

telstar



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

ISSUE 155 NOVEMBER, 1993

Election Time Is Here!

November is traditional election time in the US, and so it is with STARS too! At our November meeting, we will be electing our 1994 club officers and directors with the exception of one Director spot held by Shane Brady WB2WPM who will be starting the second year of his two-year term.

Nominated at the October meeting were the following members (listed in alphabetical order by call sign):

President

Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ

Vice President

Norm Jones	KD2KK
Jay Lauder	N2MHD

Secretary

Dave Baco	WA2TVT
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Treasurer

Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
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Financial Secretary

Frank Modzelewski	WG7H
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November Meeting

The November club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 4 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.



At this meeting, we will be holding our general election for 1994 club officers. Therefore, you will certainly want to be there to exercise your patriotic right to vote! (Well, perhaps we are getting a little carried away there!)

Anyway, be there and you will hear about all the other activities going on in STARS, too.

Director (2-year term)

Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Bob Dudek	WA2ABN

Write-ins will also be allowed on the ballot.

The winners of these offices, along with Shane Brady WB2WPM and Greg Young KE2VW as Past President, will make of the Board of Directors for 1994.

John McKnight KB2NMP was nominated for Director at the October meeting but has since decided not to run for personal reasons.

See page 4 for articles submitted by the candidates for contested elections.

★ 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

This month's meeting will determine the course STARS will follow over the next year with the election of our new officers. The contest will prove exciting, but to save column space I will refer you to the information contained elsewhere in this edition of the Telstar.

I would like to personally thank Bob, W2WVC for his excellent, informative, and thoroughly entertaining presentation on EMI/RFI at our last meeting. He certainly lived up to his reputation in providing STARS one of its best programs to date. For those of you that missed his presentation, it will be added to our video library out at the Nike Base for your future enjoyment.

As most of you know by now, the antennas for the STARS KE2VW BBS are now resting atop a 100 foot free-standing tower located in the hills of Colden. I would like to personally thank all of the club members who pitched in to help erect this tower, which was FULLY ASSEMBLED (including antennas and hardline) on the ground, and literally lifted into place!

My special thanks go out to John, KA2RFT for engineering the rope supports for the tower, along with the pulley system; Bob, WA2IQX for demonstrating the primal art of climbing trees without ladders and fear of any kind; Jake, KB2NNN; Dave, WA2TVT; Jack, KB2ESM; Shane, WB2WPM; Norm, KD2KK for fabricating the antenna base plate; and Ed, KB2KVA.



This group of hams certainly made raising the tower a pleasant experience, even if none of them could recognize morse code! If time permits, I will get a composit of the video together for this month's meeting for all to view.

The BBS now has extended its coverage on 2 meters, 220, and 440. If you have never tried the BBS direct before, you will be in for a surprise!

The Nike Base is undergoing the refinishing of the operational area. Once work is done there, we will be able to move our station back into the operational room. Now is the time to input your ideas, wants, needs, and general suggestions as to what you would like to see in the design of the

See From the Prez on Page 7

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the October meeting was one of the busiest meetings of the year. Our Pres Greg ran through the normal business in apple pie order, then the nominations of the 1994 officers took place without a hitch. After that, we had Bob Johnson W2WVC give a very interesting and informative presentation on RFI. The slides and photos made it very interesting. Even the RFI in the window! Hi! Hi!

Yes, RFI is not only in the amateur bands but throughout the communication industry, from telephones to sending information by air. As we use more and more electronic units, it creates more problems. We are fortunate to just have to eliminate RFI in our transmitters. Think of the problems that major companies have.

This is the month for the election of 1994 officers. It will be by ballot, so make sure you attend the meeting and vote for the people of your choice.

Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN need some help from the members with cabinet and carpentry skills to assist in the building of an operating console. So, if you wish to contribute your services, get in touch with them, and they

will welcome you with open arms.

Well, one more VE session this year yet, on December 11th. Get in touch with Norm KD2KK for more info and forms. You know that STARS is one of the clubs in the area that accepts walk-ins, but you must come early.

Not to rush things, but just a reminder that December is the installation of officers, and it is open house to all members and their families. The club usually supplies the pizza and coffee and soft drinks, and some of the bakers in the club donate some of their cakes. You know, last year there were three different types of brownies! Each had a little different taste, but they sure were good!

By now, KE2VW Greg's tower is history, and everything went very smoothly without a hitch. Hope the installation of antennas proves to be as easy. Greg took some camcorder pictures and promises to show them to the club at a later date. As of now, his 100 foot tower is the highest in the club.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

1993 Pumpkin Patrol

STARS members will be joining other amateurs both locally and across the state on October 31 for the 1993 Pumpkin Patrol to watch over the safety of motorists on the New York Thruway. The amateurs will be stationed at bridges over the Thruway to watch for people throwing objects from them. They won't try to stop this, but rather, will report the vandalism to the police. This program is being done in cooperation with the New York State Police.

Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT has picked up the responsibility for coordinating communications for this event and has worked to get over 20 volunteers to help out. If you also would like to participate, call Tony at 826-7643.

Field Day Results

The results of the 1993 Field Day contest were announced in the November issue of QST, and STARS set a new record by placing in the top 16% of their class (3A) with 1247 QSO's for 4322 points. We were the second highest scoring club in our class from Western New York. This is a great result considering that we didn't spend the months planning that many clubs do, nor did we limit operations to just experienced hams!

Speaking of great results, the local club of ARATS (Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas) are to be congratulated for winning their class (3A Battery) and placing 5th in the nation for all classes with a 16,225 points! They go all out for Field Day and it shows. There is a nice picture of their club on page 12 of the November issue of QST.

Meet The Candidates!

Candidates for contested elections were invited to submit articles for this newsletter. The content of the articles was left entirely up to the candidates. The articles are listed alphabetically by call sign within each position.

We hope this helps provide our members with a little insight into the candidates.

For President:

Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tony Balas (KB2OUT). Some of you may know me as your Wednesday-nite Net Controller. I have been nominated for the office of President. Which, I graciously accepted.

I would like to give you a little background history of myself. I have been a resident of the Lackawanna/Hamburg area all my life. For over twenty-years, I've been an employee of the Bethlehem-Lackawanna plant as a B-Technician.

For those of you who were concern, there was an emergency-special project at the steel plant. It was imparitive for the completion of this project, that a few B-Technician go on the second shift for two-weeks. So, I volunteered and unfortunately due to the project, I missed the October S.T.A.R.S. meeting. By-the-way, the first one I've missed since being a member of the club.

I Coordinated the 1993 Pumkin Patrol, Division Four-West. I was a volunteer for the M.S. and C.F. Bike Tracks and I also, participated in the Boyscout Jamboree last year.

My interest in radio goes back over twenty-years. I've introduced a few friends to the world of Amateur Radio. Which brings me to another thought public awareness. What Amateur Radio is and what it has to offer. For example, the club can offer one or more classes per year for those interesterd in obtaining a licence or up-grading.

As a club we need to unit. Together I'm sure we can educate the public and broaden their horizons into the world of amateur radio. We should strive for this goal. However, we need to communicate to function as one, members in pursuance of a commom interest. I assure all members, I am available and open to all suggestions to better the club and community as a whole.

Sincerely, Tony (KB2OUT)

For President:

Terry Rockhold KM4XZ

First, a little about my amateur radio background. I have been an amateur for about five years and hold an Advanced Class license. I am an ARRL member and have been a STARS member for three years.

My primary interests in radio are 2 meter voice and packet and HF SSB. I also enjoy public service events. I have coordinated communications for the Cystic Fibrosis and Multiple Sclerosis bike treks. I have also participated in the Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air, the Nike Base Snowfest, the Pumpkin Patrol, Field Day and various special event stations.

I am completing my second year as a Director for STARS and have been Newsletter Editor for a little over two years. I have served as Nike Base Chairman and currently open the station on Monday nights.

STARS has experienced rapid growth during the last few years and has become the largest amateur radio club in the area. We need to continue to offer a wide range of activities to meet the various interests of our members. To better define those interests, we should poll our members through a questionnaire to determine what they really want out of the club.

Some of the areas where I would like to see improvement in the club include development of quality training classes for license exams, programs to increase utilization of the Nike Base club station, and better "marketing" of STARS at local hamfests and community gatherings to attract new members.

Regardless of whether I win or lose the election, I will be retaining my position as Newsletter Editor and will be cutting back on my opening of the club station.

Thanks to all of those people who support my candidacy for President!

73, Terry KM4XZ

For Vice President:

Norm Jones KD2KK

I have been a member of STARS since 1974, and, in fact, was the builder of the cavities for the first repeater that we had!

I hold an Advanced class license and am a member of the ARRL.

I have worked on club projects and have tried to help others. I have supported various public service events such as charity bike treks. I am a VE examiner and currently am the contact person for people wanting to take the exams. For the last couple of years I have also filled in on opening the club station when needed.

I would appreciate your support on election night.

73, Norm KD2KK

For Vice President:

Jay Lauder N2MHD

For those who don't know me let me introduce myself to you. I'm a lifelong resident of Western New York and have been active in Amateur Radio for the last two and half years. I've been employed in the Commercial Broadcasting Industry for the last 18 years. Some of you know me as the guy who works for Channel 4 (WIVB-TV). I have been employed there for the last 14 years as a News Photographer/Producer, and unfortunately I'm still kicking myself in the rear for not getting involved sooner in Amateur Radio. I also hold positions in NABET/CWA the local Broadcast Union, the United States Ski Association and (Father and Husband when available) HI HI.....

One of the reason why I'm running for position of Vice President is that I believe that Amateur Radio has the opportunity to bring all walks of life together. As I mentioned early, I'm in the communications business and I see daily that education is the most important aspect of life. We have alot to offer! Kids are our future.....We have the resourses to help build that future. Kids have too much time on their hands and what better hobby to educate and make a future for them. Communications is the answer.....

A few ideas that I would suggest as Vice President is that STARS be the front runner in educating school children. I would like to see us attend classes during the school day and demonstrate our hobby. When it comes to public service I would invision us being the authority and leader in the community, I have the expertise to help us start a public relations campaign to educate and inform the general public.

If you would like to know me better give me a call, I listen to the repeater and I'm in the roster. 73's and don't forget to Vote.....

Jay N2MHD

For Director:

Vern Siegel AA2AC

VERNON H. SIEGEL, AA2AC extra class, V.E. Examiner and Liaison. Electrical Engineer associated with Bell Aircraft Corp. and original founder of Sierra Research Corp., Kistler Instrument Corp., Radatron Corp., and S.R. Instrument Corp. Helped to organize local V.E. schedule to provide 2 to 3 sessions/month, and have taught 2 or 3 Novice/Tech. or General/Adv. classes per year. Operate AA2AC-5 BBS and node links to bring 9600/19200 packet date from Rochester to E. Aurora and Canada. Member also of A.R.A.T.S. and L.A.R.C.

COUPON

Redeem for one vote at the November STARS meeting!
Limit: 1 per member!

For Director:

Bob Dudek WA2ABN

The nomination for Director was both an honor and a surprise.

My name is Bob Dudek, I've been licensed since 1958 and hold the Extra Class call of WA2ABN. Although I've been active in many modes, including CW-SSB-RTTY-Packet and VHF/UHF-DX, my first love is still CW, as those who attended the last Field Day can attest to.

My awards include WAS, WAC, DXCC-mixed, DXCC-cw, various ARRL Section Awards & an International Hole-in-One Award (which has nothing to do with Ham Radio, but I just had to get that in -Hi-). I have 26 States worked on 144, and 10 on 432, as well as 200 countries on HF. I'm currently working on my DXCC-ssb.

I am an active VE for the Club and thoroughly enjoy working with the applicants, Greg, and the other VE's. The feeling you get watching the face of someone who has just become a new ham or earned an upgrade, is indescribable. It's great to be one of the first to shake their hand and say "Congratulations".

If elected, I will represent you to best of my ability. I will listen to your concerns with an open mind, respond to your needs, and work with the other officers to help this Club grow and prosper.

Since I'm sure you will fill the position of Director and the other offices with dedicated and knowledgeable members, I'm confident that STARS will continue to be a leading force in the ham community, no matter who you choose.

Thank you for your consideration.

73, Bob WA2ABN

New Member

Welcome to our new member David Van Rensselaer N2VZM! David is a Tech and lives in Forestville, NY.

We have several new members to vote on at the November meeting!

SAREX

The STS-58 shuttle astronauts have found time to conduct both school contacts and general QSO passes with amateurs during this mission. They also have had their packet robot station on at times which automatically assigns a QSO number to the connecting station and then disconnects to await the next station.

For once the inclination of their orbit is bringing them up far enough north for the WNY hams to hear them.

The chances aren't real good of making a contact due to the short passes and great competition, but you can get a great QSL card for just submitting a listener's report of what and when you heard. You should be able to hear them with what ever you use for voice or packet around town.



Listen for the astronauts on 145.55 Mhz. However, don't ever transmit on this frequency!

The shuttle operates split frequency for both voice and packet, so they won't hear you on 145.55 Mhz but all the local people trying to hear them will hear you and won't appreciate it!

To talk to the shuttle on voice, you use an uplink frequency of 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 or 144.99 Mhz. They could be listening on any of these frequencies.

For packet, you use an uplink frequency of 144.49.

There is a great article on the SAREX missions in the November issue of QST.

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 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 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 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 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.

Commercial License Examinations

Examinations for radiotelephone and radio telegraph commercial licenses will commence on Friday, Nov. 5 and are tentatively scheduled for the WNY region on the first Friday of each month.

Commercial radiotelephone licenses are required for repair, maintain, and adjust ship, radar, coast, and aircraft radio equipment. Radiotelegraph licenses are required for operation of coast and ship stations in the maritime services.

For information and registration for the exams, call Vern Siegel at 634-5276 or 693-5977 or Chuck Koester at 937-3592.

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

operational desks. We are looking for any ideas that may increase the enjoyment of our hobby at the clubhouse.

At present we have a fully equipped Hf station, a Vhf packet station, an IBM computer, and soon to be all-mode digital controller. Next on the agenda is to decide whether to pursue a satellite station (Vhf/Uhf), in addition to using our 2 meter all-mode to work RS 10/11.

Many many thanks to Shane for all the effort on his part for our recent HT raffle.

To save space in the Telstar for a "meet the candidates" section, I will end my article now.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the election!

73, Greg KE2VW

CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest

The HF airwaves will be alive during the weekend of October 29-31 with contesters competing in the biggest contest of the year, the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest.

Look for hams who have traveled from their homes to all sorts of remote spots to put them on the air. It is a well know fact that a 100 watt transmitter on a remote island country will put out a much bigger signal than the same transmitter located in Buffalo, NY!

Even if you aren't a big contesteer, this event can be great fun and a wonderful opportunity to work many new countries in one weekend.

The contest starts on Friday at 8:00 PM (EDT) and runs until 7:00 PM (EST) on Sunday (don't forget to change your clocks!).

Don't get discouraged if you have trouble getting through the pile-ups on Friday night. By Sunday, some of those stations you weren't able to work will probably be calling CQ and looking for you!



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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