

telstar



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

ISSUE 149

MAY, 1993

Shuttle 56, Where Were You?

Having been telling our readers about the up-coming shuttle SAREX missions for the last few months, we were very glad to see STS-56 finally blast off early in the morning on Thursday April 8. In particular, this was the mission that we were watching for in WNY because its high inclination (the angle the orbit makes with the equator) would bring it much further north than the STS-55 or STS-57 missions. Also, all five crew members had amateur radio licenses!

For the first two days, we didn't hear anything; but that was somewhat to be expected since the astronauts had to get all of their work underway. Then on Saturday, we received word that the shuttle had made the first successful contact on amateur radio with the Russian space station Mir. Well, that made it clear that they had the equipment out and working.

Unfortunately, the timing of the orbit meant that the best passes for WNY were occurring around midnight to 2 AM and from about 6 to 8 AM. People were setting their alarm clocks to get up for the 2 AM pass and then again for the 6 AM pass! What did they hear? Well, there was a lot of static. If you left your packet radio tuned to the frequency for several hours, you had a good chance of copying packet from Mir. What we weren't hearing was voice or packet from STS-56! More than one person wondered if their receiver was broken!

Where were they? Nobody seems to know so far. We saw a couple of packet reports of some

May Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6 starting at 7 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Aves.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Dennis Langheier K2CEC and Craig WA2PCH will put on a program on Amateur

Television. We hope to have a live transmission between the Nike Base Club Station and the Youth Center!

STARS Tee Shirts!

Want something to wear to Field Day or hamfests this summer to show off your pride in STARS? Why of course you do! And we have just what you are looking for, a STARS club tee shirt! These will be heavyweight 50% cotton - 50% polyester shirts in royal blue with 2-color (red and white) imprinting. We hope to have a copy of the artwork at the May meeting.

How can you get one of these great shirts? Why, see Terry KM4XZ at the May meeting. If you can't make the May meeting, call Terry at 656-0865 by May 13 to place your order. It is important that we receive as many orders as possible by this time so we can reach the minimum order quantity and have the shirts ready by the June meeting for you to wear to Field Day, etc.

The shirts will be \$10 for Small to X-Large, \$11 for 2X and \$12 for 3X. This price will let us give you a very nice shirt and also make a profit for the club for a fund-raiser.

★ 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

Many thanks go out to KA2RFT and his SKYWARN associates for an enjoyable presentation at the last meeting. The weather was presented in a very understandable fashion to all present.

This month's meeting will prove to be very interesting as Dennis, K2CEC, and Craig, WA2PCH plan a 2 way ATV demonstration between the Community Center, and the Nike Base, which will allow the large group attending our meetings access to the interior of the Nike Base, by TV, if all goes as expected.

The STARS VE team completed its first year with myself serving as VE liaison with our April 7th test session. This session proved to be most interesting, as this was our first session EVER to have ALL walkins! We had 10 candidates, 8 of which were entirely successful in their attempts to upgrade their licensing.

Congratulations go out to Robert Dudek, who upgraded to Amateur Extra; Marc Bach, who upgraded to Advanced; John Evans, who upgraded to General; and finally David Breier, Paul Wukovits, Vince Jurca, & Nicholas Polcz, all of whom upgraded to Technician.

Many, many thanks to our VEs over this last year: Norm Jones, KD2KK; Guz Guzanski, WB2EZU; Pat Murray, NW2I; Joe Prockton, N2BGJ; Richard Hallett, ND2C; Shane Brady, WB2WPM; Paul Wendzikowski, WA2IJW; Anne Fanelli, W2IG; Bob Ward, K2PPK; and a very special thank you to Dick Haungs, W2UJR, who served as our previous liaison, and managed to get me "hooked" into all this!

We need volunteers to serve on our Field Day Committee, which is chaired by John Leitten, KA2RFT. He is looking for members wishing to help schedule operators for Field Day, esp. in the evening, to avoid people driving out late at night to find all operating positions occupied! We are planning 3A (3 HF stations, one of which will be dedicated CW; packet; satellite; and I hear there is a ground swell to set up a QRP station). If we separate our stations the QRM may be contained enough to allow the QRP station to operate!

Some ideas that need to be explored include COMPUTER logging/DUPE checking... which is much faster, (one station, at least); antenna

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, let's start off with a reminder to look at your Amateur Radio license and see when it expires. It's very easy to forget to renew it. There is a 60-day lag between renewal and getting your license. The FCC does not notify you of its status. They leave it up to you to take care of it.

Well, antenna weather is upon us and hope everyone is going to take advantage of it to upgrade your outside antennas or else put up a new one.

There are a lot of new sounding calls on the air as most countries update their calls. If you get an unfamiliar call, get in touch with Kash WB2RAJ. He tries to keep abreast of all the call changes and will put you straight on its country listing.

The hamfest season is now upon us. Try to attend at least one this year. Rochester is on May 21-22-23 this year. Then there is the Lancaster Club hamfest and also Batavia. Don't forget the Buffalo Hamfest at the Erie County Fairgrounds, also. Gowanda has a nice and friendly hamfest also and so does PROS. It is nice to meet your friends that you talk to on the air and have an eye ball QSO. There might be more hamfests from some of the other clubs but as yet no info on them.

Don't forget to patronize the mini-flea market that Bob WA2IQX operates at every meeting. If you bring something and it doesn't sell, donate it to the club and Bob will put the money in the treasury, HI HI!

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Letter To The Editor

I am writing this letter to bring attention to one of your Ham Radio club members, my sister, Judy Miller KB2AQF. I know that she is involved in your club activities and volunteers her time to many of your civic activities. She often enlightens us not only of her Ham Radio skills, and with her nursing skills as well. She has always been a most caring and giving person towards the people she has touched in her life, her family and her friends.

But most recently, my younger brother was involved in a critical car accident. She was at his side through the 11 hour surgery, and each day spends hours attending to his care. My brother suffered many head, facial and other injuries, and my sister is there every day to take care of his tracheostomy, and all of his physical care. My family was very scared, but she explained everything that was happening to my brother in a way that we could understand. She went out of her way to construct a communication board to help him talk to us. I for one never realized her capabilities until we all saw for ourselves first hand. My family is very proud of her.

Sincerely,
Tom Jankowski and Family

Rochester Hamfest

The Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show, the largest show of its kind in this area, will begin noon Friday May 21 and run through Sunday May 23. If you have items to sell or buy or just want to see the latest in ham and computer equipment, this is a show you won't want to miss!

This show is combined with the Atlantic Division/New York State ARRL Convention. ARRL President George S. Wilson W4OYI is scheduled to be the featured speaker at the banquet on Saturday night. He will be joined by Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director; Kay Craigle WT3P, Atlantic Division Vice Director; and the Hudson Division Director and Vice Director in an ARRL Forum to be held at noon on Saturday and is open to all.

The hamfest will be again at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, Route 15A and Calkins Road in the town of Henrietta, NY. The official talk-in repeater is the 146.88/.28 (output/input) machine.

On your trip over from the Buffalo area, you will usually find STARS members on our 147.09 repeater or the 145.31 machine.

STARS Raffle

The raffle held at the April meeting was a big success!

Nels H. Samuelson, Jr. was the lucky winner of the AEA PK-88 packet radio TNC.

This was the first time that we tried offering a larger prize for a raffle, and due to the great response that we received from members and non-members, alike, it won't be the last.

Everyone had a chance to win a great prize and it was a very successful fund raiser for the club. Thanks go to Shane Brady WB2WPM who worked so hard on this project!

Amateur Television

Anyone interested in learning more about amateur TV should contact Dennis K2CEC at 652-4318 or talk to him at the May club meeting.

New Land Line BBS

I have the pleasure of announcing a new land line BBS, courtesy of Mike, N2LBV. His BBS has a amateur radio section, and his mail section is almost exclusively amateur radio related. The BBS is available from 21:00 - 06:00 local time at 716-496-8241. He did not give me the baud rate, but I would assume it to be at least 2400 baud, with the usual 8,n,1.

73, Greg, SysOp of KE2VW.#WNY.NY. USA.NA

PS For questions reach him via packet: N2LBV@KA2ZMC.#WNY.NY.USA.NA

For Sale

Cushcraft 13B2 2 meter beam to the best offer. It is in mint condx and was up in the air for three months last summer.

Contact Peter KB2NMV at 631-5916.

New Editor

No, not for the Telstar! Peter Vasilion KB2NMV is the new editor of the newsletter of the Western New York DX Association (WNYDXA). Peter is also a STARS member.

Peter has done a super job on his first two issues, and we wish him the best of luck!

Donations

Many thanks to Jim Cicatello N2MEP for the generous donation of several great books for our library at the Nike Base Club Station.

We also want to thank Bob Sendor KB2JHY for donating money to buy a new coffee pot at the Nike Base Club Station.

IBM Computer

The club was able to obtain an IBM personal computer for a minimal cost from a company liquidation sale through Terry KM4XZ.



The computer is an IBM PS/2 Model 30 286, with a 30 meg hard drive, 1 meg internal memory, 3 and 1/2 inch floppy drive, VGA color display adapter and an IBM 14 inch VGA color monitor.

We will base the computer at the Nike Base Club Station. It can be used for packet radio, computer logging, CW practice drills, amateur radio theory exam studies, satellite tracking, and many other functions.

STARS Board of Directors

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

Amateur Radio Examinations

For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on May 19 and June 16, 1993 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on 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 a test session on 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 Noise exams only should contact John Leitten KA2RFT at 648-0341 or write to Dick Haungs W2UJR, 11315 Cary Road, Alden, NY 14004-9547.

Repeater Warning

The Board of Directors at their last meeting addressed an issue of repeater usage that could be significant to you someday.

Are you going to be going on vacation one of these nice warm sunny days? You wouldn't take out an ad in the local

CAUTION

newspaper to say you weren't going to be at your home, would you? Why not? Well, you certainly don't want to come back home to is a house that has been hit by thieves.

It is important when talking on the repeater to remember that your casual comments about an upcoming vacation, business trip, etc. can be heard of a large area of WNY by amateurs and non-amateurs alike. Don't advertise that your house is going to be vacant!

For the same reason, you shouldn't volunteer that someone else is out of town either!

STS-56

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people down in Texas copying them on voice and some Canadians out west copying them on packet. We've also seen reports from other people who heard nothing after monitoring many passes. It seems pretty obvious that they didn't operate nearly as much as previous SAREX crews. Of course, this isn't one of their primary functions. Nevertheless, it was pretty disappointing. Supposedly they were going to have the automated robot operate packet when they were too busy for voice, but this apparently didn't happen.

Of course, there are those old rumors that they never really did go to the moon; but rather that they shot the pictures in an isolated blimp hanger in Nevada!

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

configurations, etc. We have 2 HF (club) rigs, but we could use at least 1 more, in addition to a QRP rig. Who will volunteer to setup a satellite station this year??, and how about packet??... The questions continue, and the time grows short. Any ideas of other things you would like to see/do??... come to our board meeting, or let us know by the next club meeting.

This is an event for ALL club members, regardless of skills, and remember that ALL can operate HF, within the priviledges of the control operators present (which always include many Extras, and Advanced class operators), so this is YOUR chance to get a shot at operating HF during a REAL contest. I guarantee each of you coming out will learn quite a bit new, and have a lot of fun while doing it.

Oh, by the way, we will see if David (with his slingshot) can beat Goliath (with his bow and arrow), during the antenna raising activities. That last statement seem cryptic to you??... then come out in the morning to see just what that means. I predict it will at the very least be a tie... eh John?!

73, see you at the May meeting,
Greg KE2VW



STARS



Club Repeaters

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.

The southern club repeater (KE2VW/R) is located in Perrysburg, NY (146.97/.37 output/input, with PL access of 107.2 Mhz). This also is an open repeater.

Club Packet

The club BBS (KE2VW-5) is located in Colden, NY. On 145.71 Mhz: C KE2VW-5, on 144.91 Mhz: C STARS, then C BUFALO, then C KE2VW-5.

The STARS node (KB2YJ-4) is located at the Nike Base HF Station and is found on 144.91 Mhz.

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

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