

telstar



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

ISSUE 138

JUNE, 1992

STARS to Break 200!

STARS membership will hit 201 if all seven pending applications are approved at the club meeting! We believe this makes STARS the largest amateur radio club in the Greater Buffalo area!



It was only last fall that our newsletter bragged of a new club record of 158 members. Since then we have averaged seven new members a month!

What explains this great growth?

Well, there is little doubt that the new no-code Technician license has brought a new growth to the entire amateur radio area. The number of new licensees is up about 50% nationwide. STARS is very pleased to have added many newcomers to its membership.

On the other hand, probably 50% or more of our new members joined with General class or higher licenses. In fact, one of our "new" members has held an amateur radio license for 70 years!

One important factor that helps STARS attract new members is the fact that we view ourselves as a learning club. Therefore, we try to give everyone a chance to learn new skills and better operating procedures. This is why we allow everyone to participate in our activities, such as the up-coming Field Day, regardless of their experience level.

The great diversity of activities that STARS is involved in surely helps us attract many people.

June Meeting

You will be "SAFE" if you attend our June meeting which will begin at 7:30 PM on June 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Street at Hawkins Street). Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited.



We will be discussing many topics including changes to the club constitution, the special event station, the Nike Base club station, a possible swap net, the Lancaster Hamfest, public service events, etc.

John Leitten KA2RFT will talk about STARS Field Day plans for 1992 and show a video from our 1991 Field Day.

1992 Field Day

STARS Field Day will again be held in the field (where else!) behind the Moose Lodge in Hamburg. Set-up will begin 11 AM on Saturday June 27 and operations start at 2 PM.

Last year over 40 STARS members combined to set a new club record on SSB, CW, FM, packet and satellites. We are looking to make this year's efforts even bigger and better.

This is an event that you don't want to miss, no matter what your experience level or class license. No-code Technicians can operate HF with a higher class member as control operator.

Find out more about Field Day at the June meeting or by reading the July newsletter which we plan to release just prior to Field Day.

★ 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

A number of club members have asked me to list the active committees, along with Committee Chairpersons. They are:

Repeater - Bill N2GAO
 Youth Group - Randy KA2RFB
 Interference - Ed N2NUN
 Public Relations - Randy KA2RFB
 Finance - Terry KM4XZ
 Satellite - Frank WZ2J
 Volunteer Examiners - Norm KD2KK
 RACES - Shane WB2WPM
 OSL Manager - Kash WB2RAJ
 Field Day - John KA2RFT
 JOTA - Frank K2VTK
 Nike Base - Terry KM4XZ
 Telstar - Terry KM4XZ
 Ham Classes - Mark KE2YQ & Al K2DWH
 Program - Greg KE2VW
 Digital - Gary KB2YJ
 Library - Jerry W2TKQ
 Ordinance - Bob WA2IQX
 RDF - Dennis K2CEC
 WNYSORC - Greg KE2VW
 Friendship Festival - Ed KB2KVA
 Museum - Craig WA2PBK

All of the above committees have no technical prerequisites, so those of you who find these topics interesting should call the Committee Chairperson and express your willingness to take part in the activities.

For those of you on packet, yes, KE2VW-5 has changed!! We are now running FBB software. When fully implemented, this will allow all users multiple actions not currently available on other Bulletin Board Systems. The software is one of the most advanced of it's kind available anywhere, and originated in Europe. Once the system is fully implemented, I will get copies of user instructions for dissemination. Features on the BBS include such things as: User Conferencing (where multiple users can enter the Conference Mode via the BBS); Multiple File Servers; and built-in satellite tracking programs, based on SYSOP identified satellites and the users exact location (assuming your latitude and longitude are entered into the BBS in degrees, minutes and seconds).

More will follow over the next few weeks.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Due to a very important meeting at his place of work, Ken KB2HRZ was unable to present his demonstration on RTTY. It will be scheduled later in the year, and I am sure everyone will be looking forward to it.

As usual, STARS was prepared with another program. We were able to get Kash WB2RAJ, a very avid DXer, to give us the low down on how to obtain a QSL card from a rare DX station after you have worked him. One important fact that he talked about was to please send a self-addressed envelope (SAE) with your card, plus some IRC's or a dollar bill for return postage. You know, some of the DXpeditions make over 20,000 to 30,000 contacts, and how would you like to address that many envelopes?? Don't be too anxious to get this card. Some of these DXers have to get home, have the cards printed and then send them to you. So, if you are in the log, it is worth waiting for.

Well, the STARS BBS packet radio station is working very smoothly. Just check-in on 144.91 Mhz, KE2VW-5; and, if it is your first

time, obey the instructions. If you don't understand something, just type H (for Help) or ? and the instructions will come up for you.

The mini flea market was quite a success, and it was nice to see all who took advantage of it. In fact, there were quite a lot of requests to Bob WA2IQX to have another one shortly.

One of the next highlights is the special event station that Ed KB2KVA is Chairman for. It is the Sixth Annual Peace Festival and will run on April 4 and 5. To participate, please call Ed at 874-0120, and he will get back to you with information.

Another large project that is started is the upgrading of the club's constitution, which has been in disarray for quite some time. We should congratulate Greg KE2VW, our club president, for tackling a terrific job like this. I'm sure that anyone who can assist will lend Greg a hand, and we will have a F.B. constitution again.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Armed Forces Day

STARS Nike Base Club HF Station WB2ELW went on the air May 16 to join in the celebration of Armed Forces Day.

The club station worked the Army HF MARS Facility at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Naval Computer Telecommunication Area at Norfolk, Virginia; the Coast Guard Station at Alexandria, Virginia; the HQ Army MARS Radio Station at Fort Detrick, Maryland; and the Naval Communication Station at Stockton, California on 20, 40 and 75 meters.

Working split frequencies, the military operators talked on military frequencies, and the amateurs talked on regular amateur frequencies.

STARS salutes our men and women in the armed forces and looks forward to displaying their QSL cards at our Nike Base station!

Lancaster Hamfest

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) proudly presents their 4th Annual Lancaster Hamfest on Sunday, June 14 starting at 8:00 AM at the Elks Club in Lancaster.

STARS has donated the use of their 147.09 Mhz repeater for talk-in. Also in use for talk-in will be LARC repeaters on 223.04 Mhz and 443.85 Mhz as well as 146.55 simplex.

Admission is \$5 at the door and includes 8 ft. of outdoor flea market space. There will also be indoor space available for vendors and additional flea. Door prizes will be given away including the main prize of either an ICOM 725 HF transceiver or an ICOM 3220 VHF/UHF mobile transceiver with power supply.

STARS will have a table inside to let everyone know about the activities of our club and how they can join.

LARC has been making this hamfest bigger and better each year. You won't want to miss it!

Special Event Station

There is still time left for you to get involved with our joint WB2ELW/VE3NHK special event station which will run July 4-5. This will commemorate the 6th Annual Friendship Festival and the 65th Anniversary of the Peace Bridge.

HOLDERS of all license classes will be able to participate since we will be running both HF and VHF. If you don't have any experience with something like this, don't let that hold you back! We will find an experienced person to work with you. You can use the club's station or operate from your home station.

Contact Ed KB2KVA at 874-0120 to arrange for times, bands, modes, etc. Don't be bashful, call today!

Youth Center Station

At the May meeting, members voted to buy a Kenwood TS 430 HF transceiver for use at STARS Youth Center station. At the same meeting, the club sold the Kenwood TS 520 transceiver that had previously been used at the station.

A special thanks go to Al K2DWI for donating a microphone and to Roger K2SLZ for donating a power supply for use with the new transceiver.

Nike Base HF Station

Construction work has begun again this summer with the addition of a new steel door to replace the old wooden one on the side of the building.



Thanks go to Jake KB2NNN for the great job that he has been doing at the site. We also want to thank Walt N2PWK for the generous donation of an air conditioner for the club station.

Don't forget to stop by to see us every Monday evening between 7 and 9 PM! If you want to work some of the rare ones, learn more about how to operate, or just talk radio, stop by!

Nissan Marathon

The Nissan Marathon was held on Sunday May 3. Many STARS members were among the approximately 40 amateur radio operators who provided communications around the course to enhance the safety of the runners.

Congratulations go to Ray Baker N2DAY, event coordinator, and to all of the others for the great job that they did.

This type of event is an excellent opportunity for amateurs to gain experience that might prove invaluable in a later emergency situation. See the next article for another opportunity in June to provide a public service and have some fun at the same time.

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 over the Peace Bridge, 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.

This will be one of the largest bike treks of the season and will need many amateur radio operators to provide communications. Interested hams who would like to work one or both days should contact Denis Uminiski N2HP at 873-6073 (home) or 847-3482 (work).

Wanted

VHF and/or UHF beam antennas. Contact Shane WB2WPM at 675-5797.

Programmable VHF/UHF mobile scanner. Contact Tom Marrelli at 648-3626.

9" (or possibly 5") color TV/monitors.
100W 2 meter slug for Bird or Coaxial Designs wattmeter.

Video lights.
Contact Dennis K2CEC at 652-4318 or Craig at 662-9434.

Amateur Radio Examinations

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold a test session on June 17, 1992 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold a test sessions on June 6, 1992 in Tonawanda, NY. For information, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

For the test session 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 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

Hamfest Season

No doubt about it, hamfest session is in full bloom! Many club members have already made the treks to Dayton and/or Rochester.

If you need filters, connectors, tubes, disk drives, test equipment, dummy loads, boat anchors, etc., somebody will have it! Or, how about an military infrared night scope or a talking automobile security alarm. One big change this year is the number of vendors selling CD ROM discs for computers. Obviously, this is the coming thing.

Besides the Lancaster Hamfest (Page 3), you also won't want to miss the Batavia Hamfest on July 12, the PROS Hamfest on August 29, or the Buffalo Hamfest on September 19.

STARS to Hit 200!

Continued from Page 1

Our 2 meter repeater provides reliable communications in the Greater Buffalo area and beyond; and members enjoy such additional features as autopatch, autodial, talking S meter and talking touch tone pad tests.

Our Nike Base HF Club Station allows members to work the exotic countries around the world during our Monday night sessions and occasional contests and special events. Of course, other members like to get together at the station just for rag-chew. While SSB is our mainstay, we also get involved with packet radio, RTTY, Amtor, satellites and even CW!

Throw in club meetings, parties, public service events, SKYWARN, youth programs, packet BBS, Field Day, amateur radio license training, and many other activities; and there is something in STARS for everyone.

How big will STARS grow? Stay tuned and see!

Club Jackets

Club jackets may be ordered from John KB2NMP by calling 648-4148 or by talking to him at a club meeting.

The jackets are a Buffalo Bills blue nylon with red embroidered letters and are lined. The cost is about \$62.00 including tax.

For Sale

Mosley Classic 33 Tri-band beam. 18 foot boom. New, never been up. \$250 firm. Call Bob WA2IQX at 648-4274.



Cushcraft R5 vertical antenna. 10-12-15-18-20 meters. One month old. Also Cushcraft 7 element VHF beam. For both call Dick KC2EL at 674-2739.

2 black and white video cameras. Call Dennis K2CEC at 652-4318.



STARS



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|----------------|-------------------|--------|
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| | | |
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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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