

telstar



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

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MARCH, 1992

Is That A DOVE?

by Terry KM4XZ

In a recent issue, we told you about how easy it was to listen to the MIR space station.

Now we will tell you about a "bird" that definitely didn't go south for the winter - the DOVE!

DOVE is short for Digital Orbiting Voice Encoder and is also known as OSCAR-17. DOVE was one of the four Microsats launched on February 22, 1990 via an Ariane rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. Like the other Microsats, this mighty mite is a cube about 9 inches on a side and would weigh about 20 pounds when sitting on the Earth.

The primary mission of DOVE is to provide an easily receivable signal suitable for educational demonstrations involving young children. The idea for DOVE was originated by Dr. Junior Torres DeCastro PY2BJO. AMSAT-Brazil provided financial and technical support for the project.

Unfortunately, DOVE has experienced technical difficulties since its launch and was silent for a significant period of time.

The good news is that DOVE is back "chirping" and can be heard anywhere on the Earth at least four times a day with very modest 2 meter receivers or scanners. Currently DOVE is transmitting telemetry and brief English language messages using AFSK AX.25 packets. Why is this important? Well, AFSK AX.25 packets just happen to be what our plain old every day

March Meeting

STARS March Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on March 5 at the Hamburg Youth center (Prospect Street and Hawkins Street). Everyone who is interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

You are invited Interest in STARS continues at a high level! 66 people attended our February meeting. At this month's meeting, we will have applications from 11 prospective new members to vote on!

Dr. David Rodman KN2M will be the featured speaker at our meeting. He will be talking about measuring RF fields and the effects that they have on the human body. This should be a great meeting, don't miss it!

STARS BBS

Greg KE2VW has put a STARS packet bulletin board system (BBS) on the air on 144.91 Mhz.

Currently operating under the call sign KE2VW-1, the BBS will give people a place to find out about club meetings and activities. It will also serve as a message center between club members.

To try out the new BBS, try connecting directly to KE2VW-1. If you have trouble connecting to it directly, then first connect to STARS (the node at the Nike Base) and then give the command "C KE2VW-1" (without the "s").

So go ahead and give it a try. If you have information of interest to others, leave a message. Let Greg know how you like it!

★ 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.

From the PREZ

by Greg KE2VW

As we head into the 1992 season, numerous projects and committees are already underway.

Jerry, W2TKQ, has volunteered to lead the Library Committee. He has some excellent ideas to recommend to the club at our next meeting. Randy, KA2RFX, and John, KA2RFT, are heading up the Promotions/Publicity Committee. Ed, KB2KVA, has taken charge of the By-Laws Committee.

The Ham classes are already underway, with an initial total of 16 individuals being enrolled in the Novice/Technician course.

Our topic this month will be presented by Dave Rodman, KN2M, and will deal with measuring RF generated, especially in dealing with VHF equipment, and the affects of the generated fields on the human body.

We will be video taping this presentation and all subsequent programs, that these may be kept in our new club library.

Additionally, the crew of the Nike Base Committee are actively working on developing their long-range plans for the site which will be discussed at the next club meeting.

Many thanks to Jack, KB2ESM, for the creation of the Suggestion Box, which has already had it's affects, without the Box even being finished!

Based on input from various club members, we will restructure the format of the Club Meeting effective with the March meeting and try the following format:

- 7:30 - 8:15 Business Meeting
- 8:15 - 8:25 Break
- 8:25 - 8:30 Raffle
- 8:30 - 9:30 Presentation

Any business not finished in the initial 45 minutes will be discussed after the presentation has concluded.

In an effort to keep the business meeting portion of the evening down to a minimum, only those committees having new business or requiring club decision will report during the general business meeting.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The February meeting was another standing room only affair. Frank WG2H gave out the new codes for 1992 for the repeater. Please remember that these are for use by members only. The past few weeks there sure was a lot of testing on the repeater. Remember to give your call while you are testing so if there are any corrections to be made someone can help you.

The classes for new Amateurs have started, and it is not too late to join. Much to my amazement, there are some XYL's in the class, even an OM/XYL combination. Bet that it will be fun to see how they progress!

Our program consisted of a demonstration of the special packet radio transmitters for the Indianapolis race cars. STARS repeater chairman Bill N2GAO works with the famous Andretti racing family on this. Bill brought in a set up and demonstrated how they can communicate between the race car going about 250 MPH and the pits using packet radio. In fact, he brought in one of the steering wheels from Mario Andretti's cars and showed us the special display insert in the wheel to make it easy for the driver to get his info. Amazing

what can be done with transmitters.

You know if you work in a field in electronics and get permission from your company, why not share your info with the rest of the club. I am sure that everyone enjoys the various types of electronics, so think about it.

Next month will be another good program which everyone will sure be interested in - the effect of RF from radio transmissions on the human body. Come early to get a good seat, as Dave KN2M promises to reveal some startling facts on the subject!

It is with great pleasure to announce that the recruitment of chairpersons for various committees is going along very nice. In fact the library committee will be chaired by Jerry W2TKQ, and he will need quite a lot of help to set up a nice library for the members. There are other committee chairperson positions filled also. Remember, if any of the chairpersons asks you to assist them, please feel honored and do everything to make their jobs easier.

Happy Hamming - Guz WB2EZU

SAREX and You!

Scheduled for launch Monday, March 23, at 13:01 UTC (8:01 am EST), the space shuttle Atlantis will be carrying SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment). The crew includes 4 members who hold amateur radio licences and who will be making contacts as time allows.

The crew will be using Mission Specialist Dave Leestma's call of NSWQC for US QSO's and Payload Specialist Dirk Frimout's call of ON1AFD for some overseas contacts during the 8 day mission.

Listen to WA3NAN for the Goddard ARC's nearly constant news and retransmissions of shuttle audio on 3.860, 7.185, 14.295, 21.395 and 28.650 Mhz. The Johnson Space Center ARC in Houston transmits new bulletins on 3.850, 7.227, 14.280, 21.350 and 28.400 Mhz.

Shuttle related video is transmitted on NASA Select via satellite SATCOM 2, transponder 13 (F2R) for those of you with the necessary equipment.

The shuttle will be transmitting on one frequency called the downlink (145.55 Mhz) and you transmit on another frequency called the uplink (144.91, 144.95 and 144.97 Mhz). **Don't transmit on the downlink frequency!** The shuttle will be listening for calls on one or more of the uplink frequencies. Avoid making unnecessary transmissions because you may be disrupting packet operations on the uplink frequencies! Don't call unless you can actually hear the shuttle. The 144.91 uplink frequency is used by our own STARS node.

On this mission, there will only be FM contacts, no packet, ATV, etc. Look for messages on our STARS BBS or on our nets for actually pass times once the shuttle is launched.

For Sale/Trade

Planer Board System
 4 Daiwa 27H reels
 4 Daiwa Great Lakes System rods
 1 Big Jon mast with reels
 2 planer boards with flags, board releases & assorted lures
 All in brand new condition
 \$375 or will swap for 2 meter equipment of same value.
 Call Dave WD5ADP 877-5015

Kewwood R-2000 receiver in mint condition.
 \$450. Call John KB2NMP 648-4148.

Commodore 64 computer with disk drive, monitor and programs. \$165 (firm). Call Shane WB2WPM 675-5797.

Kenwood TS830S HF transceiver with MC-50 mike and spare tubes. \$675.
 Kenwood TR9130 2 meter all mode mobile transceiver. \$325.
 Heathkit HW-100 CW/SSB transceiver with matching power supply and D-104 mike. \$150.
 For above, call Dick KC2EL 674-2739.

Wanted

Heathkit 'SB' Green Equipment: SB102, 500, 303, 401, 620, etc.

Old ARRL Handbooks. 1958 and pre-1950.

For above items contact Shane WB2WPM 675-5797.

Editor's Note

Apologies for the late arrival of your newsletter this month!

This is the busiest time of the year for my work, and I have been out of town for most of the last two weeks.

Next month we should be back on our normal delivery schedule!

Terry KM4XZ

Is That A DOVE?

Continued from Page 1

Earth-bound packet stations use. Therefore, if you have a packet station that you are using to connect to local bulletin boards or DX PacketClusters, you are ready to receive DOVE's messages.

DOVE transmits on 145.825 Mhz with a normally strong signal. If you have a satellite tracking program, you should have no trouble determining when to listen. You say you don't have a satellite tracking program? Well, just tune your radio to the right frequency and let your packet station monitor the frequency for a few hours. Odds are pretty good you will have copied one of DOVE's passes. I'll give you a few times to listen at later in the article to get you started.

The strings of numbers that you will see are telemetry giving information on temperatures, battery voltages, transmitter outputs, etc. There are software programs available to take these numbers and present them in a more understandable format.

The original intent of DOVE was to downlink using digitally synthesized speech containing messages in various languages interspersed with spoken telemetry that school children could receive. This speech mode isn't working as of now, but the latest messages coming down in packet from DOVE says that they are working on re-programming it and hope to have it operating soon. Then you won't need a packet station to copy DOVE.

Here are start times (EST) for some of the upcoming passes over Western New York:

Mon.	3/02	10:48 am; 12:29 pm; 10:08 pm; 11:49 pm
Tues.	3/03	noon; 9:40 pm; 11:19 pm
Wed.	3/04	11:31 am; 10:50 pm
Thurs.	3/05	11:02 am; 12:42 pm; 10:21 pm
Fri.	3/06	10:34 am; 12:13 pm; 9:53 pm
Sat.	3/07	11:44 am; 9:25 pm; 11:03 pm
Sun.	3/08	11:15 am; 12:55 pm; 10:34 pm

Just remember, DOVE is a one-way bird; don't try connecting to her! So go ahead and have some fun!

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 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 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 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 Haugs to:

Dick Haugs 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 Haugs at the above address.

Dick Haugs W2UJR
STARS/LARC VE Liaison

From the Prez

Continued from Page 2

Our April Presentation will be featuring Frank Green, W2ZJ, on Satellite Communication. Subsequent to his presentation, his Satellite Committee's proposals will be discussed with the club membership. Based on some of the ideas I have heard suggested to date, this should prove to be a very exciting year for all club members!

Nike Base HF Club Station

A reminder to everyone that we are operating the Nike Base HF Club Station every Monday night from 7 to 9 PM (weather allowing). If you have any questions about whether the station will be open, listened to the club repeater between 6 and 7 PM. Terry KM4XZ or someone else should be able to tell you if the station will be open. We have only missed 1 or 2 nights all winter.

We have had up to a dozen people show up for a Monday night of rag chewing and DXing.

If you want to learn more about HF, packet radio, or some other phase of the hobby, give us a try. Or show up if you just want someone to talk to!

Not available on Monday nights? Check the next story!

CQ WW WPX Contest

Would you like to add a few new countries to your DXCC total? Or would you like to learn something about contesting?

We are looking at operating the Nike Base HF Club Station during the CQ World Wide WPX Contest. The contest will begin at 7 PM EST on Friday March 27 and will run through Sunday March 29.

We will operate in a low pressure manner, concentrating on working countries that people want rather than on racking up the biggest contest score. People may use their own calls so long as they operate within their assigned frequencies.

This is a good chance for people with little or no contest experience to learn more about what to do in a contest. The Nike Base is a great station, so you should be at least on a par with most of the participants.

What we need is for people to contact Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 and let him know when you would like to come out. We can't ask people to sit out there all weekend waiting to see if someone will show up. Pick up the phone and call so we can make this a success!

★ STARS ★

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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

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