

telstar



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

ISSUE 151

JULY, 1993

Field Day Is Here!

Yes, Field Day is upon us!

We will begin setting up at 11 AM on Saturday June 26 in the field behind the Moose Lodge on Church St. in Hamburg. Call us on our 147.090 repeater for directions.

You won't want to miss the set up. We will be raising all types of antennas, setting up generators, preparing the different operating stations, etc.

We will begin operating a 2 PM and will continue for 24 hours.

Operations will be on SSB, CW, packet, VHF, UHF, satellites, etc. This is a great chance for you to see all types of operations.

We will be operating in a low key manner and will try to give everyone a chance to operate.

The air waves will be alive with stations operated by clubs across the US and Canada.

John Leitten, Field Day Chairman, likes to say that this is a chance for everyone to go home a little better operator!

So, come on out and join us whenever you can. This can be for the whole 24 hours, or just and hour or two if that's all you can spend. We will be there night and day, so you've got no excuse!

And make sure you wear your new red, white and blue STARS tee shirts! See you there!

July Meeting

The July club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday July 1 at the STARS Nike Base HF Club Station on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20. All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

You are invited

Here is a change for you to see all the improvements made at the club station and hear about the latest club activities.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Bring lawn chairs to sit on as the meeting will be outside.

In case of bad weather, listen to the 147.090 repeater for possible rescheduling.

STARS Raffle

The raffle will offer your choice of Kenwood's TH28A or the TH48A handheld transceiver. The TH28A is a 2 meter 2.5 W (5 W opt.) handy with 440 receive capabilities; the TH48A is a 440 2 W (5 W opt.) with 2 meter receive capabilities or \$250 cash. Also included will be the SMC-33 remote speaker mike, with remote control capabilities and volume, and the PG-33 filtered cigar lighter cord (will allow full 5 Watts while mobile). Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at the Buffalo Hamfest in September. East Coast Radio is to be thanked for generously helping with this raffle. Tickets will be available at the club meetings. Here is another way to support your club, and maybe even win a great prize package.



★ 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 Tues. 7/6, 7/20, 8/3, 8/17, and 8/31 on the 147.09 repeater. Net control is Dennis K2CEC.

From The Prez

FIELD DAY:

As the weekend of June 26th approaches ham minds everywhere focus on Field Day, 1993. Look elsewhere in this issue for information on this event. I expect to see a large showing, with a "sea" of red, white and blue tee shirts that day. Bring your rigs, antennas, coax, generators, power supplies, etc which will all come in handy. 3 trailers will protect our equipment and operators alike

EACH of you will have as much opportunity as you like to operate voice, CW, packet, etc on all bands, regardless of your license class. What a way for a "no-code" technician to "talk to the world"!

VE SESSIONS:

Our VE sessions have been set for the 1993-1994 year, and are as follows: 9/25/93, 12/11/93, 3/26/94 and 6/11/94. All will begin at 9 am at the Hamburg Youth Center. Contact Norm Jones at 824-1148 for information.

Note that the location has been moved to the Hamburg Youth Center on Prospect and Hawkins Avenues, where we hold our club meetings. ALL sessions will be held on Saturday mornings.

The sessions ARE OPEN TO WALK-INS, who MUST be there by 9 am. Pre-registered applicants may arrive at 9:45 am. The exams will start promptly at 10:00 am. Ve(s), other than myself will arrive about 9:30 am.

ALL NOVICE EXAMS MUST now be administered in accredited VE sessions. There is NO charge for those taking elements 2 (novice theory), or 1A (5 wpm Morse Code). This includes "no-code" technicians taking the 1A to upgrade to "Technician with HF".

The test fee for all other elements will be \$5.60 for each test session attended. I am often asked whether a failed element can be repeated. The answer is yes, if enough time is left in the session to accommodate this, and if you pay ANOTHER test registration fee of \$5.60.

General class licenses, and above, may serve as VE(s), upon successful completion of an open

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

This is written after the Lancaster Hamfest, and I think everyone enjoyed themselves at it. Weather was a little warm and lot of bargains were around.

Next Hamfest is the Batavia hamfest in Alexander on July 11, and it is also a very good place to go also, so try to make it if possible. It was nice to see some of the STARS tee shirts at the hamfest, and Terry promises to have some more ready for the up-coming Field Day, so see him for yours.

By the way, I am putting up a new Mosley beam and would like to have 3 or 4 members to assist me in raising the tower. It is a one-hour job. If weather conditions are satisfactory, I will try to get it up on Friday June 25 at 6 PM (good practice for Field Day. Hi! Hi!). Will have scanner on for directions to anyone that gets lost.

Now, make sure you read the Telstar and the meeting place for July. Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN and the crew should be very proud of the remodeling that was done, and now STARS

has a top shelf club room to be proud of. Also don't forget to pick up a few tickets from Shane WB2WPM for the new club raffle which will be on for several months.

There is a very interesting article in the July QST page 75 on a call sign program which sounds very interesting. Hope we can take advantage of it.

Please remember to bring in your outgoing QSL card and give them to Kash WB2RAJ so that you can get your return cards faster. Do not know whether the mini flea market will be held at the Nike Base or not. Sure hope so.

By the way, Dennis K2CEC still has the Tuesday night swap net on our repeater. At present it is every other week due to a drop in available articles.

So please reserve June 25 Friday at 6 PM to help me get my beam up on the tower.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZX

MS Bike Classic

STARS members joined with ARATS members and other WNY amateur radio operators on June 5 and 6 to provide communications for the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Classic.

Despite a pouring rain, 130 riders started the event Saturday morning. Fortunately, Sunday turned out to be beautiful.

Terry KM4XZ served as this year's coordinator for communications. ARATS member Jim N2OSL and STARS member Mike WA2HEV did a great job both days as net controllers. Dave K2ECK did his usual job with providing communications from his sweep bike.

Other hams provided communications at rest stops as well as riding with Emergency Medical Technicians and We Care sag wagons. Other STARS members included: Gary KB2ESN, Gene N2OBW, Bob K2PPK, Clare N2RJB, Jay N2MHD, Ralph N2UKU, Jim N2MEP, Tony KB2OUT (with Sandi), Ron KC2P and Jack

(also known as John) KB2ESM. Other ARATS members included: Benjamin N2UIT, Sharon N2UBV and Richard KB2PRT. Also providing assistance was Bill N2JQG.

The communicators want to thank STARS for the use of the 147.090 repeater during the event. The repeater turned out to have great coverage throughout the course.

This type of public service event is great experience for emergency communications and is a lot of fun to boot!

Florida Friends

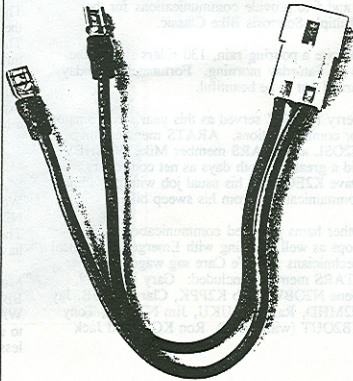
We received packet messages from Ed Hollis N2NUN and Missy Hollis N2PPB recently. They are doing well now in Florida. Also, they have a new Sheltie dog.

Messages can be sent to them via the KE2VW BBS. Send the message to N2NUN @ WA2LKI.#VENFL.FL.USA.NA We were able to send them a message and receive one back in less than 24 hours later!

New Dog Learns Old Tricks

Several years ago I thought I had invented something useful for hooking up power cords to ALL items that use 12 VDC. "Molex"-type connectors insure that polarity is maintained and shorts don't occur. What I didn't know was that there was an unofficial "standard" for source, load and polarity. So I invented my own "standard". To my surprise, mine is EXACTLY OPPOSITE the standard suggested in the article to the right. The need is clear - in an emergency, hams can patch gear together quickly and safely. Note that a larger, high-current model is available, preferable to the crude "lash-ups" we sometimes have to use with large HF rigs.

The photo below shows a typical power cord ready to attach to the spade lugs of a gel battery I use for portable and backup. When I get a chance, I'll re-configure my cords to THIS standard. Other patterns work great for speakers, low-voltage AC, etc.

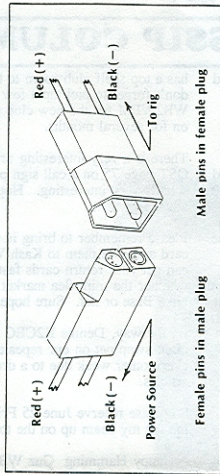


12V connector recommendation

As a result of a study commissioned by the League's volunteer resources committee last year, the field services department is recommending the MOLEX Series 1545 connector for use in promoting compatibility and interchangeability among personal VHF/UHF radio equipment at disaster and public event sites. Polarity should always be verified prior to connecting

W6TET, of San Diego, California, says:

"I agree completely. I have been using this connector for many years since the ICOM IC230 came out with this connector installed. All the 12V equipment in our San Diego Mountain Rescue Team is fitted with this connector. We buy this connector in bulk quantities from a local parts store.



Female pins in male plug

Male pins in female plug

radios and power supplies.

The 1545 connector is rated at 25V, 8A. Wire size requirement is #18 AWG or greater. An in-line fuse between the power source and first connector is recommended. The connector is available at Radio Shack stores part #274-222. —The ARRL Field Forum

Readers have requested that we be more explicit in the proper recommended wiring for this connector. Here we've included the diagram which thoroughly explains the proper wiring.

As an added note, Ivan Simpson,

"After many years of rough use, it may be necessary to bend the connector sleeve slightly to close the gap and provide a tight fit. It is important for the recommendation to standardize the connector polarity. We make the pointed side positive as was done in the IC230. There is a tool available to push the pins and sleeves out of the shell. This allows reusing connectors or changing polarity." □

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold test sessions on September 25 and December 1, 1993 and March 26 and June 11, 1994 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues). Walk-ins should arrive by 9 AM and pre-registered candidates should arrive by 9:45 AM. The tests start at 10 AM. For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15 1993 and January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18 and June 15, 1994 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4, 1993 and January 8, February 5, March 5, April 9, May 7 and June 11, 1994 in N. 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 July 17, and October 30, 1993 and January 29 and April 30, 1994 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.

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

book examination, included with the VE handbook. To get your handbook call the ARRL to register as a potential VE at 1-800-927-7583.

REPEATER NEWS:

The Perrysburg repeater is down, for modification to expand to a linked 2 meter 440 repeater system! This will be down for the next 30 days or so. The 2 meter input/output will continue to be 146.37/146.97 with a PL tone (subaudible) of 107.2 Hz. The 440 input/output will 448.000/443.000 Mhz, and will be OPEN, without PL requirements! This should expand the

availability of repeater services to our Southern tier amateurs, in providing this new linked repeater!

Our Colden and Hamburg machines are well under way to completion. N2GAO will brief you at our next club meeting.

Work on the Nike Base, discussed at the April club meeting is also well under way, and should be completed soon. This will also be discussed at our next club meeting which will be held at the Nike Base, at 7 pm, on Thursday July 1st. Come out and see first hand the changes and additions we are making out there!

BBS NEWS:

The BBS now has the complete SAMS database access system, allowing accessing US amateur by NAME as well as callsign! Although we have a complete Canadian database, the server does not support lookup by name of our neighbors.

A new CD-ROM device was obtained allowing the international callsign database to resume. A complete list of countries on-line is available in the help section of the BBS (the new HELPVW server I wrote).

I am presently working with WA0PTV on a digital transfer system, which is up and running on VW at the present, to allow automatic transfer of binary files, including pictures and voice, from his BBS to ours. This will save the trouble of connecting directly to his BBS, when you live in a marginal area.

As most of you on packet already know, in addition to our link to direct HF forwarding via K2PPH, we have additionally setup a direct link to the WNY Packet Cluster via KN2M, who is located on our STARS-KE2VW backbone frequency. This now allows you DIRECT access to the WNY Packet Cluster via STARS!!! To access the cluster: C STARS, then C KN2M. To access the BBS: C STARS, then C BUFALO, then C KE2VW-5. This may be simplified soon as well.

73 for now, and I'll see you on Field Day (before and after the wedding I have to go to that day!),

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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