

telstar

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

ISSUE 128 AUGUST, 1991

STARS Member

Steve Yekich KB2EQV

Steve was introduced to Amateur Radio when he was about 12 years old. His uncle, George W2VWI, had a couple of radios; and Steve became interested in them. It was soon afterwards that he saw in a brochure that Amateur Radio was going to be demonstrated at the Hamburger Days celebration in Hamburg. Steve attended to see what it was all about.

That year Steve signed up for the winter Novice license classes and in December of 1987 passed the examination. He then became known as KB2EQV in January of 1988!

Soon thereafter, Steve joined STARS. When election time came around in November, Joe N2BGJ told the club that he was going to retire as newsletter editor. Steve thought about it after the meeting and decided to volunteer for the job, even though he was only a sophomore in high school! For the next two and one-half years, Steve served in this key role for our club.

Steve has been active during the years in many public service events. He helped out in the 1988 Boy Scout Jamboree-on-the-Air, 3 American Lung Association bike treks, 3 Multiple Sclerosis bike treks, 3 Hydroplane races and the Greater Buffalo Triathlon.

For the last two years, Steve has been Chairman for the club's Nike Base HF station. He worked with other members of the club to make many improvements to the club station including carpeting, furniture, a new operating table, heaters to allow the station to be open all winter, and an air conditioner for the summer.

August Meeting

The August STARS club meeting will be held on August 1 at the club's Nike Base HF station with the general meeting starting 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.

We will be having a cook-out with the club providing hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages. The club station will also be open for operating and to show off the improvements.



A special reason for this meeting will be to recognize Steve KB2EQV for all that he has done for STARS before he leaves for college. (See story at left) Everyone is urged to be there to show their appreciation to Steve.

Food, fun, friendship! What more could you want? Be there! Everyone else will be!

As if that weren't enough, Steve also volunteered for other jobs for the club like helping to set up before club meetings, working field days, as well as participating in repeater and antenna parties.

This fall Steve will be attending SUNY at Brockport and intends to major in meteorology. He got interested in the weather about 3 years ago when he became one of the control operators for SKYWARN. He also did volunteer work for two summers at the National Weather Service.

Steve has been an outstanding STARS member, and we are sure that with his attitude and drive that he will have a great future!

★ 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 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 (412) 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 WB2EZU.

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.

STARS Membership Handbook

STARS has a slick new membership handbook!

The handbook includes a copy of the club's constitution and by-laws for those of you who always wanted to know what the rules were.

Also included is information about the club's 2 meter repeater and a copy of the User Instructions for the repeater.

The two HF club stations (at the Nike Base and the Hamburg Youth Center) are also featured.

The Handbook concludes with a Western New York and Southern Ontario 2 meter repeater listing, and a nice map showing the general location of each repeater.

Thanks go to John KA2RFT, Steve KB2EQV, Bill N2GAO and Frank WG2H for their work to pull all of this information together.

How do you get one of these great Handbooks? They are available free of charge to all STARS members! Members may pick one up at any club meeting. To avoid the high postage charge, we will only mail them if absolutely necessary; besides, we want to see you at the meetings!

New Members

STARS wants to welcome Richard Shelton KB2NDU as a new member and welcome back Vernon Braymiller N2IRG who has renewed his membership.

Everyone should update their club rosters to include the following information:

Richard S. Shelton KB2NDU (Technician)
9083 Hayes Hollow Road
Colden, NY 14033
(716) 941-3311

Vernon A. Braymiller N2IRG (Technician)
430 Rock City Street
Little Valley, NY 14755

Glad to have you in the club! We look forward to seeing you at our club events!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Hope everyone enjoyed the outdoor meeting in July. Business was over in apple pie order, and then one of our Canadian members entertained us with his magic act. Phil VE3DQK is a school teacher by trade, and his other hobby is performing magic acts. It was marvelous the way Phil could perform as we had nothing but the tower behind him for a backdrop.

He started out with card tricks. By the way, he had a short sleeve shirt on! Then came the rabbit. It was amazing the way the rabbit changed colors at the flip of the wrist. Please don't keep the door closed on the white rabbit too long, Phil (or was it black??).

The grand finale was when he asked for help to assist him on his next act. One of our cute XYL's, Mary N2KWD, volunteered her services. Phil had a dark sheet of paper, and he gave Mary a multi-colored paper. They tore the papers into small pieces, then mixed them together into a crumpled ball about the size of a baseball. Then Phil passed his magic wand over

the ball and said some magic words. He then gave the magic wand to Mary, and lo and behold, it acted like a wet noodle. However, after a few more magic words, all came out OK.

Phil then unraveled the crumpled piece of paper and out came a multi-colored party hat, and it was Mary's size!

The August meeting will be at the Nike Base also, and it will be a picnic type of meeting as well as a farewell to Steve KB2EQV who is going to college in the fall. There will be more about it in another article in the paper. So bring your family and enjoy a friendly get-together with each other.

Everyone admired the marvelous work that Jake has done on bricking in of the open walls. Remember that this building is about forty years old, and he was able to fix it up like it should be.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Amateur Radio Bargains

Radio Shack has been running a clearance special that could save dollars for those of you who are learning Morse code. They are offering their Novice class examination course material for \$4.95, which originally sold for \$19.95. The clearance is because the manual doesn't have the latest changes in the question pool.



What should be remembered is that the material includes a two-cassette introductory course on Morse code done by Gordon West, probably the leading amateur radio instructor in the country. This instruction is as valid as it ever was and is a bargain at \$4.95.

For those of you studying for the 13 WPM code test, Radio Shack is offering the General class examination material on sale for \$9.95

These are on an "as available" clearance basis.

Autopatch Tips

Gary KB2ESN provided the following tips which appeared in an article in 73 Magazine:

When using the autopatch, it is illegal to use the autopatch for any commercial purposes. So the ordering of pizzas, cigarettes and other products is forbidden!

The autopatch should not be used when an alternative means is available. It shouldn't be used from a location with access to a landline telephone. In general, the autopatch is for the use of hams to talk from their cars or with the use of their HT's in portable situations.

The transmission of music is prohibited. Therefore, calls to a commercial phone number is not recommended if there is a possibility that you may be put on hold, and they play music for people while they wait.

Remember that the autopatch is for your benefit, not abuse!

Batavia Hamfest

Congratulations to GRAM for putting on a great Batavia Hamfest on Sunday, July 14. One of their officials was heard to say over the repeater that this was a record-breaking crowd for their club. They had over 400 check-ins for their 146.52 contest. The weather was beautiful, and the Alexander Firemen's Grounds made a very nice setting for the activities.

Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, ARRL Atlantic Division Director, chaired an interesting ARRL Forum covering current amateur radio topics. Hugh is the person who has the vote for our area on ARRL Board decisions. Hugh wanted to stress the importance of all ARRL members voting on the upcoming elections. Each candidate will submit a 300 word statement to give the voters an idea of where they stand on issues. No matter whether you back him for re-election or not, he wants you to vote!

STARS had a real gang at the hamfest! We could have held a club meeting there! Members spotted included Norm KD2KK, Gary KB2YJ, Bob WA2IQX, Mike N2ETH, Frank WZ2J, Ed KB2ICE, Kash WB2RAJ, Bob KB2JHY, Dan KE2LD, Gene KE2LO, Jake, Guz WB2EZU, Bob KB2HWY, Mary N2KWD, Gary KB2ESN, Ralph K2ZUW, Al K2DWI, Roger K2SLZ, Warren N2INA, Dick K2RDD, Dick W2UJR, Ed KB2KVA, Bob K2PPK, Bob KA2WYE, Harold K2AOT, Sam N2HHE, Bill N2MON, Jack WA2CAD and Terry KM4XZ. Apologies to anyone we might have missed!

Congratulations

Congratulations are due to two STARS members for passing their amateur radio examinations.

Ray Silvers has completed the requirements for his Technician class license, and John McKnight is eagerly awaiting his Novice class license.

Well done gentlemen! Now you can start work on studying for your next exam so you can get even more privileges! Once you get started, you just can't stop!

For Sale / Trade

Kenwood TS-830S transceiver with 500 Hz CW filter. Excellent condition. \$600

Heathkit SB-200 amplifier. \$300
With spare set of 572B final tubes. \$350

Murch UT-2000A transmatch. \$100

Commodore PC 10-2 computer. IBM compatible with Magnavox color monitor & 20 meg. hard drive. \$550

For above call Bill Phelps WB2RAV 823-2006 after 4 PM.

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Trade a Hustler 5-BTV five band vertical antenna for a multi-band dipole. Joe Claus KB2JDB at 822-9304.

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Sunpack 611 strobe, 2 battery packs, quick charger, AC power cords plus other accessories. \$250. Gary KB2ESN 823-0055.

Satellite Radio Net

STARS member Frank WZ2J has announced that a new net dealing with satellite radio is now operating weekly on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM.

You can access this new net through either the 444.0 repeater or the 146.91 repeater since they are linked. Here's a way you can learn more about how to get on the "birds"; check it out! Of course, don't forget to check in first on Wednesday nights to the STARS net on 147.09 at 7:00 PM.

Donation

Thanks go to Gary KB2ESN for generously donating to STARS a dining canopy. This is the canopy that protected the packet station during Field Day this year, and it should be great for future STARS events!

Amateur Radio Examinations

Here is a tentative list of the VE test sessions in Erie and Niagara counties for 1991/1992:

STARS will hold sessions on October 16, 1991, and April 8, 1992. These dates are confirmed as we already have approval from the Hamburg Junior High School. They will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in rooms 117/119. For information contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on September 18, November 20, and December 18, 1991; and January 15, February 19, March 18, May 20 and June 17, 1992. These dates have not been confirmed by the Aurora Middle School but should be soon. For information, call Stan Tomczak N2IAE at 887-6608.

ARATS will hold test sessions on September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7, 1991; and January 4, February 8, March 7, May 9 and June 6. For information, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 634-5276 (home) or 693-5977 (work).

Lockport ARA (LARA) will hold test sessions on August 24, 1991; January 25 and April 25, 1992. For information, contact Jim Bradley N2BIC.

Dick Haugs W2UJR
STARS/LARC VE Liaison

Brief Notes

Radio operators are needed for the American Lung Association of WNY's Chautauqua Experience bike trek on August 16, 17 & 18. Contact Kiernan O'Toole at 372-LUNG or 886-4655. She may be at our August meeting to sign up people, but this isn't confirmed yet.

STARS special event station for the Birth of the Hamburger was taking place as this issue went to press. We will have more about this in our next issue.

Bob WA2IQX is trying to arrange a tour of the Motorola facility in Elma during September. If you are interested, contact him at 648-4274.

Nike Base HF Club Station

DX conditions continue to vary from week to week due to the usual drop in propagation during the summer. We always can get out on some band, though. During the last month, we have worked stations in countries like Panama, Costa Rica, Poland, Yugoslavia and Romania.

The 40 meter dipole is up and working now, and a 75/80 dipole should be up soon. Norm KD2KK used the new dipole to work a YL in Dayton, Ohio who used to be a STARS member some time ago!

We want to give a special thanks to John McKnight for providing his truck and ladders for working on the dipole pulleys and anchor points, to Joe KD2JDB for installing the security light, to Jake for his continued work on bricking in the wall openings, and to Bob WA2IQX for his efforts on the 40 meter dipole.

I would like to encourage more of our members who are fairly new to amateur radio to come out and visit our station on Monday nights between 7 and 9 PM.

I know that sometimes people feel a little intimidated when trying something new when they don't have too much experience. You shouldn't be concerned about this because we run a very low pressure type of situation at the station.

If you haven't been on the HF airwaves because of lack of equipment, this is a way you can get practice operating for free. We always have experienced people available to help show you what to do.

An added bonus is that the station can be operated under the privileges of the person on site with the highest class license, usually Advanced or Extra class. For example, Novices or even "No Code" Technicians can operate on 15 meter phone under the supervision of members with higher class licenses.

Why not stop out to see us. If you have any questions, call me at 656-0865.

Terry KM4XZ



STARS



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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
19-B Madeira Drive
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865