telstar ★

STARS Goes To The Fair!

STARS is planning a great amateur radio exhibit for the 1994 Erie County Fair running from August 11 to 21. The exhibit will be on the second floor of the Technology Building (formerly the Public Services Building) and will be manned (and/or womanned) from 10 AM to 10:30 PM daily.

Greg KE2VW, chairman for the total event and the rest of his committee have done a great job planning the exhibit. There will be all sorts of exhibits:

Marc N2UBT is chairing a home brew committee which will display various pieces of home brew equipment.

Norm KD2KK is chairing an "old radio" committee which will have a National NC183, a Johnson radio, a Swan transceiver, a Drake, etc. We will use these to bring in the BBC broadcasts.

Bob WB2ABN has built a great 4-station CW keyer for people to try Morse Code and Larry AA2GW prepared a nice wall chart of the CW alphabet and numerals.

Judy N2TEZ provided us with a very professional SKYWARN display.

STARS 2 meter packet station will be in full swing, and we will also have voice capabilities

August Meeting

The August club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday August 4, at the Nike Base Club Station (on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is necessary.

The meeting will be outside, so please bring lawn chairs. In case of bad weather, listen to the 147.090 repeater for possible rescheduling.

This meeting will include our traditional Mini-Cookout. **STARS** will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and soft drinks will be available for $0.50. If you would like to bring some finger foods to share with the other members, we would appreciate it.

on 220 and 440 MHz.

Randy KA2RFW will provide 10 11X14 color pictures of various **STARS** activities to display on the walls.

Syd W2ICZ has provided us with a world map/QSL card display.

Shane WB2WPM and David AA2GF are going to have a computer slide show displaying various slow scan TV pictures.

Joe KB2JDB and Clare N2RJB will be providing a computer and radio equipment for a simple satellite station.

★ 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 Tony KB2OUT.

STARS Swap Net meets at 7 PM on Tuesdays on STARS WB2ELW 147.09 repeater. Net control is Marc N2UBT.

Erie County Fair
Continued From Page 1

Anne WI2G will coordinate radiograms from visitors at the fair onto the NTS message system.

We also will show videos of an introduction to amateur radio and ham radio in space.

The ARRL has provided us with literature on becoming an amateur radio operator for us to pass out.

The 2-person time slots are all full at the moment, but you can always drop by and help the people there. If you want to be a back-up in case someone has to cancel out, give Greg a packet message on his BBS or give him a call at 537-2830.

STARS Raffle

STARS has a great new raffle going on with a wider choice of prizes than ever before. Believe me, you need something from this list!

The winner will get their choice of:

A Cushcraft A3S HF tri-band beam, or

A Cushcraft R7 HF vertical antenna, or

A Kenwood TH-22AT two meter HT, or

A Kenwood TH-42AT 440 MHz HT, or

A $350.00 merchandise certificate at East Coast Amateur Radio, or

$250.00 in cash.

The drawing will be made at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 17.

Tickets are $2.00 or 3 for $5.00. They will be available at the August and September club meetings and at the Buffalo Hamfest. Members are encouraged to get a packet of 10 tickets to sell to help out the club; these are available from Shane Brady WB2WPM. Tickets not sold may be returned, but all tickets taken must be accounted for before the raffle.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the weatherman was kind to us for the outside July meeting at the Nike Base. Hope our luck holds out for the August meeting with the same results.

The August meeting is a open meeting and all members and their families are welcome to a family style picnic atmosphere with hot dogs, hamburgers and the rest of the goodies. Everyone is welcome and meet the families of our members. Come out and admire the good workmanship that was put into making the Nike Base a top notch station.

Well, our fall sked will be rather full, what with the Buffalo Hamfest, the Erie County Fair display plus other interesting subjects that come up at the meetings.

You know there is one field that needs more improvement, that is net control operators for various days and subjects. Why not pick up a favorite time and volunteer to take over at least every other week.

We have a very dedicated net control operator in

Tony KB2OUT, but he sure needs a few new voices to help out. He has his own problems to take care of so he can get into his new house and enjoy his nice family.

The 80 meter net has two dedicated operators and not much trouble, but that does not mean that you can't join and give them a break once in a while. You know that it is tiresome to listen to the same operator every net time.

The Swap net has had its ups and downs, and we want to thank Marc N2UBT for picking up the net operator duties. Why not donate an evening to help him out.

Then comes the big net on Wednesday evenings which all members look forward to each week. They get the latest updated news for the good of the club.

Our BBS sponsored by Greg KE2VW is a 24 hour job, but it is really worth it.

Happy Hamming! Guz WB2EZU

ALA Bike Trek

The American Lung Association (ALA) is holding the Finger Lakes Revival bike trek on April 12-14.

The ride will begin on Friday morning at Darien Lake State Park and will go through Warsaw, Perry, a portion of Letchworth State Park and will end up at Geneseo College. Saturday the riders will go through some beautiful scenic country side and will have a picnic along Conesus Lake before returning to Geneseo for the night. Sunday they will return to Darien Lake State Park.

Most of the ride is no further than we went on the ALA and MS bike treks going to the south that we did in June, but sounds further because it is called the "Finger Lakes" ride. They are going to the closest of the Finger Lakes.

PROS Hamfest

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) will be holding their Third Annual Chaffee Hamfest and Computer Show on Saturday, August 27 at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Tickets are $3.00 advance sales and $4.00 at the gate. Advance sale tickets may be requested by sending a check made payable to Mike Wrona, 139 Greenmeadow Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224 along with a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

There will be free tailgating and free parking included with admission. There will also be door prizes with the main prize donated by John Thomas K2XZ, owner of the 145.390 and 444.175 repeaters which will be used for talk-in.

"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 6

In this installment, we will finish up on the LIST command, and move onto the READ command. If you practiced the LIST command, and typed: ? L, you have seen all the options available with this command.

When you connect to the BBS, you will receive the log-on message, which is several paragraphs in length, and is used to convey important information and BBS changes to our users. Be sure to read this section. It may seem to be the same each time you connect, but will often have a new line added every few weeks.

You will then be told if new messages are waiting to be read. If there is more than one message waiting to be read, I would suggest listing them, to see how large they are, so you don't wind up overloading your scrollback buffers in your tnc by reading them all at once! To list them, type: LM (which stands for "List Mine".. remember our lesson last week?).

Once you see the list, which will give you the headers, including message size, originating author, etc., etc., you can read them by typing: RM, which as you guessed stands for "Read Mine". You have now just started off using our next command, the READ command.

To get more help on this command, type: ? R, which just as for the LIST command will give you information on the different options of the READ command that exist. You will find these to be very similar to the LIST command options.

To try one or two examples:

R 160137 will tell the BBS you wish to read message # 160137. R 160137 160234 160365 will tell the BBS you wish to read messages #'s 160137, then 160234, and then 160365. You will get these sent ALL AT ONCE, in that order. Again, be sure the message sizes are not too big, or they will scroll beyond the limits of your scrollback buffers, and you will have to re-request the messages one or two at a time.

R > KE2VW will read all public messages being

sent to KE2VW, whereas; R < KE2VW will read all public messages being sent out from KE2VW. Again remember, you can read any bulletins being sent to/from any callsign, using this format, but private mail will not be shown using this, unless you are using your call. You could NOT in the above example read any private messages from others to KE2VW, or from KE2VW to others, except those to/from yourself!

Practice using the READ command, and you will see how simple it is to use!

Now that you have read your messages, and bulletins of interest (following the LIST command), now what? The first thing you need to do is to kill off any private mail to you, so it doesn't clutter up the BBS (using valuable memory). You do this with the KILL command. To see its limited options available, type: ? K, which will list its uses.

Essentially, KM will "Kill Mine", which relates to your personal messages. If, for example, you read two messages, and didn't know a new one had just arrived, typing: KM would result in a message being sent to you that message #xxxxxx is killed, message # xxxxxy is killed, and "you cannot kill message #xxxxxz". This is a safeguard to prevent you from killing messages sent to you, before reading them!

K 160137 will kill that message, ONLY if it was a message you originated, or was one sent to you. You cannot kill any messages sent by anyone else other than yourself. This applies to private messages, and bulletins alike. Additionally, once the mail has been forwarded off the BBS (remember the headers PF, or BF?), killing it will have NO effect on the message at the other BBS(s) it is sent to. It is too late.

Now we are getting comfortable with listing messages, reading them, and where appropriate, killing them, so when do we get the exciting part, sending messages?.. Right now!

To start off with sending messages, we need to talk about the US Postal System. If you try sending off a letter, without including the street, city/town, state, or zip code; you will get your letter returned to you. Likewise for packet, there is a complete address, known as the hierachial address system. This is composed of the callsign of the full service BBS that your intended recipient of the message uses, along with that BBS's local, area (state), regional (country), and national (continent) designators, each separated by a period.

For example, if you were to send a message from the XX2XX BBS, to KM4XZ, whose home is the KE2VW full service BBS, you would address it as: S KM4XZ @ KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA. This translates into SEND a message (in this case a private message, which we will get into shortly) to KM4XZ, whose home BBS is KE2VW, #WNY -> located locally in WNY (the # means this entry is optional), NY -> in the area of New York State, USA -> in the region of the United States, NA -> in the continent of North America. Once you break it down it's not that hard, but we now have an easier way… the White Pages.

Like their phone company equivalent, the White Pages, are a listing, which in the case of packet are the complete H-addresses of a number of BBSs, and thousands of packet users. Whenever you register on a BBS, or send out a message, you are added to the White Pages database, which is then shared with other BBSs nationally.

The White Pages allow messages to be automatically addressed, so all you have to do is type: S KM4XZ in this example. The BBS will then state the message will be routed to KM4XZ @ KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA. Pretty neat! If the ham you desire is not on packet, has never registered, or has never sent out any mail into the packet system, you will get a message stating " Warning!! WP has no routing to callsign", where callsign is the call of the ham you were sending the message to. The SysOp will be sent a note after you finish typing your message, and will try to see if he/she can find some kind of routing, which is unlikely.

I would suggest before you try to send a message, you make sure the White Pages lists your intended recipient, by typing: I callsign, which will show you the White Page listing for that callsign, if one exists. If there is not one, save your typing, until you find if your ham friend has ever been on packet to begin with, and if so what his home BBS is! By typing I KM4XZ, for example, you will get: KM4XZ @ KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA, which tells you it is safe to just address a message to KM4XZ, and the message will be automatically routed for you!

Now let's talk briefly about the SEND command. To see how this command can be used, type: ? S, which will show you its options. Typing: S callsign, is the same as typing: SP callsign, because in both cases, the BBS will know the message is to be private. This means only the sender, the recipient of the message, and the BBS SysOps along the way are able to read the message. Be aware that ANY user monitoring the frequency the sender is on, while he is sending the message (called uploading a message) to the originating BBS (the one from which the message started), can see the contents of the message. Once the message is onboard the BBS, and is sent from BBS to BBS, the users can no longer view the message.

In brief, if you want NO ONE to view your message, call your friend on the phone!!

Once you have typed the S callsign, and hit the enter key, the BBS will then prompt you for a message title. This title can be up to 30 characters (including spaces) in length. When we get to sending bulletins, you will see how important a good title can be getting others interested enough to read it, from the hundreds of other bulletins listed daily, but for now we are talking private messages only. The title should still be thought out, however.

Once you type the title, and hit enter, the BBS will tell you to type your message, and end with either a ^Z (which means typing the letter z while holding down the control key), or typing \EX on the last line, by itself. For example:

```
Hi Terry:         - OR -   Hi Terry:
Message goes here...       Message goes
73, Greg                   here ... 73, Greg
/ex                        ^Z
```

New Members

STARS is glad to welcome the following new members who were voted into the club at the July meeting:

Larry Williams	N2YDN	Technician
Steve Wamback	N2VPI	Advanced
Marc Fruth	N2UBT	Technician
Carl DuCotey	N2AHV	Advanced
Don Blachura	W2XB	Extra
Kevin Foley	N2WLU	Technician
Al Guzman	N8JZV	Technician
Joseph Rautenstrauch	N2UOA	Technician
Thomas McClellan	-	-

We would also like to welcome Michael Caruso N2PMB who renewed his membership.

STARS Tee Shirts

STARS Tee Shirts will be available at the August club meeting for pickup by those who ordered them earlier.

A limited number of shirts are also available for sale on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The shirts are $10 for SM to XL; $11 for 2X; and $12 for 3X.

ALA Bike Trek
Continued From Page 3

We still need several volunteers to man communications for the trek. No previous experience is necessary. All you need is two meter equipment and two meter privileges.

If you can help out on one or more days, please call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 as soon as possible!

Here is your chance to get out and play radio, see some great scenery and help out a good cause!

FCC Computer Gives New Look To Licenses

Amateurs receiving new or modified FCC licenses after June 8, 1994, should carefully note their expiration date. Only new (first) licenses or specific renewals have a full 10-year term.

Amateur license upgrades and changes of address, call sign, or name are processed with the original expiration date intact. That is, they are not automatically renewed for a new 10-year term.

The FCC, using newly installed computer software, is processing amateur licenses in this manner to conform with the way in which it processes all other Private Radio Service licenses.

The FCC currently recommends that amateurs submit license renewal applications 60 to 90 days before their expiration date. The Commission said it intends eventually to mail license expiration notices to amateurs. In the meantime, the ARRL is sending license expiration notices to ARRL members, along with an FCC Form 610 and a return envelope addressed to the FCC's licensing division in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Another difference in these new licenses is the new "TECH PLUS" category for those who have qualified. Persons upgrading from Novice, or those who upgrade from codeless Technician by passing a Morse code exam, or persons who pass the Novice and Technician written tests-plus a Morse code test-will receive a license that reads "TECH PLUS" under Operator Privileges.

Persons who became a Technician with HF privileges with a license begin date prior to June 8, 1994 must continue to retain their "Technician" license and "Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination" (CSCE) in order to show that TECH PLUS privileges are held.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 12, 1994

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a special test session on Sept. 17 at the Buffalo Hamfest. All applicants must be pre-registered. Contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

STARS will also hold test sessions on December 3, 1994 and March 11 and June 10, 1995 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 August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, and Dec. 21, 1994 and January 18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 26, May 17 and June 21, 1995 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 10, 1994 and Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1 (no fooling!), May 6 and June 3, 1995 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 Oct. 29, 1994 and Jan. 28, Feb. 29, and July 8, 1995 in Lockport. 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/Wanted

For Sale: Heath SB-101 HF Xcvr w/ power supply. Good Condition. $185.

For Sale: RTTY Package. AEA CP-1 interface, commodore computer, ram cartridge, dataset recorder. $85.

Wanted: Heath antenna tuner. Model 2050, 2060, or similar.

For all above, contact Shane WB2WPM at 657-5797.

"Packet Racket"

Congratulations, you've just sent your first message!

To review your message, type: L< yourcall (in this example KE2VW), which will list all messages you wrote that are still active, or L> KM4XZ, which will list any messages addressed to KM4XZ, that you are allowed to read (that you wrote!). Remember, LM will not work here, as it is used to list messages TO your callsign, NOT From your callsign. Private messages, as opposed to bulletins, are kept active for three weeks from the time they were originated (uploaded to the local BBS) for messages addressed to other users of the local BBS; or for one day after the message is either forwarded off the local BBS (KE2VW) out into the system, or read by the recipients. In our next article, we will cover sending bulletins to the general packet community, which is a topic all in itself. That is the resource that is clearly the most used/abused in the BBS system. I will show you how to become a proficient bulletin author, one who will not be faced with any "flames" because of the way the bulletin is addressed/sent. I can't promise you will never receive a flame based on bulletin content, however. That's all part of packet!

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

Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the
STARS KE2VW BBS

Good Luck!

We understand that STARS member Ted Waclawski N2PZY will be entering the hospital soon for surgery.

Ted, we wish you the best of luck and hope that your recovery will be as quick as possible! We will roll out the red carpet for your return!

★ 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. On 145.61 MHz, C STARS, 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

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865

JOHN CULLUM JR. KB2ESM
6871 E. WEBSTER
ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127