

# TELSTAR



The Monthly Newsletter of S.T.A.R.S.  
Southtowns Amateur Radio Society  
Club Station WB2ELW

Next Meeting : JANUARY 3, 1991

Steve Vekich KB2EQV  
 716-825-8049

30th Annual Lockport (LARA) auction January 26th.

At the next STARS meeting (January 3rd, 1991) at the Hamburg Youth Center we will have Bill N2GAD as our guest speaker. The topic will be the use and operation of the repeater, and the codes. We will be also raffling off the 1990 US callbook. Members are reminded that we have the 1991 US AND INTERNATIONAL CALLBOOK.

REMINER: DUES ARE DUE. If you do not renew until 1991 you will receive your REPEATER CODES LATE !! To renew mail dues  
 TO: FRANK MODZELEWSKI WG2H

1818 CLINTON STREET  
 BUFFALO, NY 14206

DUES ARE \$8 FOR STUDENTS, \$15 FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP, AND \$23 FOR FAMILY.

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY. NEW MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THERE IS AN INITIATION FEE OF \$5.

## Nike Base

The past month at the Nike Base we have really accomplished alot. As you know we have a nice couch from Tom N2KBI one of our members. We recently obtained a recliner that matches our couch from Dave WA2TVT. We have installed a new door that is stained. Its located between the radio room and the meeting room, thanks to Jake, Bob KB2HWY, and myself. Bob KB2HWY recently installed a new lock that doesn't use a padlock, for more security. I spent a couple hours repainting the radio room to make it look better.

The DX at the base couldn't be better. We worked Turkey, Mongolia, Sakhalin Is. in USSR, Penguin Is. in the Antarctica, and up to Svalbard Is. in the Artic. and other DX stations.

NOTE: We have the new 1991 International Callbook at the base for you, the members to use.

So why not stop down to the Nike Base and see what you're missing out on. We have a great time, and the room is heated. We are located on Lakeview Rd. in Hamburg at the Hamburg Recreation Center right off of RT.20. See the October issue of the Telstar a map. We are open on Monday nights at 7 pm to 9 pm. If you need directions give me a call on the phone (# 825-8049) Remember the base is yours, the members, so stop by and bring someone along.

Steve KB2EQV  
 Nike Base Chairman

## From the Editor

The past couple months have really gone by quickly. It's hard to imagine that I've been the editor for two years now. In the past year we really have gotten a lot done.

Please, if you have any articles on anything, send them. It is getting quite hard to find articles and it seems like a couple hams and I are the only ones writing. If you would like to send them to me I need them by the 15th of the month so they will be published in that month's Telstar.

Steve KB2EQV - Editor

Now that a New Year is just around the corner, its almost been one year passed that our club started a fund drive to buy new H.F. equipment. Since then, we have updated the station at the Youth Center and the Nike Base with many new pieces of radio equipment.

Some of these items are:

An Icom 735 with built in keyer, Tone encoder, 500 HZ Filter, SM6 Mike, External Speaker, Power Supply, Carrying case for the radio, Alpha Delta Coax Switch, SB200 Linear Amplifier, MFJ Tuner, TH6DXX Six Element Beam with stainless steel hardware Kit, Rebuilt Ham IV Rotator, Butternut 2 meter antenna at the Nike Base, RG213 cable, 2 New Callbooks, one U.S. and one International, and Two new Heaters to heat the Nike Base during the winter. Along with this were also donated many other items that we are presently using in our club functions.

Setting up tables at Madison, Rochester, and Batavia Hamfests, our own club, and shipping items to Texas and Georgia earned us about \$2400.00 . A feat that most of us last January would never thought possible.

The Club now has a very updated station and a Competitive one that will bring many hours of enjoyment to all our members who wish to operate, and will serve us for many years to come.

As this time I would like to express my Thanks to everyone who participated by donating their unused equipment, cash contributions and time. The amount raised was an unbelievable goal, but with the help of our members and lots of hard work we succeeded in making this a Major Accomplishment.

Again Thanks for Your Support in making 1990 a Rewarding Year for myself and the S.T.A.R.S Club.

**ARRL BULLETIN 54 ARLB054  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT DECEMBER 13, 1990  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

Bob Witt, President  
WA2IQX

FCC announced on December 13 that new Technician Class license applicants will not have to demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to have all privileges above 30 MHz. Implementation is expected by February, 1991. Techs who obtain their licenses prior to that date will be grandfathered, meaning they will continue to have their present HF privileges.

The codeless Technician written-exam will have 55 questions. New Technicians wanting HF privileges will be required to hold a CSE for element 1A, that is 5 WPM, which must be administered by three accredited VEs. There will be no call sign designator to indicate whether or not a Technician has passed a code test, but FCC will have records of who has passed.

More details will be forthcoming in February QST.

**ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?**

A Poem

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed  
Or are you just content with your name on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd  
Or do you just stay home and gripe both long and loud?  
Or do you take an active part to help the club along  
Or are you just satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?  
Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?  
There is quite a program schedule that means success if done  
And it can be accomplished with the help of every one  
So attend the meeting regularly and help with hand and heart  
Don't be just a member, but take an active part  
Now, think it over carefully--am I right or wrong?  
Are YOU an active member or do you just belong?

Anonymous

This Poem was taken out of the LARA Spectrum newsletter, Originally from Radio Amateur Gazette. Clear lake ARC (CLARC). HOUSTON, TX

I hope you are settled comfortably in your favorite chair, throw another log on the fire and have a nice big bowl of popcorn next to you. This is STARS brag month and a report of all the nice things that happened in 1990. First of all it was decided that the club stations should be upgraded, with a new transceiver and beam. It was decided to have members donate their surplus equipment to the club and then we would sell it and start a new transceiver fund. Not only that, donations came in from a few businesses. The articles were taken to Hamfest and disposed of. In fact a sum of \$2400.00 was raised. So an Icom 735 was purchased and a TH6DXX beam. Other equipment consists of a SB200 and MFJ 949 tuner, also a mike, headphones, bencher paddles, alpha delta coax switch plus a butternut vertical. This layout can be the envy of any ham, and it all belongs to you, the members that made it possible.

At present there are 125 members in the club. Also, the Nike Base club rooms were overhauled and a 8 foot couch was donated by a member, a new door was put up, a new set of heaters were installed plus other necessary repairs to make it more comfortable. Our Nike Base chairman claims we can keep it open almost all year now if there is not too much snow out so we can get into it. Some of the activities were: the Boy Scout JOTA, which was held there, also the participation in the Hamburg snow fest. When it was time to install the beam on our 70 foot tower, the Hamburg Volunteer Fire Dept. volunteered to assist in raising it with their new ladder truck. In fact, GST in Dec. 1990 on page 11 ran a picture of the operation. Among other activities that the club participated in are field day and this year the club was on the air for the full 24 hours. By the way, anyone that has archery as a second hobby and wants to take lessons on how to split a tree branch, see the field day chairman. Also, the MS and the American Lung Assoc. bike treks were another of our activities through the southern tier over a few days. All who participated enjoyed it very much. Then came a tour of the Moog plant which surprised a lot of members on the size and fine workmanship done there. Last but not least, our VE program which is conducted twice a year in order to assist amateurs to upgrade. You know we even had a lad from India, continent of Asia, take the test at one session (in all fairness he did not come all the way from India just for the test, he is a medical student at U.B. HI HI.)

Then in December we assisted the Space Shuttle in making a contact with Glendale Elementary School in Western NY. It worked out fine, so our repeater works well in space also.

1990 was the year that STARS changed club station trustees. I was unable to keep up with things and John KA2RFT took over. A new QSL card was designed and I am sure it is the envy of all hams as it looks very professional in appearance.

Another great milestone is the WB2ELW youth center satellite station under Randy's KA2RFW supervision where the Hamburg youths learn and use amateur radio to its fullest extent. It seem to grow with each year to a bigger and better class.

Now comes the repeater. New antennas were installed on May 6th 1990 and it sounds like a great improvement. There is talk about linking our repeater with another to get more coverage. Now remember, our repeater is at Craig's house WA2PCH and he gave notice that he is ready to retire and might move out of the state so keep your eyes and ears open for another site for the repeater.

We were blessed this year with a large variety of good speakers and I am sure all members enjoyed and learned something from their speakers and displays, so I hope we can have some more in 1991.

Don't forget the nets that are on our repeater and low bands every week, they are for your use so take advantage of them.

Now the only sore spot, and I am sure you all will agree with me, is the absence of a technical committee and more tech articles in the club paper. I am sure we have some good electronic technicians in our club and we should persuade them to publish their ideas in the Telstar.

Last but not least is our club paper, Telstar, and our editor, Steve, is sure doing a F.B. job with the little input he gets. It is not easy to edit and print a lot of errors but he sure has the patience to do it. Talk about errors, my spelling is not the best and in the mid 70's I still submitted articles to our club paper. I was club president then and our editor was a reporter on one of the local newspapers and I always dreaded the next day after I mailed him my article. I was working a ten hour day at that time and

had to retire early to get some rest, but usually between 11 PM and midnight I would get a call from him and he would inform me about how many words I missed and the capital letters in the wrong place. So one day I asked him how come he calls me so late in the evening, and he told me he could not sleep knowing that there were so many mistakes without me knowing about it, but it sure looked beautiful when the members read the paper. So I could not complain too much. Steve, thank you for letting me sleep nights and don't get a headache over it. It all comes out fine in the end. But remember, all this could not come about without the cooperation of all the members.

We are a learning club and it is a pleasure to see how all members cooperate and assist each other in their problems.

So members, that is 1990. I know I missed a lot of good stuff so please forgive me. It was not intentional.

Happy Hamming GUZ - WB2ELW

-----  
VEC TEST SESSIONS - DICK W2UJR

STARS will hold their next VE test session on Apr. 17, 1990 at the Hamburg Junior High School, 360 Division St. Hamburg NY, Rooms 117/119. Technician through Extra exams will be given. All candidates must be pre-registered and there will be NO WALK-INS. Please send your 610 application, a copy of your license, a check for \$5.25 (The fee for 1991) made out to ARRL/VEC and a copy of any element credit certificate that is applicable.

For more information on STARS test sessions call Norm Jones KD2KK 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC will hold VE test sessions on Jan 16, Feb 20 and Mar 20, 1991. If you need information for Lancaster test sessions call: Stan N2IAE 887-6608

Send applications etc to:

Dick Haugs W2UJR  
11315 Cary Rd.  
Alden, NY 14004-9547

Now that the holidays are over, you have lots of time to study for upgrading.

Dich Haugs W2UJR  
VE Liaison

-----  
FOR SALE COLUMN

Microamtor patch interface. AEA-64/2 for CW, RTTY, ASCII, and AMTOR. To be used with Commodore 64 computer. You only need the key board and monitor (no disk drive) for operation including a power supply and manual. \$90.00 or trade for a Commodore 64 keyboard with power supply. GUZ - WB2E2U

It is with the greatest of sorrow that I must get rid of my special collection of transmitter and radio tubes. Some of them are 60 yrs. old. If you ever went to the Erie County fair they were on display in the education building for over five years in a row. I am open to all offers but want to sell the collection intact if possible, for the price of \$500. There are 112 tubes in the collection. Some are 8" in diameter and 22" long, others are 1' dia by 1' long. The weight on some is 20-25lbs. The original price on some of the tubes ran from \$2200.00 to \$1200.00 each, 40 yrs ago. They are not guaranteed to be in working condition but were pulled out of the transmitter in working order.

I will also trade these for a 35-40 watt all mode 2 meter rig, with power supply and a home base antenna. For more information or to make an appointment to view them please call Guz - WB2E2U at 627-3724

HF STATION FOR SALE:

- 1: Heathkit HW-100 SSB Transceiver (10,15,20,40,80 meters) including AC-power supply. Model #HP23.
- 2: Heathkit SB-2000 Linear Amp. (1000 watts PEP input.)
- 3: Heathkit SA-2040 Antenna Tuner.
- 4: Heathkit SB-610 Oscilloscope.
- 5: Heathkit reflected Power meter. Model #HM-15
- 6: Heathkit Hybrid phone patch. Model #HD-15
- 7: Desk mike
- 8: Kantronics Universal Terminal Unit.

\$500.00 FIRM GLENN KOSZKA N2KIO. 662-0067(H), 845-6000(W)

This article was sent in to Lori, at the Buffalo News by, one of our members.

I am writing you this letter in regard to your article which appeared in the Sunday, 12/9/90 edition of the Buffalo News. The article, entitled Pupils at some far-out answers, seemed to tell only half of the story.

SAREX, as you pointed out in your article, stands for Shuttle AMATEUR RADIO Experiment, not "Fifth Graders Talk to Astronaut in Space Shuttle". Your article de-emphasized the most important part of the experiment and the reason for much of the Christa McAuliffe Space Center. The experiment showed that clear concise communications can occur between an orbiting spacecraft and ground stations, VIA AMATEUR RADIO, such as that which occurred between the school and the space shuttle. A large portion of the Space Center at the school teaches Science, Technology, and Computers through the use of Amateur Radio.

The Glendale Communique which occurred Saturday morning would not have been possible without the help of many Amateur Radio Operators and their equipment. In particular, a local group known as the South Towns Amateur Radio Society (STARS) was responsible for the crucial link between the phone line and the airwaves through the use of the club's repeater. Without the use of the repeater, this link would never have been possible, a convenient omission from your article.

Science and Technology is beginning to loose it's place in the United States, leaving the door open for other countries to become the leaders in Science and related fields. Amateur Radio Operators are responding to the crisis by using their hobby to teach Science and Computers to the young students of America. This is one of the purposes of SAREX. SAREX was initiated by the Amateur Radio Community, not by NASA. Thanks to the efforts of Licensed Amateur Radio Operators (NOT HAM RADIO BUFFS!!!) like Ron Parise, Doug Smith, Syd Chiswell, and all the members of the STARS Organization, the local part of SAREX became a success.

As do many Amateur Radio Clubs in the area and throughout the country, the members of STARS are proud of their club and their commitment to community service through the use of their hobby. The STARS operates a Full Amateur Radio Station at the Hamburg Youth Center. The station is fully funded by STARS and is used by a group of students from the Hamburg Junior High 2 to 3 days a week after school. (A newsworthy subject if I've ever seen one!) A club member, Randy Schueler (A.R.S. KA2RFW), volunteers his time to help the students talk, via radio, to Hams in other states and countries.

We also provide emergency communications in the form of phone calls to authorities for car accidents and other similar situations. We provide a Severe Weather Spotter Network, working directly out of the local NOAA office to help the forecasters warn of life threatening weather. The list goes on and on.

A mention of STARS' involvement in the recent SAREX experiment would have gone a long way in the local Ham Community and wouldn't have taken more than a line or two of your article. In this "ham buff's mind, you blew it!" You just plain missed the point.

Sincerely,

Bill Siska

(HAM RADIO BUFF SIGN) N2GAO

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the STARS board of directors and to all the members that voted on my honorary membership at the Dec. 6 meeting.

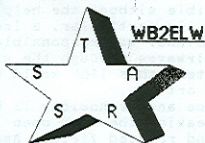
It is a great honor to receive this from the club and it's members. As always I will try to do all that I can to help keep STARS the best and most progressive amateur radio club in the area. Again thanks and 73's.

Gary KB2YJ

# S.T.A.R.S

## Board of Directors

President: Bob Witt WA2IQX  
Vice Pres: John Leitten KA2RFT  
Treasurer: Jack Cullum KB2ESM  
Fin. Sec: Frank Modzeleuski W62H  
Secretary: Dave Baco WA2TUT  
Director: Frank Weinstock K2VTK  
Director: Bob Sendor KB2JHY



## Club Meeting Place

Hanburg Youth Center  
Located at Prospect and Hawkins St.  
Club Meeting, First Thursday of the Month at 7:30 PM

Business Meeting, Fourth Tuesday of each month at the Youth Center  
at 7:00 PM.

CLUB REPEATER LOCATED IN ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.  
INPUT FREQUENCY 147.69 WB2ELW REPEATER  
OUTPUT FREQUENCY 147.09

## Southtowns Amateur Radio Society

### S.T.A.R.S

Steve Vekich  
4348 Chisholm Trail  
Hanburg, N.Y. 14075



### STARS RADIO NETS

75 Meters - Every Saturday  
at 10:00 AM, 3.925 +/- MHz

2 Meters - Every Wednesday  
at 7:00 PM, 147.69 / 09 MHz

### Dues

Single \$15  
Family \$23  
Student \$8

## TO ARS:

JOHN CULLUM JR KB2ESM  
6871 E. WEBSTER  
ORCHARD PARK, NY, 14127