

telstar

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 140 AUGUST, 1992

Field Day A Hit!

STARS Field Day was a big hit with an unofficial record of 53 members and 15-20 guests attending.

It was held in the field behind the Elks Club in Hamburg on June 27-28.

This was the first year that STARS kept 3 transmitters running for 24 hours. We operated 10-80 meters, 2 meter simplex, HF and VHF packet and a satellite station.

We made a total of 145 CW contacts and 1006 SSB contacts. The big bands included 40 meter SSB with 583 contacts, 80 meters SSB with 222 contacts and 20 meters SSB with 189 contacts. We made a total of 7 satellite contacts on 3 passes of the Russian satellite RS-10/11. With all the bonus points we earned, we estimate that we scored just under 4,000 points.

Great meals for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast was served by Bob KB2HWY and Mary N2KWD.

An excellent news clip on Field Day featuring Field Day Chairman John KA2RFT and club president Greg KE2VW was shot by Jay N2MHD and was shown on Channel 4.

Members attending included Bob WA2IQX, Gary KB2ESN, Jack KB2ESM, John KA2RFT, Greg KE2VW, Michelle KB2NQK, Norm KD2KK, Bill KA2JEX, Dan KE2LO, Terry KM4XZ, Randy KA2RFW, Shane WB2WPM,

August Meeting

The August club meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on August 6 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 to attend; club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will have a brief but highly important business meeting. We expect to be voting on allocating a significant sum of money to cover expenses for relocating the club's repeater.



After the business meeting, we will be having our traditional cook-out. Everyone will be provided with a hamburger and hot dog for free! Soft

drinks will be available for fifty cents.

STARS Trader's Net

With little prior advertising, STARS Trader's Net went on the air last month and met with early success!

Hosted by Ed N2NUN, the net is on our club's 147.09 repeater every Tuesday night beginning at 7:30 PM. Members and nonmembers alike have a chance to list amateur radio related equipment for sale or trade or equipment that they are looking for. At the end of the net, other check-ins are taken. When Ed is not available, the net is hosted by Joe N2PPC.

Why not check-in to the net and tell others about it too!

★ 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

As August approaches, many projects are going full steam at STARS! The club station is now secure, in the remodeled Nike Base. Many, many thanks to Jake, KB2NNN, and Bob, WA2IQX, for their devotion to this project. We now need to prime the new blocked-in exterior, scrape some of the current exterior, and paint the outside a beautiful blue.... We could use some volunteers.... When was the last time YOU did something for your club?? If you can join us, let's set a time...., and have a painting party!

Our new club constitution passed by a RESOUNDING vote of approximately 197 for, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention. Thanks to all for their support!

The repeater relocation project is well underway, thanks to N2GAO. If our luck, and his persistence holds, we may wind up with a site which is THE DREAM SITE of ALL repeater owners!! Once we have confirmation, this will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

The STARS BBS is going gangbusters, and is now a "premier" BBS, with many new features, some of which include a satellite tracking program which automatically loads the KEPS for 155 satellites!! All you have to do is log onto the board, go into the server section, and tell the program which satellite you want, and when you want it to start the calculation...The rest is automatic.. It sure beats doing it yourself! We added 15 MEGS of downloadable programs from the April 1992 Buckmaster CD ROM in the YAPP subdirectory. Do a "W YAPP" to see them.. They're free, and include many NEW programs, such as the latest version of SUPERMORSE, several logging/contest programs, complete tutorials for EACH license class, etc, etc.

The VE testing schedule for the upcoming year (July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993) is now confirmed, and will be distributed shortly. Between ARATS, LARA, LARC, and STARS there will be a testing session every TWO WEEKS for this year!! I will take over as VE liaison for STARS, effective with the August 5, 1992 session, which will be held at the Senior Citizen Center, on Lakeview road, just down from the Nike Base. Starting time will be 7 pm... No walk-ins for this first session please.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The July meeting was held at the Nike Base Club Station, out in the open. Weather cooperated with us. The end of June was the Field Day activities, and the beginning of July was the special event station, so it was a busy time for the club.

All Members that have not been to the club rooms marvelled at the work that was done to make the building ship shape and secure. I am sure that more members will take advantage of the facilities now that they know what is there for their use. It is open almost every Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and other times upon request if possible, like when there are special stations on that everyone would like to work or a contest that the club can participate in.

Two of the members displayed their home brew VHF antennas at the July meeting, and they looked very nice. Everything for the

construction of these antennas can be bought locally. One was a quad and the other a beam. The beam had a novel system where it could be dismantled and transported very easily for portable work. For more info, contact the members (Ken KB2HRZ for the quad and Gary KB2ESN for the beam), and I'm sure they will be glad to assist you in the manufacture of them.

Last month's Gossip Column mentioned solar energy and its uses. Much to my amazement at the Batavia Hamfest, they had a display, and I talked to them about it. They promised to send me more information about it. Will keep you all posted.

Due to the large influx of people wanting to take their FCC amateur radio tests, STARS will have more test session per year. More info elsewhere in this newsletter.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZX

CF Cycle Tour

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will stage their 1992 Cycle Tour on September 19 and 20. The basic course for this two-day tour begins on Saturday morning at Fisher Price in East Aurora and will wind for about 50 miles through some beautiful country in Cattaraugus county to a fun filled overnight stop in a private camp south of Franklinville. Sunday the riders will cycle about 45 miles back to a cook-out in East Aurora. A second shorter course of about 50 miles total for less experienced riders will begin in Arcade.

STARS member Terry KM4XZ is the organizer for amateur radio operators to provide communications for the event. The MS Bike Trek covered in last month's newsletter showed the importance of radio communications in protecting the safety and health of the riders.

The first day conflicts with the Buffalo Hamfest and we know that this will make it difficult to recruit volunteers. So if you are not planning on attending the hamfest (or are willing to make a sacrifice), please consider helping out. Members and non-members alike willing to work one or both days should call Terry at 656-0865.

PROS Hamfest

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) will present their first annual Snowbelt Ham and Computer Fest on August 29, 1992 from 6 AM to 6 PM at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY.

Talk-in will be on the 145.39 and 444.175 repeaters. There also will be a check-in raffle on 146.58 simplex.

Admission is \$3.00 advance sales and \$4.00 at the gate and includes free parking and tailgating.

There will be dealer displays and door prizes. It's billed as a "good old fashion tailgating, coffee drinking, rag chewing good time"!

Club Badges

Members are reminded that STARS club badges are available for \$3.50 from Frank WG2H at any club meeting. Why not wear one with pride to let everyone your name, call sign and the fact that you belong to one of the best amateur radio clubs around!

Outgoing DX QSL Card Service

by Kash WB2RAJ

Are you tired of waiting to accumulate enough cards to send to the Outgoing DX QSL Bureau? Are you constantly about sorting your cards with all those new prefixes? Let me see, does 9A2RA go in front of 9H1ED or does it go with the YU cards for the Yugoslavia Bureau? Are you fed up with trying to find a box the proper size so you can mail out your cards. Are you hesitant about getting into those long lines at the Post Office just to mail your cards to the Bureau?

Wouldn't it be nice to be more concerned about making the contact and less concerned about how to get your card to the right DX station you worked so you can get a QSL card back in return? Wouldn't it be great to be able to submit your cards to the Bureau on a regular basis, no matter how few or how many?

Well, dreams can come true! Kash WB2RAJ is offering a new Outgoing DX QSL Card Service for any ARRL member. The charge is only 3 cents per card and here is what you get. There is no minimum number of cards required. You can submit as few as one card or as many as 1000 cards or more or any number in between. Cards do not have to be pre-sorted or in any kind of order. Your cards will be sorted by avid DX'ers who are knowledgeable of the latest callsign prefixes and their proper distribution. You will no longer have to search for some kind of box to send your cards in. The container for the cards you send in to the Outgoing DX QSL Service Bureau comes to you in the mail each month. When you receive your QST magazine, just cut the plastic wrapper off any one side, take out the magazine, put your cards in the bag and put enough funds in the bag to cover the number of cards at three cents per card. Be careful not to cut the label off the wrapper. The ARRL requires the label whenever submitting cards to the Bureau as proof of current membership. Then wrap the excess plastic around the cards, wrap a rubber band around the bundle to secure it, and bring the cards to any STARS meeting. That's all there is to it. No muss, no fuss, leave the sorting and mailing to us!

That's about it. I am offering this as a service to the Amateur community to promote QSLing as a

primary worldwide gesture of friendship and diplomacy. The secondary purpose of the service is to assist those who are collecting QSL cards for awards or certificates of proficiency in Amateur Radio. Any additional donations, beyond the required fee of three cents per card will be gratefully accepted to support this service. If you have any questions, please call Kash WB2RAJ at 674-1871.

Batavia Hamfest

The Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM) staged a very successful 12th annual Batavia Hamfest in Alexander, NY on July 12.

Many STARS members were spotted there selling off surplus equipment, buying other equipment, and generally having a great time.

One highlight of the event was a talk by Carole Perry WB2MGP a national award winning teacher from New York who explained how she introduces her middle school students to amateur radio. She uses it to interest the children in science, geography, current events, social sciences and many other areas. Her students have talked to an astronaut in Houston, a missionary in Africa, students in a small Artic town in Canada and many more.

STARS member Vern AA2AC was a lucky big door prize winner!

Special Event Stations

The joint STARS/ Niagara South Amateur Radio Club special event stations, WB2ELW and VE3NKH were on the air July 4 and 5 celebrating both the 6th Annual Friendship Festival and the 65th Anniversary of the opening of the Peace Bridge.

Complete results of the event are still being compiled and will be reported in next month's newsletter.

We do know that we operated on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters as well as through our 147.09 repeater.

John KA2RFT reported that we have so far received about 300 requests for certificates from 46 states!

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold amateur radio test sessions on August 5 and October 7, 1992 and February 3 and April 7, 1993 in Hamburg, NY. For information, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16, 1992 and January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16, 1993 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on August 29, November 7 and December 5, 1992 and January 9, February 6, March 6, April 17, May 8 and June 5, 1993 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 September 26 1992 and January 30, March 27 and June 30, 1993 in Lockport, NY. For information, call Bob Demarco KA2EG at 433-4584.

Most sessions do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

People desiring to take Novice exams only should contact John Leitten KA2RFT at 648-0341, or write to Dick Haungs W2UJR, 11315 Cary Road, Alden, NY 14004-9547.

From the Prez

Continued from page 2

As of the July board meeting, several committees have not been active (they have not sent in any report to the board to date), or still lack a chair. I am in the process of appointing new chairs for these committees. This is no reflection on the current chairs, who are often just too busy. More later... Finally, don't forget the next meeting, which will be our picnic.. See details elsewhere.

73 for now,
Greg

MS Bike Trek

Word was received from the Multiple Sclerosis Society that the MS Bike Trek in June raised over \$55,000 for the charity!

As reported last month, 8 STARS members helped to provide communications for this event. As you can see, this is a very valuable service.

Field Day

Continued from Page 1

Scott KB2KOL, Ed N2NUN, Missy N2PPB, Daryl N2NNE, Michael KA2ZNA, Steve KB2EQV, Bill N2GAO, Bob KB2HWY, Mary N2KWD, Ken KB2HRZ, Guz WB2EZU, Al K2DWI, Sandy N2QZS, Pat NW2I, Bob KA2WYE, Jerry W2TKQ, Jay N2MHD, John KB2NMP, Bob WA2QLE, Tony KB2OUT, Joe KB2JDB, Al N2POY, Dave AA2GF, Jay N2NQS, Ed KB2KVA, Fred KA2EUS, Dick KC2EL, Ralph K2ZUW, Kash WB2RAJ, Dennis K2CEC, Mark N2LAB, Mick N2PZX, Paul WA2IJW, John WA2 DRG, Matt KB2JTW, Andrew N2RHJ, Mike N2MRN, Bill KC2XV, Joe WA2PFM and N2PZZ.

Apologies to anyone that we might have missed! We forgot to have an official sign-in sheet and had to put a list together during the event from memory!

Nike Base Club HF Station

Everyone is reminded that the Nike Base Club HF Station is open every Monday night from 7 to 9 PM.

Members and non-members alike are invited to stop out for an evening of rag chewing and radio operating!

If you have questions about certain areas of amateur radio, here is a good place to discuss them with others.

Hope to see you all there!



STARS



Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Bob Witt	WA2IQX
Vice President	John Leitten	KA2RFT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Finc. 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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