

The Starved Rock Radio Club (SRRRC) meets on the first Monday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled, at 7:00 p. m. at the SRRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois. Club nets are held on the SRRRC repeater (W9MKS) every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The W9MKS repeater is located at the SRRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois, and it operates on a frequency of 147.120 MHz (+103.5 PL). The Starved Rock Radio Club was organized in September of 1933, and has remained an ARRL affiliated club since 1934.

The mission of the Starved Rock Radio Club has continually been to give faithful, co-operative service and assistance for the betterment of amateur radio, in the promotion of interest in amateur radio communications, for the advancement of the radio art, for the use of amateur radio for public service and welfare, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and the promotion of good fellowship along with a high standard of conduct. Visit us on the web at www.qsl.net/w9mks

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- Vice President:
Rich Grimshaw N9OUW
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- Static Editor:
Dirk Wolgast W9QA

ISS "Hot on Voice"

By Steve Michalski, KB9UPS



ISS commander Mike Foale (KB5UAC) said on a morning pass today he was given the go-ahead to switch on the Kenwood D-700. Ham stations worldwide listened in as Mike Foale talked saying the D-700 rig is making a big difference.

We should hear much more from the ISS now. Signals coming down are very strong, 9+ and better. If you have a 2-meter rig, HT or mobile, you have what it takes to make the link. North American passes right now are early morning until late afternoon, as many as six with several prim overhead. Listen in on 145.800MHz and be ready to put out your call on 144.490MHz. Keep QSOs short, as many hams are calling and at a speed of about 13,500mph things happen very fast.

The ISS crew will be on station until April when

Progress will bring Expedition #8 home and the Expedition #9 crew of commander William S. McArthur Jr. and Valery I. Tokarev will be handed the next six month watch. The next ISS school contact is scheduled for January 2, 2004, with Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio direct via ND8HA starting at 1402utc (8:02am). QSOs are subject to crew's schedules. And as always, "I'll see you, on the birds".

Steve/kb9ups

Editor's note: Steve has reported that both voice and packet operation from the ISS has been on 145.800 MHz simplex in recent days.

With The Handi-Hams: The Knowledge To Make Dreams Come True

by Rick Jorgenson, KBØQPY

Reprinted with permission from Worldradio, April 1998)

The Courage HANDI-HAM organization has been helping people with disabilities enjoy the hobby of Amateur Radio for over 31 years. They understand that people with disabilities are sometimes on limited incomes and cannot go out and purchase brand new

equipment. Having volunteers who can turn old Amateur Radio equipment into working equipment allows HANDI-HAM members to enjoy Amateur Radio.

Rex Kiser, WØGLU, and Ken Williams, WØJKM,

are two volunteers who donate their time repairing used, and sometimes broken, radio equipment and turning it into something useful at Courage Center in Golden Valley, Minnesota. With their knowledge and experience, they can turn



The Editor's Shack

Last year, I was pretty much just a spectator during Skywarn Recognition Day. This year, I got a bit more involved in the event. Although getting a tour of the NWS facility and operating or in my case, logging, were fun, what I liked about the experience was getting the chance to set up temporary (read that emergency) communications with people that I didn't know too well. Unlike the typical Field Day, where you're dealing with friends and fellow club members, hams from many different groups were there. Everyone in the core group was involved in some

manner with Skywarn, so we all shared a common interest in emergency communications. At one point, I counted ECs from four counties in attendance. A basic plan had been mapped out prior to the event, and everyone cooperated to get the job done.

I think what struck me the most about the event was the amount of involvement by the National Weather Service staff. Of course, Bill Wilson, KB9ZXN and Jim Stefkovich, KD5HLE were there to lend their assistance and got some operating in. Jim even ended up making a contact

with his boss at Central Region Headquarters. It seems almost all of the NWS personnel in attendance, including non-hams (or should I say future hams?) took a turn at the microphone.

By the way, as we were packing up, Bill mentioned that he wanted to head out to our Field Day operation this year. We'll have a rig all warmed up and waiting for you, Bill.

73, W9QA

December Meeting Notes

Frank Carraro, KF9NZ - SRRS Secretary

The meeting was chaired by Rich, N9OUW, and there were 26 members present. Nick is making progress in getting all the hamfest stuff together. We have the signed fairgrounds contract, and we discussed what to do about the flyers.

Kurt is trying to organize a regular monthly work day. We need to finish up the long-delayed back room work. Joe KB9EZZ is organizing Community Emergency Response Team training. Members can download the information from the CERT/FEMA internet site. <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/cert/>

KF9NZ reported that the UHF transmit antenna at K9PHW's remote site is bad, and Joe switched to the APRS antenna to keep the repeater working. Of course, the APRS system is down until this is corrected. This means that two critical antennas of the repeater are in trouble.

The matter of the Club historian seems to have died due to lack of interest.

After some discussion and a look at the budget we voted to spend \$150.00 to purchase a set of Technician Exam CD's from ARRL. The matter of getting the Club property deed corrected was raised. We have not heard from N9ZJK for some time. Kurt will try to find out what's going on.

Eldon, KB9PZA donated a PA amp system to the club. We may be able to save the cost of renting the system for the hamfest.

Francis, WB9VLW, our Treasurer needs to know who are ARRL members. We need this information to remain an ARRL affiliated club. Be sure this information is on your membership renewal form.

LATE FLASH

Both repeater antennas are repaired and in service. Thanks to K9PHW for fixing the problem at his site, and KB9UPS with KB9RKU for fixing the club site.

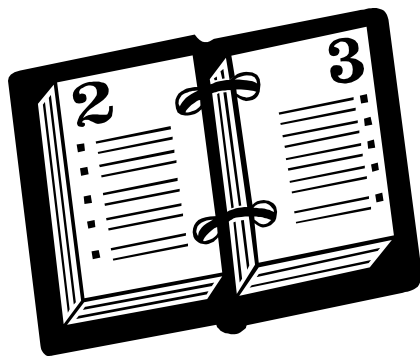
Kid's Day is Sunday January 4

Reprinted with permission from ARRL Web

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 17, 2003--For the first time, Kid's Day will occur on a Sunday. The first 2004 running of this popular operating event will be Sunday, January 4 (the second Kid's Day in 2004 will be Saturday, June 19). Intended to encourage young people--licensed or not--to enjoy Amateur Radio, Kid's Day offers a "mentoring opportunity" for experienced amateurs while giving youngsters some firsthand hamming experience and perhaps sparking a lifelong interest.

"Kid's Day is an opportunity to introduce your own youngsters, neighborhood kids and nieces and nephews to participate in the magic of ham radio," suggests Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, of ARRL Field and Educational Services. Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with BARC's cooperation and assistance. Now entering its tenth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants.

Activities Calendar / Upcoming Events



ARRL Straight Key Night

January 1 0000Z – 2400Z

CW only, using straight keys Emphasis on rag chews, rather than quick contest-type exchanges. Complete rules can be found online: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/skn.html>

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest

January 1 0800Z – 1100Z

80 meters and 40 meters, RTTY only Complete rules can be found online: <http://www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm>

Celebrating Kid's Day and Amateur Radio Awareness

(December 21 0501Z) – January 5 0500Z Sponsor Atkinson Amateur Radio Club Frequencies: 28.380 21.380 14.280 7.230 QSL: Peter Schipelliti, 7 Dearborn Ridge Rd., Atkinson, NH 03811

ISS School Contact

January 2 1402Z

Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio, direct via ND8GA

ARRL RTTY Roundup

January 3 1800Z – January 4 2400Z

Digital modes only 80,40,20,15,10 meters only complete rules online: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/rtty.html>

Kid's Day

January 4 1800Z – 2400Z

Sponsor: Boring Amateur Radio Club Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with

permission from your area repeater sponsor. Certificate: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357; Boring, OR 97009 Complete rules online: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>

North American QSO Party - CW

January 10 1800Z – January 11 0600Z

Sponsor: National Contest Journal Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

Hunting Lions in the Air

January 10 000Z – January 11 2400Z

Sponsor: South African District 410B of the International Association of Lions Clubs CW /Phone. Frequencies: 160-10 meters Complete rules online: <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp>

UK DX Contest -CW

January 10 1200Z – January 11 1200Z

Sponsor: Scottish-Russian ARS Frequencies: 160 - 10-meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.srars.org/ukdxcruleseng.pdf>

DARC 10-meter Contest

January 11 0900Z – 1059Z

Sponsor: Deutscher Amateur Radio Club Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-28.700 MHz Complete rules online: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm>

North American QSO Party – Phone

January 17 1800Z – January 18 0600Z

Sponsor: National Contest Journal Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

LZ Open Championship

January 17 1200Z – 2000Z

Sponsor: LZ1KPP Radio Club CW only Frequencies: 3.5 and 7 MHz. Complete rules online: <http://www.qsl.net/lz1fw/lzopen/index.html>

3rd Anniversary Anne Arundel Radio Club Jr, W3W

January 17 1300Z – January 18 1800Z

Frequencies: 28.335 21.365 14.265 7.237. Certificate or QSL. Andrew Kelly, K3ASK, 1561 Efford Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122. For more information: <http://kidshamradio.com/specialevent.html>

HA DX Contest – CW

January 17 1200Z – January 18 1200Z

Sponsor: Hungarian DX Club Frequencies: 160-10-meter bands. Complete rules online: <http://www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html>

MI QRP Club January CW Sprint

January 18 1200Z – January 19 2400Z.

Sponsor: Michigan QRP Club Frequencies: 160-6 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub>

070 PSKFest

January 18 0000Z – 2400Z

Sponsor: Penn/OH DX Society Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html>

Ham Radio University 2004

January 18 1300Z – 2200Z

Sponsor: ARRL NY City/Long Island Section, W2V. Frequencies: 21.270 14.270 7.270. Certificate. George Tranos, PO Box 296, Bellport, NY 11713. Complete information online: <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2003.htm>

60th Anniversary of the Battle for Anzio 1944

January 22 0700Z – February 18

2359Z Sponsor: Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, GB6ANZ. Frequencies: 21.070 21.056 14.070 14.056. QSL: Mike Humphrey, G0SWY/KF4OFR, 4 Bluebell Rd, Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire, England SO16 3LQ. Complete information online: <http://www.rsars.org.uk/>

CHAPTER 9 – Grocery Store Radio

Excerpted from *Voices in the Air—The Fascination of Radio* © Robert Bonebrake

Reprinted with permission of the author, Robert Bonebrake, W9GCQ. This 174-page book is available at the Streatorland Historical Society Museum or from Francis Kmetz, WB9VLW, at \$12.95 each. The club has a copy at the clubhouse, which can be checked out. It is enjoyable reading.

My first exposure to the term "shortwave" was when I saw Bill Hill's radio at the hobby club in school. Now I had actually been able to hear shortwave radio stations. But I still didn't know the meaning of the word, except that shortwave stations couldn't be heard within the regular tuning range of ordinary radios like our Atwater Kent.

I continued listening to the stations at the end of the dial on the radio that Cyril Girard had given me, and I began making a list of their letters and numbers. I could hear six different stations. One seemed to be louder than the rest, and the operator always used the letters "W9JAU". I told Harry Camp about this and he said that he would ask his father where this station was located. The next day at school Harry told me that a man named Charles Burt was the operator of the station and it was located in the back of his father's grocery store on Bloomington Street. That explained why it was the loudest station I was hearing - Burt's store was only two blocks away from my house!

Burt's was a small neighborhood grocery store that was built onto the front of their house. My mother did some of her shopping at Burt's, and I had been with her many times. I had never seen a radio station there, but of course I had

never looked for one. My usual route to and from school took me past the store, so on my way home that day I looked to see if there was some kind of aerial wire on it. Sure enough, I hadn't noticed it before, but there was a wire coming out of a window on the side of the building, up to a pole on the roof, and then to a big cottonwood tree at the back of the lot. I imagined that I could see Charles Burt's voice coming from the wire and going out in all directions (especially toward my house). When I got home I turned my radio on but couldn't hear anything. Charles must have been doing something else. I told my mother what I had found out about Burt's store, and that I would sure like to see Charles' radio station. She was going shopping there the next day, and would ask Mr. Burt if I could see it sometime.

The next day after school I rushed home, slowing down just enough to look at Charles' aerial, to find out what Mr. Burt had said. He told my mother that Charles usually operated the radio station on Saturday mornings, so I should come over the next Saturday and see it. I was so excited that I could hardly go to sleep that night.

I was up early on Saturday morning. I wanted to listen to my radio to see if I could hear Charles before I went to the store. It was about 9:00 before I finally heard him talking to another station. I got on my bicycle and left for the store. Mr. Burt saw me as I came in the door, and told me that Charles was in the back room.

I found Charles behind a partition in a back corner of the store. I was so awed by what I saw that I didn't know what to say. Charles was talking into a silver colored microphone on the desk in front of him. He looked around and told me to sit down on an orange crate that was nearby. As he continued talking into the microphone, I saw that it was connected to a metal box that had a meter and several knobs on the front of it. I could see the needle on the meter wiggle up and down. Another box with more knobs sat beside the first one. I thought it must be great to be able to turn all of those knobs.

Then I heard Charles say that he had a visitor (me), and that he would listen for the other station. He flipped some switches and I heard the voice of the other operator coming from the second box on the desk. Charles leaned back in his chair and said, "Hello", and asked my name. I was so nervous I could hardly remember.

Soon the other station operator stopped talking and it was Charles' turn. He flipped the switches and started talking into the microphone again. I sat there spellbound, watching and listening. When finally he finished talking to the other station, I told him how I had heard him on my old radio and about building crystal sets and about seeing Bill Hill's shortwave radio. He explained a little about his radio station. How the box that the microphone was attached to was called a "transmitter", and the other box was the "receiver". He said that the transmitter was a Stan-

Handi-Hams, continued from page 1

an old radio into a working rig for a member to purchase at a cost that is affordable. These people want to be able to enjoy Amateur Radio, but do not have the money to purchase new gear. Many people with disabilities are on a fixed income such as Social Security or Supplemental Security Income, (SSI) and want to have the opportunity to enjoy Amateur Radio.

Kiser and Williams know they are making a difference in a person's life by making it possible for them to purchase radio equipment through HANDI-HAMS. Kiser went to electronics school in 1951 and 52. His instructor told him about a beginner's Amateur Radio class. He thought he should give it a try and found he enjoys talking to people all over the world. Rex heard about HANDI-HAMS through Ward Jensen, who was a friend and the owner of an electronics store. He began volunteering for Courage HANDI-HAMS in 1971 doing what he enjoys, fixing and repairing used radio equipment so a person who is on a

fixed income has the opportunity to enjoy radio communications.

Rex invited his friend Ken to join him, so they could work together repairing old radio equipment for HANDI-HAM members to enjoy. They began working together in 1984. They enjoy working together in the repair shop at Courage Center because they realize that they are doing something to enable people to purchase their own Amateur Radio equipment.

Ken says, "Amateur Radio has changed like night and day since Rex and I became involved. The biggest change is the equipment. Forty years ago, you needed a strong back to move the station. Now, it can be tucked under one arm."

Digital modes such as packet, Amtor, and RTTY, which allow amateurs to communicate with each other by using a computer and a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) are big changes to Amateur Radio. Amateurs, even deaf amateurs, are able to leave messages and communicate without depending on

having to hear the audio. Another change in Amateur Radio was when modulation went from AM to SSB.

Rex Kiser, WØGLU, and Ken Williams, WØJKM, enjoy their jobs at Courage Center and know HANDI-HAM members appreciate the equipment program. Because of their willingness to share their time and expertise, many Hams around the world enjoy getting on the air with affordable equipment.

Do you need more information about the HANDI-HAM equipment program? Contact Chris Peterson, KGØBP, at 612/520-0513, or via e-mail at handiham@mtn.org. Please consider a donation of usable radio equipment to the non-profit Courage HANDI-HAM System.

Courage HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley, MN 55422; 612/520-0511; handiham@mtn.org; www.mtn.org/handiham

Calendar, continued from page 3**Arrival of the Bald Eagles on the Mississippi River**

January 23 0000Z – January 25 2359Z
Sponsor: Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, K9E Frequencies: 7.250 14.250 21.350 28.350. Certificate: Robert G. Mitchell, 816 Long Dr, Quincy, IL 62305.

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
January 24 1900Z – January 26 0400Z
Frequencies: VHF and higher Complete rules online: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/jan-vhf-ss.html>

CQ WW 160-Meter Contest – CW
January 24 0000Z – January 25 2359Z
Sponsor: CQ Magazine Complete rules online: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/infoc.html>

REF French Contest – CW
January 24 0600Z – January 25 1800Z

Sponsor: Reseau des Emetteurs Francais Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.ref.tm.fr/>

BARTG RTTY Sprint

January 24 1200Z – January 25 1200Z
Sponsor: British Amateur Radio Teletype Group Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Complete rules online: <http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk/>

Packers Ice Bowl Remembered

January 24 1200Z – January 25 1800Z
Sponsor: Bay Area Relay League, W4P. Frequencies: SSB General bands; CW General and Novice bands. Certificate: George Russell, WN8VIX, 2530 Sun Terrace, Green Bay, WI 54311

WCRA Hamfest – St. Charles, IL

January 25 0800 – 1300 CST
Pheasant Run Megacenter, 4051 E Main, St. Charles. Talk – In: 145.39MHz - For more information: www.wheatonhamfest.org

18th Anniversary of the Challenger Disaster

January 28 1500Z – 2400Z
Sponsor: Challenger Middle School ARC, KI6YG Frequencies: 28.450 21.350 14.250 146.52 FM. QSL: Frank Forrester, KI6YG, Challenger Middle School, 10810 Parkdale Ave, San Diego, CA 92126

Rocket Launch: Progress M1-11

January 30
No. 260, Mission 13P launch toward the ISS. (Delayed from Nov. 11, Nov. 18 and December 2003)

Commemorating Groundhog Day

January 31 1400Z – 2100Z
Sponsor: Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Frequencies: 14.240 7.240 7.125 146.715. Certificate: Sherman Hollopetter, W3QOS, Box 20216 E Main St, Big Run, PA 15715 More information online: <http://>

Voices, continued from page 4

cor model 60P and the receiver was a Hallicrafters "Sky Buddy".

Then it was time for me to leave. Charles said that I should call him "Charlie", and that I should come back again and we would talk more about radios. As I rode my bicycle home I kept thinking how incredible it was that his voice could go into the microphone, through the transmitter, out on the aerial, and be heard in the receiver at another shortwave station. It was like some kind of magic, I thought. Charlie Burt was my fourth radio hero.

Kid's Day, continued from page 2

Kid's Day is not a contest, and patience is the byword on both sides of each contact. The role of the licensee and control operator is to help youngsters with the basics, keep an eye on the technical aspects of the operation, observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs and ensure station identification at proper intervals. In this event, it's quality of the contacts that counts, not quantity.

Kid's Day will run from 1800 to 2400 UTC, and there's no limit on operating time. The suggested exchange is name, age, location and favorite color. Stations may work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz plus 2 meter repeater frequencies, with permission from the repeater's sponsor). Guidelines for this event are available on the ARRL Web site.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page. Or you can send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Kid's Day participants are invited to post logs and comments on the Internet.

NASA: Cracks in Earth's Magnetic Field Stay Open to Let in Solar Wind

Reprinted with permission from ARRL Web

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 16, 2003-- NASA says it appears that immense cracks in Earth's magnetic field remain open for hours, allowing the solar wind to gush through and power stormy space weather. The space agency is basing that conclusion on observations from its IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause to Aurora Global Exploration) spacecraft and the joint NASA/European Space Agency (ESA) Cluster satellites. Scientists have known about the cracks for some time but didn't know until recently that they can remain open for long periods. The phenomenon can affect radio propagation.

Co-author of the *Nature* paper Tai Phan, also of UC Berkeley, says scientists can incorporate their new knowledge into space weather-forecasting computer models to more accurately predict how violent solar events influence space weather.

The solar wind, a stream of electrons and ions that blow constantly, transfers

energy from the sun to Earth through the magnetic fields it carries and its high speed--hundreds of miles per second. NASA says the solar wind can get gusty during violent solar events such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), or solar flares, which can shoot a billion tons of electrified gas into space at millions of miles per hour.

Earth's magnetic field extends into space for tens of thousands of miles and forms a protective barrier to the particles and snarled magnetic fields of a solar flare. Scientists learned in the 1970s that the magnetic field was not impenetrable.

In more recent observations, IMAGE revealed an area almost the size of California in the ionosphere above the Arctic, where a 75 MW "proton" aurora flared for hours. Ions striking the upper atmosphere caused it to emit ultraviolet light, which IMAGE can see but humans cannot. While IMAGE

recorded the UV aurora, the four-satellite Cluster constellation flew directly through the crack and detected solar wind ions streaming through in precisely the same region as the proton aurora.

There's more information, images and animations on NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Web site.--NASA

Calendar, continued from page 5

www.qsl.net/k3hwj

KS National Guard Museum Tribute
January 31 1600Z – 2200Z

Sponsor: KS National Guard Museum +West Allis RAC NOG
Frequencies: 28.400 21.350 14.310. Certificate: Steve Hamilton, 2523 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614. More information online: <http://www.warac.org>



The Starved Rock Radio Club

Membership Application

Effective Date: _____

New Member / Previous Member / Renewal / Not Licensed

ARRL member?	Class of License (for ARRL)	Call Sign	Date of Birth
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Name

Address

City, State, Zip

County Phone Number

E-Mail Address

Please circle if we can send you Static via e-mail only: YES

List other family members living at above address:

Call and Name: _____

SRRC MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES are due in January each year:

Initiation fee for new members is \$5.00 Regular, Non-Licensed and Associate member dues are \$20.00.

Family Member dues are \$25.00 Partial year dues are prorated by month.

Check / Cash Received by: _____ Amount paid: \$ _____

NOTICE: Dues for each member must be accompanied by this form. Funds received without this form are considered donations. Complete rules are printed in the Constitution and By-Laws (see www.qsl.net/w9mks) of the Club and I agree to abide by them.

Signed

Date

Mail completed application to: Francis Kmetz 1004 Park St. Streator, IL 61364, or bring to next meeting

THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

Post Office Box 198
Leonore, Illinois 61337

General Email: w9mks@qsl.net
Email for *Static* submissions: w9qa@arrl.net



National Weather Service, Romeoville, IL on Skywarn Recognition Day 2003

NWS photo