

telstar



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

ISSUE 153 SEPTEMBER, 1993

FCC Changes Amateur Rules

Effective approximately September 15, new FCC rules will be in effect which will broaden the scope of amateur personal and public service communications.

Any amateur-to-amateur communications are now permitted unless:

1. Specifically prohibited. These include:
 1. Music (except incidental space shuttle music);
 2. Communications facilitating a criminal act;
 3. Messages obscured by codes or ciphers;
 4. Obscene or indecent words or language; and
 5. False or deceptive messages, signals or identification.
2. Transmissions for compensation. (exceptions for Morse code practice and class room teachers)
3. Transmissions for the pecuniary benefit of the station control operator or his or her employer.

These changes will revise or replace old rules on prohibited communications. For example, logistical communications for public service events will now be legal unless the control operator or his employer profits from them. Conducting club business on the air is also now allowed. Providing talk-ins on the ham bands at hamfests has also been legitimized.

Yes, you can probably even order a pizza over the air, too! We will have further discussions on the changes that these new rules will make in next month's newsletter.

September Meeting

Our September club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Aves.) on Thursday September 2. All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

You are invited

See "From The Prez" on page 5 for a discussion of possible changes to the club by-laws that may be voted on at the meeting.

Dave Rodman KN2M will present a program talking about how to set up a great ham station based upon the super "shack" he set up in Elma.

STARS Raffle

You still have a little time to get in on the biggest raffle that STARS has ever held! The drawing is going to be on September 18 at the Buffalo Hamfest. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

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). This package lists for over \$500 worth of equipment. East Coast Radio is to be thanked for generously helping with this raffle.

Tickets will be available at the Sept. meeting and at the Hamfest. Please help our club out!

★ 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

I hope everyone had a great summer. Mother nature certainly cooperated with us! It's that time of year to move our meetings back into the Hamburg Community Center. We are working on some SUPER programs to wind up our 1993 year!

On the digital side, as I write this, I am out to the Erie County Fair daily, and have not as yet been able to get the 100 foot free-standing tower up for the STARS BBS system. The BBS is currently quite active on the existing tower, with 150+ regular users. Once we get the additional elevation, forwarding on the backbones in and out of our region will be dramatically improved!

For the time being the BBS is complete, with no new additions in the immediate future, as I've run out of ideas! If any of you have any additions you would like to see added, let me know. (Boy did I let myself open on that one!)

By now you are all aware the WB2ELW repeater was down for a few days (around August 16th). Like everything else in life, you don't realize how valuable something is until you lose it! N2GAO had been out of town during this time period, hence the down-time.

We have many in the club with expertise in various areas, yet the volunteerism is not what I would expect for a club of this size. Why do just a few do all the "work"? I use work in quotes, as it really is not work, but creative fun. How else to really enjoy the hobby, but to get involved in a project, ANY project, of which the club has a number of?

Remember all of the committees?? Some need new chairpeople willing to organize a few members, and get some new activities up and running. Many of our current projects need help to complete. Haven't been called directly by a board member and asked to volunteer? You have EACH been asked at several meetings, not directly, but when the group was addressed as a whole during our business section of the meeting, and new committees were announced, with the request those interested contact the chairperson to volunteer their efforts.

This is YOUR club. If the "silent majority" does NOT wish to continue to enjoy new projects,

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the August meeting was a quick one, and then it had a picnic atmosphere with the members and families enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs that were served.

You know it amazes me about Jake KB2NNN? Not only does he maintain the Nike Base station in good order, but he can dish out a good hot dog and hamburger also! It seem that everyone enjoyed it, and the weather man cooperated with good weather.



The only bombshell was when Greg KE2VW, our President, announced that he does not choose to run for president in 1994.

October will be or has been the nomination of officers for 1994, with November for elections and December for installation of officers. So, it is not too early to start thinking about filling out the position.

Well, the hamfests are running out. There is the Buffalo Hamfest in September on the 18th and Elmira on the 25th. So make a list of all wanted parts to keep you busy during the upcoming winter months.

Greg KE2VW brought up the lack of technical articles in the Telstar. With a membership like ours, I am sure there are some electronic wizards that could submit a nice article. If there are diagrams involved, please see Terry KM4XZ about how they must be submitted for printing. They don't have to be too fancy, only informative. You might give someone an idea that they did not know about to make their units work better, without much trouble.

Most of our club nets are picking up more check-ins which is a sign that the indoor activities will take over soon, but as yet antennas are still on the minds of most of the members.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Hidden Transmitter Hunt September 11

A hidden transmitter hunt will be held on September 11 beginning at Veteran's Park on the Niagara River in Tonawanda. This is just north of Isle View Park where the boat races are held.

This will be an easy hunt and is not limited to any group. It is hoped that all hams and interested persons will participate. It is not necessary to have a transmitter or even a license.



The hidden transmitter will begin voice transmissions on 146.55 Mhz (unless an adjustment is necessary) at 10:00 AM and at 5 minute intervals thereafter until 12:00 noon using the call W2SEX. Transmissions will be about 1 minute in length, and power levels may vary.

The hidden transmitter will be located within a 10 mile radius. You should be able to hear the hidden transmitter from the starting point using only a 1/4 wave whip antenna, and you may be

able to find it using only that and the signal strength meter found on most rigs. You should arrive at the start point ahead of the 10:00 AM start to receive all the rules. Odometer readings will be taken at the start and at the hidden transmitter site with finishing order being determined by elapsed mileage.

When you find the hidden transmitter, you should bring your vehicle to the point of closest approach, speak to the operator, get your number and leave as quickly as possible so as not to lead others to the spot. You will be given instructions to the rendezvous point. Upon completion of the hunt at 12:00 noon, the rendezvous location will be announced over the air.



This hunt is being put on by Bill K2ILH, Myrene N2POB, Bud K2YQU and Colleen.

Here's a chance to have some fun. Let's see a good turnout from STARS to help support this event!

Buffalo Hamfest

The Buffalo Hamfest '93 will be presented on Saturday, September 18 at the Erie County Fairgrounds on Route 62 (South Park Avenue) in Hamburg, NY.



The flea market will be open from 6 AM to 4 PM, and the Commercial exhibits will be open from

8:30 AM to 4 PM.

Tickets will be \$5.00 at the gate with no advance sale. Outdoor flea market spots will be available for an additional \$5.00. There also will be a \$1.00 per vehicle charge for parking by the Erie County Agricultural Society.

Talk-in will be on STARS 147.09 repeater (assuming it is back in operation).

STARS will have a table at the hamfest and is looking for volunteers to help man it to tell people about the club.

Autodial Changes

For the past several years, Bill N2GAO has been involved with the assignment of the autodial slots. Unfortunately, his obligations to his business and responsibility to the repeaters has left him very little time to devote to the autodial slots.

Ever since I joined STARS, I have wanted to become a more active member. In July, I offered my assistance to Bill. He offered me the position of autodial chairman which I graciously accepted.

Effective immediately, anyone wishing to obtain new autodial slots, or to change or delete their phone numbers in their existing slots should contact me, N2PZX at 874-6931.

I would like to thank Bill N2GAO for the opportunity to continue this service for the club.

73's and happy autodialing!
Mick N2PZX

Congratulations

STARS member Bob Ward K2PPK was named "Ham of the Year" by the Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS), which is also lucky enough to count him as a member.

Bob was cited for his participation in special events, demonstration stations, field day, bike treks, and other activities of the club. Bob has been the Treasurer of PROS for the last two years. He also helps other hams get their license or upgrade by serving as a VE examiner.

We join PROS in saluting Bob for all of his great work to advance the hobby!

For Sale

ICOM IC-720-A all band HF radio. has 250 Hz narrow CW filter and SM-5 desk mike and the hand mike. Very good working condition. Will demonstrate on the air. Also has the original box and owner's manual. Asking \$550. Please leave a message on my answering machine at 874-0120 or call between 7PM AND 9PM Monday through Friday.

ED TAUBLIEB, KB2KVA.

STARS Tee Shirts

A very small number of STARS tee shirts are still available for sale. These will probably be the last tee shirts we have available for sale this year unless there is a big demand.

See Terry at the September club meeting or call him at 656-0865.

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	WA2TWT
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. 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 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.

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

that's fine. Perhaps many would like the club to become more of a social group, without wishing to develop our satellite station, club station, etc., any further. That's ok too, if that's what the majority want.

Some have suggested we change our club's structure, and adopt the BARRA system, where ACTIVE members pay LESS dues each year (in effect inactive members, those who receive the privileges of membership, yet contribute none of their time, would pay MORE dues)....

Others have said we should not change the dues, but only ACTIVE members are allowed to vote

on club matters....

I don't like either of these suggestions personally, but as club president, representing ALL of you I will need to bring these up in September. If these are adopted, they will require a bylaws change, but remember with our new bylaws, this can be done at a club meeting, by a majority of those present. Prior notification is needed of a possible bylaws change, so:

THIS COLUMN IS NOTICE TO ALL VOTING MEMBERS THAT THE ABOVE ISSUES WILL

NOTICE

BE DISCUSSED AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING, AND IF ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP, A

VOTE TO AMEND THE BYLAWS WILL OCCUR AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The bottom line is I ask each member to reflect what STARS means to you. If it means what I KNOW it does to you, then take this as your personal invitation to get involved! You do NOT need to have any special expertise in ANY area of amateur radio, just the desire to have fun.

Don't have the time? MAKE IT. I guarantee you are no busier than any of the active club members, especially the board.

This is not a club for the benefit of the board (as some clubs are), and the board will not continue to work on projects the club demonstrates no interest in, let alone take on new ones.

We have reached a turning point for our club. We have the potential to take on a new project, which will involve the entire organization, and expose our group to the WNY public, on a scale much greater than any special event ever would!

Before offering this to STARS, our board would need to see some sign from the membership as a whole that it is interested, and willing to commit its energies to undertake a new project, by showing some volunteerism.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our September meeting to discuss these important issues further!

73 for now, 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 BBSVW.

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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