

# telstar



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

ISSUE 277 JANUARY 2005

## 2004 ARRL Field Day Results

The ARRL has officially announced the results of the 2004 Field Day contest.

STARS had 30 people using the WB2ELW club call to rack up 939 QSO's for a total score of 3,594. This compared to STARS 2003 results of 667 QSO's for a total score of 2,776 points..

This placed STARS in first place in the WNY section for class 2A stations and in fifth place out of all 34 WNY stations in various classes.

Nationwide, STARS placed 131st out of 455 class 2A stations, and 462nd out of all 2250 stations in the competition.

STARS members had a good learning experience and lots of fun during 2004 Field Day and made an impressive gain on the results from 2003.

## STARS Raffle

Jaime Morley and STARS member Larry Dietz AA2GW were the two lucky winners of the STARS raffle for \$150 Wal-Mart gift certificates.



## January Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 6th at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Get caught up on all of the amateur radio activities going on around Western New York and in our club. Start the New Year out right!

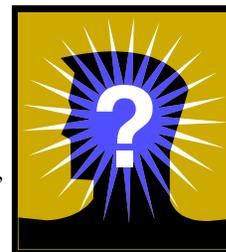


STARS President Keith Patterson KC2DGC has expressed his desire to provide more training in 2005 for STARS members and guests in emergency communications. As part of this effort, our presentation this month will be a video on the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which is staged every October around the nation.

## Did You Renew Yet?

Your dues to renew your 2005 STARS club membership are due on January 1. Did you remember? If we receive them in time, your 2005 membership card and repeater codes will be included with your February newsletter.

Why not take time right now to fill out the renewal form included with your Nov. and Dec. newsletters and send it along with your dues to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or bring them to the January club meeting.



If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number, email address and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email or regular mail and if you are an ARRL member.

## 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 after a lapse of two years or more 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! STARS no longer benefits from normal yearly renewals, so they should be sent directly to the ARRL.



## Relax, Smile, and Have Fun, It's a Club

I was delighted to see all of you at our Christmas party last month. We had such a wonderful time that we almost forgot to install the club officers for 2005. Maybe it's just me but somehow it seems that this meeting always seems to get me into the spirit of the holiday season.

In 2004 we were able to complete some difficult goals. Our financial position was strengthened by cutting costs and two successful ticket raffles. We faced declining attendance; a trend that reversed itself in the last two months of the year. Meetings seemed too intense and weren't fun anymore. They needed to be relaxed so we shortened up the business meeting agenda to allow more social interaction and earlier program starts. We were pressuring members too much to volunteer. So we eased our event activity workload to comfortable levels. These accomplishments help to make STARS a fun organization once again. Now we can turn the page on 2004 and begin 2005 with a solid foundation to work with.



For 2005 the board and I would like to begin the year by asking this question. "What would you like us to do as a club?" Remember when we get together and someone says, "Hey, remember when we..." sound familiar? If you have a particular program or activity of interest please let the board know so we may begin the planning process at our January board meeting. Maybe there were things we did in the past that you would like to do again. Or maybe there is something completely different that we haven't done yet. Then again maybe there is something you don't like. I'm sure some of you have some very good ideas.

Let's face it, we all do the amateur radio thing in our own way but we need to relax and have fun at meetings. The way I see 2005 is if you don't go to the meetings you will miss a well deserved night out for yourself and we can all use more of that. Your board will continue to provide our annual activities and programs but we will set a new priority on having fun which makes a more meaningful club experience.

My club New Year's resolution will be to make it fun again. Thank you for a successful 2004, see you at the meeting, and Happy New Year.

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.

## LARA Hamfest

The Lockport Amateur Radio Association (LARA) will be holding their 44<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest on January 29.

They will be returning to the South Transit Firehall, Transit Road (Route 78) at Ruhlman Road (1.2 miles North of Route 93), Lockport, NY 14094.

Setup for vendors begins at 7 AM. The Hamfest will be open to the public between 8 AM and noon.

Flea market tables will be available for \$5.00 per 8 foot table. Flea market tables can be reserved by sending a check or money order to be received by 1/17/05 to: Duane Robinson, PO Box 142, Ransomville, NY 14131.

Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 free. There will be plenty of free parking.

Food will be available: hot dogs, hamburgers, beef on weck, donuts, coffee and pop.

Talk-in will be on W2RUI/R on 146.82 (-) (PL 107.2).

For information call Duane Robinson W2DLR at 791-4096 or e-mail [w2dlr@arrl.net](mailto:w2dlr@arrl.net).

## Travel Bug WB2ELW

Since we last reported on Travel Bug WB2ELW, it has bounced back and forth between caches south of Salt Lake City named Lookout Point Rock, Rowlonian Code and 1st Crazy Kid. On December 28, it was placed in a cache called Pezerific, sharing it's space with over 40 PEZ containers. The cache is in the mountains and presents a spectacular view to the east as shown in the picture below.

To follow the travels of the travel bug WB2ELW, go to <http://www.geocaching.com>. On the left side of the page, click on "Track Travel Bugs." Then, on the right side of the next page, enter the tracking number TBGFQY and click on "SEARCH."



## LARC Technician Classes to Begin Jan. 5

Registration will be held at the Lancaster Amateur Radio Clubhouse at 525 Pavement Rd. Lancaster on Wednesday January 5th 2005 at 7:00pm. At that time they will sign up everyone who wants to take the classes and will also take orders for the ARRL book "Now Your Talking", as well as informing everyone what the classes will consist of.

For more information or to sign up, contact:

Joseph Gearhart WV2NY  
Home phone: 716-892-2760 evenings only  
E-mail: [wv2ny@adelphia.net](mailto:wv2ny@adelphia.net)

## SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 2004 SKYWARN Recognition Day was held on December 4, 2004. This event is to celebrate the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service (NWS). During the day, SKYWARN operators at NWS offices contact other NWS offices and other radio operators across the world.

SKYWARN operators manning the WX2BUF station at the Buffalo NWS office included STARS members John W2IV, John KA2RFT, Jack KB2ESM and Judy N2TEZ. They were joined by Dave AA2PF, Frank KC2JPQ, Jim N8JXR, Bill WB8JPX, Luke N2GDU, Bill KC2KTZ, Bill WA2AIV, Bob N3QOT, Bill WB2SXY and his wife Pam.



During the 24-hour event, they made 599 QSO's to hams in 47 states, including contacts with 55 other NWS offices. During the peak hours, they were operating four radios. Beside the permanent sloper antenna behind the office, they also installed two temporary antennas in front of the office. Pictures of their operations can be viewed at: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/event2004.htm>

Terry K2OO activated the STARS Nike Base Club Station using the club's WB2ELW call sign. Limited to working only NWS stations, STARS could not hope to match the Buffalo NWS office's totals for QSO's or states worked, but did come close in working 53 different NWS offices. STARS qualified for six different endorsements and missed qualifying for three more by one station each.

# STARS Holiday Party Photos



## STARS Board of Directors

|                 |                    |        |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| President       | Keith Patterson    | KC2DGC |
| Past President  | Bob Koster         | KA2WYE |
| 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 1/15, 3/12, 5/14 and 7/9 in 2005 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 Peter Orendorf AB2KG 662-0096 or e-mail him at [fouroz1@aol.com](mailto:fouroz1@aol.com). Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 and 6/4 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](mailto: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.

## License Restructuring

Many hams are eagerly awaiting FCC action on amateur radio license restructuring. Unfortunately, the ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in any other amateur radio licensing requirements prior to 2006, possibly later.

The FCC continues to review thousands of comments that it received on 18 petitions for rule making. The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

Before the FCC adopts any changes to the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, and then invite further comments on the *NPRM*. The FCC will then review those comments before issuing a *Report and Order* that spells out any final rules. This is why the ARRL does not anticipate any changes prior to 2006. Until then, the 5 wpm Morse code requirement to gain HF privileges in the US will remain in effect and no proposed automatic upgrades and other rule changes will occur.

There has been a noticeable decline recently in people taking VE exams to upgrade their licenses, and many think that is because people are waiting to see what the FCC is going to do. If this is the situation that you find yourself in, you should realize that any changes will not be soon and may not occur at all. Studying to pass the current requirements for upgrading will be a quicker and perhaps surer path to obtaining the upgraded privileges that you want.

## In the News

STARS member Mick Waclawski KB2MSW was profiled in the *Buffalo News* on Sunday, December 26. See: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20041226/1003535.asp>.

The article is titled "*No longer taking life for granted*" and outlines Mick's life before and after a tobogganing accident in Delaware Park 24 years ago left him paralyzed from the neck down.

Prior to the accident, Mick had just been elected captain of the McKinley High School swim team and had enlisted in the delayed-entry program for the US Air Force.

After the accident, Mick worked hard to surpass the doctors' expectations and to build his life by trying to make the most of every day.

## VE Exam Fees for 2005

Starting January 1, 2005, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions (including STARS VE team exams) will increase from \$12 to \$14.

This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading his or her operating privileges. Per the FCC, the test fee allow examinees one attempt to pass or fail each of the four examination elements.

Only if an examination element is being retaken after a failed test would a second test fee be charged.



# 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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