
telstar



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

ISSUE 287 NOVEMBER 2005

2006 Club Elections

At the October club meeting, the following individuals were nominated to run for 2006 STARS club officers and directors:

President	
Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	
Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	
John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Secretary	
No Nominations Accepted by Candidates	
Financial Secretary	
Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2-year term)	
John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC

The election for these offices will be held at the November 3rd club meeting at the Hamburg Youth Center.

In addition to these nominated candidates, there will be lines for write-in candidates on the ballots. People interested in being a write-in candidate may announce this prior to the election. **We definitely need someone to step forward and run for Secretary of the club!**

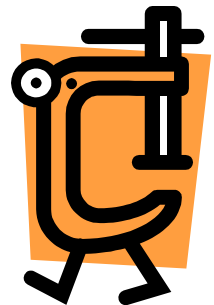
The winners of the above contests plus George Ebert N2NOB, who will be serving the second year of his two-year term as Director, will make up the 2006 STARS Board of Directors.

November Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 3 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.

This is a very important meeting as we will be voting on officers and directors for 2006.

The program this month will be "Bring a gadget, bring a tool". Bring something to the meeting to show/tell/describe/sell. Can be ham radio/electronic in nature, or not.



For instance...maybe you have made a gadget to help in the soldering of PL-259s. We all have gadgets that we use around the house to make our life easier, related to radio or not. Home brew items would also be good to show to the members. So bring a gadget or two to the meeting!

Time To Renew

We have included a 2006 renewal form with this newsletter. Why not take time right now to fill it out and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the November club meeting.



STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to help keep us great. Won't you do your part by renewing your membership today?

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!



Times are Changing at STARS

You can relax your October attendance fears people; nominations for officers are over. If this sounds like I'm a little disappointed, I am. Although we struggled to fill positions, the club will survive another year. Without these few dedicated individuals, most who have served for many years, we would not have a club. For them, getting a break or time off from serving on the board has become nearly impossible. It would be nice to see a strong showing of support at this month's election of officers meeting and everyone take the time to personally thank those who have accepted nominations.

For those of you that have missed our meetings this year, we not only had successful and fun programs but STARS is positioned to become an important fundamental asset of the Town of Hamburg. Earlier this year John Leitten KA2RFT announced that he has been approached by the town seeking antenna tower and transceiver space at the Nike Base station. Additionally, I was contacted by Jim Spute with the town financial office. Jack Cullum KB2ESM and I met with Jim to discuss STARS future role as part of their Emergency Disaster Preparedness plan. These are very significant developments which give STARS a solid future and sincere community purpose.

Times are changing, and we welcome the opportunity to meet these changes. We are getting some important local government attention. Next year we will develop procedures, offer training, and prepare to meet our new community role. It is my hope that STARS will remain a strong organization at a time when our future looks brighter than ever. Your club was built by the proud members of the past with a solid foundation for the future. A STARS membership has and always will be an honorable possession.

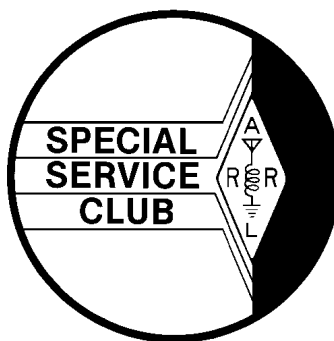
See you at the meeting.

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.



STARS is
an ARRL
Special
Services
Club

WNY Earth Science Day

STARS demonstrated amateur radio at the WNY Earth Science Day event at the Penn Dixie Site on Saturday, October 1. Everyone had a good time. Three young men and one young lady had their first opportunity to talk over the radio, but each suffered from some mike fright! Even so, each seemed to enjoy their experience being on the air. The weather could not have been better.

Thank you to my helpers for a job well done. In spite of the berry bushes and brush, the antenna crew came across and the antenna went up. Thank you John KA2RFT, Jack KB2ESM, Scott KB2KOL, Lembit KB2VWA, Esther N2WBM and John K2CF for all the work that you did! STARS is already signed up for next year's event.



73, George Ebert N2NOB
Event Chairman

New Schedule for Question Pool Revisions

The National Conference for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced a new schedule for releasing revisions to the amateur radio examination question pools. The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the NCVEC has indicated that they believe that it is imperative to produce a new Technician Class question pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead.

The new schedule will impact the previously announced release dates for revision of all three question pools. The new Technician Class (Element 2) question pool is now due for release on January 1, 2006 and will become effective for examinations given on and after July 1, 2006. The previously announced effective date for the Technician

2005 ARRL Field Day Official Results

The ARRL has released the official results for the 2005 ARRL Field Day. Members of ARRL can view a searchable database of scores after logging in at their website at: www.arrl.org.

The scope of the event is truly huge (as one local car dealer would say)! A total of 2212 formal entries were received with 33,078 people participating. These stations racked up 1.2 million contacts in the 24 hours! Due to lack of sunspots, the higher bands suffered from poor propagation. Total contacts for 2005 represented a decline of about 8% from 2004 and a decline of about 15% from the record established in 2002.

STARS WB2ELW station had an official score of 3,006 points from 749 total contacts by 32 participants. In the Western New York section, STARS placed 2nd out of 5 stations in the 2A category and 7th out of 35 stations in all categories. Nationwide, STARS placed 158th out of 454 stations in the 2A category and placed in the top 25% of stations in all categories.

Since STARS emphasizes using Field Day as a learning experience for all no matter what their experience level, this represents a fine effort for the club.



Class question pool had been July 1, 2007. The new General Class (Element 3) question pool, which had been scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, is now due for release on December 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2007. The new Extra Class (Element 4) question pool, which was originally scheduled for release in 2005, will now be released on December 1, 2007 and will become effective July 1, 2008. Barring any major rule changes, the subsequent updates to all question pools will follow the traditional four-year cycle.

ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive Kicking into Gear

Toys already have begun showing up in Memphis, Tennessee, in response to the ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive appeal. The League has partnered with The Salvation Army for this year's effort to brighten the holiday season for children in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana left homeless or displaced in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"As The Salvation Army continues to provide assistance to the victims of the largest natural disaster in modern US history, we are excited to partner with the ARRL in providing toys for children affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita this holiday season," said Mark Jones, The Salvation Army's public relations director.

Because it still has the facilities to manage a large toy drive, The Salvation Army will handle the distribution end of the program. Its facility in Jackson, Mississippi, will coordinate distribution throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Country music artist Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, is the Holiday Toy Drive's national chairperson.

The collection point for the toys is in Memphis, Tennessee, where the League has secured a warehouse facility. Between now and December 10, the ARRL is encouraging ham radio operators throughout the

US to purchase new, unwrapped toys for children ages 1 through 4 and send them with a QSL card to ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125.

Volunteers in Memphis will sort and stock the toys, and in early December, the toys will be transported to The Salvation Army facilities in hurricane areas that need help the most at that time.

Amateur Radio volunteers turned out in force to support communication for relief and recovery operations in the

(Continued on page 5)



Nike Base Club Station Work Party

A work party was held at STARS Nike Base Club Station on Saturday October 15. Scott Barto KB2KOL, the work party chairman, reported that the event went very well.

All three of the dipole antennas were repaired. Some had bad center connectors/baluns, while others had bad feed lines. The dipoles are ready for this contest season, and the beams are working fine. Scott said that he was up and down the tower three times and that he was very tired by the end of the day. This time they didn't have the advantage of the fire department bucket truck.

The operating room was cleaned up nicely, but there is still some work to do on organizing equipment in the meeting and storage rooms.

Other volunteers included John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Lembit Enders KB2VWA, John Dilivio K2CF, George Ebert N2NOB and Gerry Maira KA2MGE. Thanks go to all the volunteers for helping to get the station back in good shape! We didn't get any pictures from the work party but here is Scott and Gerry at the club station in 2002.



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 will be holding test sessions on 11/12/05, 1/14/06, 3/11/06, 5/13/06 and 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 K200 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 Morse Code Proposal

The comment period on the FCC proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all classes of amateur radio licenses closes on October 31 with more than 3200 comments filed with the FCC. People have until November 14 to file replies to comments filed previously by other people.

After this, the FCC staff will likely take some time to summarize the comments filed and report to the board. The ARRL has said that they believe that an FCC Report and Order ending the proceeding and announcing the effective date of any rule changes is not likely until sometime in 2006. The FCC could, of course, still decide not to make any changes to the rules.

ARRL 2005 Toy Drive

(Continued from page 4)

Gulf Coast. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the Amateur Radio community is once again in a position to make a difference.

"Thousands of families are without a place to live and will be homeless over the coming holiday season," he said. "For a child living out of a tent or car, FEMA trailer or someone else's home, the 2005 holiday season will be anything but jolly. But hams from all across the country are coming to their rescue again through the ARRL Holiday Toy Drive."

Cash donations from ARRL members also are welcome. League members may send checks to ARRL Holiday Toy Drive, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"Knowing that someone 'out there' remembers you is a start for these children," Pitts said.

More information about the ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive is available on the League's Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/>>.

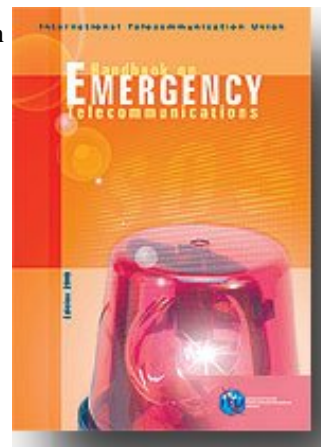
The ARRL Letter 10/28/05

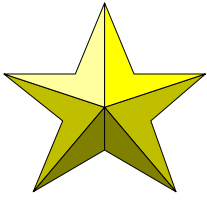
Portions of Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications Now Available:

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has made significant portions of the 2005 edition of its Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications available for free download in English, French or Spanish.

The ITU says the Handbook is designed to serve as a close companion to those involved in providing and using telecommunications for disaster mitigation and relief. Details are on the ITU Web site <<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/publications.html>>.

The ARRL Letter 10/29/05





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

Terry W. Rockhold K200
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k200@bigfoot.com