

# telstar



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

ISSUE 145

JANUARY, 1993

## From The Prez

Due to the importance of the World Games, and the rapidly approaching deadline of January 15 for amateur commitments, I am dispensing with my usual column, and instead enclosing an abbreviated copy of a message I recently sent out on packet to all of New York State, and the Province of Ontario.

Hello fellow amateurs:

First, let me introduce myself. I am Greg Young, KE2VW, SysOp of KE2VW.#WNY. NY.USA.NA, but more to the point, I am director of the Emergency medical component of the World University games. When I started planning the EMS component, the lack of secure communication preplanning was obvious. I set up a secure system, using both FAX, and scrambled speech portable D.O.D. VHF handhelds.

Being an amateur however, I struggled to overcome resistance to the use of amateurs for communication purposes. You need to know security measures stem from the Dept. of Defense, due to the sensitive nature of the games. There was "no role for hams" I was told, until I came up with the idea of using packet to communicate between the venues (sports locations), hospitals, Joint Operations Center, and the Village Polyclinic at UB. This met with the security groups approval, due to its apparent "secure nature". (secure that is with the software I had in mind). As I do not have the time to personally get involved in coordinating the large number of amateurs involved in this, and not wishing it to be considered a club

## January Meeting

The January club meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7 beginning at 7:30 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at



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

Bill Siska

N2GAO, STARS Repeater

Chairman, will present a program on how to use the various features of the repeater including the proper use of the autopatch. This is your chance to get all your questions answered.

## 1993 Dues

1993 dues are payable on or before January 1, 1993.

Membership renewal forms received with your December newsletter should be returned with your dues (see Page 2) to Frank WG2H at the January meeting or by mailing to 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206. If you send by mail and want your repeater codes right away, please send an business-size SASE to Frank also. If you don't have the membership renewal form, then send a note including your name, address, telephone number, and license class.

The repeater codes will be changed shortly after the January club meeting, so make sure to get your dues in now!

# ★ 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 WB2EZU.

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.

## FM Repeater at 3,000,000 Feet?!

For those of you looking to do some experimenting with satellites without buying a lot of fancy new equipment will be interested in AO-21 (also known as RS-14).

This satellite is acting as an FM cross-band repeater in the sky! You can hear amateurs talking to each other with almost any 2 meter FM equipment that you are using for local communications. The down link is on 145.987 Mhz. If your radio won't tune this exact frequency, try 145.985 or 145.990 Mhz. One of these will probably do.

The uplink is on 435.016 Mhz FM. While a ground plane might get you into the bird, a small UHF beam pointed at it may be needed. We would be interested in hearing from any members who are successful in working people through AO-21.

Unlike other satellites running SSB or CW which allow several transmissions on a range of frequencies, this FM satellite has everyone on the same frequency. Therefore, it is vital to be brief and courteous so that several people can share making contacts during the same pass.

The satellite is currently on a schedule with the FM repeater available to amateurs for about 6 minutes. Then for about 2 minutes there is a digitized voice message. Recently, it has been in Slovenian, wishing one of the AMSAT-Europe key volunteers a speedy recovery in the hospital. The last minute is telemetry in 1200 baud AFSK packet. This is the same that we use for local packet work, so you should be able to pick this up on your home equipment, too! The satellite then repeats the schedule over and over.

Here are a few of the start times for the close passes coming up (all times local WNY):

1/5: 5:19 AM; 4:14 PM  
1/6: 5:47 AM; 2:57 PM; 4:43 PM  
1/7: 6:16 AM; 3:24 PM; 5:11 PM  
1/8: 4:56 PM; 3:52 PM  
1/9: 5:25 AM; 2:34 PM; 4:21 PM  
1/10: 4:07 AM; 3:02 PM; 4:48 PM  
1/11: 4:33 AM; 3:30 PM

Good luck hunting AO-21!

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, another year has passed and STARS is still on an upswing.

You know, the Telstar was started in 1972 and 1992 is its 20th year. At the beginning, it was the only means of information that was passed on to the members, as everyone was working 8 to 10 hours a day. Much has changed since then.

Am going to start something different in 1993. I will give a report of the previous meeting for all the members that missed it.

The December meeting was our installation of officers and get acquainted with the families meeting. Also, the club put out a nice spread including pizzas and drinks. I have to congratulate the XYL's and others that baked the nice cookies. There was quite a wide variety, they out did themselves. I had to try them all!

It is nice how the chairpersons of the various committees give a nice report in the Telstar.

There is only one thing missing in the Telstar and that is technical articles. I am sure we got a lot of electronic personnel that are qualified to put an article in once in a while and am sure that

it would be appreciated by the membership.

If you are anxious to get on the air after your general ticket comes, come see Bob WA2IQX and his sked at the Nike Base club station. It is a good place to try out your new ticket and the club equipment to see if it is what you want to own.

I bet that not many members know that STARS has a ground plane wire plow to install your ground wires for vertical antennas. In 1991, it installed 5000 feet of #12 wire for a spoke wheel pattern.

With all the new members of the club getting into packet radio, why don't some of our well versed packeteers give the members a brief run down of how to get into this phase of amateur radio and make it easy for their enjoyment? Our packet BBS is one of the best in WNY. It is a general use packet BBS and almost any type of info can be brought up by a query on your part.

Also, an article on combining your computer to your transceiver in order to work CW, RTTY, AMTOR and other types of info would be interesting.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

### STARS BBS Moves!

The STARS BBS has moved to its new coordinated frequency of 147.57 Mhz. This allows it to get away from the congestion that had built up on 144.91 Mhz from Canadian stations and from W2SEX BBS. Since the STARS BBS has become very popular, this should prove beneficial for everyone in the area!

The STARS node had also moved up to 147.57 Mhz, but is scheduled to move back to 144.91 Mhz on or around 1/3/93. You will still be able to access the BBS through the STARS node. First connect to the STARS node. Then connect to HAMBURG. Finally, connect to KE2VW-5, the STARS BBS. This will allow the STARS node to connect to the BBS via 9600 baud.

Thanks to Greg KE2VW and Gary KB2YJ!

### CW Key Survey Results

BRAND	QUANTITY
Bencher .....	66
Vibroplex .....	30
Brown Brothers .....	7
Nye Viking .....	3
Heath .....	2
Kent .....	2
Ten-Tec .....	2
Autronics .....	1
Ham Key .....	1
Hi-Mound .....	1
Kenpro .....	1
Trac .....	1
Home Made .....	1

Total # of Paddles: 118

John N6HI Via Packet

## From The Prez

Continued From Page 1

sponsored activity (I am currently president of STARS), I contacted the Erie Co. RACES group, who I felt had the necessary contacts to coordinate the amateurs who would be needed to provide digital communication for the venues which will span Erie, Niagara, and Genesee counties, along with the Province of Ontario. I then let them handle the situation, after requesting my county's Disaster Preparedness Coordinator (the Civil Defense Coordinator, as it was previously known) to serve as point person, and keep me abreast of the developments.

I have since then seen some misinformation being conveyed, which has now prompted me to become directly involved to clear up some inaccuracies.

- 1) You DO NOT have to be a member of ANY group to be involved in the games. Each amateur will undergo a D.O.D. security check, which commences in February. While I certainly encourage amateurs everywhere to become involved in their local ARES/RACES/Disaster Preparedness groups, this IS NOT, and NEVER HAS BEEN a requirement.
- 2) You WILL NOT be involved in voice communication at the games, with the possible exception of the marathon/walks, which is being handled separately. All venue communication will be with D.O.D. scrambled handhelds. Enough said.
- 3) You DO need to register with Commissioner Lou Gallo, who can be reached at Erie Co. Disaster Preparedness office between 0900-1500 (local time) weekdays.
- 4) This IS NOT an Erie Co. run program. I need Lou as a point person to coordinate sending out the applications, and providing me a list of willing amateurs. PLEASE DON'T let any politics ruin amateur radio's chance to become involved in the largest mass gathering event in this region's history!
- 5) We need each and every ham to sign up and volunteer a shift (4 hours is fine!). We aren't asking for a commitment in blood, as we know

its early in the year, but the security clearances on the number of volunteers we have lined up will take months, which is why they will commence in February. If there is ANY chance you can sign up, call Lou Gallo ASAP.

- 6) The dates we need amateurs are from July 07 to July 19 only! We hope to have the involvement of amateurs from many parts of NY state, as well as the Province of Ontario, not just one or two counties. Times are as stated, (approx. 0800-2359), but this is only at a few venues, as many will be much more limited.
- 7) You will only need to bring a TNC, and Vhf radio & antenna. I am getting a source lined up to provide laptops, and I will see that the software is installed. Any equipment brought can be left with the medical supplies, or taken home after use. We prefer the former, as ANY equipment would have to undergo bomb checks, etc. We will guarantee the value of any equipment loaned to the venue. I can assure you the security will be tighter than a vault!
- 8) You DO NOT have to know ANYTHING about packet, or computers for that matter. All you need is one good finger, and an open mind. We will provide a guaranteed less than one hour briefing on how to use the simple patient chart/software package I will have developed for you to use. For those who have used my BBS, you know how simple I can make things seem..
- 9) NO ONE, (including myself!), will be paid any monies for their time in this endeavor.

Why volunteer? It will be your chance to be part of the MOST EXCITING PROGRAM to EVER come to our region, one whose magnitude I'm sure we will not live to see again in our lifetimes, an event that will literally bring the WHOLE WORLD together.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! If I have not received the number of amateur volunteers I need as of January 15, I will unfortunately be forced to REMOVE AMATEUR RADIO from venue planning permanently. This will signal the end of ALL amateur involvement with the games, with the possible exception of the marathon/walks, as I mentioned before, that are scheduled on July 18 only.

See From The Prez 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 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 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 Judy Cianchetti at 751-9223.

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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To clarify, I will NOT be using amateurs for ANY voice communication at the venues. This has been accomplished via the other means described above. This is your one chance to put the face of amateur radio "on the map", not just locally, but internationally, with the coverage we will have. Please disseminate this letter to all amateurs, clubs, and other amateur related organizations ASAP. Remember the deadline is rapidly approaching. I hope to see amateur radio involved with the games, but I will carry on my directive to provide a fully functioning volunteer EMS system regardless.

73, Greg, KE2VW

## Nike Base HF Club Station

Attendance at the club station on Mondays nights took a real nose dive during December. One night no one showed up besides the person opening up the station! We had other nights where only one or two people showed up!

We talked at the December meeting about changing the time we open the station. A straw poll taken by Bob WA2IQX indicated that people were interested in having the base open on Saturday afternoons. We also talked about featuring various modes on some nights such as RTTY, CW, HF Packet, slow scan and fast scan TV, etc. We will talk about it more at the January meeting.

What ever we decide to do, we need to get our participation back up, or it won't be worth the time of the people to go out and open up the station!

Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN have been working on installing new florescent lights and ceiling tiles in the social room. They have also been working on improving the insulation.

We will soon have a functioning packet station at the Nike Base to allow us to access bulletin boards, DX PacketClusters, etc.

## Project Builders?

Dennis Langheier K2CEC is looking for people interested in building radio equipment and other electronic projects. He would like to get the group to share experiences and ideas through meetings or possibly a net. If interested, contact Dennis at 652-4318.

## For Sale

Two Bedroom house with family room and two and one-half car garage. 100' by 225' lot. Located in the Town of Orchard Park. Nice high site on a hill ideally located for amateur radio. Comes with 48' tower. If interested, contact Craig Stoll WA2PCH at 662-9434.



# STARS



## Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Vice President	Ed Hollis	N2NUN
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
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Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Director	Shane Brady	WB2WPM

## Telstar

Editor	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
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## 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) 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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