

# telstar



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

ISSUE 139

JULY, 1992

## Field Day Is Here!

One of the big radio events of the year, Field Day, begins on Saturday June 27. STARS will be operating from the field behind the Moose Lodge on Church Street in Hamburg. Set-up begins around 11 AM and the contest starts at 2 PM. Over the next 24 hours, you will be hearing from clubs and individuals all over the US and Canada.

We will be operating SSB, CW, RTTY, packet, FM, satellites and who knows, maybe smoke signals! Generators will be providing power to drive the radios. Arrows will fly through the air to launch wire antennas supported by trees. For the first time, we are going to be putting up a portable tower, rotor and tri-band beam for 10-15-20 meters.



This is an event that you have to see to believe.

Or better yet, you have to participate in to appreciate! Everyone regardless of experience or class of license will get a chance to help out. STARS is a learning club, and we want everyone to leave the event a little better operator. Last year we had over 40 members at the event, and this year with our increased membership we should easily be able to set a new record!



Questions? Call Field Day Chairman John Leitten KB2RFT at 648-0341. We'll be there for 24 hours and glad to welcome you anytime!

## July Meeting

STARS July meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on July 2 at the club's Nike Base Club Station on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20.

Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



This is a great chance to see the work that has been going on since last year renovating the exterior of the building. The club's HF station will also be set up to do a

little operating.

We encourage everyone to bring a lawn chair (extras if you have them) for outdoor seating. In the event of inclement weather, listen to the club's 147.09 repeater for information. Hope to see you there!

## Club Constitution

Club members will receive along with this newsletter a copy of a proposed revised constitution which has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Along with minor revisions primarily for clarity, there are three main changes: 1) Changes to the constitution may be approved at a club meeting, 2) specific dues amounts have been deleted so the constitution doesn't have to be changed when dues are changed, and 3) the sum that the board may approve without a vote of the club has been changed from \$50 to \$150 per project.

Ballots should be returned to Dave WA2TVT in the enclosed return envelope. Any ballot not returned will be considered a vote for the revisions.

# ★ 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 the end of June approaches, STARS is preparing for one of the biggest Field Days ever!

We plan on operating 3A (3 complete HF stations), with dipole, long wire, and tribander beam antennas. This is the event for ALL new club members to participate in, if even for an hour or two. It is a chance to operate all bands, using the privileges of the extra class members present. You will have a chance to make as many contacts as you like, as well as learn about emergency communication techniques. Enjoy trying other modes, such as packet, RTTY, AMTOR, etc.

The club station is nearing completion of its outside renovations, thanks to KB2NNN, and WA2IQX. We are looking forward to permanently setting up the HF and digital equipment, once all is secure.

The repeater relocation project is well under way, under the guidance of N2GAO. I think all club members will be pleased with the final outcome.

Finally the STARS BBS now offers a satellite tracking program, loaded with 30+ satellites, which will allow you to track the birds without elaborate tracking programs of your own (which require loading Keplerian elements manually). It offers REQDIR, REQFIL, FNDFIL, and CARBON servers. The latter allows you to address a letter to STARS, following which copies are sent to each STARS member known to be on packet, and is sent automatically to their home BBS! The best is yet to come on our BBS.

Join in on the excitement as STARS continues to embark on new paths..... Be sure to keep tuned to see what comes next!

## STARS Author

Do you want to know more about duplexers and repeaters? You will find an excellent article on these subjects beginning on Page 48 of the July 1992 issue of CQ Magazine.

Oh yes, did we forget to mention that the author of this article is none other than our own Bob Lehning WA2YSJ!

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Please notice that the July and August meetings will be at the Nike Base Club Station, more info elsewhere in this issue.

You know that antenna weather is upon us, and STARS has a ground plane plow, motorized unit to install your radial wires (for verticals) about 3 inches underground. It works very well. There is an electric motor on it which works but not very good. In 1991 it was used to install about 5,000 feet of wire, but they used a small tractor to pull it. You could use a riding lawn mower also. If there is someone in the club mechanically inclined, why not look at it and see if the motor to clutch system could be improved.

The STARS packet station has been improved, and now KE2VW-5 (the STARS BBS) has changed for the better. Try it and get up to date on all the latest information.

Had the pleasure to attend a solar power electronic seminar at the Collins Conservation Center and got first hand information on the operation of solar cells and their use. There was also a battery operated automobile on display. It was a compact car and with the hood down, you could not tell the difference from a regular car. It runs on six batteries, and where the filler cap for gas would normally be, you plugged it into a

110 volt AC outlet to charge the batteries. It takes six hours to get a full charge, and you get a top speed of 50 MPH. The range was only 50 miles between charges. The motor was a specially built 12 volt motor mounted on the regular motor mounts of the gas engine. The motor was hooked up to the gear box with "V" belts. It was just an experimental model but a very good start for the future.

The solar panels were very nicely built for the displays and performed very efficiently. A DC bulb puts out more watts than an AC bulb. It is necessary to use #10 wire for hook up, and you can hook up more than one solar panel for more wattage and longer usage.

There is a house near Gowanda that has been on solar power for 10 years, and they claim that they never had a power outage or an electric bill for 10 years??? They use wood stoves in the winter for heat. The slogan of the seminar was "Solar power is the power of the future, and it is here now!" I brought some literature home with me, and if anyone is interested, let me know and you can look at it. There were also some wind-powered windmills there, but they weren't hooked up.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

## Batavia Hamfest

Genesee Radio Amateurs, Inc. (GRAM) will present their 12th Annual Batavia Hamfest on Sunday, July 12 at the Firemen's Grounds in Alexander, NY (on Route 98 south of Route 20).

The grounds will be open 6 AM to 4 PM with the indoor vendors open at 8:30 AM.

Talk-in will be on the 145.31 repeater. There will also be a check-in contest on 146.52 Mhz simplex.

At 11 AM there will be a very special program presented by Carole Perry WB2MGP who is the award winning creator of a program called "Introduction to Amateur Radio". At noon, Time Stoffel NS9E will talk about ATV.

Door prizes include an ICOM 735 HF transceiver, an ICOM 229H two meter transceiver, a Cushcraft R5 HF antenna, and more!

## Upgrades

Scott KB2KOL has been saying since last year that he was going to be an Extra before Field Day. Just in time for Field Day, Scott kept his word by upgrading from General to Extra! Not bad for someone who will a freshman in high school next fall!



Congratulations also go to Jay KB2NQS for upgrading to Advanced, and to Mick N2PZX, a new member, for recently upgrading to General.

Tony Balas, Jr. has his call, KB2OUT, and has been signing temporary KT to reflect his upgrade to Technician.

If you have recently acquired your first license or upgraded, let Terry KM4XZ know so we can tell the other club members!

## MS Bike Trek

The MS Bike Trek proved that providing communications for an event like this may seem very routine and mundane at times, but you never know when it suddenly can become very important!

About 200 riders set out from Darien Lake State Park on Saturday June 20, to ride about 80 to 100 miles (depending upon what course they selected). The weather was unexpectedly chilly and overcast; the day established a new record with a high of only 52! The ride took them through Clarence and Amherst and eventually over the Peace Bridge into Canada. There they pedaled along a scenic drive by the Niagara River and past the Horseshoe and American Falls. Crossing back to the US on the Whirlpool bridge, they finished the ride for Saturday at an overnight stay at Niagara Falls Wheatfield High School.

The ride Saturday produced the usually number of flat tires, bumps, bruises, cramps and worn-out riders, but overall it went very well.

The ride Sunday was back to Darien Lake State Park, and, being shorter than Saturday, was expected to be uneventful. Well, it started out that way, but certainly didn't end up that way!

A call came in to Net Control from the Akron State Park checkpoint saying that an ambulance was needed! This was followed quickly by a call for blankets because riders were experiencing hypothermia! The riders had been cycling in a rain storm, and the day was going to set another record with a high of only 51.

Three medical teams supporting the Trek headed for the location to provide assistance. The Akron fire department was called for additional help, and state and county police also showed up.

Finally, the decision was made to close the Trek down and sweep the course to pick up riders and transport them to the Akron fire hall to get them out of the weather. The amateur radio operators around the course were instrumental in coordinating this logistical problem. Eventually, a bus and semi-trailer were dispatched to the Akron fire hall to take the riders and bikes to the finish at Darien Lake State Park. Everyone involved did a great job trying to protect the riders.

The radio operators were coordinated by Denis N2HP of BARRA.

STARS members assisting with the communications included Steve KB2EQV, Bob K2PPK, Norm KD2KK, Dave K2ECK (bicycle mobile!), Mark N2MGZ, Judy KB2AQF, George N2NOB and Terry KM4XZ.

## Lancaster Hamfest

The Lancaster Hamfest was held on Sunday June 14th and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

STARS had a table to let people know about the activities of our club. We displayed pictures of Field Day, QSL cards from the Nike Base, older pictures of the Nike Base and the repeater, and the picture of the 6 element tri-bander being raised by the Hamburg Fire Department truck. We also passed out copies of our June newsletter and applications to join our club. We had several people interested in joining the club, and we even got two former members to reinstate their membership.

Members helping to man our table included Greg KE2VW, Michelle KB2NQG, Shane WB2WPM, Norm KD2KK, Jack KB2ESM, Bob WA2IQX, Jake KB2NPN, Larry AA2GW, Terry KM4XZ, and Gene KE2LO (Apologies to anyone we might have missed, we had quite a crowd!). Many more members stopped by.

Members winning door prizes included Greg KE2VW and Gene KE2LO.

Congratulations go to the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club for staging a fine event!



## Amateur Radio Examinations

The VE Chairpersons for STARS, LARC, ARATS and LARA have established the tentative dates for the VE test sessions for 1992/1993.

LARC (Lancaster) sessions will be July 15, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 16, 1992; and Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 28, May 19 and June 16, 1993.

STARS sessions will be on Aug 5 and Oct 7, 1992; and Apr 7, 1993.

ARATS sessions will be on Sept 7, Nov 7 and Dec 5, 1992; and Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 17, May 8 and June 5, 1993.

LARA (Lockport) sessions will be on Sept 26, 1992 and Jan 30, Mar 27 and June 26, 1993.

LARC and STARS do not permit walk-ins. All candidates must be pre-registered at least one week before the session. The 1992 test fee of \$5.40 will probably be increased for 1993.

The ARRL and W5YI VECs have petitioned the FCC to bring the Novice examinations under the VE program. If approved, no longer will two general or up licensed amateurs be permitted to administer Novice examinations. This is expected to take effect early in 1993.

The question pools for Novice and Technician will change in July 1993. General, Advanced and Extra question pools will change sometime in 1994.

I have been VE Liaison for STARS for the past 6 years. I would like someone in STARS to become familiar with the duties of the VE Liaison. Greg Young KE2VW has agreed to perform that task. I will be at his side to guide him along.

Dick Haungs  
STARS/LARC VE Liaison

## Membership

As noted in our lead article in June issue, we finally broke the 200 mark in membership. Eight new members were approved at our June meeting bringing the total roster up to 202 members.

We have 2 former members reinstating their membership and 5 new members to be voted upon at our July meeting, which, if approved, will bring the number up to 209.

At the June meeting, we announced that we intended to send an updated roster out with this newsletter. Since we had to send the proposed revised constitution out with this issue, we will defer sending the updated roster out until we publish the August newsletter in late July so that we do not have to incur extra postage expense for the club.

We will also try to get back to our practice of recognizing new members in our newsletter in August. There have been so many recently that we have fallen behind. We don't want you new members to feel unappreciated!

If you know of anyone interested in amateur radio who isn't a member of our club, why not tell them about our activities. Remember that an amateur radio license is not a requirement, only an interest in amateur radio!

## Special Event Station

Don't forget about our special event station celebrating the Friendship Festival and the Peace Bridge running July 4-5!

If you want to participate, its not too late!

Call Ed KB2KVA at 874-0120 to get more information about bands, times, modes, and everything else!



# 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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Dick Hunsinger  
WB2ELW VE License