

# telstar ★

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

ISSUE 157 OCTOBER, 1994

## Raffle Drawn at Buffalo Hamfest!

The lucky winner of STARS big summer raffle drawn at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 17 was Mel Loder N2TOF of Elba, NY. Mel selected the Kenwood 2 meter HT with microphone as his prize from the list being offered the winner.

Believe it or not, Mel bought the first three tickets sold for the raffle! (Yes, we mixed the tickets up good!) The winner was Ticket #002. Mel was standing at the door when the indoor exhibits opened at the Batavia Hamfest and he got to our booth first!

Ticket sales at both the Batavia and Buffalo Hamfests, as well as at our club meetings, were very good.



We want to give special thanks to all the club members who took packs of tickets to sell on their own.

This raffle was a tremendous success as a fund raiser for our club, and we want to give a special tip of the hat to Shane WB2WPM who chaired the effort and was easily our best salesman!

## October Meeting

The October club meeting will begin a 7:00 PM on October 6 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*

In addition to our usual business, we will be nominating club officers for 1995. The election will be held at the November meeting.

Roger Garbacz WA2CXW, the coordinator for the WNY group that launched the Helium ATV balloon in June, will talk about the "Poor Man's NASA Space Shot" and will show slides. He will also have some of the gear with him. This is not to be missed!

## Transmitter Hunts

New STARS members Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT hid the transmitter for ARATS hunt on September 24. Winning the hunt were STARS members Jim N2OSL and Terry KM4XZ.



STARS will be hosting a transmitter hunt on Saturday, October 8. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM at the STARS Nike Base Club Station (on Lakeview Road, 1.75 miles east of Rt. 20); and the hunt will begin at 10 AM.

This is the first hunt held recently in the South Towns area, and we hope to get hunters from STARS, ARATS and other local clubs.

# ★ 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.

## Nike Base Club Station

Bob Witt WA2IQX has resigned as Nike Base Chairman to have more personal time. Bob was instrumental in the acquisition of much of our current HF equipment at the station. Bob, along with Jake KB2NNN, also was responsible for the remodeling that we have done at the station over the last 3 years. It is hard to thank Bob enough for all the work that he has done at the station over the years!

Shane Brady WB2WPM has agreed to take over as our new Nike Base Chairman. Shane has outstanding credentials for the job. He is an Extra Class ham and is very knowledgeable on both HF and VHF/UHF in voice, CW and digital modes. He also has extensive experience in contesting and DXing. Shane will be assisted in opening the station by a committee of club members.

Speaking of contesting, the CQ World Wide SSB Contest will be the weekend of October 29-30. Plans are being made to open the station on Friday night (October 28) for the start of the contest at 8 PM local time so members can work some stations. Shane is also looking for people willing to help him work 40 and 80 meter stations during Saturday night. Give Shane a call at 675-5797.

## JOTA '94

Amateur radio operators will join with Scouts (both boys and girls) from all over the world to participate in this years Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) on October 15 and 16. The Scouts are always thrilled to talk to each other.

A group from STARS will be setting operations on Saturday at a Scout Camporee at Spraugebrook Park on Rt. 240 near Colden. If you would like to help, contact Frank K2VTK at 648-6669 or Tom KF2VX at 652-9549.

You don't need a big group. You can invite a few of your local cub scouts, brownies, etc. to your ham shack to participate.

Calling frequencies are: Phone - 3.940, 7.290, 14.290, 18.140, 21.360, 24.960, 28.990, and 28.350. CW - 3.590, 7.030, 14.070, 18.080, 21.140, 24.910 and 28.190.

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, at the September meeting we had a review of our Erie County Fair exhibit operation. Everything went along smoothly which made the committee happy. From last reports, we were complimented upon our effort and the F.B. turnout.

The VE test at the Buffalo Hamfest was a success also and a lot of upgrades were given out which made everyone happy. By the way, we have been asked to come back next year. So keep it in mind.

Remember that October is about the last good month for antenna work. The bands are improving a bit, so take advantage of it.

Well, remember that the Nike Base club station is open on Saturdays, so get on the repeater and join the members get acquainted with the nice equipment that is at your disposal.

October is nomination of officers, so be there and put your nomination in. Boy, this sure was a fast year and hope you enjoyed it to the fullest.

Do not wait for the FCC to send your notice of license expiration date. If you are 60 days to

go, please get a 610 form and send it in, then you will be sure.

You know, ARRL laboratories evaluate new products. In the October 1994 QST on page 35, it gives you a lowdown on its system. Rather dry reading, but very informative. Hope it helps someone.

The KE2VW BBS sure is a busy place, and it seems to be in use through out the day and night. Please cooperate with Greg and, if a question is asked after you get your info, do not hesitate to answer. Remember the shut-in's that are unable to attend meetings. Dave WA2TVT puts the minutes of the meetings on there also.

Shane WB2WPM should get the BIG STAR this issue as he broke all records in the sale of tickets for the raffle. When he has another raffle, please keep up the good work so he knows you appreciate his efforts. You do not know how much time a job like that is, but Shane makes it look easy!



Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

### Public Service Efforts Recognized

On October 1, at the annual meeting for the Western New York chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Terry KM4XZ received a plaque for being an Outstanding Volunteer for his services in heading up the communication team for the MS Bike Trek this summer.



In accepting the award, Terry acknowledged the work of over 20 amateur radio operators from all over WNY who made the communication system a success.

Amateur radio operators were also involved this summer with the March-of-Dimes Walkathon, two American Lung Association bike treks, and the Cystic Fibrosis bike trek.

### License Classes

STARS will be holding Novice/Technician classes on Saturday mornings at the Hamburg Youth Center beginning October 8. If you know of anyone who is interested in attending, they should contact Vern AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights) if they haven't already registered with him.

Vern could still use some more people to cover one or more of the lesson plans. Give him a call if you are interested.

### Congratulations!

STARS members Pat Murray NW2I and Vern Siegel AA2AC recently passed the Ship Radar Element 8 Commercial Radio Exam!

Gary Wood KF2VG (ex-KB2ESN) now has his new Extra Class call, AA2TL.

## "PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 7

In this issue we will discuss sending bulletins. This will be an in-depth review, in an attempt to help educate our users on the most effective way to ensure their bulletins are sent out, received, and then read by their intended audience.

The format of the command used to send bulletins is: SB [TO-field] [AT-field]. Now let's break down the command into its components.

SB stands for "send bulletin", which is self explanatory. Contrast this to SP for "send private", or ST for "send traffic".. (more on traffic at a later date.)

The TO field represents the intended audience's area of interest. Typical TO fields include headings such as: HELP WANTED SALE INFO QRP TRADE DX EXAMS FBB KAM ICOM SEGA QST SCHOOL DEBATE SYSOP APRS CODE MODS OS2 QUAKES CQ, and the dreaded ALL!

You can see some thought goes into the TO field! The more it defines those the bulletin may appeal to, the more likely it will be read.

In 1994, most users will not go review the "ALL" bulletins, as it is non-descript, and doesn't give any clue of its intended audience. For example, a bulletin addressed to: ALL@USA, whose description reads Kenwood TS940S Mods.. is the sender looking for mods for the Kenwood TS940S radio, is he relating problems he has with a modification he attempted, is he informing TS940S owners of a factory modification that is due on the rig, or does he have a modification he wants to share with the readers??? You certainly can't tell from the title! If he were to have sent the bulletin addressed to: MODS@USA with a title that read "Wanted for Kenwood TS940S"; or sent it out to: WANTED@USA with a title that read "Kenwood TS940S mods", you at least would have an idea what his bulletin was about!

Many SysOps (out of our region fortunately) have set up their BBSs to reject messages that are addressed to "ALL". Keep this in mind if you want your message to get out across the country, or overseas.

A special word about overseas bulletins at this point.. Many countries do NOT allow SALE, TRADE, etc. bulletins. These are illegal, and if they slip through they could cause significant trouble for the first BBS located in that country that forwarded your bulletin.

Now we get into the controversial part of bulletin addressing, which involves what is known as the AT field, identified with the @ symbol. The @ fields use what are known as the "flood designators". These describe the intended distribution of your bulletin. You already targeted your audience via the TO field. Now you are targeting how LARGE of an audience potentially interested in your bulletin will be sought. The proper flood route designators (in our region) are: LOCAL WNYBBS NYBBS USA (preferred to ALLUSA) CAN (preferred to ALLCAN) NOAM (preferred to NA) WW. Unless your bulletin is of national, or world-wide importance, start off locally first! Let's use a SALE example. Suppose I want to sell my Kenwood TS940S Hf transceiver. I should try it locally first, shouldn't I?... After all, I would save postage, time, and effort if someone locally might be interested in it. I would address my message as: SB SALE@LOCAL (for local distribution you can leave out the word LOCAL, and address it only as: SB SALE).

After waiting a reasonable amount of time (10-14 days), if it hadn't sold I would advance it to: SB SALE@WNYBBS. This flood designator is called a regional designator, as it hits our entire WNY region, including Ontario! After another reasonable wait, if I had no luck (assuming my price was at least realistic) I would send it out further, addressed to: SB SALE@NYBBS.

If I still had no luck, and wanted to go beyond the boundaries of New York State, Northern Pa., Western Mass., etc. I would try: SB SALE@USA.

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
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Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Shane Brady	WB2WPM

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will 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 by 9:45. The tests start at 10 AM. For info on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC (LARC) will hold test sessions on 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 info, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold test sessions on 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 info, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 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 info, call Judy Cianchetti at 751-9223.

Most sessions except for STARS do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

A word of warning here... MANY SysOps kill/reject SALE@USA messages routinely. Make sure your item is reasonable. Remember it also MUST also be ham related. (It could not be car parts, etc...). Also it should be applicable to that large of a flood distribution. For example, you would not try to sell your 140 foot Rohn 55G tower in this manner, unless you planned to pay expensive trucking costs!

The final part of sending out a bulletin comes with the prompt by the BBS for a title. This will occur after you have typed: SB SALE@NYBBS. The title is handled just like you learned in the last article, but now it's even more important! You are trying to attract your potential readers with a "catchy" title, one that describes briefly what your bulletin concerns. If this is left out, or is nondescript (ie SB SALE@NYBBS, with a title that reads "sale of equipment") you are less apt to get anyone to read your well thought out (to this point) bulletin! Don't put ####, or \*\*\*\*, or other wasteful characters in the title. Just say what you mean, remembering most won't have a

clue to the bulletin's contents, unless you let them in on it!

If you take the time to list all the bulletins, you will see some very well thought out titles, and some poorly written ones. Keep in mind that very few users these days list all the bulletins, which on BBSVW amount to over 300 per day average!

In fact SysOps have been sharing data on bulletin review by their users, and we find today that due to the large volume of bulletins, fewer than 10% of ALL users list ALL the bulletins. They select a few areas of interest such as SALE, DX, ARRL, etc., and only list those.

Also bear in mind that the message size should be limited, to avoid forwarding problems, especially with Hf links, such as we use. The convention used is about 2K maximum. If your message is larger, send it in 2 or more parts. In your title in this case, you would put something like: TS 940S mods, part 1, for the first part, TS 940S, part 2, for the second, etc.

Now you are ready to start sending bulletins! Try to practice with a few addressed locally, which will give you the confidence you need, as you practice your newly acquired skills.

I need to conclude this section by explaining a little about the FCC rules on outgoing messages. The FCC holds you, the originator, and the first BBS SysOp who "introduces your message" into the digital system JOINTLY responsible for its content. Be careful of the messages you are sending out! To protect ourselves, BBS SysOps hold ALL outgoing bulletins until they can review them, to make doubly sure they are in accordance with part 95 of the FCC rules governing message content. This is why your outgoing bulletin will not be given a message number, until your SysOp has read and released it. This is usually done once each day. This obviously slows the forwarding of bulletins down, but in the US, "this is the way it is"...

Next time will will tackle the BBS's extensive file system; along with FBB's DOS system, which works identical to your computer's DOS system, and allows easy access, and manipulation of these files.

Until next time, 73, keep those packets flying!  
 Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the  
 STARS KE2VW BBS  
 c 1994



# STARS



## Club Repeaters

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input). An autopatch is available to club members.

A UHF repeater is located at the Nike Base club station (442.325/447.325 output/input).

The southern club repeater (KE2VW/R) is located in Perrysburg, NY (146.97/.37 output/input, with PL access of 151.4 Hz).

## 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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