

telstar



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

ISSUE 152

AUGUST, 1993

Repeater Phone Bill Woes

Over one year ago, NYNEX revised the way in which their system handles long distance calls being made within the 716 Area Code. Previously the caller was notified, by message, that they "must first dial a one" when making the call. The requirement for the "one" is no longer necessary. This means that in some instances, long distance calls can be made, within the 716, without the caller's knowledge. This situation also exists with the repeater's autopatch.

Over the past 3 months, several "long distance" calls were made on our autopatch. These calls were placed to Gowanda, Arcade and Pendleton, having telephone exchanges of 532, 492, and 625 respectively. The one number repeatedly called was an Arcade number. By reviewing the repeater phone bill, it is easy to see that the caller did not know that these were long distance calls, however, each call resulted in extra charges to the club.

It is up to the caller to determine whether a call being made is long distance or not, from our repeater located in Colden. If you are unsure, **DON'T MAKE THE CALL!** Most people will say; "How am I supposed to know if the call will be a toll call?" How do we know when we dial from our home phones? The phone company has left that up to us, the



August Meeting

The August club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday August 5 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.

After a brief business meeting, we will chow down on hot dogs and hamburgers. Pop will be available for 50 cents.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Bring lawn chairs to sit on as the meeting will be outside. In case of bad weather, listen to the 147.09 repeater for possible rescheduling.

STARS Raffle

Don't forget that STARS is holding a great raffle! The raffle will offer your choice of Kenwood's TH28A or the TH48A handheld transceiver or \$250 in cash. 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. 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. This package lists for over \$500! East Coast Radio is to be thanked for generously helping with this raffle. Take a chance and maybe you will win a great prize!

★ 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 Tuesdays on the 147.09 repeater. Net control is Dennis K2CEC.

From The Prez

As we look towards our August picnic (see details elsewhere in the TELSTAR), we are reminded that the end of summer approaches, and we are holding our last club meeting at the Nike Base site.

I certainly hope everyone is able to make the picnic/meeting which will prove to be an enjoyable event. All STARS members are invited to attend, but as usual, the picnic is open (at a slight cost) to all attending the meeting! As has been our tradition, there will be no formal program at the August meeting, just the usual business meeting, followed by the 50-50 raffle, and then the picnic.

Any specific program you would be interested in seeing? Drop me a note, or tell me at the END of one of the club meetings, that I can try to arrange it.

For any of you wishing to upgrade, or even take your first exam, remember STARS is holding its VE sessions on Saturday mornings, to allow easier access to its students. We will be using the new Novice and Technician exams, so please bear this in mind as you prepare for the exam. Undergoing the examination process, given by friends from the club is much less stressful than taking the examination from strangers elsewhere.

Depending on the interest shown, we may increase the examinations given from 4 to 6. That depends on you!

I have been asked what about having a technical corner in the TELSTAR? Terry, KM4XZ, brought this up at a previous meeting. We would be happy to offer one!! Send us some articles of general interest you have seen, or even better, some you have written. You will see them in print in short order. Anyone interested in a "position" as the technical Q&A person? It's not much of a time commitment.

Just a note on the Perry repeaters (the 2 meter and 440 linked units)... Due to the World Games, which from the EMS/medical component were an OVERWHELMING success, I have been swamped with one month's work, and will not have the time to get the units up before the end of the summer. When they are back up

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, hope everyone enjoyed the July meeting. The weatherman sure cooperated, and it is standing room only at these meetings.

The Nike Base committee should be complimented on the fine business workmanship that was done. It sure took a lot of good ideas and planning for the best.

Wish to thank the crew that came down to my QTH after Field Day was over and helped me raise my tower. It is up now and am testing it. Everything seems to work OK so far.

Remember that Greg KE2VW our VE chairman changed the date and time for the FCC tests. The tests will be on Saturdays and in the mornings. We still take walk-ins, but you must come early to get your paper work done. The tests will be at the Youth Center. Contact Norm KD2KK for more info.

The July hamfest was at the Batavia club's place at Alexander, NY. WX was pleasant, and the flea market had a lot of interesting articles for sale.

On August 28th is the next one by the Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS). It is at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY off Route 16. I have a map, and if you need more info please call me. I will bring the map to the August 5 meeting.

During my vacation, I had the pleasure to put the STARS net on the air on 3.925 Mhz at 10 AM on Saturday. I thought I would have better reception at Darien Lake, but no luck. At home I get the frying noise from a transformer station and WEBR AM, QRM. Well, you guessed it. I was situated right near the main transformer station that supplied all the electric for the rides, so my noise was up to a S7. Well, we were able to copy four of the check-ins. This was not the first time that the net was operated portable. About five years ago at the Rochester hamfest, one of my friends had his van with a portable set up, and I ran it from there also. So STARS nets are sure flexible and interesting.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

CF Bike Trek

Volunteers are needed to help provide radio communications for the Cystic Fibrosis Bike Trek to be held September 18-19.

The ride begins on Saturday morning at the Fisher Price headquarters in East Aurora. The cyclists will cover 50 miles going through Wales Center, Arcade, and Franklinville and will stay overnight at a private camp south of Franklinville.

On Sunday, the riders will return to East Aurora, principally along Route 16. A cook-out follows the ride.

Saturday conflicts with the Buffalo Hamfest, so volunteers are tough to come by for that day. If you aren't going to the hamfest or are willing to sacrifice going, your help would be greatly appreciated.

No experience is necessary. All you need is a 2 meter radio and, of course, 2 meter privileges!

This is a great way to help provide protection for the riders, while at the same time learning more about radio and having a great time!

To volunteer or for more information, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0965.

Snowbelt" Ham and Computer Fest

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) are hosting their second ham and computer fest on August 28 from 6 AM to 5 PM at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY. Talk-in will be on the 145.39 repeater and on the 444.175 repeater.

Admission is \$3.00 Advanced (send check payable to Mike Wrona plus SASE to 139 Greenmeadow Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224) or \$4.00 at the gate. There is free tailgating and free parking (with admission). There will be door prizes with the main prize drawing at 4 PM.

Come on down for a "good old fashion tailgating, coffee drinking, rag chewing good time!"

CW Tips

John K1KP via packet

This is what got me from 8 to 13 WPM in 3 days (and eventually to 20):

I made a tape of random 5-letter groups, Farnsworth spaced at abt 20 WPM characters. After each letter, I immediately spoke the letter on the tape. So when I listened to the tape, I heard the Morse character immediately followed by the english character. I literally listened to this tape night & day (including sleep) for 3 days and at the end of 3 days I could do over 13. If I heard a morse character, I would hear the letter in my mind. Give it a try!

Wanted

Good working Heath HP-23 power supply. Also looking for a SB-110A 6-meter radio. Please call Shane WB2WPM at 675-5797.

For Sale

Butternut HF-6VX vertical antenna, with STR-II radial kit, RMK-II roof mounting kit, 4 stub tuned (STRf) for 40-10m w/attached end insulators, 5 end insulators for 80/75 & 30m radials, 205" #18 copper clad steel wire for 80/75 and 30m radials. Stub tuned radial kit may be used with all models of vertical antennas in above ground installations. \$100. Katherine Phillips, 826-2530.

Help Needed For Geneseo Airshow



Volunteers are needed for Geneseo Airshow for communications. All is needed is a 2

Meter HT and availability August 20, 21, 22 (Ed. Note: You must be available for all 3 days). Still need about 20 volunteers. You can contact AA2CX on the 146.64 repeater or send a packet message to me with your name, call, address and phone number and someone will contact you.

Jerry N2GUN @KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA

Autopatch Woes

Continued from Page 1

consumer, to determine.

I am asking that all autopatch users be careful when making autopatch calls. As usual, no business calls should be made on the phone patch. If in doubt on any point of autopatch use, call your home and have someone make the call for you. If toll calls continue to appear on our phone bill, we will be forced to turn off the phone patch and issue one autodial slot to each member. With 200 autodial slots and over 200 members, this would place autodial slot allocation under a first-come, first-serve situation.

Bill N2GAO
Repeater Chairman

Congratulations

Merle, previously KF2JB, has his new Extra class call sign which is AA2OK. Definitely an "OK" callsign!

Likewise, Sal, previously N2IHD, has his new Advanced class call sign which is KF2PO.

If you have upgraded or have a new call sign, please call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 so he can let other club members know.

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

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 Aves.) Walk-ins should arrive by 9:00 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 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 test sessions on 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.

Call Signs on Demand?

As anyone knows who has received a call sign from the FCC in recent years, the computer assigns the next call sign available, and you don't have any say in what you get. Plus, they won't reissue calls even if for a son who wants to honor his SK father.

There are hints that this may be coming to an end. The FCC is finally going to be going to personal computers which will give them much greater flexibility in assigning calls. Supposedly you will be able to "reserve" any call that you qualify for if it is not in use.

What's the catch? They are waiting for Congressional approval because they want to charge you for the service!

From the Prez

Continued from Page 2

remember the 440 side will have an open access, without the need for the PL access imposed on the 2 meter side. This should help those of you using older rigs lacking PL tone capability.

This capability can however easily be added to any rig, for under \$15. Keep that in mind, especially if you travel out of the area.

Finally, to let you know just how precious our frequency spectrum is, the FCC, who have long considered this a NATIONAL RESOURCE, have another NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) out, but this one addresses the commercial aspects of the bands. According to this NPRM, which is beyond comment date as you read this, as of approximately 1996, the present 25 KHz wide FM signals from VHF and up will be decreased in bandwidth to 12.5 KHz, with an eventual decrease to 5/6.25 KHz by approximately the year 2006!

This will require ALL Police, Fire, and EMS agencies to REPLACE ALL EXISTING EQUIPMENT, which is not compatible with the narrowed bandwidth. How are they going to meet the new standards?.. You got it, by going to digital signals, linked to backbones presently planned to run at 9600 baud in trunked 800 Mhz systems. Hmm, maybe I should clue them into our digital backbone operating at 9600/19.2K baud? Naah!!!

Keep your eye on the county budgets, this will make one huge impact when these changes force rebuilding our FM communications. Should be some interesting buys for the hams shouldn't there?!

This should be the handwriting on the wall for the hams as well. It's time to get beyond SSB, just as we did AM (I have nothing against AM personally, other than its inefficient use of spectrum), and go to digital. No I DON'T mean packet.. I'm talking digital voice, which will make HF work as pleasurable as Vhf and Uhf communication.

I'll keep you posted on this hot topic.

73, for now, and see you Thursday night,
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

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