

telstar



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

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Sergei Flies Again!

Many hams in WNY had a chance to hear Sergei Krikalev U5MIR when he was aboard the MIR space station for a year, and a few lucky ones even got to talk to him.

If everything works out right, Sergei will be going back to outer space, but this time on the US Space Shuttle on the flight of STS-60, scheduled for launch on February 3. Sergei is the first Russian cosmonaut chosen to participate in a series of joint US-Russian Space Shuttle flights.



Since there is no reciprocal operating privileges between Russia and the US, Sergei will operate amateur radio under Commander Charles Bolden's (KE4IQB) control operator authority. Mission Specialist Ron Sega (KC5ETH) is also expected to operate. They will contact several schools during the mission including one in Russia.

The SAREX operations on this flight will include both voice and packet. The planned inclination angle of 57 degree will bring the shuttle far enough north to be easily heard in WNY.

Bolden's KE4IQB call sign will be the primary

February Meeting

The February club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Aves.) Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



Jim KF2LN will put on a special presentation to explain the workings of a DX PacketCluster node, which allows DXers to share information about what is going on in the HF bands. For those of you who aren't on packet yet, Jim will talk about future plans that will allow you to share some of the benefits through a voice repeater!

We hope to see all of you there!

one used during the mission on voice. On packet, they will use W5RRR-1. (This belongs to the Houston Space Center club station.)

Listen for the shuttle on 145.55 Mhz for both voice and packet. However since all shuttle communications are split frequency, NEVER TRANSMIT ON 145.55! The shuttle will be listening for your voice communications on 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 or 144.99 Mhz. They will not favor any specific uplink frequency, so its up to the "luck of the draw". On packet, you will transmit on 144.49 Mhz.

Even if you don't make a 2 way contact with the shuttle, write down the time and information when you hear them and you can send for a great SWL card.

You can get the times that the shuttle will be over WNY from the STARS BBS once it is up.

★ 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.

British Radio Eavesdroppers Get Busted

Both the San Francisco Chronicle (12/26/93) and the Chicago Tribune (12/27/93) newspapers reported on a rather amusing story involving British ham radio operators. (The story originated over the Reuters newswire.)

It seems British cops set up a sting operation to catch ham radio operators in Northern England who break the law by illegally using police radio transmissions. The police issued a phony broadcast about aliens landing nearby and then arrested those who showed up to see the people from outer space. The eavesdroppers "... could hardly believe their ears -- aliens were invading planet Earth ... Doncaster to be exact." Several people were charged with acting illegally on information contained in police broadcasts.

Another spoof broadcast said bags of money had been discovered in woods and large sums were blowing around. Within two minutes, a first car of eavesdroppers arrived in the hopes of picking up some of the booty. South Yorkshire police ordered "Operation Marconi" when they suspected that criminals were benefiting from information gleaned from the airwaves.

While it is not illegal to listen to police radio transmissions in Great Britain, it is against the law to act on any information heard when monitoring police frequencies. It should also be pointed out that in England scanner operators are also considered amateur radio operators.

Courtesy W5YI Report, 1/15/94

Are You Paid Up?

Dues for 1994 were payable as of 1/1/94! Have you paid yours yet?



If not, see the column on the left side of this page for how to send the money to Frank WG2H.

The repeater codes have been changed and only those with paid-up 1994 dues receive them.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the January meeting finally came. Terry KM4XZ, our new president for 1994, took over.

It was an interesting meeting, but Mother Nature, did not cooperate and gave us bad weather which cut down on the membership at the meeting.

Terry will try to involve more members into the activities and make it more interesting for the members.

Bill N2GAO, our Repeater Chairman, explained the new codes for the repeater, so I guess during the next few week everyone will try out the new codes. Remember to I.D. also Bill gave a demonstration of the reverse patch; it sure was a nice demo. He got his XYL to assist. She sure is a patient person! Marvelous how it works. If you paid your dues and don't have the new codes as yet, get in touch with Frank WG2H, and he will fix you up.

By the way, please look at your present license and see when the expiration date becomes due as the FCC does not send you a notice of expiration. They leave it up to you, so please

don't let it expire. You worked hard for it.

There is some talk about changing the day or days that the Nike Base will be open for use during the upcoming year, so please let your preference be noted so the schedule can be made up.

Bob WA2IQX wants to know if there are any members interested in the construction of radio equipment. He has a source of kits that would be a good start.

Now we come up to the greatest improvement to the club, "The New Packet Network". It would be nice to have some of the members acquainted with it to give the rest of us a birds eye view on it and the working of it to make it so easy. One thing about packet, you must know what you are doing as it is a very exacting mode of transmission. But the final results are well worth the trouble to keep up with the state of the art.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

V E Corner

To all candidates who have taken or will take tests for your Radio Amateur License with the STARS, PROS and Lancaster radio clubs:

Our local coordinators, Greg Young KE2VW and Dick Haungs W2UJR, and our VE's do not accept any fee's. Although we are allowed a certain percentage of the fees collected from each candidate, we feel honored to give the tests without receiving any monetary reward.



As we arrive at each session, our thoughts are filled with enthusiasm and hope that you will pass, and we want to encourage you to upgrade. As you join with us, we like to remind you, Amateur Radio is a hobby to enjoy for a lifetime. Our sessions are always pleasant, and we thank you for giving all of us the privilege of serving you.

73's from Patricia N2WI and all our VE's

The Rescue!

Amateur Radio came through again as it has many times in the past.

"HATS OFF" and MANY THANKS to JERRY WA2OMU, DENNIS K2CEC, MARC N2UBT and his XYL.

On Saturday, January 8, 1994 during the blizzard in the South Towns, I found myself implanted in snow in Boston on the 219 expressway. Jerry and Dennis made phone calls and kept me occupied until help arrived. Marc and his XYL came to my rescue in a four wheel drive Trooper. They put themselves in danger on the highway as they drove to find me. There were times of zero visibility. Jerry found Marc on another frequency and brought him over to the 147.09 repeater. I was able to maintain radio contact until he found me in the blizzard. They successfully pulled me back onto the highway.

Dave Tinkham K2ECK

Digital Corner

"PACKET RACKET", an introduction to packet radio, by Greg Young, KE2VW

I will attempt over the course of the next 2 years to acquaint readers of the Telstar with one form of digital communication that has revolutionized amateur radio - packet radio.

For the new packeteer, or any person interested in this high power method of communication, I recommend "Your Gateway to Packet Radio", written by Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU. This text covers the entire spectrum of packet radio in an understandable format, as is available locally.

I plan to liberally take text from articles written by WB9LOZ, KB4VOL, KO6GGD, and KA3RFE. Off we go.....

Packet Radio is one of the latest major developments to hit the world of Amateur Radio.

If you haven't already been caught by the "packet bug", you're probably wondering what it's all about and why so many people are so excited about it. Continue reading, and you may just find out!

Packet seems to offer something different from other facets of Amateur Radio, yet it can be used for everything from a local QSO to a DX contact 3000 miles away (on 2 meters!), for electronic mail, message transmission, emergency communications, or just plain experimentation with the world of digital communications. It presents a new challenge for those tired of the QRM on the low bands, a new mode for those already on FM, and a better, faster means of message handling for those on RTTY! Packet is for the rag chewer, the traffic handler, and the casual operator. It provides access to a wealth of information on EVERY aspect of amateur radio, from HF SSB/CW, to ATV/SSTV, to VHF/UHF FM/SSB/CW, to Satellite communication, to the latest ARRL/ATLDDIV news/bulletins, to the FCC NPRM's, etc., etc.

A ham can get involved very easily with relatively small out-of-pocket expenses. All you need is a 2-meter transceiver, a computer or a dumb terminal, and a "TNC". You probably already have the two meter rig and a computer of some kind, so all you need to buy is the TNC, which costs just over \$130. The "TNC" is the

Terminal Node Controller, the little black box that's wired between the computer and the radio. The TNC acts very much like a modem when connecting a computer to the phone lines. It converts the data from the computer into AFSK tones for transmission and changes the tones received by the radio into data for the computer. It's a simple matter of wiring plugs/jacks gets you going.

Packet is communication between people, either directly or indirectly. You can communicate keyboard to keyboard, or use electronic mailboxes (bulletin board systems) to leave messages. Due to the error checking by the TNC, all of it is error free, too. (That is, as error free as the person at the keyboard types it!) If errors occur during transmission you don't miss the information, because the information is resent again!

The data that is to be transmitted is collected in the TNC and sent as bursts, or "packets" of information; hence the name. Each packet has the callsign or address of who it's going to, the callsign it's coming from, and the route connecting the stations included; along with data and error checking information. Since up to 256 characters can be included in each packet, more than three lines of text can be sent in a matter of seconds. There is plenty of time between packets for several stations to be using the same frequency at the same time, and all using the same "repeaters", known in packet circles as digipeaters, which are actually simplex repeaters, as opposed to dual frequency "voice" repeaters. You can link from digipeater to digipeater, too, extending your range tremendously.

If all of this sounds confusing, don't let it bother you, because the TNC, does everything for you automatically!

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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 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 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 a test session 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.

Wednesday Evening VHF Net

Winter still has us in it's icy grip, so this is a good time of the year to check in on the net. A topic given at the beginning of each net for comment has increased our check-ins, I'm pleased to say! The past discussions were very interesting, and the majority voiced their opinions or feelings.

At the end of Dec.1993 I introduced this new format of various interests on our net. Some of the past topics discussed were Tec. No Code, Vanity Call Signs and Instant Licenses.

I am asking for your help in compiling a poll of topics for future nets. There are 52 weeks in a year and many more years of nets to come. Please give me a call with your ideas or drop me a line on packet.

Home Phone : 826-7643 Packet : KB2OUT @ KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA

CALL WITH IDEAS !!!!!!! DON'T LET THE WELL RUN DRY.

Thank you Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
STARS Net Control

Digital Corner

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In the next part of the series I will cover the basics of the equipment needed, and how it can be used to start you on the road to communicating digitally.

Always remember that before we can run, we must learn to crawl and then walk, so I STRONGLY encourage you to learn how your computer works (learn about DOS), BEFORE you embark on your voyage into the world of " packet racket " .

A GREAT DOS tutorial is " Using MS-DOS ", written by Kris Jamsa, published by Osborne McGraw-Hill.

Until next time, 73, and keep those packets flying!

Nike Base Sno Fest

Each year the Nike Base stages their Sno Fest with free skating and other winter activities for the young and old. To thank the Town of Hamburg for the use of our club station building, STARS has opened the station during the festival so visitors could visit.

In some years there has been almost no snow. In fact, last year it was rainy and muddy.



Boy did 1994 make up for that! As you know, it has been snowing off and on since Christmas. The Town has tried to keep the road back to our station plowed, but when we arrived on both Saturday and Sunday to open the station, massive snow drifts kept us from getting in! Thanks to all those who volunteered to help!



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. Automatic 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 or BBSVW.

From the South, on 145.65 Mhz, C BLISS, then C BBSVW.

On 446.825 Mhz, you can connect using 9600 baud directly to BBSVW.

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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