

Amateur Radio Awareness Day is September 16

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

"More than 4000 ARRL 'Hello' campaign <<http://www.hello-radio.org/>> brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative," he said.

To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0711.xml> to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2006/08/SEPTEMBER>>.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long.

"Amateur Radio operators, led by ARRL Field Organization leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) -- as well as all preparations and post-SET evaluations -- as a demonstration of your participation in National

September Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 7 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We will be talking about our summer activities such as the Field Day operations, hamfests, etc. We also will look to the upcoming fall events.

Preparedness Month," Ewald said. The target weekend for the 2006 SET is October 7-8 <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>>.

A major ham radio presentation during September will take place on the West Coast. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, says Amateur Radio Expo 2006 <<http://lafair.b2v.org/>> will be held in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fair. "They will staff the exhibit over four weekends," Norton said, noting that the fair annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Amateur Radio Expo 2006 will get under way the weekend of September 9-10 and will feature a special event station plus interactive presentations to demonstrate the many facets of ham radio.

In a related vein, Pitts says he'd like to see a tighter relationship between ARES organizations and the League's corps of volunteer PIOs.

(Continued on page 3)

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

As you all are reading this, summer is now very close to being over. Even being semi-retired, I have had very little or no time for amateur radio activities including needed antenna work, and even camping with ham radio (something I really enjoy). Where did the time go? And with two family members in the hospital, the last two weeks have been very busy. Thank goodness, right now everyone is OK!

Well, anyway, with the Erie County Fair over, the end of summer is just around the corner. As a reminder to all, we will start having our monthly meetings back at the Hamburg Youth Center.

Don't forget that next month, October, is also the month that we take nominations for Club officers. If you want to get involved in the management of the Club, now is the time to start thinking about it. As some of you know, the Club supports a mail-in ballot system. If you want to vote and do not think you can make the November meeting for the elections, get your request for a mail in ballot to Judy N2TEZ now. If you wait until after the October meeting there may not be enough time to do the US Postal mail turnaround.

I hope to see you all at the meeting. Let's try to pack the house.

EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

1 National Preparedness Month begins
9-11 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
10 North American CW sprint
16 Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day
16-17 ARRL 10 GHz and up contest
17 North American Phone Sprint
23-24 ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day
23-24CQ WW RTTY Contest

Sincerely,

Bob (KA2WYE) Koster

President

Silent SuitSat-1 Still in Orbit

When SuitSat-1 -- the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit -- was launched during a spacewalk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25, some 203 days (nearly seven months) later -- largely forgotten and its ham radio voice long since silent -- SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.



ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the SuitSat concept, called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest" <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>>, in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one

guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication.

Even before SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, is among those named to the SuitSat-2 team, which will meet prior to the ARISS International Meeting/AMSAT Space Symposium October 5-10. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October.

Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess.

The ARRL Letter 8/25/06

Amateur Radio Awareness Day is September 16

(Continued from page 1)

"Too often something happens, and everyone grabs a radio. No one grabs a camera or laptop and gets the word of ARES actions out to the media until long after the story becomes stale," he observed. "We have wonderful stories to tell, but we are too busy to tell them when they are fresh."

Pitts said he and the ARRL Public Relations Committee are working on ways to better integrate public relations and emergency response actions at the local level.

Pitts says that according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), families should plan on being totally on their own for up to four days. "That's like being back in ancient times: no cell phone, no Internet, no 911," he said.

The ARRL Letter 9/1/06

New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new question pool for Technician class examinations given on and after July 1, 2006 and will be valid until June 30, 2010.

There are 396 questions in the new question pool for the selection of 35 questions for license examinations. The existing Technician class question pool which became effective July 1, 2003 will expire on June 30, 2006.



The new question pool seems to delete some of the more out-of-date questions from the existing pool and to add questions on some of the newer technologies such as digital modes, EchoLink, IRLP, etc.

Copies of the new question pool can be downloaded in several formats. See the article in the NCVEC News at: www.ncvec.org.

Revision to New Technician Class Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) had previously released a new question pool dated January 23, 2006 for Technician class (Element 2) examinations given on or after July 1, 2006.

Based upon comments submitted to them and further review, the NCVEC has made various revisions to the question pool and has re-released a new question pool dated February 6, 2006 for Technician class (Examinations 2) examinations given on or after July 1, 2006. The previous version dated January 23, 2006 should be discarded.



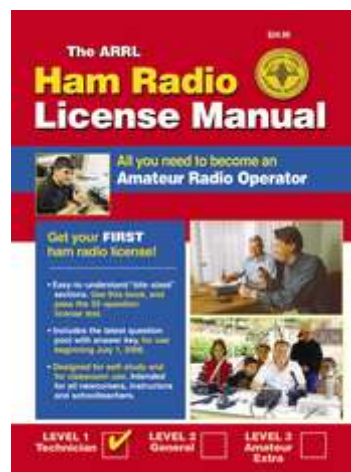
The new question pool now has 393 questions. The February 6, 2006 version of the question pool can be downloaded in various formats at:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=333>

New Entry-Level License Manual

For many years, the Now You're Talking! Series served as the Entry-level license manual.

With the introduction of a new question pool for Technician class examinations effective on and after July 1, 2006, the ARRL has now introduced The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual. This manual reflects the many changes that were made in the new question pool. The new pool seems to emphasize more practical questions and less theoretical questions.



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.	KB2VWC
Director	George Ebert	N2NOB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions during 2006-2007 but the schedule has not been worked out and approved yet. There will be no exam during September for the STARS VE team. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 874-0346.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on a quarterly basis. 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.

Two radio amateurs to be aboard shuttle Atlantis:

Mission Specialist Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, KD5TVR, and Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX, will be the only US Amateur Radio licensees aboard the shuttle Atlantis, scheduled to head for the International Space Station Sunday, August 27, at 2030 UTC. The only woman on Mission STS-115, Stefanyshyn-Piper will be making first trip into space since becoming an astronaut 10 years ago. Burbank previously flew on Mission STS-106. In addition to Stefanyshyn-Piper and Burbank, the STS-115 crew consists of Commander Brent Jett, Pilot Chris Ferguson and mission specialists Joe Tanner and Steve MacLean, who represents the Canadian Space Agency. This mission will mark the first time in nearly four years that a space station component will be added to the orbiting outpost, which is home to NAISS. During three spacewalks, Atlantis crew members will install a second set of solar arrays on the space station -- doubling the station's ability to generate power from sunlight -- and the P3/P4 truss to support the arrays. No Amateur Radio operation from Atlantis is planned. The ISS recently did an orbital "reboost" to place the station at the correct altitude to support the rendezvous with Atlantis as well as September's Soyuz launch of the Expedition 14 crew.

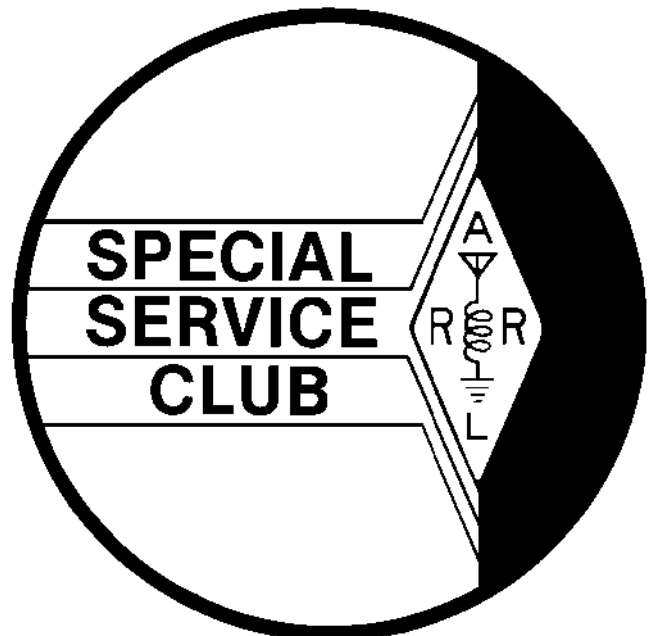
The ARRL Letter 8/25/06

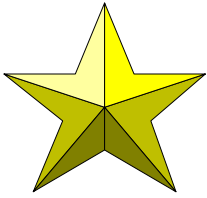
Tower and Equipment

Former STARS member Rich Comstock KA2WIM has a 40' tower with a tribander, rotor, 2-meter beam and 1-1/4 meter stick. Tower is free for the taking, Not sure about the other equipment on the tower.

Rich also wants to sell an IC-730 HF, an IC-37A VHF, an IC251A, a KLM 160W 2m amplifier, an MFJ Tuner plus numerous handhelds.

Rich is located in East Aurora. His phone number is 655-1425.





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

Terry W. Rockhold K200
24 Philadelphia St., Apt. 1
Buffalo, NY 14207
k200@bigfoot.com