

TELSTAR

AUGUST 1987 NO. 84

SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President = John Leitten KA2RFT
- Vice pres. = Bill Siska N2GAD
- Secretary = John Murray KB2ACZ
- Treasurer = Malcolm Vallone WA2VER
- Fin. secy. = Chuck Louise KC2SG
- Director = Matt Gorski NS2M
- Director = Nick Stanko KA2SEZ

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REPEATER NEWS

(If you missed the last general meeting this article is for you.)

Based on comments made at the June general meeting and a hardware review of the present 2 meter repeater, I undertook the task of reviewing a number of repeaters and repeater controllers which could enhance or replace the current STARS machine.

As a result of my research, I have chosen a repeater-controller system that I feel fulfills all current club needs with regards to performance, control, maintainability, and cost. In addition, this system contains many features which will allow added functions and system expansion not currently available with our present machine.

At the July general meeting, held at the Nike base, I presented the complete package to those in attendance. Unfortunately, the number of club members in attendance was not sufficient for a quorum and no decisions regarding the repeater package could be made.

To review, for all interested club members frequently operating in the 2 meter band, the package presented at the meeting; the planned repeater system could consist of a General Electric commercial repeater with tough tube finals and a 90 to 100 watt output to help reduce some of the shadowing we experience with our current machine. A switchable pre-amp would be added to bring in those weak signals and an RC-85 Repeater Controller would be used to control the complete system. Some of the features of the RC-85 include; phone patch with speed dial, reverse phone patch, talking "S" meter, synthesized voice with 500 word vocabulary, tone muting for security, remote base capabilities for linking other frequencies or bands, and much more. (See the advertisement for Advanced Computer Control's RC-85 in the July edition of QST.)

The proposed repeater system would make the STARS 2 meter system one of the best repeaters in the area. The cost for this system would be approximately \$1300. Since the club budget could not handle the entire \$1300 price tag, I am proposing that approximately \$800 be used from the club treasury. The remaining \$500 would be donated by club members in the amount of \$10 or more. So far 3 club members have pledged to donate a total of \$150 in MATCHING funds. This means that they will donate the money to the club if an equal amount is donated by other members. For example: If 15 members donate \$10 each, the club will receive \$300 towards its \$500 goal.

In addition, it has been proposed that those club members who donate money could receive exclusive use to certain repeater functions such as speed dialing, reverse autopatch, talking "S" meter, etc., for a period of 12 to 18 months.

The opportunity for obtaining this system won't last long as my schedule, after September, will not permit me to make available the time necessary to undertake this project. We must react quickly.

I strongly urge all interested parties to attend the August 6th meeting to that voting can take place with regards to this matter. If approved, the new repeater can be set-up and installed by mid-October.

If you have any comments, questions, or donations, feel free to call me at home or on the 147.09 repeater. Remember, your vote is needed at the next general meeting, so don't miss it!

Bill, N2GAD
 Repeater Chairman
 Vice-President
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HAM O RAMA 87

Security personnel needed = contact Mike at 433-5692 = 6562 Royal Pkwy South = Lockport NY 14094 = = = other assistance needed for the outside flea market as well as the hospitality committee, if interested contact your reps so that they can submit names at the next Ham O Rama meeting

NOTE: An error has appeared in the flyer that you may have already received, the flyers were already in the process of being mailed before it was discovered. The error appears under AMATEUR EXAMS - the zip code for the address should read 14215.



TELSTAR

PAGE 2

Advance HAM O RAMA tickets are available from Bill, N2GAD

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STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

July was the month of action for STARS, started off with the meeting at the nuke base club room and these rooms are open every Monday evening around 7:00 PM. The largest project at the present time is the installation of shelves in the store room. June and July had been planning months with August being the shelf building time. Remember, we can be open more than one day a week if enough interest is shown. You also know that you can go there and operate the equipment as well.

Hope that you all have worked our special event station on July 18th and sent in for the nice certificate. Gary, KB2VJ, got things rolling and as of this writing there were to be three stations on at all times so there is no excuse for not working it.

How many have worked the 20-15-10 meter bands? There have been some very good openings into Asia and the far east; and the African coast has been heard very good lately. So swing your beam around and pick up those exotic stations that are beginning to pop up. Should this be an indication of good propagation we will have a good winter of hamming.

If you haven't attended a meeting lately then you are not up to date on the progress of our repeater, Bill, N2GAD, will keep you posted. (See REPEATER NEWS article at the beginning of this newsletter.)

By the way, when you upgrade or change your call and/or address please let the secretary and editor know so that they keep the records straight, neither are mind readers. While you are at it check your expiration date on your licenses as some were good for five years and others for ten years, the FCC does not notify you.

Did you sign up to participate at the Erie County Fair Station? See Matt, NS2M, for more info as well obtaining passes to enter. This is one our biggest PR jobs and everyone enjoys themselves while doing it.

Our FCC VE examinations will be held October 14th and there will be no walk ins. Get in touch with Dick, W2UJR, before September 14th in order to reserve a place for yourself.

HAM O RAMA tickets are for sale at our meetings so save \$1.50 and get yours early. As a final thought, it is not too early to start thinking about the election of officers for 1988 so please give this a very serious thought when nominations come around.

See You All August 6th

Guz, WB2EZX

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HAM GEAR NEEDED

FOR SALE: GLB PK-1. Packet radio Terminal Node Controller (TNC) \$70 - call Bill N2GAD after 5:00 PM = 668-6480

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TO MY NEIGHBOR

SUBJECT: alledged "TVI" (interference) from this transmitter

1. Thank you for calling to my attention to the fact that transmissions from my station are causing interference to your TV reception :::: please be advised
2. Interference such as described is -:NOT:- caused by amateur operations, as ham stations can not and -:DO:- -:NOT:- cause -:TVI:-
3. Nor is this interference the result of any mal-function of my equipment or poor operating habits attributable to my station for I am -:NOT:- a "HAM STATION".
4. Please be further advised that your government is placing a \$100 per year tax on all -:TV:- receivers. Because it is difficult with so many receivers in the homes our government has devised a vast network of -:TV:- jamming stations such as this one with the goal that -:TV:- owners then come forward and make themselves known to the jamming station and their sets can be added to the tax rolls.
5. Your government greatly appreciates your coming forward and you will be pleased to know that you will be one of the first of those taxed. You have also verified that your -:TV:- is functioning properly.
6. We have also made a note of the time and channel on which you reported this jamming and will forward that information on to the -:TV:- rating service.
7. You have therefore provided a valuable service to your government and the entertainment industry.
8. So you will not be the only one taxed we ask that you not advise others of this operation and please be patient as we continue jamming operations.

(RTTY MSD)

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COMING EVENTS 1987



TELSTAR

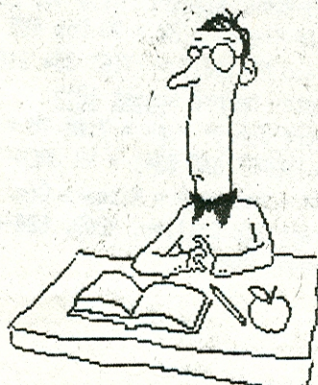
PAGE 3

General Meeting 6 August at 7:30 PM = Nike base
Board Meeting 25 August at 7:00 PM = Nike base
75 Meter Net Each Saturday at 10:00 AM +/- 3925 khz
ter Info Net Each Wednesday 7:00 PM 147.69/.09
Telstar deadline 20 August
Erie County Fair 14 - 23 August

Ham-D-Rama 12 September = Falls Convention Center

VE testing 14 October = Hamburg Junior High =
 Wednesday 7:00 PM

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THE PRES SEZ:

Before I pass out the roses to the activities chairman of STARS for the past few weeks, I want to restate my announcement at the last meeting. For those of you who were not in attendance, "If I am nominated to any office of STARS, I will respectfully decline." This is done for the good of the club. For any organization to remain active and alive, a change in leadership is needed. I still plan to be active in amateur radio and STARS. Elections will be here before you know it. Start now on your campaign to be nominated and elected to president or one of the offices of STARS, one of the finest clubs in the US.

Let's back up to the activities of STARS. Field day went off very well. We would've like to see more operators but that's your decision in what to participate in. My most heartfelt thanks to Dave KD2EY. With many personal conflicts he still did a great job. I also want to thank Matt NS2M for obtaining the use of the Moose Club.

Much to mine and Joe N2BGJ's surprise, Joe was named chairman for bulk mailing. STARS did an excellent job, I still don't know why all who were there wanted to call me a slave driver. Do master John one more favor and give your XYL-YL a big hug and kiss because without their help we would have been in big trouble. We had more work and less hands than last year but still the job got done. Joe, your behind the scenes help was outstanding. Thank you = thank you.

ly 18th we had our special events station. Gary KB2YJ worked his tail off with Darrin KA2ZLZ on 80, 40, and 10 meters. Gus WB2EZU had a constant struggle with all the alligators on 20. In all 138 contacts were made, not too bad but we have close to 100 people in our club. Don't you people ever turn your radios on?

Up coming events in August is the Fair station. Contact Matt NS2M or Nick KA2SEZ for passes into the fair so you can help out with the station. We have been asked to provide communications for the bike trek sponsored by the American Lung Association. It will be in the southern tier August 14, 15, and 16th. They run a first class operation, four hams per day have been requested, the hams will be considered as part of the staff. More details at the next general meeting.

Some very important decisions will be made about the new repeater so see you there August 6th.

Stay involved

John KA2RFT

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CHANGES

NEW CALLS

N2HHE = Sam Quinones = ex-KA2ZDF

KE2AJ = Al Petry = ex-KA2QJK

NEW MEMBER

N2EXL = Glen C Fuller (A) 874 3645

76 Hiler Ave = Kenmore NY 14217

RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

KA2CFI = Steve Johnston (T)

83 Cleveland Dr = Kenmore NY 14223

N2FTO = Mike Gelsinger 834 0830

71 Hendricks Blvd = Amherst NY 14226

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UNDERSTANDING REPEATERS Part I

Repeater digital tone decoders are extremely accurate and sensitive and will frequently decode tones having a transmitting deviation as low as 1 KHZ. When difficulty is experienced in getting tones to decode properly it is human nature to increase the transmitted tone level. More often than not this is the wrong thing to do. Virtually all FM transmitters include limiters which prevent transmitted deviation from exceeding 4.5 KHZ as limiting is approached. Distortion increases rapidly and distorted tones will not decode correctly.

Don't assume that because your rig "always worked before" that there is a problem with the repeater and not in your transmitter.

A1 May WA2KFV

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ARRL NEWS

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FCC has granted a permit for a six month period for approximately 50 amateur packet stations around the country to conduct unattended automatic operation while transmitting third party traffic on frequencies below 50 mhz.

Those stations under this program will be able to participate as relay stations in a long haul HF net called SKIPNET. This net will operate on a single frequency in the 80, 40, 30, and 20 meter bands and stations will relay traffic via packet throughout the country, should they be successful, ARRL may decide to request a permanent rules change.

Page 4

#61

Beginning August 1, WIAW will transmit the U.S. Constitution, amendments and dates to remember, as provided by the commission on the bicentennial of the United States Constitution, as text for code practice. These texts will begin on August 1 on the 10 PM EDT session, on August 8 on the 7 PM EDT session, on August 15 on the 4 PM EDT session and on August 24 on the 9 AM EDT session.

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only me!

Attended the VE meeting, among the items discussed was the new RAVE hotline (876 6593) = any input for it contact Kevin Ward, K2IE, 835 1445. This (RAVE) hotline will also cover the various (ham radio) schools. The cost, if I understand correctly, to be about \$20 per year. Lancaster (LARC) to run a novice school for about 12 weeks starting the first Friday in September, location not yet finalized. RAWNY to start Novice, Tech, and General classes in September, dates not yet set. STARS are committed to April and October for VE testing. Tentative VE testing months are as follows: January = RAWNY, February = LARC, March = RAWNY, April = STARS, May = Rochester Hamfest, June = BARRA, July = Batavia Hamfest, August = LARC, September = Ham O Rama (RAVE), October = STARS, November = ARATS, December = BARRA. The STARS and LARC sessions may generally be held on Wednesday evenings with the others tentatively Saturday mornings. Further meetings to be conducted via two meter repeater.

joe, n2bgj
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VE TESTS AND TEST SITES

RAVE hotline
12 September 1987

876 6593

HAM-O-RAMA, Niagara Falls NY, contact
Harold Freund KT2V = PO Box 485 =
Buffalo NY 14215 = (716) 834 6181

14 October 1987

Register before August 12th
Hamburg Junior High = 7:00 PM = contact
John KAZRFT 548 0341 = NO WALK-INS

14 November 1987

10 AM - Saturday = Niagara Com. College
contact Jim Collier, K2QB, 688-8293

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