

telstar

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

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Fair Display A Big Success!!

By Greg KE2VW, Committee Chairman

Well, "it's a wrap", as they say in show biz. Our first year at the E C Fair far exceeded our expectations...

- 1) We had 66 sign up for our October ham classes! Allowing for the usual 50% actual interest, that will give us an anticipated class of 33!!!
- 2) We sent over 120 pieces of 3rd party traffic out, from local destinations to as far away as Australia and New Zealand!
- 3) In addition to 2 meter voice, (FM and SSB), 220 voice, 440 voice (crossbanded to 147.090), and 2 meter packet, we did some FM (as well as SSB) voice satellite work, demonstrated SSTV, demonstrated ATV (while one member interviewed fellow riders on the giant Ferris Wheel), offered visitors a hands-on CW interactive display, ran ARRL videos, and had some vintage HF equipment, some of which was actually working on 20 and 40 meters! The "Rhythm of the Code" permeated the sounds of the Midway, as they drifted out our windows to the tents below...



Many thanks go out to all our club members who added their participation to the planning, setup,

September Meeting

The September meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Sept. 1 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.

You are invited

We will be talking about the Erie County Fair, the 2 meter and 440 repeaters, the Buffalo hamfest, transmitter hunts, license classes and much more.

For our Program, we will be showing a double feature of ARRL videos: The New World of Amateur Radio, a fast paced movie on all aspects of amateur radio and featuring celebrity hams; and Ham Radio In Space, which has some great shots from the shuttle and covers the history of amateur radio in space.

Hope to see you there!

operation, and takedown of the "station", especially:

AA2AC, AA2GF, AA2GW, K2PPK, KA2WYE, KB2ESM, KB2JDB, KB2LDW, KB2NVK, KB2OMU, KB2OUT, KC2XV, KD2KK, KD4ARA, KE2YQ, KM4XZ, N2LAB, N2LHT, N2MRN, N2NOE, N2OZE, N2QZU, N2RJB, N2UBT, N2UKU, N2UPN, N2VPI, N2XBP, NW2I, WA2ABN, WA2HEV, WA2TVT, WB2EZU, WB2RAJ, WB2WPM, and WI2G.

Without the help of these 36 STARS club

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★ STARS ★

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio; and 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.

Fair Display

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members, we could never have accomplished all we did!

Special thanks to N2UPN, our carpenter; WA2ABN, our "right hand" guy, who was anchor at the exhibit; and W1ZG, who managed most of the traffic... single handedly (it was NOT supposed to be that way Anne.. the other packet traffic guys were going to help out!)

In a month or so, we will get together and start to plan for next year.. some new great ideas have already been mentioned.. If you missed the fun this year, this will be a chance to get into the swing for all the fun next year!

BTW the Fair board has contacted me, and wants us back, in a permanent arrangement!!

From my own personal viewpoint, I have never had as much fun in this hobby, as I had working with each of you, as we planned this exhibit, and worked to bring our dreams to fruition. Working together is what our hobby is all about! Those of you that have not had the chance to do so have missed 90% of the fun of our hobby. Those that worked on the project can testify to this!

See you all soon, at an upcoming meeting,
73, Greg

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members who were voted in at the August meeting:

Steve Landry	N2ZNU	Technician
Army Leonetti	N2YNN	Technician
Bob Sherman	KF2SP	Advanced
Gerald Buchheit	WA2IVY	Advanced
Dana Partis	N2ZUZ	Technician
Fredrick Partis	-	Tech (Pend)
Kevin Mahoney	-	-
Robert Skinner	-	-

When you see these people at club meetings or other club functions, please make sure to speak to them and welcome them to the club.

We have at least 10 applications to vote on at the September meeting!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

It is with deep sorrow that I must start this column as Ralph Chaney WA2CHZ is a silent key. (Details in Buffalo News 8/5 and 8/6.) Ralph was one of the club's charter members and was active back when the Hamburg Hamfest was run locally. His son Ralph Chaney Jr. K2ZUW is also a STARS member. You know, he and Ernie WB2GIM (silent key) were chairpersons of the Erie County Fair station years ago, and he enjoyed himself just as much as we did at our recent fair exhibit.

Well, hope everyone enjoyed and assisted in making our Erie County Fair display a success. It is the highlight event for us for the year. Next year when we have an article in the Fair bulletin, we will expect bigger and better crowds to take advantage of it.

By the way, one of our members built a four-station CW keyer with earphones. It was quite a crowd gathering place for the children. In fact, one of the girls (about 8 or 9 years) requested a pen and paper so she could take a copy of her name with the dits and dahs to show her mother.

The September issue of QST on page 51 has a nice article on mobile interference problems and some solutions. It is worth your time to read it. They have got it broken down to different cars. Some say that after market equipment would not be covered under warrant, so be careful.

I don't want to pick out anyone person for their contribution, but I think Annie W12G should get a great big STAR! You know she is a message net controller in the NTS system, and we put all fair messages on Greg's BBS and relayed them to her. I bet she burned the midnight oil a few nights, HI HI!



Everyone should not forget to see Shane WB2WPM and get you raffle tickets (or more) for the big drawing on September 17th. I understand he is breaking all club records to date.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Buffalo Hamfest

The Buffalo Hamfest will be on Saturday, September 17 at the Erie County Fairgrounds on Route 62 - South Park Avenue in Hamburg. The flea market will be open from 6 AM to 4 PM and the inside exhibitors will be open from 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

Registration is \$5.00 at the gate. Flea market vendors also require a flea market permit for \$5.00 for each 10 by 20 ft. space.

Talk-in will be on STARS 147.090 repeater.

STARS will be holding VE tests at the hamfest this year under the direction of Greg KE2VW. All candidates must be pre-registered (see info on page 5).

STARS will also have a table at the hamfest to promote the club. Stop by and help talk to people!

Transmitter Hunts

On Saturday, August 20, ARATS held a hidden transmitter hunt beginning at Veterans Park. The transmitter was hidden at a small park off of Hopkins north of Klein.

The winners were Howard N2UD and his young daughter. They took a total of 12.8 miles to find the transmitter. Second place went to STARS Terry KM4XZ with 14.0 miles. Third place went to Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT with 15.2 miles. They both have recently applied for membership in STARS.

ARATS next hunt is planned for Saturday, September 24. As the time comes closer, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 for details about the start location and time.

If there is enough interest, we would like for STARS to host a hunt in October in the South Towns area, perhaps starting at the Nike Base club station.

Finger Lakes Revival

Amateur radio operators provided communications for the American Lung Associations Finger Lake Revival Bike Trek on August 12-14.



On Friday, the riders went 58 miles from Darien Lakes State Park to Geneseo College. They had lunch in Perry and a nice ride through Letchworth State Park.

Saturday's ride was cut short at the lunch break at Conesus Lake when rain started coming down.

Sunday's ride started under threatening skies at Geneseo, but the storm clouds passed over, and the ride back to Darien Lakes State Park was very nice.

Communications were coordinated by Terry KM4XZ. Assisting were Mike WA2HEV, Jim N2OSL, Norm KD2KK, Fred KA2EUS, John NG2I, Bill N2QJG, and Ralph N2UKU. Dave K2ECK rode sweep bike all three days.

Communications on this bike trek were conducted primarily on simplex with a repeater used only when someone got out of simplex range.



Packet Mail

Club Secretary Dave WA2TVT is utilizing the Carbon Server on the STARS KE2VW BBS to deliver his minutes from club meetings to members.

Dave wanted us to remind members to check in on the BBS periodically to pick up your mail.

He also want to remind you that if you are a STARS member on packet radio and are not on the Carbon Server list, contact Greg KE2VW to get included on the list.

STARS Raffle

Don't forget our big raffle! The winner will be picked on September 17 at the Buffalo Hamfest, so if you don't have your tickets yet, you better get moving!



The lucky winner will get his/her choice of one of the following:

- 1) a Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna;
- 2) a Cushcraft A3S HF beam antenna;
- 3) a Kenwood 2 mtr. HT;
- 4) a Kenwood 440 HT;
- 5) a \$350 merchandise certificate from East Coast Amateur Radio; or
- 6) \$250 in cash.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

See Shane WB2WPM for tickets.

Why not get a packet of 10 tickets from him and sell them to your friends?

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

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 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.

Author, Author!

STARS Shane Brady WB2WPM was the author of an article in the August issue (pages 65 - 67) of 73 *Amateur Radio Today* entitled "Mini-Joystick Scanning."

In the article, Shane explains how to convert a joy-stick to tune an HF radio so that he doesn't have to lift his hand off his keyboard while logging contest QSO's.

Repeater News

Earlier this summer we took down the separate antennas we were using for our 2 meter and 440 repeaters and replaced them with a new dual band antenna.

This allowed us to use one run of hardline to bring the signals in and then split them off using a diplexer.

This arrangement definitely improved our 440 coverage over the small antenna that we were using for it when we first put it on the air.

Unfortunately, we also started receiving reports from club members saying that the coverage of the 2 meter machine didn't seem as good as it was before the change.

There wasn't a severe problem, but there appeared to be more marginal areas where people running with low power could not get into the machine reliably.

At the August Board meeting, Greg KE2VW said he would try bypassing the 440 machine and connect the hardline directly to the 2 meter machine to see if that solved the problem.

This did not appear to make much difference, so on Saturday August 27 Greg and Dave WA2TVT took down the dual band antenna and replaced it with our old 2 meter antenna, effectively returning the repeater to the same status it had earlier in the year.

The early reports indicate that this has probably solved the problem with the 2 meter repeater.

This, of course, necessitated us taking the 440 repeater off the air.

At the September club meeting, we will discuss alternatives for the 440 machine.



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

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