

telstar



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

ISSUE 153 JUNE, 1994

Field Day 1994!

If you haven't already, start making your plans for STARS Field Day 1994!

We will be back at our site behind the Hamburg Moose Lodge on Church Street 0.25 miles from Route 75. Church is between Schmidt's Auto Glass and the Dairy Queen.

John Leitten KA2RFT will be talking all about our plans at the June club meeting, but we will give you a few of the details now. We plan to have the July newsletter out just before Field Day to give you the last minute details.



We will be setting up during the morning of Saturday, June 26 and will take to the air at 2 PM for 24 hours of non-stop contesting. There will be chances for people with all classes of licenses to participate.



It is a great chance to see how to operate in emergency conditions with all kinds of antennas and emergency power. There will be HF (CW and SSB), VHF/UHF, satellites, packet, smoke signals and who knows what else!

Come on out to our meeting on June 2 and then get ready for a great Field Day!

June Meeting

The June club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 2 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

You are invited

With summer coming on, we have lots of things to talk about (e.g. hamfests, Field Day, raffles, bike treks, hidden transmitter hunts, balloon launches, VE exams, etc.) Things are really popping!

John Leitten KA2RFT, our Field Day chairman, will talk about all our plans about Field Day. This is always a big event, so you will want to come out and find out what is going on!

STARS Raffle

STARS is having another big raffle, but you will have to act fast to get in on it! The prize will be an AEA PK-88 packet TNC. This is one of the most widely used TNC's on the market.

Tickets will be on sale at the June STARS meeting and at the Lancaster Hamfest on June 12. The drawing will be made at the Lancaster Hamfest, towards the end of the day.



Here is a way to help raise funds for the club without needing to go door to door to sell light bulbs or cookies! For more information, contact Shane Brady WB2WPM at 675-5797.

★ 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 WB2E2U.

STARS VHF net meets at 7 PM on Wednesdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 (output/input). Net control is Tony KB2OUT.

STARS Swap Net meets at 7 PM on Tuesdays on STARS WB2ELW 147.09 repeater. Net control is Jeremy N2UIW.

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

A hidden transmitter hunt was held on Saturday, May 14. Four teams started out from Getzville Fire Co. on Dodge Road to track down Terry KM4XZ, the hidden transmitter operator, who turned out to be located in Rehm Park in Depew (about 7 1/2 miles straight line from the start).

This park is very nicely tucked away behind a residential area and is only accessible by one road and from one direction! This plus some unusual signal reflections near the Buffalo International Airport caused the hunters to really have to work to find their prey!

While the winners were determined by elapsed mileage, the results would have been the same on this hunt if elapsed time had been used:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|------------|------------|
| 1. K2UD | Howard | 19.0 miles | 1:19 Hours |
| 2. N2AWT | Peter | 21.5 miles | 2:18 Hours |
| | AA2OT | | Dan |
| 3. N2UBW | Al | 23.3 miles | 2:38 Hours |
| | N2XXF | | Larry |
| | - | | Amy |
| 4. N2SKT | Jim | 37.0 miles | 2:50 Hours |
| | N2TIE | | Ron |

Special thanks go to Jim N2OSL for helping Terry both prior to the hunt day and also during the hunt. Dan KE2LD was also at the start to learn more about radio direction finding.

The weather was absolutely great for the hunt and everyone had a good time.

After the hunt, the participants met at the Atlantis Family Restaurant to eat lunch and to discuss the day's events.

Silent Key

We regret to inform you that STARS member Dean Yanatsis WB2YAX is now a silent key.

We send our deepest sympathies to all of his family!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the May meeting sure was interesting. This is the third trip that the FCC has been down to our meeting. The first one was on rules and regulations.

The second time, we were fortunate to have Mr. Taylor (he is now a silent key) come down. It was about the time that two meters was just getting popular, and he brought all his instruments and checked out our repeater, plus all the transmitters that the members brought in for a check up. At that time, most of the transmitters were crystal controlled, before the type that we have now. His instruments used 5" diameter meters, and it was easy to find out how the frequency was set. Most were within tolerance and standards. He also showed us how to attach the antennas for less power loss.

By the way, after a lapse of years, the Erie County Fair has asked us to put on an Amateur Radio exhibit at the up-coming fair. Greg

KE2VW is chairman of it, but remember that this is a club project and all members must cooperate in order to make it a success, not only for amateur radio but to make an interesting display that will catch the public eye. One thing that goes over big is the antique radio display which draws quite a lot of attention.

After a lapse of a few weeks, the swap net is back on the air. It starts on Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the 147.09 STARS repeater by Jeremy N2UIW. Please obey the orders that Jeremy gives so that it will work OK. I notice that a lot of non-members take advantage of this net also.

It trust that everyone enjoys the "Packet Racket" that Greg KE2VW is putting into our Telstar in parts. Part 4 was a good one and hope everyone uses the info to set your deviation and also to set your volume for the best reception.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZX

Lancaster Hamfest

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will present their 6th Annual Hamfest on Sunday, June 12.

This year it will return to the new location from last year which is the Darien Center Fire Hall on Route 77 between Routes 33 and 20. This is south of the Darien Lakes amusement park.

They will have both indoor and outdoor vendors and outdoor flea market space. Tickets will be \$5.00 at the door and includes an 8 foot outdoor flea market space.

They will be having door prizes and a drawing among check-ins for a prize. At noon they will hold a hidden transmitter hunt on the premises with the winner receiving a cash prize.

STARS will have a table at the Hamfest to tell everyone about our club. Members should be sure to stop by to say hello and sit down for awhile to help man (or woman!) the booth! By the way, WEAR YOUR STARS TEE SHIRTS so people can see all the members that we have!

This has been a fine hamfest, and this year should be better than ever!

HELP!

We have been asking for volunteers to help us provide communications for two charity bike treks in June for the Last couple of months. While we have some volunteers, we still don't have enough! Everyone is sitting back and assuming that somebody else is going to do it!

If you have 2 meter equipment and 2 meter privileges, WE NEED YOU! You don't have to have prior experience. This is a great project for you No Code Techs since you have all the privileges that we need!

The American Lung Association trek will be on June 18 and 19, and the Multiple Sclerosis trek will be on June 25 and 26. We particularly need help with the MS ride since it is the longest and usually has the most riders.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE! Pick up your phone and call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 826-7643 to volunteer for one or more days or just to get more info. DO IT NOW!



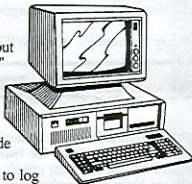
"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 5

In this part of the series we will discuss what is involved logging onto a full service FBB BBS, and how you can find your way around! It may seem somewhat confusing at first, but if you take one step at a time, you will find it to be rather easy, certainly easier than getting to know your computer was!

Once you are on the BBS's frequency, or have connected to a node that ties into the BBS directly (ie BLISS, MILTRY, or STARS) type: C BBSVW. You will then get a connect message from the BBS. In the case of BBSVW, you will get this message :

"Welcome new user. To provide you with complete security I have installed a password system, that prevents anyone, other than yourself from reading any of your messages, or sending messages/bulletins out under your callsign."
TEXT EDITED
FOR BREVITY...



"To enable this security I will provide you, on request, an individual password to log onto the STARS BBS. Without it any station using your callsign will be immediately disconnected."

The password system is optional, but under the new FCC rules about bulletins, the originating callsign is held responsible for the message contents, so you can see the benefit of the password!

The BBS will then go into the normal mode, asking you to type: 1) Your first name 2) Your city/village name (no zip codes here!) 3) Your zip code 4) Your home BBS. Do NOT put YOUR callsign here. You must use the callsign of a full service BBS (ie KE2VW). Do NOT use the SSID (remember that is the -5 in the case of KE2VW-5).

ALL of the above must be filled out, except the home BBS may be left blank, or the BBS will not allow you to continue, and you risk losing

any future mail that will be sent to you!

Now you are logged on! That was easy, wasn't it? Now what??

At this point you will see the normal BBS prompt, which from the BBS is equivalent to the C:\> from your computer. This tells you the BBS is ready to receive something from you. If you don't see a prompt anytime you are in the BBS, you have entered a "server" of someort, and the normal BBS commands don't work.. more on that later.

Type: ?. You will then get a brief listing of how you may use the ? to help you. It will tell you that ? followed by a command, such as R, S, L, etc will give you all the information available on that specific command.

The STARS BBS does not list all the commands available in front of the BBS prompt, as it would be horrendous in length:
A,B,C,D,F,G,H,HELPVW,I,J,K,L,M,N,NZ,N
H,O,PS,PG etc>!! To find out the commands MOST useful to you, type ? H which will list these, and others, along with a description of what they do. You would then type ? L to see a DETAILED help file (description) of the various types of L commands, and how to use each one!

Most users like to start off by listing a few bulletins, to see what this packet stuff is all about! All you have to do on your FIRST connection is to type L. This will list ALL new bulletins since you last listed any. Don't worry, you will not get a complete listing of 1800 bulletins, even though this is your first time listing any messages.. I've set it up for 20 maximum this time!

You have a second safeguard on BBSVW, which is called paginating. This will give you one

STARS Board of Directors

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

screenfull of information, then pause, and ask you to "type ENTER to continue, A to abort." etc. This way, if you "mess up", and type LB by mistake, which will list ALL active bulletins on the BBS (1800 plus!), you won't be stuck on packet all day!!

Many have asked me what the top header of the list screen means. I will break it down for you. The top line contains the following: Msg # TSLD Dim To @BBS From Date/Time Title (LC-choice)

The Msg # refers to the consecutive # the BBS assigned to the message, based on the order in which it was received. This is the number you will use when you tell the BBS to read, or send a reply to a message.

TSLD refers to: T - the Type of message.. B is for bulletin, P is for Private, T is for NTS Traffic. S - the Status of the message.. S is for a recent bulletin, F is for a Forwarded message, K is for a Killed message, N is for a New message, etc. L - if present means the message/bulletin was Locally originated on that BBS. D - if present means the message contains executable files in it.

Dim refers to the bytes of information contained in the message. This includes the information contained in the header (the address section of the message, which can be quite long!).

To - refers to the addressee, the person or group the message has been sent to. This can be a callsign, or an area of interest (SALE, WANT, HELP, CQ etc). This can be very creative at times, such as YOUTH, WX (weather), ARRL, KEPS, etc etc.

@ BBS - refers to the area of distribution for the bulletin/message. In the case of a private message, it is the home BBS of the message's recipient. In the case of a bulletin, it defines the area you want the bulletin to be sent (ie WNYBBS sends it to ALL of WNY, NYBBS to ALL of New York State, ALLUSA, etc). We will cover sending mail properly in an upcoming article.

From - refers to the originator of the message/bulletin. You will NOT see ANY private messages, except those addressed to you, unless you are the SysOp. You will know they are there, because there are gaps in the message

numbers, which are consecutive, as I stated earlier..

Date/time - refers to the date and time this BBS received the message/bulletin, not the time it originated. That date/time will it was originated can be found in the actual message header.

Title - refers to the message title, written by the author. It should serve to catch your eye, with a brief description of what it contains.

(LC-choice: *) - refers to the filter you have selected in listing bulletins. Basically this allows you to set up a filter of bulletin types you wish to read (ie LC SALE means you will only see SALE bulletins when you do the List command, * means you will see everything you are allowed to!). There are better ways to selectively list bulletins with a new server I have called SCANBULLETIN, which will be described later.

That is probably more than most of you want to know, but you will not find that information easily, and I guarantee you there a more than a few SysOps who don't understand it either!

Now that you understand what the list means, the next time you connect to the BBS, you will be BBS smart!

Now it's time to type ? L, which will show you the different ways you can list the messages. The help files are written quite clearly, so I will not delve into those here, but they include things such as: LL # , which Lists the Last # number of messages. L msg# - L msg#, which lists messages between the two numbers specified only. L < callsign, which lists messages from that callsign. L > callsign, which lists messages to that callsign (if you are allowed to read those!) L msg#, which lists only messages with a higher number, etc.

In the next installment of this series, we will discuss reading messages, followed by sending messages, which we will cover in some depth. This is where many get into trouble when they try sending messages out, without first learning how they should be addressed, especially in the cases of bulletins.

Your homework for the next article, is to get onto the BBS, and practice listing messages using

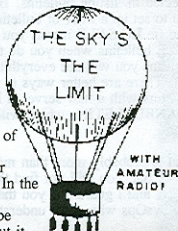
ATV To The Edge Of Space (Part II)

(Or the Mother of all Transmitter Hunts)
By Howard Kraus K2UD

All is looking good for a June 4 launch of the ATV Group of Western New York's first ATV balloon (rain date is June 5). Let me update you on requirements and planned activities for the search teams.

Bring your favorite method of direction finding (doppler, switched pattern, TDOA, yagi) and if possible a dedicated receiver.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! It will be imperative for search teams to have an independent means of communicating on 2 meters aside from their receiving equipment. In the search area, near field communications may be realized on simplex, but it may be likely that a repeater will be used.



If you have an HF transceiver, **BRING IT!** Net control will be on 7.337 MHz LSB from the launch site. K2UD will be in contact with KB2CXM for directions to the computed touchdown site and updates on the flight. Information from here will be relayed to hunters in the field on 2 meters.

Topographic maps of Western and Central New York are highly desirable. These are known as 1:250,000 maps of Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester and Elmira. Aeronautical Sectional maps will also work here (Detroit sectional). A standard New York State road map will serve you nicely too. We anticipate a touchdown anywhere East of Buffalo. On launch morning, we will have a more specific area of search. Oh, learn how to use that compass correctly!

If you have ATV receiving equipment, **BRING IT!** Do you have a DC powered VCR? If you do, I want to know you! Camcorder, of course!

At 7:30 AM, hunters will proceed East. At about 8:30 AM, word will be given on 40 meters of the expected touchdown site. This will be communicated to hunters on 2 meters. Launch occurs at 9:00 AM. By this time, hunters will be at the expected touchdown site.

Now it becomes a team effort! The object is to bring the package home. All hunters will utilize their collective efforts to locate where the package comes down. Intercommunications will be paramount. Hunters may fan out from the projected touchdown site and converge on where it happens to travel. Bearings will be relayed to the launch site on 40 meters as an aid in triangulation.

Elapsed flight time may vary from 1 to 3 hours. Plan on making a day of it. Bring food! Bring light refreshment! Make sure you have plenty of fuel. After the successful recovery of the package (read that optimism!) hunters and launchers will rendezvous for other refreshments.

Do not worry, they will not float away. Keep those batteries charged, bring those duck waders!

Look, this is a hobby, but how much more exciting can it get? Well, I'll let you know during launch 2.

STARS Tee Shirts

We have placed an order for more of our beautiful red, white and blue **STARS** tee shirts and should have them in time for the Lancaster Hamfest and for Field Day.

We have ordered a **small** number of extras for people who didn't get a chance to get their order in; but they will go on a first-come-first-serve basis, so if you want one, contact Terry KM4XZ at the June meeting or by calling 656-0865. Don't get shut out!

Summer is here (well, almost!) so don't forget to wear your tee shirts to Hamfests, club meetings, Field Day, public service events, hidden transmitter hunts, etc.

We have the largest club in the greater Buffalo area, so let's show people that we do!

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a test session on June 18, 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 June 15, 1994 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on June 11, 1994 in N. Tonawanda, NY. For information, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

Lockport ARA (LARA). 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.

For Sale

Complete packet station including a Commodore 64 Keyboard plus power supply, a Commodore Color Monitor #1702, a Commodore Disk Drive #1541, a Commodore Printer #803, and a KAM multimode TNC plus power supply. Includes all cables and manuals. All you need is a 2 meter transceiver to get on the air. \$640.00 for the complete package. Call Guz WB2EZU at 627-3724.

Nike Base Club Station

Don't forget to stop by the Nike Base Club station on Saturdays between 1 PM and 3 PM. We have a great HF station covering SSB, CW, AMTOR, Baudot, and Pactor; and a complete packet station. You can come to operate, to learn more about the different modes, to get help on projects or problems, or just to shoot the breeze!

PACKET RACKET

Continued from Page 5

the ? L help section to guide you through the different options! You will find this can be a very powerful tool, when using some of the "advanced" list commands the BBS offers.

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

Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the
STARS KE2VW BBS

Congratulations

Jim Brooks Jr. N2UPN is now an Extra Class ham!

Pat Murray NW2I has upgraded her General Radio Telephone License by passing Element 9!

Congratulations to these two STARS members.

If you have got a new license, upgraded, or got a new call, let Terry KM4XZ know at 656-0865 so we can tell the other members.

D-Day Special Event Station

The Manche Radio-Amateur and the Association of D-Day Utah Beach Radio-Amateur have announced that TM6JUN is the call sign for the special event station for the 1994 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the landing of the allied forces on June 6, 1944. This station will be located on Utah Beach (Normandy).

Look for them on the following frequencies:
CW - 3.544, 7.030, 14.044, 21.044, 28.044
Phone: - 3.775, 7.070, 14.244, 21.344, 28.444

QSL via F6KFW, PO Box 234, 50102
Cherbourg, France.



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 151.4 MHz). This also is an open repeater.

Club Packet

The STARS KE2VW BBS 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.

Using a telephone modem you can reach the STARS KE2VW BBS by calling 537-9334.

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 Nike Base Club Station 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 Saturdays between 1 and 3 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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