

# telstar



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

ISSUE 154 OCTOBER, 1993

## Nike Base HF Club Station

We haven't been talking about the Nike Base HF Club Station in the newsletter too much recently, but you shouldn't think that things haven't been happening out there!

Those of you that came out to the station for the July or August meetings got a chance to see the great job done on the back social room, the new IBM personal computer and our new security system to protect the building and equipment.

Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN have now begun work on remodeling the front operating room at the club station. When they are done, it will be similar to the back social room with a new ceiling and lights and paneling part way up the wall.

Once the operating room is completed, we will need to plan and build the new operating positions. If you have carpentry skills and would be willing to help, contact Bob WA2IQX.

The operating positions have temporarily been moved to the back room during the remodeling; but, don't worry, we are still on the air!

The Nike Base crew were surprised around Labor Day to find a new gravel road running from the entrance to the BMX track back most of the way to the club station. Finally we won't have to worry about crossing the swamp in wet weather to get back to the station, and we won't be putting any more ruts into the lacrosse field. We've been promised that they will plow snow on the new road during the winter to help us reach the station.

## October Meeting

The October club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 7 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) All interested in amateur radio are invited: neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

The proposals for different classes of club membership that were described in last month's newsletter will be voted upon at this meeting.



Nominations for club officers for 1994 will also take place at the October meeting with the election occurring in November.

Bob Johnson W2WVC will put on a very special presentation on RFI. Bob is one of the most professional and entertaining speakers that you will ever see! This is a man who the FCC hires to help them with RFI cases! Don't miss it!

So when coming out to the club station, please follow the old gravel road to the BMX entrance and then turn right along their fence on the new gravel road.

The biggest contest of the year, the CQ World Wide SSB contest, will be coming up October 23 and 24. If there is enough interest, we may have the station open for at least part of the contest. Give Terry KM4XZ a call at 656-0865 to discuss it.

Don't forget that the station is still open from 7 to 9 PM on Monday nights, so feel free to come out and join us!

# ★ 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

Thanks to Bob, WA2IQX for covering for me at the last minute for last month's meeting, when I left town. Dave Rodman, KN2M is again to be congratulated for another excellent program, this time on the construction of a super station!!

This month's presentation will be given by Bob, W2WVC, on EMI (Electro Magnetic Interference), which includes RFI (Radio Frequency Interference), a more commonly known term to most hams.

His talk will include not only amateur induced RFI problems, but associated RFI emanating from devices, external rectifiers, etc. that interfere with amateur radio reception!!

At the end of his talk I expect each of you will understand differential vs common-mode conducted (line) interference, and how to eliminate it, along with front end overload vs spurious emanations vs harmonic interference. Don't worry, his talk will NOT be highly technical, and will be quite pleasant, and enjoyable. He has a tendency to be very entertaining in his presentation, and will illustrate his work with the FCC with some local examples!

By now many of you have heard I will not be seeking re-election this November. This is prompted by two factors.

The first, and most significant is that I personally believe that 2 terms is the most ANY individual should serve in a major leadership role in ANY organization, before turning the reigns over to some "new blood".

Secondly time demands have increased, and it is no longer possible for me to continue to plan the meeting agendas, along with the programs.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 2 years, serving as your president, and hope I contributed positively to our club. There are so many individuals to thank for all their support over the past 2 years, that I can not name them here, due to the limited space available in this column!

I will continue on to serve as SysOp of the STARS BBS, VE liaison for the STARS team, and control op. for our 2 Southern repeaters.

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

**WOW:** Having trouble with copying code? How would you like to try a system that starts you off at 20 to 30 WPM??? This system has been around for quite some time; in fact, the ARRL has used this system and still does for all its CW practice sessions on the air. It is easy and fast. It is known as the "Farnsworth Method". The letters are formed at 15 to 18 WPM, but sent with 5 WPM spacing. For more detailed information, please read the article on page 60 in the QST for September 1993.

Well, the October meeting will have a very nice program so hope you can come and learn about RFI and how to eliminate it from interfering with your neighbors. There are so many electronic articles, including telephones, etc.; and Bob Johnson W2WVC will try to clear up some ideas to make it easy for amateurs to eliminate or subdue most of it. So bring a note book and copy some of it to try it out.

The October meeting is also the meeting set aside for the nomination of officers for 1994. So come prepared to nominate a candidate of your choice. This year it promises to be a spirited election. One thing that I would like to see is that the candidates take advantage of the newsletter and submit an article in the November issue about their ideas and what will be done to make the club a better place to come to. Remember, there are about 245 members.

One thing I must say, the year 1993 was very good to STARS. Goals were surpassed in various fields of amateur radio and the officers of 1994 will have a tough time to surpass some of the good things that STARS has done up till now. But I am quite sure as we are a learning club that we will try to make the best of the state of the art and enjoy it.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

## CF Bike Trek

The 3rd Annual Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Bike Classic was held on September 18 and 19 with volunteer amateur radio operators providing communications to protect the safety of the riders.

The number of riders was down this year to about 40, but everyone seemed to have a good time. There were a couple of other bike treks and charity runs going on in Western New York that same week-end which gave people lots of choices.



The event started in East Aurora on Saturday and wound down south to stop overnight at a private camp south of Franklinville. On Sunday, they journeyed back to East Aurora.

Highlights of the trip included the steam locomotive pulling the tourist train right passed the rest stop in Arcade. Some people also saw the llama farm just north of Franklinville with 8 to 10 of the animals of various colors out in the field. The farm came complete with a "Llama

Crossing" sign on the driveway! Saturday after the ride people enjoyed a little volleyball and a great pasta dinner.

Terry KM4XZ coordinated communications for the third year for this ride. Other STARS members participating were Bob K2PPK, Mike WA2HEV, Tony KB2OUT and Sandy, Norm KD2KK, and Dave K2ECK on his sweep radio bike. Jim N2OSL from ARATS also helped out on both days.



We also want to thank John Thomas K2XZ for the use of his 145.390 repeater for the event.

Everything went very smooth on the ride for the third straight year with only a few minor break-downs (bicycles not people!) and no serious injuries.

We encourage all STARS members to participate in public service events such as this. You provide a great benefit in helping a worthwhile charity to raise money, and, at the same time, you learn more about your equipment and what it takes to operate under varying circumstances. Besides, it's a lot of fun!

## New FCC Communication Rules

In last month's newsletter, we outlined the basic new rules that the FCC has adopted (effective September 13) for determining permitted communications on amateur radio. This month we will talk about some examples to show how the new vs. old rules differ. Much of this is based upon material in the August 15, 1993 issue of WSYI REPORT.

Under the old rules, no amateur station was allowed to transmit any communications which promoted the business or commercial affairs of any party. In other words, if anyone profited financially, it was an illegal transmission. It didn't make any difference if the party was a commercial business or a non-profit institute. Of course, there was an exception granted allowing hams to have swap nets for amateur radio related items.

Under the new rules, the transmissions would be prohibited if they were for the pecuniary benefit of the station controller or his or her employer. Transmissions which profited someone else could now be acceptable so long as they don't violate any other rules. An example of this quoted by William T. Cross in the Personal Radio Branch of the FCC was that you couldn't order bibles for a church over the air if you were an employee of that church, but an unpaid church member could provide the communications, if there was no pecuniary advantage to the amateur.



Another important phase of this revolves around whether amateur is being used as an alternative to another authorized radio service. Under the old rules, this was allowable only for emergency communications. Now, amateur-to-amateur communications which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services will be allowed, but not on a regular basis. What is a regular basis? The FCC declined to define this!

Does this mean that a taxi service could switch over to using amateur radios because they were cheaper than business radios? No, this would certainly be viewed as a "regular" basis; and they would also fail the test of the control operator or

his or her employer having a pecuniary benefit.

A 2-meter personal business conversation where a transaction was involved used to be prohibited. Now, it may be allowable if it meets all the other rules. The rules used to prohibit the business and commercial affairs of any entity. Since a club is an entity, you technically couldn't conduct club business over-the-air. Now, conducting club business on-the-air is now O.K.

Have the FCC members lost their minds and are they trying to ruin amateur radio? Probably not (of course, nothing is for certain!) They are for the most part trying to allow amateurs to have more freedom without losing control to blatantly commercial transactions. Since the FCC chose not to give examples of permitted and prohibited communications, you can bet that there are going

## STARS Raffle

STARS held their big raffle drawing at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 18. The raffle was a hot item at the Hamfest with about \$200 of tickets being purchased there.

The winner was Tony Domogala WA2PJD. Tony selected the Kenwood TH48A 440 Mhz. handheld transceiver with accessories. Tony is not currently a STARS member, but said he would consider joining now!

We again want to thank East Coast Amateur Radio for assisting us in obtaining the prize.

A specially big "THANKS!" needs to go to Shane Brady WB2WPM for his tireless efforts in making this raffle a big success!



## 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

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold test sessions on December 11, 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 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 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.

## New Members

We have been negligent for quite awhile in recognizing new members, so we will start this month to correct that situation!

This month we would like to welcome David A. Quagliana K2MTW, David F. Quagliana, and Jeff Jozwiak N2VLK. The two David's are from Williamsville, and Jeff is from Lancaster.

New memberships have really slowed down this year. We still are the largest amateur radio club in the Buffalo area, but something has happened to slow that growth. (No, we don't accept the idea that everybody has already joined our club!)

When you talk to hams who aren't members of the club, why not tell them about it and invite them to come out to club meetings or out to the Nike Base with you!

## From The Prez

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Please be thinking of nominees for the office of president, which need to put on the ballot this month, to be voted on next month (November). Installation of new officers will be at the December meeting.

You need no special talents to serve as president, only a desire to work FOR the club, to guide the club into the 1994 year. You will NOT be alone, having the entire board of directors to aid you, including myself this next year as immediate past-president.

STARS has the potential to continue to grow and develop as one of the premier groups in WNY. We need a willing president to "captain our ship" in order to make this happen.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our October meeting, for an informative business session, an interesting ballot, and a great presentation!!

73 for now, Greg KE2VW

## Repeater Problems

As most of you know, the 147.09 repeater was down for an extended period of time. The power supply on the old repeater broke causing the outage.

Since the old repeater contains some tubes and we already owned a back-up repeater that is all solid-state, we decided to go ahead and install the back-up repeater and make it the new permanent repeater rather than spending more money fixing the old repeater.

Unfortunately, when we tried installing the new repeater, we had a receiver desense problem that meant that the repeater could talk OK but it couldn't hear well.

Since we needed to get a repeater back on the air, Bill Siska N2GAO, our repeater chairman, was able to repair the power supply in the old repeater and get it back working like normal. We again want to thank Bill for all the time and effort that he puts into keeping our repeater one of the best in the area!



# 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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