

telstar



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

ISSUE 136

APRIL, 1992

Atlantis Is Up!

The Space Shuttle *Atlantis* was launched at 8:13 AM EST on Tuesday, March 24. Included among the seven astronauts on board are four holding amateur radio licenses who plan to operate the amateur radio equipment during their off hours: Mission Specialist Dave Leestma N5WQC, Pilot Brian Duffy N5WQW, Mission Specialist Kathy Sullivan N5YYV, and Payload Specialist Dirk Frimout from Belgium ON1AFD.

Since the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) was a late addition to this mission the equipment to be used was limited to a Motorola 300S Hand-held Transceiver (running about 3 watts), a window mounted antenna and about 12-15 battery packs. Therefore, SAREX operations will be limited to 2 meter FM voice only. There will be no packet radio, slow scan TV or fast scan TV as has been on some of the other SAREX shuttle flights.

As was explained in last month's newsletter, the shuttle will be transmitting on one frequency called the downlink which is 145.550 Mhz. This is the frequency that you listen for them and also happens to be the downlink frequency for the Mir Space Station. However, unlike Mir, the shuttle won't be operating simplex (ie, transmitting and receiving on the same frequency). Instead, they will be operating split, like you do with a repeater. The uplink frequency that you will transmit to them on will be 144.910, 144.950 or 144.970 Mhz.

Your transceiver may only be able to handle the standard 600 Hz split (ie, like for our repeater, you listen to it on 147.090 Mhz and transmit up

April Meeting

STARS April meeting will begin at 7:30 PM (sharp!) on April 2 at the Hamburg Youth

Center (Prospect Street and Hawkins Street).

Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited!

NOTICE

Our March meeting was a great one with over 80 attending!

Frank Green W2ZJ will be our featured speaker this month. He will talk about satellite radio and how you can get into it "poor boy" style!

CQ WPX Contest

STARS Nike Base HF club station will be open this coming weekend to allow members to participate in the CQ WW WPX contest.

Our general objectives will be to work some new countries for the club station and our participating members and to have some fun. We will be operating in a low pressure mode. No experience is necessary! But hopefully you have had some past experience at having fun!

The station will be open Friday March 27 from about 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM and noon to 5:00 PM on Saturday. Additional hours for Saturday and maybe Sunday will depend upon the number of people calling to say they want to come out. **Pick up the phone now**, and call Terry at 656-0865 to let him know you want to come and for more info, directions, etc.

Since the ground is still soggy, please don't drive on the grass. Park and walk back to the station!

★ 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

After last month's record-attendance meeting, we look ahead with eager anticipation towards further up and coming programs.

This month Frank WZ2J, along with other members of the digital and satellite committees, will be putting on a presentation on satellite radio.

This appears to be the direction the club is heading for this year's project, which will be decided upon once his committee presents its recommendations for the development of such services, along with a list of equipment needs.

Once the outside portion of our Nikebase clubhouse is completed, we will be able to turn our full energies and attention to developing the inside of the facility, including things as the development of the library, the expansion of the operating station to include additional radio and/or computer equipment, etc.

Our station, upon further development, will provide access to equipment no one of us would be capable of possessing and essentially will provide a useful resource for members of the club wishing to either try new modalities or gain experience within the various facets of amateur radio.

As our club continues to grow and approach the 200 member mark, it is all important that we extend each other that extra little courtesy, especially when using the repeater.

For those not already possessing the FCC rule book, an ARRL publication which defines and expands upon Part 95 of the FCC rules and regulations regarding amateur communication, I would advise each of you to purchase this. It is available locally for under ten dollars (10.00).

Please pay significant attention to the use of our repeater, and its auto patch, which although being one of the greatest assets of our club, can also become one of our major problems!

A number of individuals have asked for the proper etiquette in joining a conversation already on the repeater.

See From the Prez on Page 4

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

It is with great pleasure that I announce that STARS broke an all time attendance record at the March meeting. There were over 80 people in attendance.

The main speaker was Dr. David Rodman KN2M, a well known amateur in Western New York. His topic was measurement of RF fields and the effects that they have on a human body. It was very well presented and the slides were good. The club has been in existence for over 24 years, and nothing like this has ever happened.

April promises to be another great meeting. The main topic will be satellites and space stations, and amateur radio involvement in them. So, if you want something different, why this is your chance to get acquainted with this new type of amateur radio.

Remember, STARS is a learning club, and President Greg KE2VW has put a packet bulletin board system on the air. Give it a try on 144.91 Mhz. It is on the air almost around the clock, so try C KE2VW-1. If you can't hit

it direct, try connecting to STARS first and then connect to KE2VW-1. There is always something interesting on the monitor.

The Nike Base station is open every Monday evening and other times by request. Now that there are more members interested in contests, some weekends are being arranged for you to participate in them.

Membership is still climbing and about seven members were approved at the last meeting.

Don't forget to assist Jerry W2TKQ our library committee chairperson and assist him in this very nice project.

Al K2DWI reports that the classes are going along fine. In fact, some of the students are ready to take their test at the STARS VE session on April 8 in Hamburg. See Norm KD2KK for more details on the VE tests.

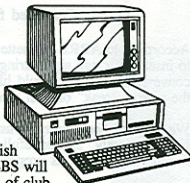
Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

STARS BBS

STARS President Greg Young KE2VW has decided to turn his newly created STARS packet bulletin board system (BBS) into a full service BBS which will have "ALL USA" bulletins, mail forwarding and receipt, uploads and downloads, etc.

Greg is now in the process of obtaining and testing the needed hardware and software to accomplish this. The STARS BBS will not only be a source of club information; but also, it will be able to serve as the home BBS for members and others in the area. Look for more information in upcoming issues.

We want to thank Greg for providing this service at no cost to the club!



Nissan Marathon

The Nissan Marathon, which attracts over 2,000 runners each year, will be held on Sunday, May 3. More than 500 volunteers are needed to help with this event including about 40 radio operators. A few spots for radio operators are still open. Amateurs wanting to help provide communications for this event should contact Ray Baker N2DAY at 668-4870 or check-in to Ray's net on Sunday nights at 7:30 on 146.73 Mhz..

Club Jackets

Club jackets may be ordered at the April club meeting. The jackets will be light blue lined nylon with red embroidery and will cost \$40.00 plus tax. Contact John KB2NMP at 648-4148 or Gary KB2ESN at 823-0055 for more information or if you would like to order a jacket and can't make the meeting.

ECAR Appointment Work the Mouse!

Erie County ARES/RACES welcomes Gary Wood KB2ESN as a new member of the ECAR STAFF. Gary will serve as an advisor to our organization. As an officer in our group, he will be invited to all meetings and be involved in decision making of our activities throughout the county. Gary will also be a liaison from ECAR to the South Towns Amateur Radio Society. As a liaison to STARS, he will relay events and activities of ECAR back to STARS. The advantage of this makes emergency communications capabilities much stronger in a county the size of ours. We are all looking forward to working with Gary and wish him luck on his new assignment.

Ray Baker N2DAY
EC/RO of Erie County

Congratulations

Vern Siegal AA2AC was honored recently as Amateur of the Year of the Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas (ARATS) for his outstanding service to amateur radio over the years.

Vern is also a member of STARS, and we join with ARATS in congratulating him for his great work in amateur radio.

Way to go, Vern!

MS Bike Classic

The MS BIKE CLASSIC is scheduled for June 20-21. The Trek begins at Darien Lake State Park and goes through Clarence, Amherst and Tonawanda. Crossing the Peace Bridge to Canada, the cyclists will ride along the Niagara River to Niagara Falls. Crossing back into the US, the cyclists will stay overnight at Niagara Wheatfield High School. On Sunday, they will ride about 50 miles back to Darien Lake State Park.

Interested hams who would like to work one or both days should call Denis Uminski N2HP at 873-6073 (home) or at 847-3482

In celebration of the April opening of the Euro Disney Resort just outside of Paris, a multi-station special event will be held on April 4 and 5.

The four Disney amateur radio club stations will be participating: N6MM (I wonder what the MM stands for!) located at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA; WA4ABQ at Walt Disney World near Orlando, FL; JL1YZB which is at the Tokyo Disneyland; and W6RO at the Queen Mary and Spruce Goose Entertainment Center at Long Beach, CA. They will be joined by a station staffed by members of the Radio Club de St. Maur in Paris, France.

They expect to be operating from 0000Z on April 4 until 2400Z on April 5 on or near 14.250, 21.325 and 28.450 Mhz.

For a special QSL, send an SASE and your QSL card (indicating the QSO # they give you) to: Disneyland Amateur Radio Club, Box 3232, Anaheim, CA 92803.

For Sale

Kenwood TM 741A mobile transceiver. With 2 meter and 440 Mhz installed and capable of adding a third band (28, 50, 220 or 1200 Mhz). Nearly new. \$600. Call John KB2NMP at 648-4148.

From the Prez

Continued from Page 2

According to ARRL etiquette the proper way is to insert your call sign during a break in conversation, if you would like to join in. Use the word "Break" only in emergencies.

We have all been guilty of using break inappropriately, and hopefully this will serve to remind all of us of its proper utilization.

Our committees are up and running, with chairmen for all but two or three. We look forward to exciting reports from the committee chairmen.

It is not too late to volunteer, to grab part of the fun by joining these committees!

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold an 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 May 20 and June 17, 1992 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on 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

WNY Simplex Net

Scott Barto KB2KOL wants to remind everyone to check-in to his Western New York Simplex net. Held at 7:00 PM on every Thursday except the first one of the month (STARS meeting night!), the net is found on 146.58 Mhz (simplex naturally). Why not try your equipment out on simplex and see how far you can send and receive?

Atlantis

Continued from Page 1

600 Hz on 147.690 Mhz). If this is the case, then set it to 145.550 Mhz with the split being down 600 Hz. This will put you on 144.950 Mhz for transmit.

Don't transmit on 145.550 Mhz! The astronauts won't hear you, but everyone locally will, and they won't be happy with you! Also, since the uplink frequencies are normally used for packet, only call the shuttle when you can actually hear them, and we will avoid unnecessary disruption to local packet activity.

Based upon early Keplerian elements, the following times should represent the start of close passes to Western New York:

Thursday 3/26:	8:32 AM, 2:51 PM
Friday 3/27:	8:40 AM, 2:58 PM
Saturday 3/28:	7:14 AM, 3:05 PM
Sunday 3/29:	7:21 AM, 1:39 PM
Monday 3/30:	7:28 AM, 1:46 PM
Tuesday 3/31:	6:02 AM, 1:53 PM

We can't guarantee the accuracy of these times, so check with the STARS nets or the STARS BBS for later information.

If you make contact with the shuttle and want a QSL card, send a QSL card **and an SASE** to the address listed below. Even if you don't have the needed equipment to establish a two way contact with them (the pile ups are likely to be fierce!), you will still have a chance to get a card from the mission. So long as you can hear the shuttle, you can send in an SWL report. Just note the time you hear them, and what you heard and sent this along with an SASE to the same address.

The address to receive a card from the mission is: Sterling Park ARC, P.O. Box 599, Sterling, VA 22140. On the outside of the envelope write STS-45 SWL or STS-45 QSL 2-Way depending upon whether you heard the downlink or made a two-way contact. It is essential that you include an SASE using at least a #10 (business size) envelope.

Also included in the mission will be a Very Low Frequency (VLF) project called "INSPIRE". STARS members John Leitten KA2RFT and Joe Claus KB2JDB have both been involved in working with local school students who hope to receive these VLF transmissions from the shuttle.



STARS



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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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