

# telstar



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

ISSUE 129

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## STARS and the Hamburger

The voice of WB2ELW, the club station for STARS, was heard loud and clear on July 20 and 21 as we celebrated the 106th Birth of the Hamburger during Hamburg Days in Hamburg, NY (where else?)!

The club's special event station made a total of 533 contacts during the two days.

The hottest band was 10 meters on Saturday when we made 180 contacts from the Nike Base and could have made even more if we had had fresh operators during the late afternoon and early evening. 10 meters was dead on Sunday, so we spent most of the day on 15 meters, working a total of 108 contacts. In all, a total of 295 contacts were made from the Nike Base by Terry KM4XZ, Ed KB2KVA, John KA2RFT, Norm KD2KK, Bob KB2HWY and Steve KB2EQV. Also, there giving her moral support was Mary N2KWD

The remaining contacts were worked by members using the club's call from their home stations. This included Gene KE2LO, Guz WB2EZU, Bob KB2JHY, Mark N2LAB and Warren N2INA. This gave us a lot of coverage on 20, 40 and 80 meters.

So far, approximately 200 requests for the special certificates have been received with many personal notes about the event. As expected, the 10-meter people (who included more of the newer amateurs) were the most enthusiastic requestors for the certificates. We expect to be mailing the certificates soon.

Many great stories occurred during the event. We worked one OM who said that this was his

## September Meeting

STARS will be rolling out the red carpet for you at the September meeting beginning at 7:30 PM on September 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center at Prospect and Hawkins Streets. Many topics will be covered including testing of the potential new repeater site, the Motorola tour, the Disaster Preparedness drill, JOTA, the Buffalo Hamfest, the CQ WW RTTY contest, club badges, and the Nike Base station.



Bob Witt WA2IQX will be demonstrating 2 meter amplifiers from two companies which can be purchased as kits or fully assembled.

Club activities are booming, and you can't afford to miss the meeting!

## Disaster Drill

Coming to Western New York on September 14 will be a historic event. For the first time ever in the United States, a simulated emergency test will involve two US counties (Erie and Niagara) and a foreign country (Canada).

A simulated airplane crash at Niagara Falls International Airport (based upon the real one that happened at Sioux City, Iowa) will suddenly challenge local emergency response agencies with the huge task of taking care of over 200 victims. Volunteers with simulated injuries will be have to be transported to hospitals in Niagara and Erie counties, and a small number will be transported



# ★ 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 (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee 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 initiation 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 14127 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.

## Hamburger

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first 15 meter contact in 32 years! We also were the first HF contact ever for one YL. Terry KM4XZ who lived in Florida for 7 years recognized one OM's home QTH of Lantana, Florida as being the home of the world's tallest Christmas tree (you had to see it to believe it!) for many years. Strangely enough, this was brought into Lantana by, of all people, the National Enquirer magazine who is based there!

Even though propagation caused most of our contacts to be with North American amateurs, we did work some interesting DX, too. We worked a Czech maritime mobile in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Central America. A VE0 maritime mobile near Belize asked us to help him with antenna tests since we had the strongest signal on the 15 meter band! A special treat was working Wolf in Hamburg, Germany.

Perhaps the most unexpected contact came while the beam was pointed Southwest, and we had strictly been working US amateurs. We suddenly heard "Charlie November Five . . ." and we said, "Hey, that's Morocco!" We brought the beam around to the East and had a nice talk with Hussein (No, not that one!). It dawned on us that he might not even know what a hamburger was in Morocco, but he assured us that he ate them all the time!

Courtesy of STARS, the world now knows that the hamburger was born right here in Hamburg!

## Disaster Drill

Continued from Page 1

across the international border into southern Ontario to test the Cross Border Contingency Plan adopted on July 17, 1991. This will involve ambulances, NFTA buses, and various emergency response teams including the First Aid Simulation Team (FAST).

A large number of Amateur radio operators will be used to provide back-up communications just as they would in a real emergency. This is vital to the community, and the volunteers will be done by mid-afternoon. To have a chance to participate in this historic event, contact Ray Baker N2DAY at 668-4870 or Tom Arrigo Sr. KA2ZSC at 773-9330.



## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The August meeting was a sell-out! It was to honor Steve KB2EQV who is leaving us for a while to go to college. He will be going to SUNY at Brockport where he will be majoring in meteorology to become a weather person. It was a picnic style meeting with hot dogs, hamburgers and even some Brownie cookies. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Steve was presented with a beautiful plaque for outstanding achievements for the club. You know, this is only the second plaque given by the club for this reason, and Steve sure earned it. He took over the Nike Base club station and made arrangements to keep it open all year round by installing heaters and an air conditioner. Steve also published the club paper, which in itself is a full time job; and he also participated in the club's bike treks and the Skywarn weather watch program. So, Steve, please keep in touch with the club from time to time, and let us know what's new (weather permitting! HII HII!).

Another achievement for STARS was the special event station that was put on the air to celebrate the Birth of the Burger in Hamburg. John KA2RFT was QSL manager for the certificates; and, you know, the post person had to bring the mail in a cardboard box. She wanted to know what the mail was about, so John explained it to

her over a cup of coffee, and she felt better.

The September meeting should be held back at the Youth Center but please read the time and date on the front page of the paper.

The club was fortunate to have Terry KM4XZ take over the Nike Base chairman's job. You know, the last few Saturdays Terry has checked into the STARS 80 meter net on Saturday mornings from the Nike Base. So, if you have nothing on your sked, get in touch with Terry and check into the net from there.

This summer the 2 meter net on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM has taken off very nicely. It is nothing to have to wait a hour to get a turn on the air. Bill N2GAO and some acting net controllers do a F.B. job and keep everyone happy. A lot of information is passed on to the members.

During the past three years, our membership has almost doubled; and it usually takes a little longer to get things done. For instance, it is not too early to think about the new officers for 1992. By the time the nominations are in and the ballots made, the months go by.

Happy Hamming!  
Guz WB2EZU

### Jamboree on the Air

Amateur radio operators will join with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts worldwide in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 19-20, 1991. This is an outstanding chance for Scouts to talk to each other over the air and to learn about Amateur Radio. Full details are given on page 62 of the September issue of QST.

Last year STARS participated in JOTA in a big way by setting up three stations for local scouts to join in on the fun. The club's Nike Base HF station was used as well as Field Day type operations at two Scout camporees.

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's stations. For more information, contact Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Frank K2VTK at 643-6669. Don't let the kids down!

### Chautauqua Experience

The American Lung Association of Western New York staged the Chautauqua Experience bike trek on August 17-19. Friday found the riders going 40 miles from SilverCreek to Mayville. On Saturday, the organizers had the people biking across Chautauqua Lake (via the Stow ferry, of course) and then on to Randolph for a daily total of about 50 miles. Sunday morning, the riders pedaled through Amish country just in time to see the locals going to church in their horse and buggies. 35 miles later, they were treated to a cookout on the shores of Lake Erie.

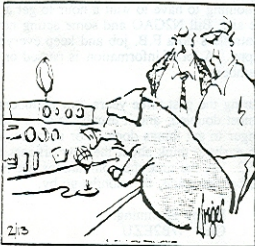
STARS members providing communications for the event included Darrin KA2ZLZ, Steve KB2EQV, Dave K2ECK, Gary KB2ESN, Bob K2PPK, Tony WG2Q and Terry KM4XZ. A great time was had by all. See you next year!

## Buffalo Hamfest For Sale / Trade

The Buffalo Hamfest will be held at the Erie County Fairgrounds which is on Route 62, South Park Avenue, in Hamburg, NY on Saturday, September 21. The flea market will be open from 6 AM to 4 PM, and the commercial exhibits will be open from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Tickets are \$5 and there is a \$1 per vehicle parking charge.

STARS will have a table at the Hamfest and is looking for volunteers to man it. This will be an important vehicle for attracting new members to the club. To volunteer, contact Bob WA2IQX at 648-4274 or Bob KA2RFT at 648-0341.

HERMAN



"You never seen a ham operator before?"

### *Congratulations*

Bob K2PPK passed a major milestone in his amateur radio career by qualifying for his Extra Class license!

Jake has passed his Novice Class license exam and soon will have a call to put after his name.

Receiving their new call signs are John McKnight KB2MNP and Ray Silver KB2NBL.

On the August 24 exam at Lockport, both Scott KB2KOL and Frank KB2LDW qualified for their Technician (Plus) licenses.

Mosley TA-33-JR three-element tri-band beam which was previously used at STARS Nike Base club station. Highest bid over \$75; bids must be received before close of club meeting on September 5. Call Bob Witt WA2IQX at 648-4274.

Tandy color monitor CM-11. \$50. Call Bob Sendor KB2JHY at 947-4909.

## STARS NODE

Gary KB2YJ has his packet radio node operational at the Nike Base club station. Running under the alias of STARS, the node can be found on 144.91 Mhz.

After connecting to STARS, send a "?" to get a list of commands. Try sending a "C W2SEX" command after connecting to the node to connect to the W2SEX (yes, that's a real call sign!) BBS in North Tonawanda.

Let Gary know if you find the node useful!

## Brief Notes

The Motorola tour in Elma is still being set up. Contact Bob WA2IQX at 648-4274 if you are interested in attending.

A RACES spokesperson from STARS is still needed. If you are interested, contact one of the Board members.

Interest has been shown by some members in staging an Amateur Radio exhibit at next year's Erie County fair. This is a big commitment, and the Board would like to hear from more members if they are interested in doing it.

The Board is looking at offering for sale club badges with members' names and call signs on them. This could help members learn each others' names and calls and would show how active STARS members are supporting local events. Let the Board know if you're interested!

## Amateur Radio Examinations

Western New Yorkers will have the following opportunities during the next year to take amateur radio exams (Novice through Extra):

**STARS** will hold amateur radio test sessions on October 16, 1991 and April 8, 1992 in Hamburg, NY. 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 in Lancaster, NY. 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, 1992 in Tonawanda, NY. For information, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

Lockport ARA (LARA) will hold test sessions on January 25 and April 25, 1992 in Lockport, NY. For information, call Bobbie Gritzmacher KB2LTD at 433-3396.

For test sessions in Hamburg and Lancaster, send your 610 application, a copy of your current license (if any), a copy of any element credit certificate that is applicable and a check for \$5.25 made out to **Dick Haungs** to:

Dick Haungs W2UJR  
11315 Cary Road  
Alden, NY 14004-9547

There is no charge for candidates who are only taking Novice exams. There will be no walk-ins; all candidates must be pre-registered.

Dick Haungs W2UJR  
STARS/LARC VE Liaison

## Sympathy

**STARS** would like to express its deepest sympathies to Gary Wood KB2ESN and to all of his family for the loss of Gary's father.

## Nike Base HF Club Station

DX conditions improved during the last month allowing several good contacts from the station.

DXpeditions on CY9 St. Paul Island and 3C0 Pagalu Island were worked. The CY9 contact was made using our new 40 meter dipole over a big pile up. The 3C0 took a lot of effort since they working split and were jumping around over a 20-kilohertz portion of the 20 meter band.

A special station worked was the ABC Sports TV club station at the Pan Am games in Havana, Cuba (portable T4).

I worked a station that I thought was signing RB5ZZ (the Ukraine). After giving him my name and QTH, he returned saying that his name was Walid and his QTH was northern Lebanon. When I then asked if his call was "Romeo Bravo Five Zulu Zulu?", he replied, "Oh no, it is Oscar Delta Five Zulu Zulu!" So I worked a new country for me without first realizing it. Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good!

We also worked 5Z4 Kenya, V85 Brunei, TF7 Iceland and VU2 India.

Thanks to Bob WA2IQX, Norm KD2KK, Jake, and John KB2NMP for their work to put up our new 80 meter dipole; it works great! Jake and Bob have also continued their remodel work at the station. We've recently acquired a steel door and will be installing it shortly.

Terry KM4XZ

## CQ WW RTTY Contest

Bob KA2WYE and Ken KB2HRZ are interested in using the club station to compete in the CQ World Wide RTTY contest on September 28 and 29.

This is a 48-hour contest, and they will need help to pull it off. They are experienced RTTY operators, and this would be a great opportunity for members to learn more about the mode.

If you are interested in helping them, contact Bob at 649-7272 or Ken at 681-2789.





# STARS



## Board of Directors

President	Bob Witt	WA2IQX
Vice President	John Leitten	KA2RFT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Bob Sendor	KB2JHY
Director	Frank Weinstock	K2VTK

## Telstar Staff

Editor	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Distribution	John McKnight	KB2NMP

## 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

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