

telstar



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

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Friendship On The Air!

Ed KB2KVA announced that the STARS/Niagara South Amateur Radio Clubs special event station celebrating both the 6th Annual Friendship Festival and the 65th Anniversary of the opening of the Peace Bridge was one of the biggest special events in the history of STARS.

Twelve STARS members combined operations from both the Nike Base HF Club Station and from their own homes to make over 800 contacts during July 4 and 5! They included: Gene KE2VW, John KA2RFT, Dave AA2GF, Norm KD2KK, Ken KB2HRZ, Ed N2NUN, Steve KB2EQV, Dan KE2LD, Larry AA2GW, Peter KB2NMV, Shane WB2WPM and Terry KM4XZ.

Approximately 300 requests have been received for the beautiful three-color certificates which show the flags of the USA and Canada as well as a sketch of the Peace Bridge linking the skylines of Buffalo and Fort Erie.

Ed KB2KVA made a 40 meter mobile contact from east of Toronto while on his way to a vacation spot.

A German ham was worked while mobile in Alaska! We also woked an aeronautical mobile from near New York City.

Gene KE2LO closed off Sunday night working an Australian ham on 10 meters.

Overall the world learned about more about Buffalo and the long-time friendship between the US and Canada!

September Meeting

The September club meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on September 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect St. at Hawkins Ave.).

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

You are invited

The business meeting will cover several very important items to club members. You definitely will want to be there.

Our special guest speaker will be John Hansen WA0PTV from Fredonia who will talk about satellite packet radio and how you can take advantage of his equipment and expertise for free through the STARS BBS!

STARS Membership

Members of STARS will find an updated club roster included with their newsletter this month. As of the August meeting, club membership has grown to 214.

We would like to welcome Andrew N2RHJ and Sara N2RHK Wendzikowski (son and daughter of Paul WA2IJW and Donna N2EAE) and Mark Modzelewski N2RSX (son of Frank WG2H) who were approved at the August meeting. It was a real family night!

Eight additional applications were approved at the last Board meeting and will be voted upon by the general membership at the September meeting.

Why not invite someone you know to join STARS today!

★ 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 WB2E2U.

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:

STARS is extremely fortunate to have our presentation this month given by John Hansen, WA0PTV, who will feature packet satellite communication. This form of communication is accessible to all "packetees", without the need of special equipment, through the combined efforts of the WA0PTV and STARS BBSs. His presentation, which includes a videotaped section, will immediately follow our business meeting.

The meeting this month will cover some VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES, affecting ALL club members, so plan on attending!! Our planned presentation, on the "Basics of Packet", will be postponed until a future meeting. Please give any suggestions for future presentations to KE2VW directly, or via the suggestion box.

Many thanks to the club members who showed up to scrape, prime, and paint our club station building on 08/22. It's exterior, now almost complete, really is looking good! See elsewhere in the Telstar for the list of members contributing their time and effort to this project.

My personal thanks to the many who contributed their time and effort to make our August "picnic" meeting a success. We had 65 sign in, with quite a few more that didn't, bringing our attendance to well over 80 members.

WB2RAJ has been appointed chairman of the new FOX HUNT committee, which replaces the former RDF committee, (to distinguish it from the INTERFERENCE committee headed by N2NUN). He has a group of individuals working with him, to get us going on some home-brew DF equipment that we can use in these contest events. Once we get a group of STARS members proficient in their DF skills, we can challenge some of the other local groups to some large scale events!

STARS is planning on offering ham classes this year, one for NOVICE/TECH, the other for GENERAL. Contact A1, K2DWI, at 652-8890, or Mark, KE2YQ, at 823- 6431, for details. Be sure to check into our SWAP net, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm, and our INFORMATION net, Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, both on 147.09 Mhz. See you all on September 3rd!

Greg KE2VW

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the August meeting and cook-out was a success with about 80 attendees. Even the weather cooperated. It sure was nice to see the members and their families get together.

The most important and largest news was given by Bill N2GAO, our two meter repeater chairman. He gave a run down on our problems and cost to move our repeater to a new site. One thing that can't be avoided is the cost of installing the hardline plus antenna on a commercial tower. It must be done by professionals, and they aren't cheap. Another thought is that we have no guarantee about how long we can have the antenna on the tower. If it is sold to another owner and he will install other antennas, we might be asked to leave??

Due to an influx of people interested in becoming amateurs, STARS is going to have FCC VEC sessions four times a year. Greg KE2VW has taken over the responsibility of the operation. You know, the August 5th session was held at the same place that STARS started the VEC program over 9 years ago when I was in charge of it. It is the Nike Base Gate #1 Senior Citizens club rooms, with ample room for expansion. I have had the honor of attending every VE session that STARS has had up until now, plus some at other places also.

So no with the classes that will be run this fall and more FCC tests, there is no excuse to not upgrade! As you probably know, the electronics

industry is upgrading the state of the art, and the questions shall get harder.

As of this writing STARS Nike Base club room was hit by a power surge. Don't know how much damage was done, or if it can be repaired.

By the way, hope everyone read the article in QST page 69 August 1992 "Lab Notes". It is about substitution parts when they need replacement. Especially if you are making changes or repairing your rigs, etc. There are some very enlightening facts which sometimes are taken for granted.

Don't forget to check into the three nets that are run by STARS every week. The Trader's Net meets on our 147.09 repeater every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM with Ed N2NUN as net control. The STARS VHF net meets at 7 PM every Wednesday also on our repeater with Bill N2GAO as net control. The HF net is at 10 AM on 3.925 Mhz with Guz WB2EZU as net control. You are missing out on half the fun and the latest news by not taking advantage of these nets!

Can not close this column without the mentioning the very fine BBS that STARS has going at the present time. If you need more info, get in touch with Greg KE2VW, and he will give you the low down.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

CF Bike Trek

Terry KM4XZ has need for more volunteers to help provide radio communications for the Cystic Fibrosis Bike Trek on September 19-20.

This is an excellent chance for new hams to gain some experience with public service events and have fun at the same time. All that you need is two meter privileges, a two meter HT and/or mobile rig, and yourself! There is a special need for volunteers for Saturday since it conflicts with the Buffalo Hamfest.

If you can volunteer for one or both days, or just want more information, PICK UP THE PHONE and call Terry at 656-0865 NOW!

New Antenna Design?

When I got on the air back in 1946, I ran a single 6L6 Pierce Oscillator about 10-15 watts using an end-fed Zepp antenna.

One winter day, the wind was so strong that the Zepp feeders were blown down from the flat top and were buried in the snow. I called CQ on 80 CW and hooked a W8 in West Virginia!

I had discovered a new antenna - the half wave snow bound!

73 Jim W2PFK

Repeater Usage

The increase in membership of our club is bringing a corresponding increase in the number of people using our repeater. While we don't want the repeater to sit idle all day, we also don't want members complaining that the repeater is never available for their use because it is always being tied up by others.

One thing to consider is how much you are using the repeater. Given that there are now 214 members in our club and 2440 minutes in a day, each member's share is a little less than 7 minutes! If you are talking more than that in a day, you are talking on somebody else's time!

Going to a simplex frequency (if possible) once the contact is established on the repeater can be a big help. Some of our youngest and newest members of our club have been noted using this practice very successfully recently.

Remember to leave pauses between your QSO's to see if someone else is patiently waiting for their turn to use the machine. You should also pause between transmissions during a QSO so that someone can break in if necessary.

Also, keep in mind that the repeater isn't supposed to be a replacement for the telephone. If you want to talk to someone about the details of a new mod for a radio and you are both sitting at home, why not consider using the telephone rather than tying up the repeater for half an hour.

If we all try to show additional courtesy and consideration for others on the repeater then we will be able to maintain good relations on the machine.

For Sale

Hygain 4 element 20 meter monobander. Model 204BAS. \$250.00

Hygain 2 element 40 meter beam. Model 402BAS. \$150.00

Sony shortwave radio. Model 2010. Mint, 1 year old. \$225.00

One 572B tube. Brand new, never used. \$50.00

Ameco PT-3 preamplifier. 2-54 Mhz. Mint. \$55.00

For all above contact Bob WA2IQX at 648-4274.

General Class Training

A course will be offered by STARS for the General Class radio license beginning the middle of September.

Classes will be held in West Falls, NY (about 15 minutes from Hamburg off Route 240).

If interested, call Al K2DW1 at 652-8890 or sign up at the September meeting. Also, anyone interested in teaching will be welcome.

Come on Techs! Here's the chance to get that upgrade that you've always been talking about!

CQ WW RTTY Contest

Ken KB2HRZ and Bob KA2WYE will be participating in the CQ WorldWide RTTY Contest at the club's Nike Base HF Station for 48 hours beginning on Friday evening September 25. This is the second year that they will be operating from the station, and they are planning bigger and better things!

People interested in helping them in the contest or in just learning more about this interesting phase of amateur radio should contact Ken at 681-2789 or Bob 649-7272. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Congratulations!

Kash WB2RAJ complete a major milestone in his amateur radio career by passing his Extra class exam!

Moving up to Advanced class were Jay KB2NQS, Bill KA2JEX and Joe KB2JDB. Bill's new call is KF2JK.

Obtaining their General class licenses were Bert KB2NVK, John KB2NMP and Bob KA2WYE.

If you have recently upgraded or obtained a new license or call, please contact Terry KM4XZ so we can let the rest of the members know about it.

If you haven't upgraded recently, then read the article at the top of this column!

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold amateur radio test sessions on 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.

Buffalo Hamfest

Don't forget the Buffalo Hamfest on September 19 at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg. The flea market runs 6 AM to 4 PM, and the indoor commercial exhibits run from 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

STARS will have table at the hamfest to tell about our club activities. Last year we had several people apply for membership there.

Talk-in will be on STARS 147.09 repeater.

If you aren't planning on going to this event, please read the article on the CF Bike Trek on page 3!

Nike Base HF Club Station

By Terry KM4XZ

On Saturday August 22, volunteers met at the club station for a paint party now that the remodeling work on the outside of the building has been completed by Jake KB2NNN and Bob WA2IQX. Much effort to scrape off the loose old paint was required. After that, the walls were all primed, and the trim along the top was painted white. We plan to be back out on Saturday August 29 to paint the walls a nice shade of navy blue.

Thanks go to the volunteers for the paint party including Tony KB2OUT, Greg KE2VW, Gary N2NJI, Jake KB2NNN, Bob WA2IQX, Gary KB2YJ, Peter KB2NMV, Joe KB2JDB and Terry KM4XZ. Special thanks also go to John for stopping by between plumbing jobs to drop off ladders, and to Mick N2PZX for helping out on the repeater.

Some of you have probably heard that the club station suffered a power surge knocking out the antenna rotor controller and the 35 amp power supply for the HF radio. One week later the station was back on the air thanks to the speedy repairs made by Bob WA2IQX. Bob also had to repair a ground wire for the tower which had been run over by one of the Nike Base's mowers.

Bob put stakes up beside the ground rods to make them more visible in the future!

Unfortunately, the same power surge damaged the radio, TNC and power supply of Gary KB2YJ for his STARS node. He has already replaced the equipment and is working with his insurance company to be paid for the loss.

More thanks go to Shane WB2WPM for donating a terminal and to Bill N2GAO for donating a TNC! We will shortly be on the air with packet on a permanent basis.

At our Monday night session this week, we listened to the various nets covering the hurricane damage in South Florida. As some of you may know, I lived in Miami for 7 years prior to coming to the Buffalo area 2 years ago. I lived on the northern edge of the area receiving the most damage. The word that I received from friends there is that the damage is every bit as great as has been reported by the news media!



STARS



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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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