

# telstar



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

ISSUE 144 DECEMBER, 1992

## Amateur Radio and the World University Games

by Shane Brady WB2WPM

As you all realize, the World University Games will come to WNY this coming summer, from July 7 through the 18th. The amateurs of WNY have been called upon to be a major part of this operation.

We have been asked to assist with the Emergency Medical part of the operation. Our primary duty will be to help maintain, via packet radio, information relating to medical emergencies which may arise.



There will be 24 venues through out WNY and Canada. Each which will require amateur operations to provide communications for 10 to 14 hours per day. This equates to an enormous amount of man hours required. Packet radio is the primary emphasis, not verbal communications. Volunteers need not be part of ARES/RACES to participate; any amateur with a Technician class or higher license may participate. Everything will be set up for you, and no prior packet experience is necessary.

The games will receive local, national and world wide attention, as will the amateurs who participate. The amateur community can be

## December Meeting

STARS December meeting will be held at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) at 7:30 PM on Thursday, December 3.

Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



After a brief business meeting which will include installation of new officers, a Holiday party will be held. The club will be providing pizza and pop. Members are asked to bring "finger foods" to share with the others!



## Dues Are Due!

Club members are reminded that club dues are due and payable on January 1.

The repeater codes will probably be changed early in January, so you will want to get your dues in early to get the codes.



Enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal form for 1993.

Please fill it out and send it with your dues to Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206 or give it to Frank at the meeting.

Think about all the club offers you for the money, and you will realize what a bargain the STARS really is!

# ★ 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 WB2EZX.

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

As we head into December, and finish 1992, it is time to reflect on STARS' progress during this time period.

We tried a new format, combining a full business meeting each month, with an educational presentation. This seems to have worked out, with the club members steering the direction this took.



Many have given excellent suggestions, either directly, or via the "suggestion box". EVERY suggestion received was acted upon by the board.

Our presentations have covered a wide variety of topics, given by both "in-house", as well as "regional" talent.

The club meeting attendance has dramatically increased, along with a more than DOUBLING of membership, to 241+ members at last count!

We formed more than 20 active committees, with many ambitious projects coming to fruition...

The Nike Base had its exterior completely redone in our club colors. Its interior work is underway as I type this article.

A library of tapes and books is accumulating, to be housed at the Nike Base for all to use, once the interior work in the back room is done.

The Kids' station has a new rig, a Kenwood 430S, thanks to WA2IQX's efforts.

The STARS VE test sessions have now increased to quarterly, and will include walk-ins, and be held on weekends, two firsts for our group.

Our club has new, improved bylaws, to cover us as we continue our growth over the next few years.

We resumed Novice/Technician classes, with 18 of the original 19 enrolled taking the Novice/Technician exams!

See From The Prez on Page 5

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, here it is December already. As a rule, I always used this month as a brag month about the club and its achievements during 1992, but it would take up too much room. So lets just hit the highlights of accomplishment, starting with four VEC exams yearly at a request by members. The classes were run also, and some of the students took their FCC tests at our exams.

Then the packet node (STARS) and BBS (KE2VW-5) that Gary KB2YJ and Greg KE2VW got together and made a success of. The BBS is one of the most informative packet stations around, and sometimes it takes a while to get into it.

Just think of the pleasure the bike-a-thons brought to the underprivileged folks that benefitted from the donations that were given to help their causes.

You know, we needed a lot of help out at the Nike Base. It was nice to see all the volunteers that came and assisted in fixing it up. I don't think there are many clubs that have a 70 foot tower plus a nice beam. Not only that, the club room is air conditioned. Now remember all this happened with the help of all you club members and our fine dedicated officers.

As if that was not enough, our repeater was moved to a new site and seems to perform very well. Congratulations to the repeater committee. for their many hours of work to get it right.

Then Field Day! If you did not get a chance last year, make it your "must be there in 1993."

The Weather Watch is a success and much to my surprise, some of the weather boys joined the club.

How about satellites? STARS has some very interested members in that phase of amateur radio.

Then came the special event amateur station. As far as we know, it was the only special event amateur station that was operated by two different countries, Canada and the US. It was a friendly and enjoyable event.

Well, must stop now. I am sorry if I missed your favorite part of the activities. December is the inauguration of the new officers, and as a rule, we invite all the members and their families to participate in this festive time. Just like John KA2RFT said a few years ago, the club will supply the pizza and pop, but if you want you are most welcome to bring some finger foods to share. Last year there were three different types of brownies, and I had to taste them all, HI, HI!

Well, wish the incoming officers the best and hope that their year will be as good or better for the club than the one that just left us.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

## Committees

There have been two changes in committee chairpersons:

Jerry W2TKQ has resigned as chairperson of the Library Committee. Ed N2NUN has been appointed as the new chairperson.

Terry KM4XZ has resigned as Nike Base Chairman. Bob WA2IQX has been appointed as the new Nike Base Chairman. Terry will continue to be involved in radio operations at the Nike Base in a limited role.

## Outside the Ham Bands

During the weather net covered on Page 4, we noted a number of amateurs passing on information that they had picked up by listening to the police and fire frequencies.

Since many amateurs have the ability to listen outside the ham bands through extended coverage ham transceivers or scanners, we thought that people might like more information of what to listen for. If you know of any interesting frequencies "outside the ham bands" send them to Terry KM4XZ so we can share them with other readers of our newsletter.

## World University Games

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expected to be highlighted in their contributions to these games. Without a doubt, many of the volunteers will find themselves part of a historic undertaking which will be documented in amateur journals such as QST, CQ, 73 and other publications world wide!

Due to the nature of the games, volunteers will not be allowed "to just show up." All volunteers are required to pre-register with the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Defense, Disaster Preparedness. Personal identification and clearance will be required to gain access to the venues. If you even think you will be able to volunteer some time, you must telephone personally:

LOU GALLO  
COMMISSIONER OF DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS

(716) 858-6578

This is a once in a life time opportunity for our amateur radio community, and a chance to have the public sit up and take notice of our contributions. Please volunteer some time; please call Lou Gallo now! Don't take a chance at being left out of this historic opportunity to show what hams are capable of.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact myself, Shane Brady WB2WPM, at 675-5797 evenings. Thank you!

## Weather Net

When the big storm blew through WNY with high winds bringing widespread power outages a couple of weeks ago, an informal weather net was started on our club's 147.09 repeater. Dennis K2CEC picked up the responsibility of net control and did a great job coordinating the many reports from around the area. Over 30 amateurs checked in to give information about winds, damage, power outages, etc.

No amateurs were at the National Weather Bureau, but John KA2RFT called them and explained how they could turn on the receiver and listen to the reports.

## 1993 Club Officers

Based upon the elections held at the November meeting, the following members will serve as STARS officers for 1993:

President: Greg Young KE2VW

Vice President: Ed Hollis N2NUN

Treasurer: Jack Cullum KB2ESM

Secretary: Dave Baco WA2TVT

Financial Secretary: Frank Modzelewski WG2H

Director: Shane Brady WB2WPM

The Board of Directors will be formed by these people plus Terry Rockhold KM4XZ who will be serving in the second year of his two year term.

## JOTA

Our club sponsored two Jamboree On The Air stations to allow scouts to talk to each other across the country and around the world.

One station was set up Field Day style at a Scout Camporee at Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island. This station was manned by Terry KM4XZ, Tony KB2OUT, John KB2NMP and Scott KB2KOL.

Frank K2VTK offers the following report from the second station at Spraguebrook Park:

JOTA was led on the air by chief operator, 13-year old Boy Scout, and STARS member, Brett Williams KB2OUW. The rig was then manned by Scouts and STARS members John N2RSY and Andy N2RHJ.

The first contacts were on ten meters all of which were the west coast. Then twenty meters and even 2 meters. Many scouts from the southtowns were around my TS440 rig wondering what the sounds of "USB" were about.

Gary KB2ESN had his packet station hooked up to a homebrew Quad. He had many connects and answered many scout questions.

See JOTA on Page 5

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold amateur radio test sessions on 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 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 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.

## JOTA

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Thanks also go to Paul WA2IJW (his chili was great), Norm KD2KK and Joe KB2JDB for their help and participation.

Special thanks also to:

Scott Walkden (son of Bill KA2NQI) for loaning us the laptop computer for packet.

The Erie County Department of Parks who had a generator set up at the campsite for us.

John KA2RFT for the vertical antenna which loads up great every year.

## From The Prez

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The STARS BBS was given birth, and now is a leading full service utility including a regional resource as a satellite gateway node, callsign and White Page database server, mods directory, as well as a source for hundreds of downloadable CD-ROM Amateur software programs.

We added the STARS Trader's Net, under the weekly guidance of N2NUN.

Our QSL bureau was set up through the efforts of WB2RAJ.

Our repeater found its new home through the efforts of N2GAO, and N2MHD, among others. The new coverage pattern is second to none, completely blanketing our county, and extending beyond to new areas previously uncovered.

Our special event stations were ALL well participated in, by record numbers of club members, in both traditional events (Field day, JOTA, Winterfest, etc.), and the new arrivals (Friendship Festival through the efforts of KB2KVA and KE2LO, and the Pumpkin Patrol which STARS took the leadership role in, through the efforts of N2NUN).

This has truly been an exciting year, with many challenges, which we have met!

What's left for next year?... Just wait and see... This year was just the beginning...

Want to be more involved in setting the direction for this year? Come to the club meetings and vote on your proposals... Come to the board meetings, and present us with your proposals!

We have some projects to finish, ie interior of the Nike Base, and some new ones to decide on, ie 440 repeater, satellite station, etc.

Have a very safe and joyous holiday season. I'll look forward to seeing you next year....

73, Greg KE2VW



# STARS



## Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Bob Witt	WA2IOX
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