

telstar



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

ISSUE 156 DECEMBER, 1993

Time To Renew!

Yes, it is that time again! What time? Why, it's time to renew your STARS membership for 1994!

There are good reasons why STARS has grown into Buffalo's largest amateur radio club. By joining, you support and can take advantage of an outstanding program designed to appeal to

those interested in a wide variety of amateur radio subjects.

You are invited

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership dues form for you to renew your membership and allow us to update your information.

Please complete this form and bring it along with your check to the December meeting or mail them to Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206.

We will be changing the codes for our repeater in January, so get your renewal done now so that you receive your new codes on time!



Sorry, but we don't accept American Express!

December Meeting

Our December club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 2 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.



We will have a short business meeting and will install our officers for 1994. Then we will swing into our 1993 Holiday Party! Pizza and pop will be provided by the club. We suggest that each member bring some finger foods to share with the others.



Good food and good fellowship! What more could you want!

1994 Club Officers

The following members were elected at the November meeting as our 1994 Club Officers and Directors:

President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Vice Pres.	Norm Jones	KD2KK
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	N2ESM <i>KB2ESM</i>
Fin. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Director (1994-95)	Vern Siegel	AA2AC

The 1994 Board of Directors will be made up of these people plus Shane WB2WPM, who will be in the second year of his 2 year term, and Greg KE2VW, as Past President.

★ 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

Where has the year gone? It's time for me to wrap things up, and turn over the gavel to our new President, KM4XZ.

Last month's election was one of the most exciting meetings I've ever been to, and certainly the closest election STARS (and I would wager ANY club) has ever experienced.

There has been so much growth in the club, with our current membership in excess of 250 amateurs, and growing! Our growth is a reflection on each and every club member, who in his/her own way has made our colleagues felt welcomed into our group.

The diversity of our group, with interests in HF/DX; Vhf/Uhf SSB/FM; Digital radio (packet/Amtor/RTTY); ATV; Satellite Communication; and most recently RDF, has certainly provided avenues to club members with interest in these modes. Our Emergency communication/Disaster Preparedness, as manifest by Skywarn, and the recent Pumpkin Patrol, (which are both organized and headed by STARS locally), serve to involve many of our members.

The list of STARS activities could continue, but I would soon be out of space! Suffice it to say that one of the biggest undertakings for our club is soon to occur. Those of you at the October meeting know what I am referring to...

I certainly hope the past two years have been as enjoyable for you as they have for me. I am looking forward to "retiring" to my positions of Digital committee chairman (the BBS of course!), and VE liaison to STARS for all of our test sessions.

I think the club will continue to grow, with some exciting ideas coming from the club members, as well as the newly elected board. The results of our opinion poll will be shared with all members at our December meeting, and I can assure you it will prove most interesting.

The club's 440 repeater will be housed at the Nike Base site in the near future, and will be on the air immediately thereafter. This will be a "no-frills" unit, that will serve amateurs allowing further discussions, while others have use of the

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The November meeting was sure an entertaining meeting. Greg KE2VW had a camcorder and filmed his tower raising party, where everything went as planned. Congratulations on a job well done!

Next came the election of officers. Never in the history of the club have we had such a spirited and close election, but it went off without a hitch.

So now we shall have the swearing in of officers at the December meeting, which is a family and friends type meeting, including some goodies to help along.

By the way, when the Board of Directors form the committees to run the club, if you want to volunteer for a chairperson of any committee, why just let them know so you can be considered. And remember, if you are asked to be put on any committee, why do not feel hurt, you should be proud to help as they want the best people possible to make it easier to run the club.

So it is with great sorrow to say good bye to 1993, but let's look forward to 1994 for bigger and better things to come.

Now that the remodeling of the Nike Base club

room is almost finished more members should take advantage of all of the fine, state of the art equipment there for efficient operation. All you new members who are thinking about upgrading your ticket and equipment at home should take a trip down and get some ideas before starting your own ham shack. I am sure the members will assist you and give you some ideas.

Our repeater is sure working overtime lately with all the nets and other info that is passed around. Take for instance Dennis K2CEC who runs the STARS traders net on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM. I had an article that I put up for sale and after the net got two inquires by phone about it, so I bet there are more amateurs listening than checking in, HI HI.

By the way, has anyone got an extra electric typewriter they want to get rid of? I write my column in long hand and now that Terry will be President, he might be too busy to decipher my writing as arthritis is settling in my wrists, and it is painful to do a good job.

If you have one why not bring it to the December meeting and hope we can make a deal, or give me a call.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS!!!

The STARS Round Table and informational NET meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. on the WB2ELW repeater (147.090+). The Net is opened with the usual check-ins; however, I would like to hear more input, your feelings or comments on various topics you might like to discuss on the NET.

What do you think? Come on, lets add a little ZEST to our NET. Who has some suggestions for me? Give me a call at 826-7643. Any and all suggestions would be appreciated.

Plus, if you have information like a meeting or event change, give me a call.

Thank You,

Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT
STARS Net Controller

ARRL Friendship Award

Do you like to earn operating awards on amateur radio? Then here is a new award that you may be interested in.

In the November issue of QST, the ARRL announced their new Friendship Award. This award is for all ARRL members. Your license class is no hindrance in getting this award, and you can use your favorite band and modes. Unlike many awards, you can earn this award partially or totally by using repeaters if you chose.

To qualify for this award, you must submit log extracts that show two-way communications with

1993 Pumpkin Patrol

STARS members joined with other amateur radio operators in Western New York on Halloween night to help watch for vandals on bridges over the New York Thruway. This was part of a state-wide Pumpkin Patrol program with amateur radio operators working in cooperation with the New York State Police Department.

Locally, we had 25 operators watching over 21 bridges. State-wide, 203 operators covered 118 bridges spanning 255 miles.

Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT served as coordinator for Division 4 West of the Pumpkin Patrol which included the Buffalo area.

Volunteers included: Mick N2PZX, Ted N2PZY, Len KB2KGX, Jim N2OSL, Eddie KB2OMU, Bill N2MON, Mike N2MRN, Fred KA2EUS, Terry KM4XZ, Daryl N2NNE, Bob N2UKT, Ralph N2UKU, Bob N2QZV, Mike N2NMS, Bob WA2ABN, Bob WA2QLE, Harry KB2NDS, Wayne N2UHK, Mark N2LAB, Mark N2UBT, Bill N2QJG, Fred N2SFO, and Bert KB2NVK.

Tony would additionally like to thank the following people:

STARS for making their 147.090 repeater available as the main repeater used for the event.

John Thomas K2XZ for the use of the Delevan 145.390 repeater as a back-up.

Joe N2PPC who went out into the field to help the volunteers with any car problems.

Officer Carol Opala of the New York State Police for coming to Tony's home to talk to the volunteers about the Pumpkin Patrol and answer their questions.

Greg KE2VW for running the finest packet BBS in the area, which was a big help in getting the addresses of the volunteers and transmitting information to them.

Thanks and congratulations go to all involved for a great effort to help protect the public safety!

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new STARS members who were accepted at our November meeting:

Chris Reich WB2DYJ Extra
Paul Buczek N2TMG Tech
Tom Schwabel N2WLG Tech
Tony Domagala WA2PJD Advanced
Fred Oyer N2SFO Tech
Bruce Leonard N2XBM Tech

Don't forget to say hello when you see these people!

Friendship Award

Continued From Page 3

26 stations whose call signs end with each of the 26 letters of the letters of the alphabet. (For example, KB2KVA, N2LAB, ..., KM4XZ). The log extracts should indicate the contact date, call sign, name, location, and another fact about the person contacted such as names or calls of mutual friends, other family members, other hobbies, etc.



Contacts may be made on any authorized amateur radio frequency using any authorized mode.

Here is a great award for those who like to rag chew instead of making 10 second contest QSOs.

We know that Mick N2PZX is working on this award and may already be done.

See pages 50 and 51 in the November issue of QST for more information and a copy of log to submit.

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 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 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.

Nike Base HF Club Station

Don't forget to stop out at the Nike Base HF Club station on Monday nights between 7 and 9 PM to do some operating or just to have a good rag chew!

Jake KB2NNN and Bob WA2IQX are continuing their remodeling project on the front operating room. They have put in a new lower ceiling with lights and speakers. They have also installed a new cork wall for posting items and have worked on rewiring light switches and outlets..

Why don't you come out and see us some time!

From The Prez

Continued From Page 2

larger coverage 2 meter machine.

The Nike Base station room is well under way to becoming completed sometime this spring. Bob and Jake are doing an outstanding job! Those of us having had the privilege of seeing the work in progress can hardly wait to start operations!

There are so many of you that I would like to thank for all the help and support you have given me over the last 2 years, that it would take another page to do so. You know who you are, so take this as my personal THANK YOU!!

I can now sit back, enjoy the meetings, and visit with each of you without having to rush off to get something set for the meeting, etc. It will be great! I hope each of you will join us at our Christmas party. Pizza and pop will be provided. It would be nice if each of you could bring a desert, or something else to share, after all it's Christmas! (Rumor has it even KVA will be there!)

Speaking of Christmas, if you have any young children/grandchildren, etc. that would enjoy seeing an animated outdoor Christmas display, this is an open invitation to bring them by my QTH any evening from 4:30 - 11:00 pm. The display is computer operated, so I don't need to be there to turn it "on". For those up North, take thruway exit 54 to the 400. Head Southbound, until it merges into Route 16. Go 5 miles from that point, and you will see the Holland Middle School on the right. Then, turn right onto Partridge (on-a-pear-tree) Rd Go 1.7 miles up the road (literally), turning left onto Phillips. We are the second house on the right (with the Santa in the driveway). Hope you enjoy it!

This is the end of the "from the prez" column for me. It's time for Terry to decide on his format.

You will be seeing an article from me each month, as time permits, dealing with digital communications. I will start off with the basics, suggest references as we go, and wind up with a "users' guide" to the BBS. The information will be general for all those on packet to make use of.

Final 73s from the "office of the presidency", 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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