

telstar



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

ISSUE 137

MAY, 1992

CQ WPX Contest

STAR'S Nike Base club station WB2ELW was active during the week-end of March 27-29 as members participated in the CQ WorldWide WPX contest. Since prefixes were the key multiplier for this contest, many foreign hams activated the little used prefixes for their countries. Exotic sounding calls sometimes turned out to be stations in Canada or Brazil!

Nike Base chairman Terry KM4XZ hosted the event. Two of the younger members of STARS Peter KB2NMV and Scott KB2KOL proved to be the most devoted contesters and logged many hours at the microphone. Former Nike Base chairman and Telstar editor Steve KB2EQV stopped by Friday night while home from college to join in the fun. Jay N2MHD was by a couple of different times during the weekend and got a chance to get his feet wet learning about contests. Even our lawyer turned entrepreneur Ed KB2KVA, who is usually busy running his shop during the Monday night sessions at the Nike Base, came by to add some new countries to his list.

Members were allowed to work stations under their own calls as well as that of the club. We didn't even calculate our final score since that wasn't our point.

Of course, this shouldn't be taken as an indication that the club station wasn't effective! WB2ELW was working in top form, and we logged QSO's with 74 different counties working only a limited schedule of hours. Some of the countries worked included: Niger, Marshall Island, Botswana, Papua New Guinea, Johnston Island, Malawi, Nigeria, New Caledonia, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Galapagos Island, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Brunei, Minami-Torishima, Ivory Coast and Saipan.

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May Meeting

You will hit the jackpot if you attend STARS May meeting beginning at 7:30 PM on May 7 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Street at Hawkins Street)!



Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

Last month's meeting drew a crowd of over 60 people and was very informative!

Special guest speaker this month is STARS member Ken Rusin KB2HRZ who will demonstrate RTTY (radio teletype). This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn more about this mode. See you there!

STARS Stars

You want publicity about amateur radio? You've got it courtesy of STARS members!



During the recent Space Shuttle flight, John KA2RFT was interviewed on local TV about his work on a VLF experiment with local school children. Not to be outdone by John, Frank WZ2J was featured on two local TV stations talking about

amateur radio operators trying to talk to the astronauts.

Plus, a picture of Scott KB2KOL operating at STARS Youth Center station which was taken by Randy KA2RFW appeared on page 69 in the April issue of CQ magazine.

★ 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 147.091.69 (output/input). Net control is usually Bill N2GAO.

From the Prez

Hard to believe we are heading into May already.

My thanks to John, KA2RFT; Frank, WZ2J; and Jim, WB2FCN; for their presentations at last month's meeting. We all regret running out of time, preventing us from viewing the entire satellite display. I certainly hope Frank and Jim will return to give us part 2.

This month Ken, KB2HRZ, will be demonstrating live RTTY, which will cement the VHF/digital, and HF/dx groups! It will prove quite interesting.

Our Ham classes graduated, with 18 of the original 19, taking the exams. Of the 18, 12 became full technicians, which is not a bad pass rate, especially with 3 members of our class being under 11 years of age!

The STARS BBS is going gangbusters! Check in to KE2VW-5, on 144.91 to see for yourself. The BBS has many advanced user functions, that few have tried, including specialized listings, user accessible files (both for up and down loading), fast access time to the national network, etc. For those not able to connect directly, use the STARS node, by connecting to it first, and then issuing a connect to KE2VW-5. Don't feel hesitant to leave personal messages for others on the BBS, that's what it's there for.

73 for now,
Greg KE2VW

No Smoking!

Members of the Board of Directors of the Hamburg Youth Center were concerned to see some people at our last meeting smoking in the building. We must remind everyone that no smoking is allowed in the Youth Center. It is vital that we maintain this rule so that we do not risk losing our meeting site! If you see someone smoking in the building, please remind them of the rule.

We also want to remind you that no smoking is allowed inside the Nike Base club station building. All smoking must be done outside!



STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, April proved to be a good month for STARS with over 60 people at the general meeting. The nice demonstration on satellite radio that Frank WZ2J and Jim WB2FCN put on was very interesting. We had to use the main room at the Youth Center to accommodate the members and their guests.

Then, on April 8th, STARS conducted a VE test, and we also broke a record with the amount of people taking various tests. Some were prepared to take two elements which made it nice for them. There were twenty-five taking the tests. Wish to thank all the VE's that showed up and assisted with the tests. Dick W2UJR as usual had everything under control, and much to my amazement, there were no complaints about the background noise. You know, it is nice to see some of these that took the tests and upgraded a while ago come back to

upgrade again. Keep up the good work everyone!

Not only that, WNYDXA has some of their members authorized to check out your DX QSL cards for the DXCC certificate and WAZ. You do not have to send your cards to the ARRL; they can do it locally for you. Remember, this is only for a first time DXCC certificate. If you have a certificate now, you can not take advantage of this offer. For more info and forms, contact Bob WB2CJL at 837-3374.

Another reminder, the FCC does not notify you when your license expires, so please take a look at it. You must renew it thirty days before it expires.

Good Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Father Moran 9N1MM Silent Key

The amateur radio world was saddened to learn of the death of Father Marshall Moran 9N1MM in New Delhi, India on April 14, 1992 where he had been hospitalized for treatment of a heart ailment. Born in Chicago, Father Moran would have been 86 on May 29.

One of the most famous amateur radio operators in the world, Father Moran worked about 300,000 amateurs on-the-air himself over the past three decades. He personally accounted for more than 90% of all amateur radio contacts from Nepal over the same time period. Several STARS members had the privilege of working Father Moran from our Nike Base club station. Amazingly, his long time QSL manager Ed Blaszczyk N7EB confirmed that there has never been a known CW contact with 9N1MM!

One of the few Westerners allowed into Nepal after it opened its doors in 1951, Father Moran operated the St. Xavier Boy's School near the capital city of Katmandu. He was regarded as the pioneer of modern education in Nepal and was regarded by many as the second most important man in the country after the King.

STARS members join amateurs all over the world in mourning the passing of this great man!

For Sale

MFJ 945C antenna tuner. Like new. \$50.
Hallicrafters HT 32A. 100 W CW/SSB/AM transmitter. \$80.
Hammerlund HQ110A receiver. \$50.

For above contact Mark KE2YQ at 823-6431.

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Butternut HF-5 butterfly beam. 10-12-15-17-20 Meters antenna. \$175. 1 year old.
Alliance rotor HD-73. "New", never used with 100 ft. 8 conductor control cable. \$175.
(Cable sells for \$.48 a ft. Getting it for \$10; save \$38.)

For above contact Gary KB2ESN at 823-0055.

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Hy-Gain TH3Mk3 Thunderbird 3 element beam. 10-15-20 Meters. Call Mark N2LAB at 627-4354.

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Uniden HR2510 10 meter mobile transceiver. New. \$225. Craig WA2PCH 662-9434.
Two B&W video cameras. Dennis K2CEC at 685-9808.

How To Be At The Receiving End Of A Pile Up ... Without Going On A DXpedition

By Ed KB2KVA

Do you long to be the station everyone wants to work, instead of trying to break through a pile up? Do you think a DXpedition is the only way, but don't have the time and/or money? Think again!

You can be working the pile up without even leaving your shack! How? Simple -- Get in on the fun and operate the WB2ELW/VE3NKH joint special event station, July 4-5, 1992. The special event is the 6th annual Friendship Festival and the 65th anniversary of the Peace Bridge.

As we will be operating VHF and HF all license class holders can participate. This is a great way to boost Western New York/Southern Ontario and make STARS more widely known. You may also work stations under your own call sign -- What a great way to pick up countries, states or grid squares! If you feel unsure or lacking confidence, have no fear -- We will arrange for you an experienced special event operator to show you how easy it is. Take your pick of times and modes - SSB, CW, RTTY, packet, etc.

Call Ed Taublieb KB2KVA at 874-0120 anytime (business phone - leave message on answering machine). Call now to get your choice of band(s), time(s), and mode(s). Complete information materials will be provided to all participants well in advance.

Up Grades

Congratulations go to STARS members Ed KB2KVA and Peter KB2NMV for up grading to Advanced class amateurs! They both have indicated that they are really enjoying their new HF privileges, especially when hunting down new DX countries!

Please let Terry KM4XZ know if you have recently up graded so that we can tell the other club members about it.

Ham/UFO Conspiracy??

I saw something REALLY hilarious recently in a "new age" bookstore in my neighborhood here in Seattle. It was a book called "THE ENERGY GRID 1990 - Harmonic 695 - The Pulse of the Universe" by Bruce Cathie. In it, Mr. Cathie describes how he figured out a pattern to UFO sightings when he plotted them on a map. He theorized that the UFOs were kept aloft by some sort of anti-gravitational force at the intersection of some energy lines that become obvious when viewing his map.

The really funny thing was that he went to the locations where these map lines converged, and found some other-worldly structures. He believes that these strange structures beam energy to the UFOs, keeping them aloft. After reading his descriptions, I realized that he was observing an HF cubical quad antenna used by hams!

He eventually discovered that hams lived at each of these locations where he found the antennas, but believes that ham operators are involved in some giant UFO conspiracy! He also does not believe that amateur radio operators are capable of constructing such advanced antennas without the help of ALIEN BEINGS!

His further research uncovered HF Yagi antennas, and all sorts of other wonderful things. His encounters with hams were interesting too. He seemed to regard them as strange and possibly from other planets!

I wonder what this guy would think if he ever travelled to the annual Dayton Hamvention? Come to think of it, isn't DAYTON near the WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE where the tabloids claim the SPACE ALIEN BODIES captured in NEW MEXICO in 1949 are stored?

I doubt if he realized that the HF cubical quad antenna was developed years ago at HCJB in the Andes. Didn't I see a supermarket tabloid a few years back claiming that the Andes are host to a SECRET UFO BASE?

I knew there was something very strange about my hobby!

By Tad KT7H via packet

Amateur Radio Examinations

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).

For test sessions in 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

Contest

Continued from Page 1

Our crowning achievement came on Saturday afternoon when we worked Don 9K2WR in Kuwait. Don said, "Congratulations for breaking through a big European pile-up. I'm having trouble hearing any Americans!" In fact, our WB2, KB2 and KM4 prefixes were all new multipliers for him. Three weeks after the contest, Don took time out from running a big pile-up to have a brief talk with Terry when he recognized our club's call.

Next contest we operate, why not come out and join the fun!

Armed Forces Day

On Saturday, May 16, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps. and Air Force will co-sponsor the 43rd Annual Armed Forces Day Communication Celebration.



This will feature unique military-to-amateur crossband communications.

The military will transmit on their military frequencies, while listening to amateur frequencies; and the amateurs will transmit on amateur frequencies, while listening to the military frequencies. You should first locate one of the participating military stations in the military bands and then transmit (in split mode) on whatever amateur frequency that they announce they are listening to. The following are some of the frequency ranges (in Mhz) that the military will be using along with expected amateur bands and modes they will be listening to:

80M LSB: 4.015-4.035
40M RTTY/CW/LSB: 7.300-7.400
20M RTTY/CW/USB: 13.900-14.000;
14.375-14.480
15M USB/RTTY/CW: 20.930-21.000
10M USB: 27.810-27.820; 27.950-28.000

The stations will be operating from 9 AM to 10 PM EDT.

This is not a complete list, so tune around! Good luck making some very unusual QSO's with our service men and women!

Wanted

9" (or possibly 5") color TV/monitors.
100 Watt 2 meter slug for Bird or Coaxial Design wattmeter
Video lights

If you have above, contact Dennis K2CEC
685-9808 or Craig WA2PCH 662-9434.

Tri-band HF beam. Peter KB2NMV at
631-5916.



STARS



NEW YORK
4 MAY 1992



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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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