

telstar

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

ISSUE 728, 127 JULY, 1991

STARS Has A Record Field Day!

STARS Field Day Chairman John Leitten KA2RFT has announced that the 1991 Field Day team set a new club record for the event with an unofficial total in excess of 3500 points and 1075 contacts. The "field" for the competition was behind the Moose Lodge in Hamburg, NY.

42 club members participated during the 24 hour event and were active on SSB, CW, FM, packet and satellite radio. Everyone had a great time no matter whether they were transmitting, logging or just sitting round ragchewing! The new hams had a great chance to learn how things were done and then try out doing the activities themselves.

Saturday morning saw members erecting various types of antennas including a trap dipole, a long wire sloper, a 10 meter beam, a multi-band HF vertical, a 2 meter beam and a 2 meter vertical.



Arrows flew through the air to launch lines over the tops of trees for the wire antennas. The members walking the mast & 10 meter beam up looked like the famous picture of the WWII soldiers raising the American flag.



The weather started out looking like rain might be near, but fortunately, only a little fell. Saturday night brought out the sweaters and jackets, but Sunday showed up bright and sunny and was over all a great day to be outside operating.

See Field Day on Page 5

July Meeting

The July STARS club meeting will be held on July 11 at the club's Nike Base HF station with the general meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. The station is on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 and is next door to the Hamburg Town Arena.

The club station will be open early to show off the new improvements and to work a little DX. Plans will be discussed for a special event station to honor the "Birth of the Hamburger"! See page 4 for more details. Be sure to be there!

Don't forget to plan to attend the August 1st club meeting which will also be held at the Nike Base HF station. We will have a cook-out with hot dogs and hamburgers, and we will honoring Steve KB2EQV before he leaves for college. You won't want to miss the good eats and fun!



Editor Retires

Steve KB2EQV who has been newsletter editor for STARS for the last 2 and one-half years has announced his retirement. Isn't 18 a bit young to be retiring Steve?



The club owes Steve a great big "thanks" for the great job that he has done with the newsletter and for all the other things he has done for the club. Here's a little one for now!

We will be featuring more about Steve in next month's newsletter. Better watch out, Steve!

★ STARS ★

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio; an amateur radio license is not required.

Membership applications may be obtained from Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 and are \$15 for a single membership, \$23 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership. The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is a one-time charge of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$7.50 (6 months X \$1.25/month) plus the \$5.00 one-time fee for a total of \$12.50.

Applications should be returned to Frank WG2H along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors at their business meeting. The applications are then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members should send their ARRL renewal memberships to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14220 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

Club Nets

STARS club nets are open to all amateur radio operators and are designed to offer the participants the chance to exchange information on local amateur radio related activities as well as just doing some old-fashion rag chewing!

STARS HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 Mhz +/- QRM. Net control is usually Guz WB2EZX.

STARS VHF net meets at 7 PM local time on Wednesdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 (output/input). Net control is usually Bill N2GAO.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Bike Trek

Well, the MS Trek is now over. We had a good turnout of hams; about 15 or so helped out on this event that started at Chestnut Ridge Park, and ended at Allegheny State Park. The following STARS members helped out: Norm KD2KK, Terry KM4XZ, Dave K2ECK, Bob K2PPK, and myself Steve KB2EQV. We also managed to recruit a YL, Judy KB2AQF, who is going to join STARS. (Editor's note: Judy is a member of BARRA and is a nurse. She showed that she was very experienced working this type of event.)

We started at 8 AM on Saturday and ended at around 6 PM. Jake stopped by to say hello. Dave K2ECK rode bicycle mobile, for 60 miles, running sweep and even managed to have the best signal into the 145.39 repeater with only 2 1/2 watts and a 5/8 wave antenna on the back of his bike, while all of us had mobile rigs and amplifiers. We had a couple of cases of flat tires, and one person fell and was slightly injured.

The hams were located at every checkpoint, EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians), bicycle repair, and sweep vehicles. It worked out great. MS provided us with lunch and a good dinner to take care of our appetites.

We also caught up with the Erie MS bike trek that ended at the same park.

The wife of Mark N2MGZ, one of our new members, helped out as a EMT that I got to meet, while he stayed home with the kids.

It was an interesting day, weather-wise. We started out in sunshine, ran into heavy thunderstorms, and ended up in cloudiness. We even had John KA2RFT come up on the repeater to operate Skywarn, because of the severe weather, so we gave him reports from the state park.

Overall, all of us had a fun time and enjoyed ourselves. I finally got a chance to stay overnight and help out the next day. Thanks to all that participated.

By Steve KB2EQV

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, July is already upon us and please note elsewhere in this issue of the place and date of our meeting as it always changes for July and August. It will be nice to have the meeting at the Nike Base.

At least twice a year, I remind our members to make sure you check your expiration date on your amateur radio license as the FCC does not send you a notice, and it is easy to let it expire. If you need a 610 form, get in touch with Norm KD2KK for one as he usually has some with him at the meetings. You can send it in 60 days before your license expires, and make a note in your log as you can stay on the air even if it does not come back on time.

June was not a very good month for long distance propagation so hope everyone got a chance to upgrade their antennas and equipment.

Talking to Terry KM4XZ, our new STARS newsletter editor, he expressed a desire to have a technical column which I think would be a great

CAUTION

asset to the members. Now for the ground rules on such articles. Please remember that we are a not-for-profit club and can copy certain articles from other magazines, but remember that there are certain ways to do it. QST is very liberal in their policy. Always read the article; and, if it doesn't say you must have permission to copy the article, it is OK. The only thing they want is for you to inform the members that the article is from QST, the month of publication, and name and call of the author. As a rule, all articles in QST are donated, and the author does not get reimbursed for it. Now CQ magazine pays for the articles in their magazine, so be careful. If it says you must have written permission to copy, please get it in order to stay out of trouble.

Everyone that is coming to the July meeting, come a little early while it is daylight and look at the fine business job that Jake did on the new walls at the left of the building. Now no more drafts to worry about!

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

LARC Hamfest News

Congratulations are due to the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) for putting on a very successful hamfest on June 8. More than one person commented that their hamfest seems to be getting better every year.

STARS had a booth at the hamfest to show pictures of our various events and to talk to people about the club. Several people took membership applications and expressed interest in joining our club.

Special thanks go to Steve KB2EQV, Jake, Norm KD2KK, Frank WG2H, Jack KB2ESM and Terry KM4XZ for manning the STARS booth.

Many other STARS members were also there for eyeball QSO's and to pick up those absolutely necessary radio items!

Nike Base HF Station

As most of you know, there has been a lot of solar flares this month. Therefore, the bands were lousy, but we still managed to talk to Australia, Panama, Costa Rica, Barbados and other stations.

The past couple of weeks, Jake has been busy installing our concrete block that was delivered to us. So far he has done the whole back section of the station and has spent two Fridays putting it in. I would like to thank him for the excellent job he has done.

Norm KD2KK has obtained some glass block for the base, and Jake has already started to put them in. Finally, Joe KB2JDB replaced some old electrical sockets and put in new one's.

by Steve KB2EQV - Chairman

STARS To Celebrate the Hamburger!

Plans are being made for STARS to honor the 106th "Birth of the Hamburger" (in Hamburg, NY, of course!) with a special event HF station using the club's call sign WB2ELW on July 20-21, 1991.

Stations working our special event station will be able to send for a QSL card and commemorative certificate. Announcements of this event are scheduled to appear in the July issues of QST, CQ and 73 magazines.

Tentative plans call for members to sign up for certain hours and bands during the event. Members may use the club's Nike Base HF station or use their own home stations to work the event. Depending on the size of the other events going on in Hamburg that weekend, a demonstration station may be set up in Hamburg.

Plans for the event will be finalized at the July meeting. Members who want to work the event but can't make the July club meeting should contact John KA2RFT to schedule times.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see what it is like to be on the other end of a special event station and to help STARS get some good publicity on a national scale. Let's all get behind this and make it a great success!

11th Annual Batavia Hamfest

Genesee Radio Amateur, Inc. (GRAM) is presenting their 11th Annual Batavia Hamfest on Sunday, July 14 at the Firemen's Grounds in Alexander, NY from 6 AM to 4 PM. Indoor vendors open at 8:30 AM. Talk-in is on 146.52 simplex or 145.31/144.71 (output/input).

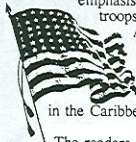
Grand prize is an ICOM 735 HF transceiver with power supply. Other prizes include an ICOM 2 meter mobile, an ICOM IC2SAT hand-held and other radio accessories.

For information, call (716) 343-6770.

Shortwave Radio Goes to War!

The May, 1991 issue of the American Legion Magazine featured an article entitled "The World on a Wave". The article was primarily about the renewed interest in shortwave listening because of the Persian Gulf war. Many radio stores quickly sold out of all their shortwave receivers.

Amateur radio was mentioned in the article with emphasis on the calls home from the troops made through the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Amateur radio's vital role in providing contact from the scene of disasters such as hurricanes in the Caribbean was also mentioned.



The readers are informed that most amateurs use single sideband and warned that if their radio isn't designed to receive single sideband then they will only hear what sounds like ducks quacking!

Thanks to STARS club member Jack, KB2ESM for calling our attention to this article.

If you hear people talking about their new shortwave radios, why not tell them about amateur radio and invite them to a STARS club meeting!

Kerchunkers

There was a young man named Bill Bunker,
Who grew to be quite a kerchunker.
Does he know that his toying
Is very annoying?
His brain really must be a klunker!

73 and have fun on ham radio! (Sorry if your name is Bill Bunker, no offense intended)

- by Ken NM9P via packet

Field Day

Continued from Page 1

Two HF stations were set up, along with a Novice/Technician station, a packet/2meter FM station and a satellite station.

All stations were shut down for a period Saturday night so that all could enjoy the fine Italian dinner provided by Vail Drive Italian Cuisine. Later that evening, we were treated to guitar music and a sing-along by Ed KB2KVA.

The "hot" band during the contest was 40 meters with 544 SSB contacts and 116 CW QSO's. Second best was the 80 meter band with 161 SSB and 81 CW contacts. 20 meters was only fair, and unfortunately, 10 and 15 meters were largely dead this year.

The packet and satellite stations each earned the club 100 bonus points for their first QSO's. Using the nodes connecting to the NEDA network, Terry KM4XZ was able to make packet contacts with stations as far away as Connecticut and Massachusetts. The satellite station set up by Frank WZZJ was able to make four contacts Sunday morning as a Russian bird passed over the area.

The Novice/Technician station led by Joe KB2JDB and Steve KB2EQV were faced with no propagation for 10 meter SSB and had to go to CW to make most of their contacts.

Pedal for Power

STARS provided communications on June 21 for Pedal for Power, a bicycle ride beginning in Los Angeles and ending 48 days and 3200 miles later in Boston!

The 54 riders arrived in Hamburg, NY on June 20 for an overnight stop. STARS members Norm KD2KK, Dave K2ECK and Al N2QIL then provided radio support for the riders as they forged on to Canandaigua, NY.

Pedal for Power is sponsored by the Bicycle Legal and Educational Foundation and has raised over \$500,000 for charity in its first two years of operation.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my first issue as newsletter editor, and I hope you enjoy it.

I will be featuring STARS club news and activities, other local club events, public service events, technical articles, member profiles, national & international amateur radio news, for sale/trade items, etc.

Thanks to John McKnight for volunteering to help with the distribution of the newsletter!

The success of the newsletter is going to depend on more than just the editor. I'm sure you are going to get tired of hearing from me! Guz WB2EZU has volunteered to continue his long running column. We are also expecting to start a technical column soon by another member. If anyone would like to volunteer to write another regular column, it really would be great! It could be on DX, contesting, packet radio, ATV, public service, Novice tips, youth activities, FM/repeater news, product reviews or what ever you are interested in. If you can't commit to a regular column, then how about writing an occasional article. One or two a year, would really help make the newsletter more fun.

Please note my change of address which is effective July 1:

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043

My phone should remain the same 656-0865.

If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter please let me know.

73, Terry KM4XZ

For Sale

Kenwood TS 520 with built-in mobile supply. Mint condition.

ICOM IC 2AT with manual. Fair condition.

Four RCA 9" B&W video monitors (tube type) with manuals (studio type, can be rack mounted).

For above, contact Dennis K2CEC 685-9808



STARS



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President	Bob Witt	WA2IQX
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Telstar Staff

Editor	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Distribution	John McKnight	

Club Repeater

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Orchard Park, NY (147.09/.69 output/input). The repeater is open to all amateurs. Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins St.) at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Business meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center at 7:30 PM and are open to all club members.

Club HF Stations

The club Nike Base HF Station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Rd. 1.75 miles e. of Rte 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena. The station is operated on most Mondays between 7-9 PM local time and is a great DX station. All are welcome.

A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

STARS

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865



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

