

telstar



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

ISSUE 288 DECEMBER 2005

2006 Club Elections

The 2006 STARS club elections were held at the November club meeting.

The following are the winners of the election:

President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Vice President	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Financial Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director (2 Year Term)	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC

These people plus George Ebert N2NOB (a Director in the second year of his two-year term) will make up the 2006 STARS Board of Directors. They will be sworn into their positions at the December meeting.

All of these people have been serving on the Board either this year or in past years. They spend a lot of time and effort each month to help make STARS a great club and should be thanked for volunteering to do it again next year.

The Board normally meets on the fourth Thursday night of the month starting at 7:30 PM at the STARS Nike Base club station. The Board meetings are open to all STARS members, and the Board would like to encourage you to attend.

December Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership are required.



Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our club officers for 2006.

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. Members are also invited to set up "for sale" tables.

Also, please remember to bring donations for our Food Drive. See article on page 3. We look forward to seeing you there!

2006 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2006!

You should complete the form included with this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.



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.

Thank You for Two Successful Years!

To say it's been interesting, not only for STARS but also for amateur radio, is an understatement. Locally we enter in to a new era with the Town of Hamburg and disaster preparedness. Nationally, changes such as proposals to restructure the bands, restructuring the licenses, and dropping the Morse code requirement will all likely pass next year. At the broadband over power line front, interference issues continue to be submitted to the FCC with little or no action. Increasing global weather disasters where ARES/RACES groups supported recovery efforts caught the attention of national and local government agencies more than ever before. These are certainly busy times.

The last two years have propelled me deeper in to the world of amateur radio for the obvious reason. I'm not that different from the rest of you. I only wanted to be a member and I'm so busy I didn't what to go as far as running the club. Also, I didn't have the credentials. As a relatively a new member, joining in 1998, I hadn't been here long enough to developed the personal relationships with you that others members have. However, it troubled me even more that STARS was loosing members willing to serve as officers. That is why I took the challenge knowing my primary personal goal would have to be; listen to each member's ideas, criticism, and praise before taking any actions because fundamentally the club belongs to its members.

I can't thank you enough for your support and participation. Without you STARS would not exist. The effort everyone made to sell raffle tickets erased our financial debt in one year and resulted in supplying us with reliable equipment for years to come. Although attendance and membership have been declining, we are still a structurally solid organization. That speaks well for past, current, and future members.

I give my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the board members who served with me. Nothing gets done without these people, and they are by far the best STARS has to offer. You are the reason for our success. It has been an honor to serve with you.

Please join us at our Christmas party to welcome back Bob Koster KA2WYE as President of STARS for 2006. I'll see you there.

73,
Keith Patterson KC2DGC

STARS Food Drive

As we have done for the last few years, we will have a food drive at our Holiday Party this year. The food collected will be donated to an agency that distributes food to the needy of the area.

Here is a partial list of needed items. Cereals, pancake mix, jelly or jam, noodles and cheese, all pastas, tuna fish, bagged rice, dried beans, soup mixes, spaghetti sauce, "canned"



or any other non-perishables that you can think of. Please, no exploded cans or out of date items.

This is a great way we can help to give back to the local community. Please bring what you can.

VE Session

The STARS VE Team held a VE exam session on Saturday, November 12 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

We had two candidates at the session. One qualified for a new Technician class license . The other, who had recently received his Technician with Morse code class license, earned his General class license.

VE's serving at the session were Jim Livingston N2SKT, Rich Budzynski KI2X, John Crawford Sr. KB2VWC and Terry Rockhold K2OO.



ARRL Atlantic Division Elections

Former STARS member Bill Edgar N3LLR of Bradford, PA was recently elected ARRL Atlantic Division Director for a three-year term starting January 1, 2006. Bill is currently the ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director. In his new position, Bill will be responsible for casting votes representing ARRL Atlantic Division members on all ARRL Board decisions.



Bill Edgar N3LLR

The current ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN decided not to run for reelection.

Bill was elected by a vote of 2404 to 1527 over current ARRL Western New York Section Manager Scott Bauer W2LC.



Tom Abernethy W3TOM

Tom Abernethy W3TOM of Accokeek, MD was elected to succeed Bill Edgar as ARRL Atlantic Division Director. He is currently the ARRL Maryland-DC Section Manager.

Congratulations to both men and good luck in your new positions!

Interlink Swap Net

The Interlink Swap Net meets every Tuesday night starting at 7:00 PM to list amateur radio related items for sale, trade, etc. The linked repeaters are on 145.310, 145.470, 146.760, 146.835, 147.105, 444.100, 444.850, and 444.050 MHz. All use a PL of 88.5 Hz. Gary KB2YAA is the usual net controller.

STARS Members Meet in Nevada

STARS Treasurer Jack Cullum KB2ESM, along with his wife Marie, recently made a trip out west. After spending a couple of days in Las Vegas, they ventured to Laughlin, NV, where they met up with STARS member Bruce Settlemyer W7ELW (formerly KC2GJX) and his wife Don and granddaughter Tini from Kingman, AZ. W7ELW? Doesn't that have a familiar ring! Jack said that everyone had a good time getting reacquainted.

The Cullums then went on to visit Prescott Valley and Sedona in AZ before returning to Orchard Park in time for the lake effect snows!



Marie, Tini, Don, Bruce W7ELW & Jack KB2ESM



Bruce W7ELW & Jack KB2ESM

RAWNY Youth Night

On November 8, 2005, the Radio Association of WNY (RAWNY) held their 16th Annual Youth Night. They hosted scouts, leaders and parents.

RAWNY members were joined by members of other local clubs to demonstrate various aspects of radio communications including FM repeaters, HF communications, CW, QRP projects, SWL and utility monitoring, slow scan TV, APRS, kit building, DXing, QSL cards, public service events, EchoLink and traffic handling.

STARS members Judy Levan N2TEZ, Jim Livingston N2SKT and Terry Rockhold K2OO participated, and John Powers KC2IUN visited the event. Judy joined with Bob Hamilton N3QOT in representing the NWS and the SKYWARN program. Jim and Terry demonstrated fox hunting (radio direction finding).

See <http://www.pbase.com/k2oo/> for Youth Night photos.



Judy N2TEZ, Bob N3QOT and John KC2IUN talk at the RAWNY Youth night.

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 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.

Snowflake Net Returns

The Snowflake Net, which aired in the early 90's, is returning to the 145.390 MHz K2XZ repeater. The net is an informal, non-directed net designed to have some fun and to get to know others in WNY.

The first net was on Thursday night, November 17. The net will run every evening there is snow on the ground. The net begins at 10:15 PM and runs until everyone drops out or for about 2 hours, whichever comes first. All are welcome to drop by.



SKYWARN Recognition Day

The seventh annual ARRL-National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) event takes place Saturday, December 3, 2005.

SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers for the vital services they provide during weather-related




emergencies. During the 24-hour activity, radio amateurs set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and work as a team to contact other hams around the world.



The 2005 activity gets under way December 3 at 0000 UTC (7 PM on Friday, December 2 local WNY time) and continues until 2400 UTC. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes also are permitted. Operators will exchange call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of their weather, such as "sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.

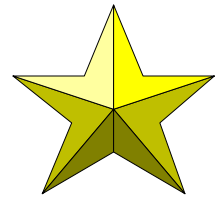
A colorful SRD certificate can be earned by hams working just one National Weather Service office station. Endorsements can be earned for working a certain number of stations in each area of the country. Many of the offices will send special QSL cards for contacts during the event similar to the one from the Buffalo office for the 2004 event shown below. If you're interested in being a base operator here at the Buffalo Office for this year's event, you can contact Judy N2TEZ at judith.levan@noaa.gov.

Information on operating procedures, participating offices, QSL cards, and the SRD Certificates can be found at: www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio.

6 th Annual NWS-ARRL SKYWARN Recognition Day					
		WX2BUF			
					
National Weather Service			Buffalo N.Y.		
DATE	TIME	STATION	RST	FREQUENCY	MODE



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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