

# telstar



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

ISSUE 147

MARCH, 1993

## SAREX Update

STS-55, Space Shuttle Columbia, welcomes aboard their fifth Amateur Radio-licensed crew member. Charlie Precourt, Mission Specialist, just received call letters, KB5YSQ. Originally set for launch February 25, STS-55 has been delayed for a mid-March launch.

The STS-55 Spacelab D2 mission will feature two sets of ham radio equipment. The SAFEX hardware will be operated within the Spacelab module, using an external antenna attached to the rear end cone. The SAREX hardware will be operated within the crew cabin using the window mounted antenna in its packet mode, and can be operated using either antenna for voice mode.

An antenna propagation test will be performed on two passes over a Florida ground station. The test will be coordinated by the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club. On orbit 61 the internal window mounted antenna will transmit and on the following orbit the Spacelab external antenna will be used. The downlink frequency will be 145.55 Mhz.

Steve Oswald, STS-56 Space Shuttle Discovery Pilot, also recently passed his Amateur Radio exam and received the call letters KB5YSR. This makes the second all-ham crew in history. The first occurred with Ken Cameron's STS-37 flight in April 1991. Ken will be commanding STS-56.

No word has been given regarding new launch dates for STS-56 and STS-57. We will bring you further details as we receive them.

## March Meeting

The March club meeting will be held on Thursday March 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Aves.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Note: by a vote of the membership at the February meeting, all club meetings will now

begin at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM!

Dennis Uminski N2HP of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will present a proram about the Coast Guard and amateur radio.

The entire progress of the missions from launch to landing can be observed on television if you have a satellite dish. Direct the dish to the SATCOM F2R satellite at 72 degrees west longitude. Tune into NASA Select, transponder 13, 3960 megahertz.

NASA SPACELINK provides information about current and historic NASA programs, lesson plans, the text from previous Mission Watch and Mission Highlights fact sheets. Anyone with a personal computer, modem, communications software, and a long distance telephone line can communicate directly with NASA SPACELINK. Use your computer to dial 205-895-0028 (8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit). NASA SPACELINK may also be accessed through Internet through the following address: [spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov](http://spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov)

# ★ 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 Dennis K2CEC.

## From The Prez

Congratulations are in order for our new (old?) Vice President, WA2IQX, Bob Witt. I am sure he will continue to give his usual 125% +, on our behalf.

The Nike Base is moving right along. Wait until you visit the Base, and see our new meeting room, freshly painted, and paneled! It is more inviting than most recreation rooms!

The club had another new arrival. I am referring to its second 2 meter repeater, located in Perrysburg, providing coverage to the Southern tier. The transmit/receive pair is 146.97/37, with a PL access of 107.2 Mhz. The PL was a condition of its receiving approval from the Western NY Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC). It has the honor of receiving the LAST 2 meter frequency pair to be coordinated in our region! (unless other pairs are given up.) The call of the repeater is KE2VW. It is a full function voice repeater, including digital voice, an auto patch (yet to be set up), and a link which is to be set up later this year. Use the machine when travelling South, or when 147.09/79 is busy. It is usable consistently from Hamburg --> South, although its range along the Western part of Erie County is solid for quite a distance! This is significant since its elevation is only 1150 feet, with its antenna sitting on the roof of a 2 story pole barn!

The STARS BBS has moved back to traditional "packet territory", calling its newly coordinated frequency of 145.05 Mhz home. The second 2 meter user port on 144.91 Mhz is linked to provide access to the BBS through a 9600 baud backbone that has been plagued with link failure problems. The reason has been identified, but is not easily correctable, so it will be hit or miss for the next several months.

As promised, with the return of the CD ROM from the factory, the International callbook is now back on-line, and working much faster than before. It lists 350,000 hams from 66 countries, not a complete listing, but a start. Try it next time you're connected to the BBS.

The presentation this month will be given by Dennis Uminski, N2HP, of the Coast Guard Auxillary. His program will focus on Ham Radio, and the Coast Guard, and should prove to

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The February meeting was very informative with lots of programs. One that was very impressive was the display and VCR addition to show how to do a proper grounding job on all electronic units around your house. It was very thorough and educational also.

Bob WA2IQX, our Nike Base Chairman, is also as of the March meeting our new Vice President to replace Ed N2NUN who leaves us to take up a new QTH in Florida. We wish him well and he promises to still keep in touch with us. By the way, Bob has started a mini flea market at our meetings. He will welcome all donations of your surplus equipment. The proceeds will go to pay for the remodeling of our Nike Base club rooms, so help out if possible.

Greg KE2VW, our president, would like to start the meetings at 7:00 PM in order that all of the business can be taken care of.

By the way, Dennis K2CEC took over the Swap net on Tuesday on our repeater at 7:30 PM. So

if you have anything to trade or wish to purchase pertaining to amateur radio, why not join him. I know he will do a good job as he is well versed in this field.

As this article is being written, the STARS BBS is in the process of moving to another frequency so if you use it, keep tuned to our repeater for the latest info. (Editors Note: The BBS can now be found on 145.050 Mhz.)

You know, Terry KM4XZ is doing a very nice job with the newsletter, but remember that it is up to you members to assist him. One thing that would be a big step in the right direction would be a technical column. I am sure that there are a few members that could get together and put out one each month. It is nice to get new input, and it sure would be appreciated by the members. So get in touch with Terry, and he will tell you if he can copy diagrams, etc. to make a very nice column.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

### STARS In The News

Two STARS members were mentioned in an article entitled "Digital Satellite Gateway Nodes" written by John Hansen WA0PTV from Fredonia which appeared in the March issue of 73 Amateur Radio Today.

Ken KE2SR is mentioned in the opening paragraph as an example of a ham with simple packet equipment who communicates with hams around the world through satellite Oscar 22.

The secret is, of course that he sends the messages through John's Satellite Gateway Node. John addressed our club last year on this same subject. In fact, these messages can be sent and received by using our STARS BBS.

Tony KB2OUT also received a brief mention in the directory file used to illustrate the article.

John recently suffered a heart attack and is now recovering at home. We send our best wishes to him!

### Novice/Tech Training Classes

STARS will host Novice-Tech training classes starting Saturday March 13 at the Hamburg Youth Center (where we have our monthly meetings). The classes will run from 9 AM to 11:30 AM for 10 weeks.

For more information and to sign up, call Mark KE2YQ at 823-6431.

If you are unable to make classes on Saturdays, the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will be holding novice and Tech training classes starting on Thursday March 4 at 7 PM at the Aurora Middle School, 148 Aurora Street, Lancaster, NY.

For more information on LARC's classes, or to register, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592 or Vern Siegel AA2AC at 634-5276 or 693-5977.

## STARS Raffle

STARS will be holding a very special raffle at their April meeting! The prize to be given away will be an AEA PK-88 packet radio TNC from East Coast Amateur Radio. The PK-88 is one of the most widely used packet controllers in the world and features a built-in 18K maildrop that you can use as a "mini-BBS". It can be used with low cost dumb terminals or with various computers. It will work with software from simple public domain terminal programs to very sophisticated Host-mode programs such as PK-Gold. If you want to get into the exciting world of packet radio, here is your opportunity!



Tickets will be sold at the March and April STARS meetings. They will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. If you can't make it to either meeting bit want tickets, send a check made out to STARS to Shane Brady WB2WPM, 34 Rosewood Drive, West Seneca, NY 14224. Shane will assign tickets to you and let you know if you are the winner.

If this raffle goes well and raises some money for the club, we will consider raffling other nice amateur radio items, so how about helping out!

## Morse Code Dead?

Both the IMO (International Maritime Organization which controls shipping on the high seas) and now the Coast Guard are discontinuing manual CW. "Effective August 1, 1993, all U. S. Coast Guard Communications Stations and Cutters will discontinue watchkeeping on the distress frequency 500 KHZ and will cease all Morse code services in the medium frequency radiotelegraphy band." (Excerpted from Notice to Mariners, January 5, 1993, U. S. Coast Guard.)

from W5YI Report, February 15, 1993

## For Sale

Drake tube-type transceiver TR 4Cw/RIT sewrial # 44756 With power pack ACR. Tuned and cleaned by Hirsch 11/92. Includes filter MS4 and TV 3300LP. \$400 or best offer.

Contact Eugene O'Connor KA2DPR at 633-8228 or write to 87 Barbary Lane, Buffalo, NY 14221-3113.

ICOM IC-3200 Dual band VHF/UHF FM mobile transceiver. Contact Paul Shephard N2MGG at 648-9610.

## HF Contests

Two significant HF contests will occur during March: The ARRL International DX SSB Contest on March 6-7 and the CQ WorldWide WPX SSB Contest on March 27-28.

Check in QST or CQ Magazines for details on the contests.

For those of you who are new to the HF bands, this is an excellent way for you to work new countries. You don't have to be intimidated by the rapid pace. Pick out a station that you want to work who has a good signal. Listen to him long enough to get down his full call and his reply to stations. Then when he isn't too busy, give your call sign (phonetically) once or twice. Hopefully, he will come back with your call sign and his reply. You then give him your reply (check in the above-mentioned magazines to see what that is). Remember, he is trying to work as many stations as possible, so he doesn't want your name, your QTH, or even a signal report unless it is called for in the reply.

Friday nights at the start of the contest are usually the hardest time to make contacts because of the competition. If you are new or have a small station, try later in the contest. The station in Morocco who has a huge pile-up on Friday night may very well be calling CQ and looking for someone to work on Sunday.

## Amateur Radio Examinations

**STARS** will hold an amateur radio test session on April 7, 1993 in Hamburg, NY. For information, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on 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 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.

Most sessions except for **STARS** 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.

## ARRL Hotline For Prospective Hams

If you have had people ask you for information about what amateur radio is all about and how they can get involved, now the ARRL has a resource of information to help answer their questions.

The ARRL Educational Activities Department now has a toll-free number for prospective new amateurs: 800-32-NEW-HAM (800-326-3942). Staff members will answer calls and questions from 8AM - 5PM EST M-F; and an answering machine will be on the line at other times. The number is EXCLUSIVELY for the use of NONHAMERS.

## From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

be quite interesting. Rumor has it he is looking for help with an Auxiliary radio station!

The work on the 440 repeater is coming along, as is the "remote receiver", to be set up at the Nike Base. N2GAO, and KA2RFT decided to make this a fun, learning experience, by building the 2 meter cavities themselves, which is an ambitious project to say the least!

With the departure of N2NUN, Ed Hollis, our 2 meter swap net has been graciously taken over by Dennis, K2CEC, who will be your host and net control for this weekly net.

Mark, KE2YQ has volunteered to coordinate our spring Novice/Technician course, which will start on Saturday, March 13th, at 9am. The classes will be held at the Community Center, where we hold our monthly meetings, and will run for 10 weeks, on Saturdays from 9-11:30am. If any of you would like to join us, and help teach get a hold of Mark. He can be reached at 823-6431.

Please spread the word to your potential ham friends. Joining in the fun of ham radio has never been easier!

See you at the meeting, Greg KE2VW

## Nike Base HF Club Station

Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN continue to work on remodeling the back room of the club station. They are currently working on completing the paneling of the lower half of the walls.

Bob addressed the members at the February club meeting to explain the project and to ask for donations of equipment to help pay for the remodeling.

We would like to thank Bill Hoffman KB2PAR and Bob Sendor KB2JHY for their recent donations.



# STARS



## Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Vice President	Bob Witt	WA2IQX
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Director	Shane Brady	WB2WPM

## 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 Aves.) at 7:00 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