

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWN'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 132

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Mir Space Station

In last month's newsletter, we had an article about the ease and excitement in starting out with satellite radio. Several members have recently experienced what we meant by monitoring the Mir Space Station.

Sergei Kirkalev U5MIR operates both voice and packet on 145.550 Mhz FM simplex. The equipment that you use for 2 meter voice or packet locally is able to listen to Mir and maybe even to contact them! On close passes, their signal can reach an S9 to even a mobile unit.

It seems like magic to sit at your radio and suddenly hear a voice with a Russian accent speaking English (or sometimes Russian) to American hams. Of course, on HF this is old hat, but when was the last time you heard a Russian on your 2 meter radio, much less one who was in outer space?!

Frank WZ2J has made several voice contacts with the space station in recent weeks. He recommends that you call in a crisp manner, "U5MIR, this is Whiskey Zulu Two Juliette!" Of course, you should substitute your own call, or Frank will get credit for the contact and might be peeved that you are using his call!

Making a contact with the space station on packet may be even easier than voice. Terry KM4XZ was surprised to not only copy packets coming down from Mir on his first try, but also to receive a disconnect message from the space station when he tried to connect to it. He was only using a J-pole antenna made from twin-lead hanging at a height of 7 feet in front of his apartment!

Two days later, Terry actually established a connect on packet with Mir from the club's Nike

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December Meeting

STARS December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Hawkins and Prospect Streets) in Hamburg.

After a brief business meeting, which will include installation of officers for 1992, a Holiday party will be held. The club will be providing pizza and pop. Members are asked to bring "finger foods" to share with the others.



This is traditionally a great party that you won't want to miss! See you there!

Dues Are Due!

Club members are reminded that club dues are due and payable on January 1.

The repeater codes are probably going to be changed the first week in January, so you will want to get your dues in early to get the codes.

Dues should be paid to Frank Modzelewski WG2H. See Frank at the December meeting, or mail the dues to him at 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206.

Think about all the club offers for your money (2 meter repeater, autopatch privileges, HF activities at the Nike Base, the monthly newsletter, Field Day, summer and winter parties, public service events, club nets, special programs, etc.), and you will realize what a bargain STARS really is!

★ 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.

Mir

Continued from Page 1

Base station. He received a "Logged on to U5MIR's Personal Message System" message along with the command list and the command prompt. Of course, when he tried to send a command back up, he couldn't get it through, but he was excited at just making the connect with so little experience. By the way, an American-made PacComm TNC is being used on Mir for packet!

To monitor Mir, all you need to know is when it is passing overhead. This basically requires a satellite tracking program. The club has IBM compatible freeware/shareware programs which will do this which are available to be downloaded from a CD Rom. See the article on page 3 for more details on this. We will see if we can locate similar programs for the Apple and Commodore users in the club if there is interest.

To give you a chance to experience Mir, we will give you a few up-coming close passes to Buffalo (all times EST):

Thurs. 11/28 10:30-10:40 AM; 4:20-4:30 PM

Fri. 11/29 10:32-10:42 AM; 3:23-3:32 PM;
4:59-5:08 PM

Sat. 11/30 9:35-9:45 AM; 4:01-4:11 PM

Sun. 12/1 10:13-10:23 AM; 3:03-3:13 PM

Mon. 12/2 9:15-9:25 AM; 2:05-2:15 PM;
3:41-3:51 PM

Tues. 12/3 8:17-8:27 AM; 9:54-10:03 AM;
2:43-2:53 PM

Wed. 12/4 8:55-9:05 AM; 1:45-1:55 PM

Since we are predicting the times quite a bit in advance, you should give them a little latitude.

Now the bad news! For some reason, the Soviet officials require the men to sleep and work as well as play amateur radio, so you may hear nothing on some passes. If you miss them on one pass, try another. Mid to late afternoon seems to be a good time to hear them on voice.

Good luck and *Dosvidaniya!*

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the November meeting was a huge success. We were able to nominate and vote on the future officers for 1992 in one evening. Tony WA2ZFU was the chairperson of the election committee, and everything went well. The new officers appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

After the business meeting, John KA2RFT brought in some rope and got us acquainted with the proper care and use of rope and the most popular types of knots. There was one type of knot which was very good. If you are up on the tower and have two elements of the beam to take down, and you are alone, use this knot. When you lower the one element down and give the rope some slack, the knot will loosen itself from the element, and you can pull the rope back up the tower. Then you can lower the other element down without going down and back up the tower. For more info get in touch with John, and he will be glad to show it to you.

Bob WA2IQX brought the surplus items that the club could not sell at the hamfests and donated

them to the club members, so if you were absent, you missed a chance to add to your junk box at home!

Remember that all committees are appointed by the officers and directors. If you are interested in any of the positions, get in touch with them so your thoughts are known to them. I am sure they will welcome you with open arms.

Hope everyone enjoyed the new column, "The Technical Corner", that appeared in our November newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit an article, please submit it to our editor, Terry KM4XZ. I'm sure that Terry will see to it's publication in a future issue. It is nice to see some of our high tech members willing to share their info with the rest of us. Also, if there are any particular subjects you would like to see, why feel free to ask about them, and someone might just come up and submit some info about it at a future date.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Computer Programs

STARS has many shareware and public domain amateur radio related computer programs and files available for club member use. These are all for IBM compatible computers and are stored on a CD ROM. They can be downloaded onto 3 1/2 inch and 5 1/4 inch diskettes.



Areas covered include Morse code training, VEC exam practice, antennas, packet radio, DXCC and station logging, satellite tracking, QSL labels, propagation forecasting, frequency listings, RTTY/AmTOR, traffic handling, Field Day, and much, much more.

Greg Young KE2VW has been taking care of this area for the club. He can loan you a list of all the files so that you can make your selection. All that you have to provide is a diskette to hold the programs that you desire and \$1 per file to reimburse the club for expenses.

1992 NY/PA HAMFESTS

- JAN 18 MARATHON, NY
- JAN 26 COLUMBIA, PA
- + FEB 29 CAMP HILL, PA
- FEB 29 LEBANON, PA
- + MAR 1 DOVER, PA
- MAR 29 MONROEVILLE, PA
- + MAY 17 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA
- + MAY 15/17 ROCHESTER, NY
- + JUN 7 TAMAQUA, PA
- + JUN 7 BUTLER, PA
- + JUL 12 ALEXANDER, NY
- AUG 9 WARRINGTON, PA
- AUG 15 ITHACA, NY
- SEP 13 BUTLER, PA
- + SEP 19 HAMBURG, NY

+ denotes ARRL Hamfest

Courtesy of:

Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, Dir. All Div., ARRL
 Kay Craigie KC3LM, V. Dir. All Div., ARRL

1992 Club Officers

Nomination of club officers for 1992 was held at the November club meeting. In each case, only one person was nominated for the position. Therefore, since the positions were not contested, the club went ahead and elected the nominees at the same meeting.

Greg Young KE2VW was elected as President to succeed Bob Witt WA2IQX.

Terry Rockhold KM4XZ was elected to a two-year term as Director succeeding Bob Sendor KB2JHY.

The following officers were re-elected to the positions that they held in 1991:

John Leitten KA2RFT as Vice President.

Jack Cullum KB2ESM as Treasurer.

Frank Modzelewski WG2H as Financial Secretary.

Dave Baco WA2TVT as Secretary.

Frank Weinstock K2VTK will continue as Director and will be in the second year of his two-year term.

Congratulations to all, and thanks for volunteering to serve the club!

HCJB Special Event

HCJB in Quito, Ecuador, one of the best known international SW broadcast stations, is celebrating their 60th anniversary. As part of their special activities, 18 HCJB hams will be on the air for 30 hours from 4 PM EST Friday, December 6 to 10 PM EST Saturday, December 7 using the special call sign HC60JB. They will be transmitting on (or near) 14.225, 21.300 and 28.500 Mhz. To obtain a special QSL card, send a QSL card to HCJB, Casilla 17-01-00691, Quito, Ecuador.

The HCJB hams will be using station equipment including some of the world's most powerful SW antennas such as 30-story-high curtain antennas with eight parallel-fed dipoles and a cubical quad antenna with 24 elements with four parallel-fed arrays, each six element deep.

From A New Member

I see you at the meeting but you never say hello.

You're busy all the time with men you already know.

I sit among the fellows still, I'm a lonely guy.

The new ones sit there with me. You quickly pass me by.

But gosh, you guys have asked me in and talked of fellowship.

You could just step across the room but you never made the trip.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello" or stop and shake my hand?

Then go and join your friends. Now that I would understand.

I'll be at your next meeting, too. On that you can depend.

So, won't you introduce yourself? I want to be your friend!



The above words of wisdom appear on a meeting room wall of the Moose Club in Hamburg and were brought to our attention by Dave Baco WA2TVT. They are intended not as criticism, but rather as a friendly reminder for us all.

Upgrades

Scott KB2KOL upgraded to General, and John KB2NMF upgraded to Technician.

Jay Clark recently upgraded to Technician. His new call sign is KB2NQS.

If you have received your first license or have upgraded recently, please call Terry KM4XZ so that we can let the other club members know.

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a amateur radio test session on April 8, 1992 in Hamburg, NY. For information, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on 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 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

Please include your telephone number and what test elements you want to take or what license class you want to upgrade to.

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

Training Classes

Anyone interested in taking or helping teach training classes for Novice, Technician, or General licenses after the New Year should contact Greg Young KE2VW at 537-2830 or Al Beutler KD0WI at 652-8890 immediately so that they can complete their plans for the classes.

New Members

STARS would like to welcome the following new members:

James Ciacatello N2MEP is a telecommunications specialist and holds a Technician class license.

Wayne Conover who currently holds no license.

George Ebert N2NOB is a member of Lancaster ARC and is a Technician.

Paul Gastle who works for the NYS Dept. of Transportation.

Daryl Haberneck N2NNE holds a Technician class license and is a student.

M. Patricia Murray NW2I is a home-maker and holds an Extra class license.

Joe Suriani KE2SK is in supervision in telecommunications and is an Extra class amateur.

Michelle Young KB2NOK is a student and holds a Novice class license. Greg Young KE2VW (STARS new president for 1992) will now be known around the club as "Michelle's father".

These eight new members now bring STARS membership total up to 164! Membership has increased 27 in the last three months!

Nike Base Station

Everyone is reminded that STARS Nike Base HF club station is open every Monday evening from 7 to 9 PM unless the weather is really bad. If in doubt, monitor the club's repeater.

We have various different activities going on from week to week. Fall/winter propagation conditions have brought back better DX conditions on the HF bands.

We now have a 2 meter all-mode radio and have began experimenting using it for satellite operations on RS-10/11 and RS-12/13.

We also have used packet radio to monitor packet activity from the Mir Space Station and to tie into the Packet Cluster DX spotting networks.

Why not come up and see us some time?



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 Sender	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

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

Training Classes

Anyone interested in taking or helping teach training classes for Novice, Technician, or General licenses after the Nov 1997 deadline contact Gary Young KE2VW at 337-3800 or B-Box 1411 at 607-480-1880 immediately as they can complete their plans for the classes.