proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an amateur radio license of any class.

In a move that is likely to surprise many people, the FCC has declined to propose any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse code requirement. This would include the suggestions made by the ARRL for the establishment of a new entry-level amateur radio license, for the automatic upgrading of Technician and Technician Plus class operators to General class, and the automatic upgrading of Advanced class operators to Extra class.

Any rule changes proposed in the NPRM will not become final until after the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and issues a Report & Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying the effective date. This will certainly take a number of months at a minimum.

You can read an article about these developments on the ARRL website at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/07/20/100/?nc=1>

The actual NPRM can be found at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf

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August Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 5 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.



We will have our annual mini-cookout first and then have a brief business meeting. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks will be provided by the club. We ask the members to bring their favorite dish (finger foods, appetizers, desserts, etc.) to share.

There also will be a mini flea market, so bring your items to sell out of your car! Bring your own tables. 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.



July Meeting: STARS members visited our Nike Base neighbors, the RC Aircrafters of WNY. See additional photos on pages 2 & 4 and at: www.pbase.com/k2oo/.

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!



Operator Skill

At last month's meeting we enjoyed an exciting program by the Hamburg Flying Knights. They were very polite, informative, and performed several flying demonstrations for our group. The facility is equipped with a tarmac runway, shelter, picnic tables, and plenty of parking. Although this hobby can be as expensive as amateur radio, it was clear to me that the most important aspect is developing good flying skills. With a radio controlled model aircraft capable 200 mile an hour speed the operators have spend many hours practicing their control skills.

Developing good operating skills is essential to the success of our hobby too and we practice our them during the year. How many of you have migrated to amateur radio from citizens band radio because the operating skills were, to put it lightly, non-existent? I certainly did. During Field Day and the contest events STARS has participated in it is easy to hear which stations have skilled operators. It's a much more pleasurable experience listening to and participating in a QSO with operators on HF or the repeaters who have good operating skills. Most importantly, good operating skills are mandatory during emergency drills and events where the information has to be accurate and delivered quickly.

I know this may sound like I'm preaching to the choir but because of our commitment; amateur radio will never sink to the operator levels of citizens band. I like to think of amateur radio operators as an elite group of individuals. Be proud of what you are and set a good example of operator skills whenever you are in control or on the air.

See you at the Nike Base Station picnic this month.

73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC
STARS President

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.



This tag board is used to ensure that RC aircraft fliers don't use a radio frequency already in use at the field.

STARS Field Day Photos by Esther Ebert N2WBM

See More Photos at www.pbase.com/k2oo/



Hamburg area Scouts participate in Field Day with help from John KA2RFT at left and George N2NOB at right.



Anne WI2G and her husband Mike enjoyed Field Day.



Pat NW2I takes a break from the CW station.



Jim WB2TJO and John, Jr. N2OY at the phone station.



Craig K1CRA demonstrated ATV from his Hamblance.



July Meeting at RC Aircrafters of WNY

The Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest & Exposition combined with the WNY ARRL Section Convention will be held on August 6 & 7, 2005 at the Main Transit Fireman's Grounds, 6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY (1/16th of a mile west of Transit Road). It is sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

There will be lots of activities going on along with a huge flea market. There will be club contests, a 10-acre fox hunt, entertainment, a vehicle antenna array contest, ARRL talks/forum & demos, hourly drawings, a VE test session and breakfast/lunch.

Admission is \$7 for both days. Outdoor flea market spaces are \$5/day (for 10 x 20 ft.) or \$10 for both days. Indoor tables are \$15 per 8 ft. table for both days.

Set up for indoor and outdoor flea markets will begin on Friday evening. There will be free overnight camping and parking beginning Friday at 7 PM.

The outdoor flea market will be open from sunrise till 5 PM on Saturday and sunrise till close on Sunday. The indoor vendor pavilion will open at 8 AM each day.

Talk-in will be on the club's 147.255+ MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). A talk-in prize drawing for \$25 will be held at 11 AM each day.

There will be an on-foot fox hunt starting at 9 AM on Saturday with the winner receiving a trophy. There will be a new mobile fox hunt starting at 9 AM on Sunday with the winner receiving \$25 and a trophy. The fox for the mobile hunt will be within a one mile radius of the hamfest.

At 10 AM on Saturday, there will be an ARRL guest speaker.

The VE exam session will begin at 9 AM on Saturday at the VE tent. Look for sign or ask at gate or head table. For information or to register contact Hal at (716) 832-0031. Pre-registration is encouraged to guarantee a test. Walk-ins are welcome as room permits.

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN and Vice Director Bill Edgar N3LLR (former STARS member) as well as ARRL WNY Section Manager Scott Bauer W2LC are scheduled to be at the hamfest.

The hamfest web site is at : <http://gbhamfest/hamgate.net>.

For general information, e-mail: kc2blh@aol.com or call (716) 825-7097.22222.



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.	KB2VWC
Director	Jim Sojka	WB2TJO
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS has completed its schedule of exams for the period of 9/04 to 7/05. We anticipate holding test sessions from 9/05 to 7/06 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg, but we can not formally announce the dates until approved by the church. 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 when possible 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 starting again in September 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.

STARS VE Exam

STARS VE team held exams on July 9, 2005 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

There were five candidates to be tested. Three candidates qualified for new Technician class licenses. One candidate qualified for an upgrade to Amateur Extra. The other candidate passed his Element 3 General class theory and will qualify for his General class upgrade as soon as he passes Element 1 - 5 WPM Morse code.



Thanks go to John, Sr. KB2VWA, Judy N2TEZ, Jim N2SKT and Terry K2OO for serving as VE's for the session.

FCC Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

As of 7/26/05, the FCC had received 155 comments on this NPRM. Out of those comments, approximately 60% favored the proposal to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes, approximately 30% opposed dropping the requirement and approximately 10% wanted to compromise by dropping the requirement for General class, but retaining it for Amateur Extra class.

One area that seems to be unclear at this time is whether Technician class operators would gain HF privileges in the Novice/Technician Plus sub-bands automatically if this proposal is adopted. Many hams seem to think that this is true, but an article on the ARRL website about the NCVEC's reaction to the NPRM said that this idea had been rejected by the FCC. If the Technicians do not get these HF privileges, then new hams would have to pass both the Element 2 Technician class theory exam and the Element 3 General class theory exam to obtain any HF privileges.

Under this NPRM, there would be no automatic upgrading of Technician, Technician Plus or Advanced class operators. Many current hams had anticipated these upgrades after they were included in the ARRL's original petition on the subject. This may encourage more people to go ahead and study for the General and Extra class theory exams so that they can upgrade their HF privileges.

2005 STARS Field Day

As reported last month, STARS had a very successful Field Day this year. We now have the unofficial results:

There were a total of 746 QSO's completed in the 24-hour contest including 246 CW QSO's and 500 phone QSO's.

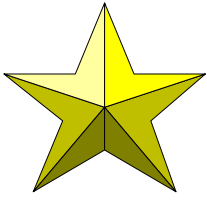
As usual, 40 meters turned out to be the best band for the club with 212 CW QSO's and 339 phone QSO's.

20 meters came in second in CW QSO's with 33, and 80 meters came in second in phone QSO's with 103.

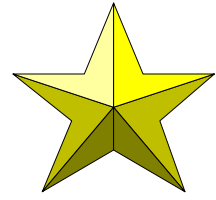


STARS claimed 1000 bonus points in various categories. The bonus points combined with 1984 QSO points to give us a claimed 2984 points for the year.

The official results will be announced by the ARRL on their web site later this year.



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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