

# telstar



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

ISSUE 133 JANUARY, 1992

## 1991 In Review

by Dave WA2TVT

As we exit 1991 and enter 1992, we can glance behind ourselves and reflect upon a year filled with accomplishments that have transformed STARS into one of the leading ham radio clubs in Western New York. Let's look at what we've done.



A steady receipt of QSL cards stands in testimony that WB2ELW is a callsign that is recognized around the world! Our Nike Base installation continues to perform admirably with a state-of-the-art rig, new finals in the amplifier, a glistening tribander that stands tall in all its splendor and glory and a new set of dipoles to give us access to their respective bands. Some members journeyed to the Base each Monday evening to capture terrific DX, while others came simply to enjoy an informal eyeball with a fellow ham. A new operating desk, new paint, heaters and air conditioning, a refrigerator, a couch, a recliner, a variety of folding chairs and our enhanced security measures became the ingredients of a genuine club house for all. QSL information? The current US and foreign callbooks were always there. You were welcome to bring your own equipment, too. And, if Monday night was not convenient, you were invited to arrange a special opening!

The Nike Base station served as host to our summer meetings both Board and regular, our annual picnic, the general public with Snowfest, JOTA, Hamburger Days and the CQ WorldWide RTTY and SSB contests. Our building also became the home of an independent packet node, alias STARS, without expense or liability to the club.

## January Meeting

The date of the January meeting has been changed to January 9 starting at 7:30 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center. Everyone is invited!

STARS president Greg Young KE2VW will be covering some of his exciting ideas for improvements in club activities.

Bill Siska N2GAO, club repeater chairman, will demonstrate how the various repeater functions can be accessed by club members.

We will also have a demonstration of Super Morse, an IBM compatible computer program that can be used by beginners to learn CW as well as by more experienced users. Copies of the program will be available at the meeting.

## Snowfest Special Event Station

STARS will be playing host to many visitors at their Nike Base HF club station on January 18 & 19 from 1 to 5 PM as part of the Hamburg

Snowfest. This is a small way that our club can repay the Town of Hamburg for allowing us to use the Nike Base station.



The visitors will get a chance to see how the HF equipment is used to make domestic and DX contacts and how the 2 meter equipment is used for local communications. It will be an great opportunity to attract new people to the hobby!

Members who would like to help out should contact John KA2RFT at 648-0341 or Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

# ★ 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 and more info on the club may be obtained by sending a SASE to Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206 (No calls please!) or by attending any club meeting.

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 WB2ELW/ R 147.09/.69 (output/input). Net control is Bill N2GAO.

## Club Repeater News

by Bill N2GAO, Repeater Chairman

As many members have probably noticed, the repeater has gone through a software upgrade. This new software, Version 5.1, is the most up-to-date software offered by Advanced Computer Controls, for our RC-85 Repeater Controller.

Some of the new features include the ability to add sounds to messages. These sounds include Lasers, Phasers, Explosions, and Train Whistles, along with several more. Also, a female voice has been added, in combination to a "Run-Time-Variable" Clock. This clock is integral to the system, is remotely programmable, has a 10-year battery back-up, and replaces the separate talking clock that we have had in the



repeater for several years. The term "Run-Time-Variable" means that the "time" message can become a permanent part of any voice message, and is updated to include the proper time at each announcement. With the addition of the clock, the repeater may now be automatically scheduled for messages or functions to be enabled or disabled at certain times of the day, or days of the week or month. This feature affords the control operators to be human and forget to turn messages or functions on or off at specified times.

The code to access the clock is a new one. It will be included in the '92 Repeater Operation Guide, which you will receive with your paid-up '92 dues (if you have a license with 2 meter privileges), and will not be announced sooner. You will be hearing more about the new software as time goes on.

Now for the soap-box news!

STARS membership is currently at an all time record high and is still growing by leaps and bounds. Much of this newly acquired membership is a result of the excellent performance and many features of the repeater. Along with "big" membership roles comes problems. Among some of the recent unidentified touch-toning which causes most if not all of the repeater user-functions to be activated at one time or another.



## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the December meeting went over very well in spite of the rather inclement weather. The meeting was over rather quickly and the installation of officers went very well. Our new president Greg KE2VW had to attend a meeting at work and was unable to attend. It sure was nice to meet all the XYL's and families of the members after the meeting. The pizza was hot, and the drinks were plentiful, so everyone enjoyed themselves. And not only that, it was nice to see all that home baked goods that was brought in, everything from red, white and blue cookies to a nice decorated cake with lots of frosting. I had to try them all. The two types of brownies were delicious also. Everyone enjoyed themselves and time sure passed rapidly, just another time that we over shot our curfew. So all you members that have not attended meetings up until now have no excuse not to come more often as now you know where to go.

Terry KM4XZ is still keeping the Nike Base club room open on Monday evenings (other times by appointment only) so why not drop in on him and give the equipment a workout. Always listen to our repeater about 6:00-6:45 Monday evenings, and Terry will inform you of

the schedule for the evening. This is the second year that we have attempted to operate the Nike Base during the winter months. Also, some of the contests were worked during this year so take advantage of it. By the way, if Terry is unable to open the Nike Base, why Norm KD2KK takes over if he is available.

It is amazing how many members are now branching out into some special branches of amateur radio, like satellite listening, packet radio, teletype and even amateur television. So, if you are interested, inquire around and find out how they can help you.

By the way, QST December, 1991 issue on page 23 has some very good hints for going mobile. One important item is to go directly to the battery for your power source, and you will eliminate a lot of trouble. Please remember safety always comes first; it should be your top priority. Mobile is fun, but your most important task is to Drive Safely!

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

### Computer Training

Do you have a PC, or maybe you're considering getting one, or maybe Santa Claus was good to you. By now, you probably know all the basic things, like how to turn it on, how to format a disc, how to run a program, and how to swear at it.



Larry K2KVS, the resident STARS computer guru, will be putting on a seminar, hopefully some time in January.

The aim is to further the knowledge of club members on what computers are all about. It will not be for the rank beginners (although they could get a lot out of it) but mainly for those folks who have a PC but don't really know how it all works or how to make the best use of what they have, especially memory.

### Amateur Radio 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 K2DWI at 652-8890 immediately so that they can complete their plans for the classes.

It will cover hardware and software, but don't expect it to be a class on how to use Lotus, WordPerfect, etc. There might even be some freebies. Stay tuned.

If you want to go, call Larry at 627-3157, or Gary KB2ESN at 823-0555 with what are convenient days/times. We will try to accommodate as many people's preferences as we can. Leave a message on the machine if nobody's home.

## 1991 in Review

*continued from page 1*

The popularity of the WB2ELW repeater continued to grow this past year. New coax and a new antenna cured its ills and the machine was returned to the remarkable performer we have all come to rely on. Our repeater made the local newspaper headlines about its role in the SAREX experiment which allowed local school children talked with our national space shuttle heroes as they circled the globe. The weekly net attracted check-ins in record numbers. We began the arduous task of locating permanent accommodations for our machine. Testing from a potential site proved that we could expect superior coverage. However, several obstacles were encountered and the pursuit of repeater relocation ranks high on our agenda for 1992. We updated our controller software to add flexibility and make reprogramming less difficult. A female personality even took residence in harmony with her male colleague and continually kept us informed with their informational material! We recognized 147.09 Mhz as a valuable resource to the ham radio community; and in keeping with our desire to keep it up and running, we approved the necessary funding to assemble a complete standby package for direct replacement in the event of primary repeater failure.

Our communications activities included an interface with government and our participation in the Simulated Emergency Test. We rode along to Canandaigua in support vehicles for the Pedal for Power Cross-the-USA bike trek. We used our radios to assist the American Lung Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Society and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during their annual bike treks. We introduced scouts to ham radio through our participation in the Jamboree-on-the-Air. And, we accommodated over 500 guests on the air as we partied around the globe in celebration of the Birth of the Hamburger!



On several occasions, late arrivals were greeted with standing room only at our general meetings. Our Field Day program was the catalyst that caused our effort to score in the top 20% of entries in our class.

Our members came to Field Day prepared for plenty of fun and concluded with a spaghetti dinner that became the envy of all the chefs among us.

A meteorologist gave us a dramatic presentation on tornados and how the SKYWARN system plays a vital role in public safety. An Erie County radio officer encouraged our participation in RACES. Technical talks on RFI captured our attention as did a repeater functions review. We were fascinated by rope tying techniques as applied to antenna and tower work, and amazed by magic tricks performed at the summer picnic by our only Canadian member. And, our flea market nite drew the largest crowd of the year.

Our regular business was conducted in a timely manner with all bills paid. Our treasury remained healthy as we planned the strategy to fund our projects and acquisitions. Five outstanding persons were granted honorary memberships. We reviewed our Youth Center HF stations activities and took an active part in the VE testing sessions. #610 forms were available at every meeting. We discussed the new "no-code" license and its impact on our club. The CD-ROM offer, the split club, the callsign badge sale and the raffle were well received each month. Our repeater interests were effectively represented at the WYNSORC. We made our presence known at the Lancaster, Batavia, Rochester, and Buffalo hamfests where we signed up new members. It was there that we sold equipment for our financial gain. ARRL renewals were encouraged through the club. We touched on restrictive antenna ordinances, DX techniques and the art of QSL'ing. We secured a Bird Wattmeter with an assortment of slugs. And, we saw our Telstar take on a completely new appearance.

It was no wonder that our membership grew to over 170 for it was STARS as a whole that became the great attraction in our ham radio community! 1992 promises to be a year of continued motivation and momentum. The STARS is where we'll strive to grow and prosper together, where input from every member counts, where the formula to our success abounds in all we do and where the common denominator of communications keeps alive the true spirit of amateur radio. The sky may be our only limit next year! Happy New Year to you and yours!!!



## 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 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 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 \$5.40 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

## Get Well!

STARS member Frank WZ2J is recovering now from recent surgery. We all hope that he will be feeling better and up and around very soon!

## Repeater News

Continued from Page 3

Due to the completeness of this phantom person's knowledge of the repeater codes, I am left with three conclusions: Either the phantom is a club member, whom for some reason, does not want to or is unable to identify by call; the phantom is a friend of a club member who has stolen the codes from the member or has shammed a member into divulging the codes; or the phantom has some sort of mental telepathy and has obtained the complete user code list using his/her special powers. What do you think?

For the sake of preserving the repeater functions for all club members, remember to identify all transmissions when using the repeater's many functions. Use the functions in an intelligent manner and frequency.

Next month we will present information which will explain proper use of the Autopatch.

## Contests

David Rodman KN2M is looking for local operators interested in contesting to get involved in the major CW and SSB contests. The only prerequisites are commitment and a few hours of training.

His new station located in Elma is truly an outstanding one! The station has two separate operating positions and a listening station. All yagi antennas are rotatable. Equipment includes: ICOM 765, 761 and 751A transceivers, Alpha 78 amplifiers, digital voice recorders, AEA keyers, PC computer at each station with Novell Network and contesting logging with CT. The antennas to date are: 160 meter Delta Loop, 160 meter VEE, 80 meter Delta Loop, 80 meter sloper, 3 elements on 40 meters (140ft), 5/5 elements on 20 meters and 6/6 elements on 15 and 10 meters. There is a Log Periodic for the WARC bands, 2 meter PacketCluster, 2 meter voice, 440 voice and a 440 repeater (KN2M/R 443.975 Mhz).

Anyone interested in this invitation should contact Dave personally at 837-8311.



# STARS



## Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Bob Witt	WA2IQX
Vice President	John Leitten	KA2RFT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Finc. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
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## 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 third Thursday 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

## Special Notices!

The January club meeting has been rescheduled to January 9.

1992 Club dues are now payable! Your dues must be current to receive the new repeater codes. See page 2 for membership information.



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