

telstar



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

ISSUE 142 OCTOBER, 1992

WB2ELW/R Has A New Home!

An announcement was made at the September club meeting that the Board of Directors had signed an agreement with the management of WIVB TV (Channel 4) to relocate the club's 147.09 repeater (WB2ELW/R) to Channel 4's main transmitter and antenna site near Colden, NY.



This was the culmination of a very extensive search to find a good location to relocate the repeater. While other sites were also under

consideration/negotiation, the Channel 4 site was at the top of the Board's list as the best all-around site.

We know that other clubs and individuals were also looking for repeater sites, and we feel very fortunate to secure a location like this one.

Repeater Chairman Bill Siska N2GAO is to be commended for his efforts in negotiating with the management of WIVB as well as with managements at other sites that we were considering. Special thanks also go to Jay Lauder N2MHD, who works for Channel 4, for originally bringing the site to our attention and for helping to introduce our club to the station's management.

The actual move of the repeater occurred on Wednesday, September 23. As most of you are

October Meeting

The October club meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on October 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Street at Hawkins Avenue). Everyone is invited to attend; club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



An important feature of this meeting will be the nomination of club officers for 1993. Members interested in running for an office or in nominating others for one should be there. All contested positions will be voted upon at the November meeting.

Other items for discussion at the business meeting will include the relocation of the repeater, JOTA, CQ WW SSB contest, work at the Nike Base, etc.

Featured speakers will be Tom Dunham N2KBI of the National Weather Service and John Leitten KA2RFT. They will talk about the SKYWARN weather program and will explain how everyone with 2 meter privileges and equipment, including new hams, can provide a service to the community.

probably already aware, there was a problem with the receive ability of the repeater once it was moved. Solving this problem and "tweaking" it back to its normal operating condition will take some time. We thank the members for their patience during this process.

We will have more information on the actual move of the repeater and its performance from its new home in next month's newsletter.

★ 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 to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

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 on Wednesdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 (output/input). Net control is Bill N2GAO.

STARS Traders Net meets at 7:30 PM on Tuesdays on the 147.09 repeater. Net control is Ed N2NUN.

From the Prez

Many thanks to John, WA0PTV, for making our September meeting a most memorable one! His talk on satellite communication via packet radio proved to be very interesting and stimulating to all present. This form of digital communication requires no additional equipment outside of a 2 meter radio, a TNC, and a computer.

For those that missed the talk, all on packet can "talk" on the satellite, by simply connecting to the STARS BBS, reading messages from UO-22, sending replies to messages of interest, and/or sending bulletins directly to the satellite, to be read by all "around the world". The link provided between the STARS BBS and the satellite gate at WA0PTV is available to all using the BBS. The only restriction is that bulletins being uploaded to the satellite must be of general amateur interest, and not include any for sale or wanted bulletins, which in many countries are illegal.

WORLD AMATEUR HISTORY was made using this link when Ken, KE2SR, one of our active digital members, had a 2 way "conversation" with a similar packeteer in New Zealand. This was a FIRST, as neither of the two amateurs had ANY SATELLITE EQUIPMENT, but both in fact were going through their favorite local BBSs, which were linked to the satellite gateway stations that relayed their messages to the satellites. The equipment used by Ken adds a further first to this link. Ken uses a Commodore 64 tied to a digicom board (which functions as a TNC-less TNC), feeding a handtalkie with an output of only 0.5 watts!! Who said radio has to be expensive?

This month's presentation will be on SkyWarn, which should prove quite interesting, especially for those who have never seen any presentations on this topic. John, KA2RFT will explain how STARS interfaces with NOAA when adverse weather threatens.

October is the month to nominate members to run for the board. Come with your nominations in mind! This is YOUR change to get involved and make a difference... NO experience is required. We hope to have several members running for each position to make the election "interesting".

MANY THANKS go out to Bill, N2GAO, John, KA2RFT, and Bob, WA2IQX, for all their time

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

STARS was honored to have John Hansen WAOPTV at our September meeting with a presentation of packet satellite communications and his BBS which includes satellite hook-ups. The video was very impressive and self explanatory. In fact, one of our members (KE2SR) has had the pleasure of using John's set-up to talk via packet to a station in New Zealand.

How many of you read the "Repeater Usage" article in last month's newsletter? Going to a simplex frequency once contact is established can be a big help; and, if your info is quite long, it will be enjoyed by a better contact.

Hope everyone that QSL's will take advantage of Kash's (WB2RAJ) offer to send your QSL cards to DX stations that you have worked lately. He is making it very easy to help you at

a very low price. Only remember to keep up your credits at the W2 QSL bureau so that they can send you your incoming QSL cards.

STARS is going to have FCC VE sessions four times a year due to the large influx of people wishing to upgrade. Greg KE2VW is taking the job of coordinating the extra sessions. He needs help as this is not a one-man job. There are a lot of VE's in our club, so please let Greg know if you want to assist. Remember that in order to keep your VE ticket that you must have at least one session that you assisted in for the ARRL to keep you on the active list. Our newsletter will give the time and place, but it is up to you to let Greg know so that he can schedule you when available.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Jamboree On The Air

Amateur radio operators will join with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts worldwide in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 17 and 18. This is an outstanding chance for scouts to talk to each other and to learn more about amateur radio. Full details are given in the September issue of the QST magazine.

Individual radio operators can participate in this event by inviting scouts (boy scouts, cub scouts, girl scouts, brownies, etc.) over to your shack to participate or by going out and setting up a Field Day type of station at a location where scouts are going to be. It can be as small or big as you want!

Remember that this is not a contest, and there are no awards for working the most stations. The idea is to let the scouts talk on the radio and learn something while having fun.

STARS plans for JOTA are still being finalized, so if you want to participate with the club, call John KA2RFT at 648-0341 or Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 for more information. We will probably be operating both from the Nike Base club station and from a Field Day type operation at a Boy Scout camporee.

SAREX

Computers in White Sands, NM normally coordinate the flow of NASA mission-related communications between Mission Control in Houston, TX and orbiting communication satellites around the world. The satellites then relay the messages to the shuttle.

A glitch in the White Sands computers during the recent shuttle flight plunged the shuttle into a temporary blackout for 20-25 minutes.

Mission Control asked hams in the nearby SAREX control room to relay a message to Pilot Jay Apt N5QWL via an Australian ham that the communications would be repaired shortly. Thus, the 2 meter ham radio was able to bail out NASA's multi-million dollar system!

Q & A

Question: Would an over-weight, out-of-shape amateur radio club newsletter editor trudge one and one-half miles uphill in 99 degree weather just to take a picture of a ham's house and antenna farm? If so, why?

Answer: Of course! As to why, check with Terry KM4XZ at the October meeting to see his photo of the home of a famous ham near Phoenix, AZ who happens to be a U. S. Senator!

CF Cycle Tour '92

The Cystic Fibrosis Cycle Tour '92 was held on September 19-20. Participation increased from about 30 riders for their first bike trek in 1991 to about 85 riders this year! The ride began in East Aurora on Saturday morning and went through Strykersville and Arcade to an eventual overnight stop at a private camp south of Franklinville. Sunday's ride took them through Franklinville, Michias, Delevan and Holland and ended in a cook-out at Hamlin Park in East Aurora.



Communications for the event were provided entirely by STARS members this year. Terry KM4XZ was in charge of coordinating the hams. Dave K2ECK combined biking and radio by running sweep bike for both days of the event.

Volunteers for Saturday included Norm KD2KK, Bob K2PPK and Bill KB2PAR (a new member). Norm and Bob both were accompanied by their brothers. These people are to be specially commended because they gave up going to the Buffalo Hamfest to help out with the event!

Volunteers for Sunday included Jack KB2ESM, Judy KB2AQF, Ron KC2P, Tony KB2OUT, Ed N2NUN and Missy N2PPB. Judy had to do double duty when the volunteers who were supposed to be running her rest stop failed to show up!

Special thanks also go to John Thomas K2XZ and Hank Wilkie WA2YUC for the use of the 145.39 repeater! It performed great throughout the course.



One of the highlights was on Sunday when Earl of Earl's Diner (Home of the Original Fruit Jar Drinkers!) talked to a group of the lead riders. He explained that he and his wife had lost a CF child many years ago, and how they knew they heartbreak of the disease. He told the riders about how important their efforts to raise money to fight CF was, and he said that he hoped they would be back next year. Most said that they would definitely be back!

Weather for both days was cool and dry and was nearly ideal for the riders. Except for a few of

the usual minor mishaps, such as flat tires, stuck chains, and off-course riders, the event went almost most flawless.

Robin Pfalzgraf of the CF Foundation and the others helping her are to be congratulated for putting on a great event!

Membership

STARS membership continues to boom!

We would like to welcome the following new members who were approved at the September meeting:

Bob Dudek	WA2ABN
Harold Ellis	-
Paul Fanelli	KB2PFL
Bill Hoffman, Sr.	KB2PAR
Del Rykert	KB2JOI
Ted Wacławski	N2PZY
Brett Williams	KB2OUW
Conrad Zaranski	N2QNH

This brings our membership up to 222!

We also have 11 more applications to vote on at the October meeting, and this doesn't include those we received at the Buffalo Hamfest!

Congratulations

Upgrades that weren't reflected in the club roster included Michelle Young KB2NQG who moved up to Technician and Ken Rusin KB2HRZ who is an Advanced.

Jay Clark KB2NQS now has the new Advanced class call of KF2JY.

If you have recently got a new license or upgraded to a higher class license, call Terry KM4XZ so that we can let other members know.

Speaking of license classes, an analysis of the club roster as of September 1, 1992 revealed the following break-down of licenses for STARS members: Extra 15%, Advanced 22%, General 18%, Technician 42%, Novice 2% and no license 1%.

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 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 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 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

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and effort in relocating the repeater to its permanent home at the channel 4 TV broadcast site in Colden. Transmission tests show this site has OUTSTANDING coverage!! MANY, MANY thanks go to Bill, N2GAO, and Jay, N2MHD, for securing this once in a lifetime site!! Yes, we are having our predicted desense problem, affecting our receiver's sensitivity, which will be corrected, once the exact source of the RF's entry into our repeater has been identified. BE PATIENT. I'm sure you will find that once the reception is restored to normal, the coverage will be WITHOUT EQUAL in our county! Remember this site is an investment in our club's future, something that will provide long-term growth and stability to our organization.

73 for now,
Grog KE2VW

CQ WW SSB Contest

The CQ WorldWide SSB contest will begin at 0000Z on October 24 and will conclude at 2400Z on October 25. This is the biggest amateur radio contest in the world and is absolutely amazing if you have never experienced it. The airwaves are literally alive with contesters from all over the globe. Many hams travel to locations such as various Caribbean islands to put them on the air. Even if you aren't a big contester, this is an excellent time to work new countries.

We will have the club's Nike Base HF station on the air during part of the contest and will use the same low pressure type of operation that we have in the past. Instead of trying to build up a big contest score, we will concentrate on locating and working new countries. Members will be allowed to work countries with their own call signs so long as they are within their own frequency privileges. We won't be winning any awards with this approach; but everyone, even beginners, can participate and have fun!

The Nike Base station can put out a big signal which you will appreciate when slugging it out with all those other stations in the pile up! We will also be utilizing the packet DX spotting networks to help locate rare countries. This is your station, so why not come out and take advantage of it. There will be experienced people available to help show the beginners what to do.

If you are interested in participating, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865. The hours the station will be open will depend upon the response received

Letters to the Editor

This month we received an unsigned letter to the editor making a personal attack on two of our members.

As a matter of policy, this letter and all other unsigned letters will not be published.

We also reserve the right not to publish signed letters which make personal attacks on individual club members or which are considered to be detrimental to the club.



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

Editor Terry Rockhold KM4XZ

Club Repeater

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, 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

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865

JOHN CULLUM JR KB2ESM
6871 E. WEBSTER
ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127

