

# telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 130 OCTOBER, 1991

## STARS Repeater WB2ELW/R

There has been a lots of recent activity surrounding STARS repeater, WB2ELW/R.

Having experienced problems with moisture getting into the commercial fiberglass antenna which we have been using for the repeater, a decision was made at the September club meeting to buy and install a new antenna.

Repeater Chairman Bill N2GAO researched the problem with various repeater owners and concluded that we should try a Hustler G7 antenna with a 7 dB gain. This particular type of antenna seemed to have an excellent track record over time.

On Saturday, September 14, the old antenna came down and the new one went up. Helping with this was Bill N2GAO, Gary KB2ESN, Bob WA2IQX, Jake KB2NNN, Jack KB2ESM, Craig WA2PCH, Norm KD2KK, Bob KB2HWY, Mary N2KWD and Bob KB2JHY.

Reaction to the new antenna has been very favorable. Numerous people have indicated that reception into previously marginal areas has improved significantly.

Also discussed at the September meeting was the need to look into purchasing a back-up repeater for the 147.09 machine. At the moment, we have no back-up repeater. Therefore, a technical problem could put the repeater off the air for an extended period of time while the repeater was being repaired. Bob WA2IQX and Bill N2GAO are researching the availability and cost of a solid-state back-up to our current repeater and will report to the club as soon as they are in a position to make a recommendation.

## October Meeting

STARS October meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on October 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Street and Hawkins Street). Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

Topics for discussion at the meeting include testing the potential new repeater site, purchase of a back-up repeater, installation of the new repeater antenna, the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air, the CQ WW SSB contest, work at the Nike Base station, results of the Buffalo Hamfest, and much more!



Club activities are booming, and you will want to be at the meeting to hear all about them!

For several months, the club has been reviewing a potential new site for the 147.09 repeater. The timing of any relocation of the repeater would be some time in the future and is indefinite at this time.

A robot test station is now in operation on 446.5 Mhz simplex to test the potential new site. To conduct a test, give your call and announce that you are testing, and then hit the # key for a minimum of 1 second. If you are within range of the repeater, you will hear a brief voice announcement asking you to note the equipment and power level you used for the test and how well you received the signal. This information should be relayed to Bill N2GAO.

This initial test is being conducted on UHF rather than 2 meters because of the availability of UHF antennas already up on the tower. To install a 2 meter antenna on this tall tower will

# ★ 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.

## Cystic Fibrosis Bike Trek

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of WNY staged their first bike trek on September 21-22. Leaving from East Aurora on Saturday morning, 30 riders covered approximately 50 miles as they traveled through Strykersville, Arcade and Franklerville. The overnight stop was at a



beautiful private camp south of Franklerville. Early Sunday, the riders returned to East Aurora passing through Machias, Delevan, Chaffee and Holland. Highlights of the trip included seeing the steam locomotive puffing black smoke as it pulled the tourist train out of Arcade, lunch Saturday along a scenic lake at Scout Haven, a llama farm near Franklerville and a cook-out at the finish in East Aurora.

STARS newsletter editor Terry KM4XZ was contacted by Robin Pfalzgraf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to see if amateur radio operators could provide communication along the course. The challenge was that the event was only 10 days away and the first day conflicted with the Buffalo Hamfest! Terry got on the Wednesday night STARS net and immediately got four other volunteers for Sunday. Staffing Saturday proved to be more difficult because of the Hamfest. Thanks go to the Cattaraugus County ARES group, the Erie County Ares group and the Lancaster ARC for their assistance in locating volunteers for Saturday.



Amateurs providing communication on Saturday included John KA2TFC (Cattaraugus County ARES EC), George N2NOB, Dave KB2EKU, Kathy N2KWX and Terry KM4XZ.

Communications on Sunday were handled by STARS members Bill N2GAO, Gary KB2ESN, Bill KA2JEX and Terry KM4XZ.

Thanks also go to Chuck WB2WTT from the Cattaraugus ARES group and Bob K2PPK from STARS who volunteered to help but were unable to due to last minute unavoidable circumstances.

Special thanks go to John Thomas K2XZ and Hank Wilkie WA2YUC for the use of the 145.39 repeater!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the bike trek and are looking forward to doing it again next year!

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

This month's column starts out on a sad note. Val Orgera N2LJG (formerly K2KQC) is a silent key. On September 7, she passed away at Our Lady of Victory hospital after a long illness.

Val was one of the charter members of the club; and without her help, the club would not be what it is today. She held the position of Treasurer for quite some time.

Val also was chairperson of the Hamfest when it was held at the Erie County Fairgrounds. I was President of the club at that time. It was quite a project, and there were three other clubs involved with the project. She held that position until the Hamfest was moved to Niagara Falls.

Then our club was honored by getting an invitation to display amateur radio at the Erie County Fair. Val's father was quite impressed with our dedication to amateur radio. Val was chairperson, and we took messages from the fair visitors and put them on the air. It sure was nice when the same people came back the next year and thanked us for our efforts. Much to our surprise, we put out a sheet of paper on our table and asked interested people to sign. We let them know when we started classes, and our membership grew from that little bit of publicity!

STARS would like to express its deepest sympathy to all of Val's family for their loss.

By the way, Mr. Kent Vanderhoef, Val's brother, has no interest in amateur radio and has donated all of Val's equipment to the club in her memory. We thank you very much, Kent!

As this article is being written, the 2 meter committee is out at the repeater site to install a different antenna to get better reception on the repeater. Good luck guys!

You know, our last meeting had so much business to take care of that we never got around to the nominations of officers for 1992. There have been years that the winter storms made it impossible to hold meetings, so nominations were moved up to the fall. If we have an election like last year, it was a snap. I don't think it will happen so nice again, although maybe the members will want it that way??

The antenna committee at the Nike base sure must be congratulated on the fine business job this year. The beam works like gang busters all around the world, and the wire antennas never worked as good as they do now.

Happy Hamming!  
Guz WB2EZU

## JOTA

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts throughout the world will get in contact with each other during the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 19-20, 1991. Full details on the event appear on page 62 of the September issue of QST.

Frank K2VTK will be setting up a Field Day type operation at a Boy Scout camporee at Evangola State Park. He is looking for volunteers willing to help him demonstrate amateur radio at the camporee. Contact him at 648-6669.

Terry KM4XZ is organizing a JOTA station at STAR's Nike Base station, WB2ELW. If anyone knows of a Scout group (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, etc.) that might be interested, give us a call. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help at the Nike Base station, please call Terry at 656-0865.

## New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Shane Brady WB2WPM holds an Extra class license, is an engineer and is the current newsletter editor for Lancaster ARC.

Kyle Kneisl KF2AJ is an Advanced class amateur and is a student.

Judy Miller KB2AQF is a nurse and student and is a Technician.

Robert Ryan KB2ELC is also a Technician and works as a firefighter.

Paul Shephard N2MGG is a Technician and recently moved to WNY after working in the Air Force in Georgia.

We have 15 applications for membership to be voted on at the October meeting!

## Buffalo Hamfest

Amateur radio operators from all around the area gathered at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg on September 21 for the Buffalo Hamfest. Early word indicated that attendance increased from about 1,600 in 1990 to about 2,300 in 1991. Needless to say, lots of people went home with new toys to play with. (Oops, better make that essential items for the serious pursuit of amateur radio in case any spouses are around!)

STARS had a table at the Hamfest to show pictures of our club activities and to talk to people about amateur radio. Apparently this was extremely successful as eight people filled out membership applications on the spot! Other people also showed interest in joining.

Helping out at the table were Bob WA2IQX, Joe KB2JDB, John KB2NMP, Jack KB2ESM, Gary KB2ESN, Frank K2VTK, Al W2QIL, Dave WA2TVT, Bill N2GAO, Ralph K2ZUW, Greg KE2VW, Jake KB2NNN, and Steve KB2EQV.

Craig WA2PCH assisted by Norm KD2KK acted as talk-in for the Hamfest on STARS repeater.

## Brief Notes

Scott KB2KOL has announced that a new net is being started on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM local time on 146.58 simplex. Everyone is invited to join in on the net.

Apologies to Al K2DWI for leaving him off the list last month of members who operated the Birth of the Hamburger special event station from his home QTH!

Call Bob KA2WYE at 649-7272 or Ken at 681-2789 immediately if you would like to help them with the CQ WW RTTY contest on September 28-29!

Results of Operation Big Three, the simulated emergency test will appear in the November newsletter. STARS was well represented!

Club badges ordered at the September meeting will be available at the October meeting. The cost is \$3.50.

## STARS Repeater

Continued from Page 1

likely require a professional tower climber or climbers and considerable expense. Therefore, this initial test is being conducted to make sure that the reception area looks promising before we conduct further tests. This test station is radiating less power than the actual repeater would, so this must be taken into account when evaluating the results.

All of these actions being taken for the WB2ELW/R repeater are aimed at providing the best and most reliable service possible to our members and other amateurs in the area.

## Congratulations

Ray Silver has received his new "Tech" call N2NXX. Ray would like to thank a Dick, a Ron, a Norm and a couple of Bobs for their help and ongoing encouragement!

John McKnight's correct new call is KB2NMP!

Jake's new call is KB2NNN. Jake has upgraded to Technician (Plus).

Jay Clark has passed his Novice test and is awaiting his new call.

## Old Dog?

An old dog wants to learn a new trick! I have a Commodore 64C and a mysterious urge to learn touch-typing in the Dvorak system. Don't ask me why -- just humor me!

What I want to do is to change the QWERTY arrangement of the keys to the Dvorak system -- permanently, without disturbing the joystick wiring (if possible). Now, as I understand it, the 6526 CIA (U1 on Commodore's schematic diagram) is the critical IC to be operated on. Is it possible to reprogram this chip to the Dvorak system? I would appreciate hearing whether this can be done. I have a spare C-64 keyboard, so I can experiment without any regrets.

Call me at 592-3076. If I'm not home, and, if I manage to remember to turn it on, you can leave a message on my answering machine.

de Al Soboleski W2QIL

## Amateur Radio Examinations

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 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 Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on 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

People desiring to take Novice exams only should contact John Leitten KA2RFT at 648-0341 or write to Dick Haungs at the above address.

Dick Haungs W2UJR  
STARS/LARC VE Liaison

## Motorola Tour

STARS president Bob WA2IQX has announced that there are a few spots left for the tour of the Motorola facility in Elma on Wednesday evening, October 2.

Interested parties should contact him immediately at 648-4274 to reserve spots and get directions.

## CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest

The CQ World-Wide DX SSB contest will begin at 0000Z on October 26 and will conclude at 2400Z on October 27. This is the biggest amateur radio contest in the world and is absolutely amazing if you have never experienced it. The airwaves are literally alive with contesters from all over the globe. Even if you aren't a big contesteer, this is a great way to make new contacts.

Terry KM4XZ is organizing a low-key approach to the contest at the STARS Nike Base station designed to allow interested members to have a chance to increase their country count and learn more about contesting. Instead of trying to build up a big score by calling CQ night and day during the contest, we will concentrate on locating and working new countries. Members will be allowed to work the countries with their own call signs so long as they are within their own frequency privileges. Of course, if anyone wants to run a stretch of calling CQ, we can arrange that. We won't be winning any awards with this approach; but everyone, even beginners, should be able to participate and have fun!

Using a similar approach during the ARRL contest last spring, Steve KB2EQV and Terry KM4XZ were able to work lots of countries in Africa, the Falkland Islands, Singapore, Hong Kong, various islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, etc. The Nike Base station is a great one for DX.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 as soon as possible so we can set up a schedule of hours we will be operating.

## Nike Base

Don't forget to stop out on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 PM to visit us.

The remodeling work continues on the station. A new steel front door has been installed.

We need about 8 volunteers for a painting party for the station. Call Terry at 656-0865 to reserve a spot! Tom and Huck would be proud of you!



# 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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