

telstar



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

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Looking at 1994!

By Terry KM4XZ

This is the first column that I have written as the new President of STARS, so I would like to discuss some ideas for 1994.

During the last few years, we have experienced significant growth to the point where we are ending the 1993 year with over 250 members and are the largest amateur radio club in Western New York. Obviously, we have been doing a lot of things right! Now, the trick is to continue to do those things right, while looking for opportunities for improvement.

We need to identify what the needs of the members are and how the club can help meet those needs.

While there are probably a multitude of reasons why people join STARS, I would like to discuss three major reasons:

1) People are interested in local communications, both voice and digital, and see STARS as a major contributor in this area. Many of our members join the club to help fund our repeater and to gain access to our member privileges, such as the Autopatch, the signal strength test, etc.

Our 147.090 repeater is certainly one of the premier repeaters in the area and is widely used by members and other amateur radio operators. Early in 1994, we will also have a UHF repeater on the air from the Nike Base.

January Meeting

The January club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center on Thursday, January 6, 1994. All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We will hold a business meeting to discuss such topics as the acquisition of a multi-mode TNC, the remodeling of the Nike Base club station, the new UHF repeater, the Nike Base Snowfest, etc.

Then we will have a special presentation by Bill Siska N2GAO, our Repeater Chairman, who will be doing a demonstration of the functions on our repeater and will answer your questions on the Autopatch, key pad tests, signal strength tests, etc. This has proven to be a very popular event in the past as many new (as well as old) members would like to learn more about the repeater. The new repeater codes will be put into use shortly after the January meeting.

Dues Are Due!

Your 1994 club dues are due January 1, 1994! Please fill out the club membership renewal form that was in your December newsletter or make out a sheet of paper listing your name, call sign, class, address and telephone number. Bring this to the January meeting, or mail it and your dues to: Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY 14206.



We will be changing the repeater codes after the January meeting, so get your dues in now so that you can get your new codes!

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★ 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.

New Packet Network

We have successfully merged the STARS BBS, with the KF2LN and KN2M DxClusters, along with 2 node gateways (Northern in Tonawanda, Southern in Bliss) into a 9600 baud Local Area Network.

To summarize the venture I have included a section from the HELPVV user section of the BBS, which elaborates about the LAN, and more importantly, how to access and utilize it.

Happy Holidays Folks, Greg, KE2VW

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LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN)

I have established a LAN on my coordinated 446.825 Mhz port. Users may connect to the LAN in several ways:

- 1) Using 9600 baud, you can directly connect to BBSVW, to access the STARS BBS; or connect directly to BUFALO, then BLISS to come out on the 145.65Mhz node at 1200 baud to talk to our Southern group directly; or connect to HAMBURG, then KF2LN to connect to the KF2LN/KD2YP DxCluster; or connect to #SELMA, then KN2M connect to the KN2M DxCluster, or finally connect to HAMBURG, then STARS to come out on the 144.91Mhz node at 1200 baud to talk to our Northern group directly.
 - 2) Using 1200 baud, you can connect to BLISS on 145.65Mhz, and from there C BBSVW (KE2VW-5), or C DXBFLO (KF2LN), or C DXELMA (KN2M), or C STARS (KB2YJ-4).
 - 3) Using 1200 baud, you can connect to STARS on 144.91Mhz, and from there C BBSVW (KE2VW-5), or C DXBFLO (KF2LN), or C DXELMA (KN2M), or C BLISS (KE2PM-4).
 - 4) Using 1200 baud, you can connect to BBSVW on 144.91Mhz, and from there use our gateway to the 440 port, coming out at 9600 baud on 446.825. You can then connect to either DxCluster, or either user port, as described in #1 above!
- DO NOT USE THE GATEWAY OF THIS BBS TO STAY LINKED TO EITHER CLUSTER**

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

As a general rule, the January issue is a review of the last year accomplishments of the club. 1993 was a very busy year for the club, what with the Bike Treks and Pumpkin Patrol in the public service category. Our membership increased quite a bit and am happy to say that the new ones say they wish they joined sooner.

The improvements to the Nike Base were spectacular. I don't think that many clubs provide a club room as complete as ours is. What with air conditioning, modern state of the art equipment and comfortable seating. There is a beam on a 70 foot tower plus other antennas also. Due to the dedicated workmanship of some of the members, it is kept up to date. One big improvement is the packet radio addition to the club with our own packet BBS, node and a lot more.

The VE sessions were increased, and it is nice to have a walk-in service to accommodate the hams to be, or upgrades. Our repeater is in use quite a lot, and at the present time there are three nets on every week. Its coverage is very good in Western New York.

The ARRL honored the club for its twenty-five years of service to amateur radio and sent us a nice certificate to put up in the club rooms.

Field Day is always a fun loving time, from the time that the arrows are used to install the antennas until it is over. If you never participated in one, please make it a must do on your 1994 list.

The July and August meetings are held at the Nike Base club rooms, and a family-type picnic is held at the August meeting.

Only one thing that was not done is to have classes and seminars to acquaint everyone with the new and upcoming types of transmissions. Hope that will be on the agenda for 1994.

I have just dwelled on the most important activities and am sure some more could be added to the list, so let us say goodbye to 1993 and good luck in 1994.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

Surgery Is No Fun !!!

I underwent surgery on Dec. 1st of this year. I was hospitalized for 6 days and that was NO FUN. However, on the brighter side of my hospitalization is friendship.

When I speak of friendship, I'm talking about someone who took the time to make a very nice home-made get well card. Then this friend took the card to the December Club meeting and passed it among the members to sign. Thank You Mick (N2PZX) for your thoughtfulness.

I would also like to thank everyone who called on the phone and repeater to see how I was feeling. It will take time but I am well on my way to recovery now.

Also, the rumor is true I finally tied the knot. Sandy and I were married on December 13, 1993

Once again I would like to Thank all of you for your concern.

Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT

New Members

We want to welcome the following new STARS members:

Robert Mischel	N2ENH	Technician
Scott Gifford	KA2TTO	Novice
Richard W. Gresch	N2WMA	Technician
Richard J. Gresch	N2XBO	Technician
Kara Gresch		

This brings our membership up to 256 through the December meeting!

Wednesday Night Net

Starting December 29, 1993 at the beginning of the net I will announce a general Amateur Radio topic for discussion. Your comments on the topic such as your feelings, experience, pros / cons etc. and all input are welcome. If you have any topic for a future net please let me know. You can also call me at home (826-7643).

Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT Net Control

Looking At 1994!

Continued From Page 1

The STARS BBS is certainly one of the finest packet BBS's in the area and has been provided courtesy of Greg KE2VW. The STARS Node has in a vital link for many packeteers and has been provided courtesy of Gary KB2YJ. You will continue to see some exciting improvements in the packet area this year.

During this year, we will also continue to work on trying to improve the repeater reception from Hamburg and the surrounding area and on implementing a reliable back-up repeater to shorten any downtime.

2) STARS has long billed itself as a learning club, and I think many people join STARS because they are interested in learning more about amateur radio. We will continue to try to have a wide variety of interesting speakers, demonstrations, etc. at our club meetings for this purpose.

The last couple of classes that we have tried to hold to teach people how to get an amateur radio license or to upgrade their license have not been as successful as we would have liked. I think that this is an area where we can make improvements in 1994 to better serve our members and to bring more people into the hobby.

Our Nike Base Club Station is a tremendous asset that we have which could be better utilized to help members learn more about amateur radio. It is ideally suited right now for small classes (maybe 2 to 5 students) on operating on HF voice and CW and VHF packet. If we buy the multi-mode TNC that we have been talking about, then we could add classes in RTTY, Amtor, etc. These could be real "hands on" learning experiences. Shane Brady WB2WPM has also been talking recently about using the Nike Base for project building sessions. If we can develop a program of learning like this, then we could really justify the investment that we have been making in the club station over the last few years.

3) Many people seem to enjoy STARS because we provide them with opportunities to use their radios and to socialize with other members. Field Day is a great example of this. Of course,

we also have our Nets, our public service events (MS and CF bike treks, Pumpkin Patrol, etc.), our special events (Snowfest, Friendship Festival, the Scout Jamboree On The Air, etc.), HF contests, the summer picnic, the Holiday Party, and many other events.

We will continue to offer a wide variety of programs like these and hopefully be able to have a few new events like hidden transmitter hunts.

Well, that's some of my thoughts on the club. If you agree or disagree, let me know! One thing that is important to remember though, no matter what direction we take in 1994. This club is not and never has been a one-person effort. We have accomplished all that we have because many members have volunteered to serve as net control operators, instructors, public service event coordinators and workers, VE examiners, Field Day workers, etc. So, no matter whether you are a new member or a 20-year member, a Novice or an Extra, don't be bashful about volunteering to help out on some of these projects!

Snowfest '94

The Nike Base will be holding their annual winter festival on January 22 and 23.



To thank the Town of Hamburg for the use of our club station, we have traditionally opened it to visitors during the festival.

We will be needing volunteers to host the guests during the afternoon of both days. If you are willing to help one or both days, contact Bob Witt WA2IQX at 648-4274.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Past President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Vice President	Norm Jones	KD2KK
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Shane Brady	WB2WPM

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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 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.

New Packet Network

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FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME, AS THIS TIES UP ONE OF OUR USER PORTS. IN THAT CASE CONNECT DIRECTLY USING ONE OF THE OTHER METHODS LISTED ABOVE.

YOU SHOULD NOT GO HOPPING DOWN EITHER DX BACKBONES TO ROCHESTER OR SYRACUSE, AS THIS WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF YOUR USER PRIVLEDGES FOR THE DXCLUSTERS!

My thanks to KF2LN, KN2M, KE2PM, KB2YJ, and KB2JAG for their assistance!

Enjoy our BBS/twin DxCluster/twin user port experiment, and drop me a note with your thoughts on this project.

VE Corner

This is the first article from the VE Corner. In this column, I will attempt to give our readers the latest news on the STARS VE testing sessions. Our last session was held on 12/11/93 in the Hamburg Community center, at 10am. This session was attended by 10 examinees, resulting in 8 successful upgrades, 5 of which upgraded license classes. The following are to be congratulated:

Scott Gifford, KA2TTO, passed element(s) 3A, upgrading to Technician + HF
 Robert Forbes, passed element(s) 2
 David Barwell, passed element(s) 2 & 3A, upgrading to Technician
 Richard J Gresch, N2XBO, passed element(s) 1A, upgrading to Technician + HF
 Richard W Gresch, N2WMA, passed element(s) 1A, upgrading to Technician + HF
 Thomas Toft, KB2QHD, passed element(s) 1B & 3B, upgrading to General
 David Vicaretti, passed element(s) 2
 Craig Lembke, passed element(s) 2
 Congratulations Guys! Yes, in case you noticed, the Greschs were father and son!

A VERY special thanks to our VE team, who made this session run smoothly: Norm Jones, KD2KK (VE contact); Dick Haungs, W2UJR; Guz Guzanski, WB2EZU, Shane Brady, WB2WPM; Anne Fanelli, W1ZG; Pat Murray, NW2I; and Bob Ward, K2PPK.



GREAT NEWS. I have been approached by the organizer of the Buffalo Hamfest, to serve as VE liaison to conduct VE sessions at the Buffalo Hamfest! These will differ from our usual VE sessions, in that we will ONLY take preregistered examinees. NO WALKINS for this one! Norm, KD2KK, has agreed to be the VE contact person for this session. I will need 3-4 teams of VEs for this one. Keep the date open, all you VES! This hamfest is going to be significantly expanding, and this year will take residence in the mammoth AgriCenter building on the South Park side of the fairgrounds. It may seem lost in this building, but not for long. GREAT things are ahead for this hamfest!

I'll keep you posted.. 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. From the South, on 145.65 Mhz: C BLISS, then C BBSVW.

The STARS node (KB2YJ-4) 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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