

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 146 FEBRUARY, 1993

SAREX Flies In 1993!

The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) will fly aboard the Space Shuttles three times in the next three months. STS-55 is scheduled for launch on February 25, with STS-56 on March 23 and STS-57 on April 28.

STS-56 will be of special interest to WNY amateurs since its higher inclination angle will bring it much further north than the other two flights.

All SAREX flights will operate with split frequencies. The downlink frequencies for both voice and packet will be 145.55 Mhz. The uplink frequencies (your transmit frequencies) will be 144.49 Mhz for packet and 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 and 144.99 Mhz for voice. They are not to favor any uplink frequency, so it's luck of the draw. Don't transmit on packet or voice until you can first hear them. This is important because the voice uplink frequencies include popular packet frequencies in use locally.

If the first launch gets delayed so as to cause a conflict during the flight with the ARRL International DX Contest on March 6-7, the above voice uplink frequencies will not be used but rather 144.47 and 144.49 will be used for the entire mission.

We'll carry more information in next month's newsletter about these flights.

February Meeting

The February club meeting will be on Thursday, February 4 beginning at 7:30 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



The business meeting will cover topics such as remodeling at the Nike Base club station, progress on a 440 Mhz repeater, the STARS Packet BBS, and much more.

Our program will include a professional video on how to properly ground your station's equipment.

We will have a Bird Wattmeter available so people can check the power output of their HT's, mobile units and small amps. We also may have a frequency counter available.

Forget Something?

Do you have feeling that you forgot to do something? Is it keeping you awake at nights? Maybe its because you didn't remember to send in your 1993 dues! We've received them from over 200 people but some members are still procrastinating. When you don't receive your newsletter and your repeater codes don't work, you'll know we were talking about you!

Send your dues to Frank WG2H at 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206 along with the membership renewal form or a note stating your name, call, address, telephone number and license class. Do it 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 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.

From The Prez

Let me extend a welcome back to our 200+ members who have already renewed their memberships (as of the first week in January)! This year should prove to be an exciting one, with the upcoming activities STARS will be involved in.

The Nike Base will have the back room completed over the next few months, and we can setup our library facilities, which will eventually include video!

You will witness the birth of our new 440 Mhz repeater, which will have approximately the same encompassing coverage our 2 meter repeater has!

Field day this year should prove exciting, as we involve the club in planning our setup, which will include HF CW, HF SSB, VHF packet, VHF SSB, and VHF/UHF satellite. We also may have another Novice/Tech station setup, depending on band conditions.

Our BBS will shortly be supporting the international ham call database, so stay tuned for more details on that!

Keep your eyes and ears opened for a possible resumption of the STARS Novice/Technician class that was well received last year. Most of the former class are now ACTIVE STARS members!

I would like to once again thank Bill, N2GAO, for his yearly repeater presentation, which drew the collective attention of our 110 + members present. If attendance continues to break 100+ we will need to check into other options, to ensure adequate seating!

This month we will have an excellent presentation on grounding your station. No matter how well you think you have your station grounded, this tape which is commercially made, will open your eyes!!

I would ask each of you to come up with ideas on what you would like to see done with the operating station at the Nike Base. We are looking for ideas on the design of the operating table(s?), as well as the equipment desired. Please drop your ideas off in the suggestion box,

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, STARS did it again! We broke the all time attendance record at the January meeting, there were over 110 people attending! The main topic was the codes for the club repeater, and what is in store for the up-coming year in improvements. Bill N2GAO, our repeater chairman went through the different codes and how to access them in the right way. There was some talk about adding a remote receiver at the Nike Base to improve the repeater's reception of users located in and around Hamburg and Orchard Park.

The STARS packet BBS is working very well and more information is there for the asking.

Bob WA2IQX brought a "noise sniffer" which he built from an article in QST. It sure works very good. We put the fluorescent lights out in the room, and you could hear the noise level drop considerably. It can be used to locate interference in your neighborhood.

The social room in the Nike Base is undergoing an overhaul with new lights, painted walls, etc. Pay a visit some Monday evening. There is some talk about opening it up on Saturday afternoons instead of Monday evenings so see Bob WA2IQX Nike Base Chairman about it. By the way, use caution when driving back to the club house because the open winter and lots of rain has made certain areas very wet and soggy. Call Bob WA2IQX on the repeater before you go out there, and he will advise you where to park.

Well, with two nets on our repeater and one on 80 meters, it keeps the members very well informed about club activities. On Tuesday is the Swap Net; Wednesday is the information net; and Saturdays comes the low band net. These are informal nets and lots of info is passed out.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EJU

S9 + 60

We have been receiving complaints from some members that the signal strength test function on our repeater is being overused and is driving them crazy. After discussion on this topic, it was decided that the feature has many valuable uses so we would prefer not to delete it. Instead, we will try to get voluntary cooperation in reducing the usage.

If you have a legitimate need for the feature, such as testing a new antenna or a radio that wasn't working properly, then by all means go ahead and use it. But we need to stop some of the silly use, such as testing the radio in your car each day to see if it still works or testing from every room in your house to see if your HT can get into the repeater.



We thank you in advance for your help in this area!

VP Resigns

At the January Board of Directors meeting, Ed Hollis N2NUN announced his resignation as Vice President of our club.

This was necessary because Ed and his wife Melissa N2PPB will be moving to Florida in early February.

Acting in accord with rules in the constitution covering this type of situation, the Board appointed Bob Witt WA2IQX as interim Vice President until a special election can be held to fill the job. This special election will probably be at the February general meeting.

Both Ed and Missy have been very active in our club being involved in such projects as the Traders Net, the Pumpkin Patrol, Field Day, the CF bike trek, special event stations and satellite radio as well as many others.

Ed and Missy, we wish you the best of luck and will miss you!

Members Honored

At the December meeting, five club members were honored and presented special certificates for service to our club.

Elected as Life Members for outstanding service over an extended number of years was Bob Witt WA2IQX and Bill Siska N2GAO. Both men are past presidents of STARS and have served on the Board of Directors. Bob is particularly noted for his work on obtaining new and better equipment and antennas for the Nike Base club station and for the remodeling of both the outside and inside of the building. Bill has served for several years as Repeater Chairman and has provided the technical knowledge necessary to assemble all the equipment and maintain it in top form and was key in the work over the last year or more in researching and obtaining the new site for our repeater.

Elected as Honorary Members for 1993 were Jake Jakubowicz KB2NNN, Ken Britton K3WGA of W1VB and Terry Rockhold KM4XZ. Jake was honored for the great time and efforts he has spent on remodeling the Nike Base club station building. Ken was honored for his valuable assistance in the relocation of our repeater to its new site. Terry was honored for his work as editor of the Telstar.

Thanks go to these members as well as all the other members who donate their time and services to make our club what it is!

Outside the Ham Bands

With the recent tragic loss of the WGR traffic reporter and helicopter pilot, there has been increased interest in traffic reporting. You can listen in on their communications with their stations on your scanner or extended-receive ham transceiver.

WBEN can be found on 450.050 Mhz. Cheryl from the NFTA can be found on 450.700 Mhz giving reports for several stations. If WGR returns to the air, look for them on 455.250 Mhz.

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

at the upcoming meetings The operating area will be an extensive undertaking at the Nike Base, and will take some time to fully accomplish.

I need suggestions for this year's programs. I have some ideas laid out, but I want to hear yours! Again, if you can't get to me at the meeting, (as things get hectic for me while trying to keep the meetings proceeding on time), leave a note with your ideas in the suggestion box.

How about contributing an article for the Telstar. I have read numerous club bulletins, many of which have a regular technical column. I tried to start that with my article on proper Nicad charging two years ago, but I can't continue that on top of my other responsibilities for the club. Will you help me out by contributing?

This year set a New Year's resolution.. Become involved on at least one committee. You don't need ANY special skills, just a desire to have some fun, and who knows, you might just learn along the way! Don't have the time? I will never believe that one... not me! I promise those that do will not only enjoy the fun of working with fellow radio buffs, but will actually get MUCH MORE ENJOYMENT OUT OF THE HOBBY.(This has been a well kept secret only the directors and committee members have known!)

73, and see you at the February meeting,
Greg KE2VW

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!

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 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 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 March 27 and June 30, 1993 in Lockport, NY. For information, call Judy Cianchetti at 751-9223.

STARS now allows walk-ins, but most other sessions don't, 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.

BARRA Auction

The Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association (BARRA) will hold their annual auction on Monday, February 15 at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church at Brighton and Fries Roads across from Kenmore East High School in the Town of Tonawanda. The exact start time was not stated but we think it is around 7:30-8:00 PM. There is a \$.75 donation. Goods will be sold for you for a fee of 10% up to a maximum of \$5.00 per item.

They are also holding a raffle with the winner getting their choice of a Kenwood TH-28A or TH-47-A hand held. Call Doug KA2WFT at 833-8375 for more information.

Nike Base HF Club Station

Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN continue to do a great job on remodeling the back room of the station. New ceiling tiles and lights are in place, and the walls are painted a very nice shade of blue. They now are working on installing paneling on the bottom half of the walls. They are turning what was essentially a storage room with missing ceiling tiles, dirty lights and peeling paint into a beautiful social room.

We now have a functioning packet station at the club house. Thanks to donations of a TNC by Bill N2GAO and a terminal by Shane WB2WPM and help preparing cables from Bert KB2NVK, we are now able to access the STARS BBS, the local WYNDXA PacketCluster, etc. Look for WB2ELW on the packet airwaves!

The club station was open January 23 and 24 for the annual Snowfest at the Nike Base.

Donations

We would like to thank Tom N2KBI, Ray N2AZZ and James WG2G for recent donations for our repeater and/or packet operations.

Bob WA2IQX, Nike Base Chairman, has asked that members consider donating equipment or other items in working or repairable condition that we could sell or use to help pay for our extensive remodeling projects at the station. I'm sure he would also accept money! To discuss this further, please contact Bob at 648-4274.

Upgrades

We have been notified of the following changes in license class since our last roster:

Frank KA2EUS is a Technician.

Mick N2PZX is an Advanced.

Fred KA2TTP is a Technician.

Paul KB2PFL is a Technician.



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

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 Aves.) 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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