

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 134 FEBRUARY, 1992

Meet the Prez!

Greg Young, KE2VW, is STARS new president for 1992. Greg, an Extra class licensee, grew up in the Western New York region. Before ultimately picking his location in the town of Colden, he lived in the village of Hamburg for twenty-six years.

Greg and his wife Diane are the proud parents of three girls: Colleen 13, Michelle (KB2NQG and a STARS member!) 10, and Jennifer 8.

He undertook undergraduate and graduate training at the University of Buffalo. Additionally, Greg has extensive teaching experience, serving as director of the EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic programs for Erie Community College South.

He is currently employed as a department chairman for the Millard Fillmore Hospital system. He also serves as chairman for the Western Region American Heart Association, Emergency Cardiac Care Committee, and is Vice President for their Erie Division Board of Directors. Greg also serves as one of the directors for Mercy flight, the Western Region Emergency Medical Service System, the New York State Special Olympics and the Erie County based Spirit of Youth group.

Greg first got interested in amateur radio through a group who talked on CB channel 37 including Gene KE2LO, Bob KB2HWY and Ed KB2KVA. He is an ARRL accredited VE, and also enjoys making contacts on his TS940S and TS790A Kenwood radios.

In his "spare time", he has enjoyed such hobbies as flying, photography, beekeeping, a model of exotic carnivorous plants, and most recently, model railroading.

February Meeting

STARS February meeting will begin at 7:30 PM (Sharp!) on February 6 at the Hamburg Youth Center in Hamburg.

We will continue to plan for 1992 STARS activities and will be discussing among other things Snowfest, Novice/Technician training classes, committees, upcoming radio contests, etc.



The program will be very unique and interesting! Bill Siska N2GAO will discuss use of packet radio for data transfer in Indy race cars! This is one you will want to hear!

Latecomers to last month's meeting found Standing Room Only, so try to get there early!

Snowfest

STARS showed off their Nike Base club station on January 18 & 19 as part of the Town of Hamburg's Snowfest. A power failure cut activities short on Saturday, but was solved on Sunday, and the station went back on the air!

Guests, including many school children, got a brief look at amateur radio, and a chance to talk to amateurs in places like Dallas, a mountain site in Colorado (colder than we were!) and Hawaii (a balmy 80 degrees!).

STARS members helping John KA2RFT and Terry KM4XZ with the event included Bob WA2IQX, Bob KA2WYE, John NG2I, Jack KB2ESM, Shane WB2WPM, Larry K2KVS, Dan KE2LD and Mark N2MGZ.

★ 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 by sending a SASE to 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.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Greg KE2VW

In this introductory column, I will attempt to define my personal philosophy on group management, as well as help define some objectives necessary for our organization to meet it's overall goal, which is that of membership satisfaction.

Membership satisfaction is achieved only when the group attends to each of it's members needs and desires, and encourages individual participation in our overall activities.

The management style I will promulgate is known as an inverted pyramid, which essentially is an upside down triangle with the group membership on top serving to determine the objectives the organization will undertake i.e. what avenues to explore, etc. which is then filtered down to the Board of Directors and Officers (at the triangle's point) for implementation.

It is not the usual rightside up pyramid in which the Officers and Board make the career decisions, which determine the path for the organization to take, with the overall membership being along "for the ride".

In an effort to maintain ties with all 175+ members of our group, I request that any individuals, having any ideas, comments, etc., critical or otherwise, to contact me directly at my home number and leave a message.

Additionally, a suggestion box will be built and available at our February Meeting, and all members attending are encouraged to make any comments or suggestions and put them in the box. This may be done anonymously if so desired.

Based on the recent growth of our group, we have now reached a critical turning point in our existence. With membership of over 175, the group can either continue to embark upon new projects, attempting to meet the needs of the varied individuals which make up our group or, we can go the way many previous groups have gone in the past, and cater only to selective interests, and develop cliques.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The January meeting was a standing room only one. Our two meter repeater chairman Bill N2GAO gave us a very nice talk about the repeater and its functions. You would be surprised at what can be done with the various codes and punched in information that can be yours for the asking. If you did not get your new (revised) code directory with this issue of the newsletter, it means your dues are not paid up (or that you don't have 2 meter privileges).

It was nice of David KN2M to invite us to participate in some contests from his super station. For more information, please get in touch with Dave at 837-8311. You must spend some time before hand, getting acquainted with the equipment. It is fun, believe me and you will drool over the F.B. set-up.

Now that everyone has the nice holidays taken care of, we can get back to serious Hamming and enjoy our hobby more.

There is some interest in putting up a satellite tracking station at the club house. All interested members, please get in touch with Frank WZ2J

and find out what you can do to help. It sounds like a lot of fun!

Now, if we can get the packet radio enthusiasts together and try to promote some interest in this sophisticated type of transmission, we would have another type of amateur radio coverage.

Please keep the amateur radio VE exams list handy by Dick W2UJR and, if your friends want to know where the next test is to be, please inform them. There is a amateur radio training class operated by Al K2DWI and Greg KE2VW. Check elsewhere in this newsletter for more info.

How many of you read the "Going Mobile" article in QST December, 1991? Well, part two is in the January issue page 53 and is a must to read for all you mobile buffs. It is an article on VHF and UHF antennas just for mobiles. Please remember that the most powerful radio is useless without a decent antenna to radiate its signal!

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

For Sale:

Commodore MPS-802 dot matrix printer with tractor unit, wire paper holder, two printer ribbons, serial cable, manual and telephone modem model 1600. \$220.

AEA Micro Patch model 64/2 for Commodore C64 (used for morse, RTTY, ASCII, and Amtor) including manual. \$89. Note: doesn't require disk drive.

Heath grid dip meter model HM-10A 3 Mhz (80m) to 260 Mhz. \$25.

Kenwood SM220 station monitor with factory installed pan adapter, with manual and some cables. Cost \$890, will sell for \$440.

For all of above, contact Guz WB2EZU at 627-3724.

Heathkit SW7800 General Coverage Receiver (0-30 Mhz) AM/SSB. Mint. Call Ed N2NUN at 668-8267.

Training Classes

STARS will begin their Novice/Technician training classes at 7 PM on Friday, February 7 at Hamburg Senior High School. The course will run for 10 weeks and is designed to cover the material needed for beginners to pass their Novice or Technician class examinations.

There is no charge for the course except for the purchase of the textbook (\$19.00).

For more information, contact Al K2DWI at 652-8890 or Greg KE2VW at 537-2830.

Wanted:

AEA PK-232MBX TNC. Will trade complete Commodore C64 outfit including computer, 1702 color monitor, 1541 disk drive and power supply. Call Guz WB2EZU at 627-3724.

Heathkit HW-9 CW only transceiver. Call Gary KB2ESN at 823-0055.

Autopatch Procedures

by Bill N2GAO Repeater Chairman

The autopatch is, in my opinion, probably the most important, single reason why so many hams have joined the club. The recent use of the autopatch by a small number of members has bordered on or been blatantly illegal under the FCC regulations. In one instance, a member, on an autopatch call, failed to notify the party on the other end that the call was through the repeater. This led to some embarrassing and inappropriate comments made on the air by the "third party". In other cases, the autopatch is being used to avoid use of a standard telephone on both local and long distance calls. Even calls to businesses, and of a business nature have been monitored. Calls being made to third parties involving the purchase of goods or services have recently been made on the autopatch. An example of this kind of call would be announcing to the third party that you are "going into Kmart. Would you like me to buy shoe laces for you as long as I am here?" These type of calls should be avoided.

The following excerpts are taken from "The FCC Rule Book" published by the ARRL:

Radio amateurs in the United States enjoy a great privilege: the ability to inter-connect their individual stations and repeaters with the public telephone system.

As with any privilege, this one can be abused, and the penalty for abuse could be the loss of the privilege for all amateurs. ... Consider these facts: To other amateurs, phone patching activities that result in unnecessary frequency congestion or which appear as a commercialization of Amateur Radio operation are an abuse of their privilege to engage in other forms of amateur activities.

To the Federal Communications Commission, ..., any radio communication that could be handled more appropriately by wire, is an unnecessary use of a valuable resource.

The question facing amateurs is this: Should phone patches and autopatches be subject to reasonable voluntary restraints, thereby preserving most of our traditional flexibility, or should we risk forcing our government to define for us specifically what we can and cannot do? Experience has shown that when specific regulations are established, both innovation and

flexibility are likely to suffer.

It is the policy of the American Radio Relay League to safeguard the prerogative of amateurs to interconnect their stations, including repeaters, to the public telephone system. An important element of defense is encouraging amateurs to maintain a high standard of legal and ethical conduct in their patching activities. It is to this end that these guidelines are addressed. They are based on several sets of standards that have been in use for several years on a local or regional basis throughout the country. ... All amateurs are urged to observe these standards carefully so our traditional freedom from government regulation may be preserved as much as possible.

Phone patches or autopatches, involving the business affairs of any party, must not be conducted at any time. The content of any patch should be such that it is clear to any listener that business communications is not involved. Particular caution must be observed in calling any business telephone. Calls to place an order for commercial product must not be made, nor may calls be made to one's office to receive or leave business messages. However, calls made in the interests of highway safety, such as for the removal of injured persons from the scene of an accident or for the removal of a disabled vehicle from a hazardous location, are permitted.

All interconnections must be made in accordance with telephone company tariffs. Phone patches and autopatches should NEVER be made solely to avoid telephone toll charges. Phone patches and autopatches should NEVER be made when normal telephone service could just as easily be used.

THIRD PARTIES SHOULD NOT BE RE-TRANSMITTED UNTIL THE RESPONSIBLE CONTROL OPERATOR HAD EXPLAINED TO THEM THE NATURE OF AMATEUR RADIO.

Phone patches and autopatches must be terminated immediately in the event of any illegality or impropriety.

If you have any doubt as to the legality or advisability of a patch, don't make it. Compliance with these guidelines will help ensure that our interconnection privilege will continue to be available in the future, which will in turn help us contribute to public interest.

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 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 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 a test session on April 25, 1992 in Lockport, NY. For information, call Bob Demarco KA2EG at 433-4584.

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

Kenwood Kids!

STARS would like to thank the Kenwood USA Corporation for their generous donation of over \$200 worth of Novice/Technician study manuals and instructor's manuals for our youth program. They will also make gift certificates available to participants who successfully obtain their licenses.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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It is up to the individual members of our group to insure this does not happen, by actively participating in the monthly meetings, or for those unable to attend, by making their feelings known to the Officers. Important decisions will be made by the group as a whole during the monthly meetings, rather than by the Board of Directors "in secret". If, for this reason alone, please plan to attend as many meetings as possible.

In an effort to broaden individual involvement as well as meet group objectives, a number of new committees will be developed. Committee Chairmen will have the latitude of selecting members from our group to enable their Committee to meet their objectives. The Committee Chairman will be given the latitude to make decisions along with their members to accomplish these goals, within the latitudes established by the Constitution and By-Laws. Any major expenditures, etc. will, of course, need to be reviewed by the Board and referred to the club for decision making.

The following Committees are available for membership, with those starred needing volunteers to Chair:

1. Repeater
2. Nike Base
3. Youth Group
4. Telstar
5. Membership
6. Promotions/Public Relations *
7. Bylaws *
8. Interference *
9. Ham Classes (Educational)
10. Program *
11. Budgeting/Financing (Fund Raising) *
12. Digital
13. Satellites
14. Library *
15. VE (Testing)
16. Ordinance *
17. ARES/RACES
18. Radio Direction Finding *
19. Special Events
20. QSL Manager *

I look forward to working with each one of you over the course of this year. With your help, we will establish STARS as the premier group in this region!



STARS



Board of Directors

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

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