

telstar



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

ISSUE 296

AUGUST 2006



The Greater Buffalo Summer Hamfest & Exposition combined with the WNY ARRL Section Convention will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2006 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. Outdoor flea market spaces are \$10 (for 10 x 20 ft.). Indoor tables are \$15 per 8 ft. table.

Set up for outdoor flea market 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. Indoor vendors with prior reservations will set-up at 6 AM. The indoor vendor pavilion will open for business at 8 AM.

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.

There will be a fox hunt starting at 9 AM with the winner receiving a trophy.

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

The VE exam session will begin at 9 AM 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.

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

For general information, call (716) 825-7097.

August Meeting

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



Scott Barto KB2KOL works with two scouts at STARS 2006 Field Day Operations. (KA2MGE Photo)

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!



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The STARS Annual picnic is upon us at the August 3rd meeting at the Nike Base HF station located on Lakeview Road in the Town of Hamburg. The Club supplies hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. If you wish to bring your favorite picnic dish please feel free, the more good food the better.

In the past many people have brought items to sell so bring that unused ham gear and turn it into cash. If you are not selling, bring a little extra cash to pick up that item that you may be looking for. Family and friends are all invited. So bring your stuff and bring your self and plan on a good time.

We will have a short business meeting then onto the food and mini flea market.

You may want to bring some lawn chairs with you for sitting around and rag chewing.

If you have any ideas for meeting programs for the next few months please submit them to me, we need to fill September, October and November. Remember this is YOUR Club, so please get involved.

August Events

- 5-6 ARRL UHF Contest
- 5-6 North American QSO Party - CW
- 19-20 ARRL 10 GHz and up contest
- 19-20 North American QSO Party – phone

Sincerely,

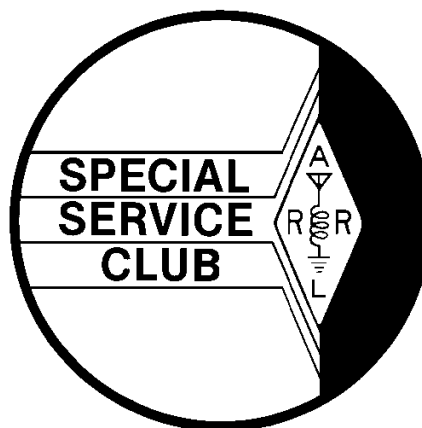
Bob (KA2WYE) Koster

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. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.



AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS has completed its schedule of exams for the period of 9/05 to 7/06. We anticipate holding test sessions from 9/06 to 7/07 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 874-0346.

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.

STARS VE Exam

STARS VE team held exams on July 8, 2006 at the Grace Lutheran Church.

There were five candidates to be tested. Two candidates qualified for new Technician class licenses. One 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.



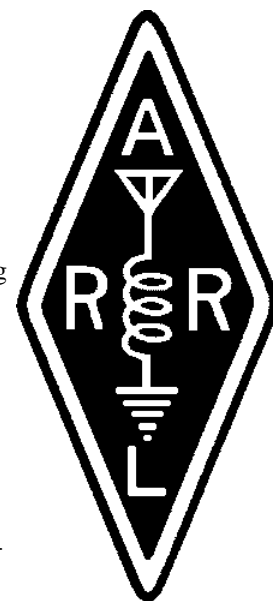
Thanks go to John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWA, Scott Barto KB2KOL, Ed Patton N2ING and Terry Rockhold K2OO for serving as VE's for the session.

First ARRL Online Auction Planned for October

The ARRL may be giving eBay and the other auction sites a little competition in the Amateur Radio arena this fall when the first ARRL Online Auction gets under way. Auction proceeds will help to support the League's educational services and programs. The event now is in the planning stages, says ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ.

"We will soon embark on an exciting new venture," Jahnke said in providing the broad strokes of the online auction to ARRL Headquarters staff members. Jahnke and her Business Services team will organize and manage the event, which is planned for late October -- the exact dates haven't been set yet --and she promises it will be lots of fun.

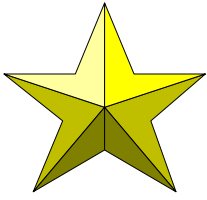
"This will not be just another boring auction, because we plan to include many unique and special items related to Amateur Radio," she said. "We are hoping to offer items that will interest our audience, ranging from DXpedition vacation rentals to restored Collins 75A4s." Jahnke says this inaugural online auction will be limited to 100 items.



The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise. Bidders just need online access to take part. "With an online auction, we can reach potential bidders across the nation and around the world," Jahnke pointed out.

Jahnke says she anticipates that the online auction will be open for about two weeks, and participants will need to register in advance. At this stage, she says, the auction planners are seeking additional ideas but no auction booty as yet. Contact Jahnke via e-mail <djahnke@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter 7/28/06



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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