

telstar



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

ISSUE 158

NOVEMBER, 1994

Election Time Is Here!

STARS will be electing their 1995 officers at the November club meeting. This is important for the future of the club, and we encourage all members to come out and vote. Per our club's constitution, the winners will be selected by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

Nominated at the October meeting are the following members:

President:

KM4XZ Terry Rockhold

Vice President:

AA2TL Gary Wood
KB2OUT Tony Balas, Jr.

Secretary:

WA2TVT Dave Baco

Treasurer:

KB2ESM Jack Cullum, Jr.

Financial Secretary:

WG2H Frank Modzelewski

November Meeting

The November club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 3 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



As noted in the article to the left, the election of 1995 club officers will occur at this meeting.

Since we are having the election, we won't have a speaker at this meeting. This will allow us to give you an extended chance for eyeball ragchewing and still call it an early night!

Director (2-Year Term):

WA2HEV Mike Wojcieszak

Even though there is currently only one contested election, members will be given an opportunity to cast write-in votes for any of the positions. Therefore, if you support any of the candidates running, your vote is still important to them. Should a write-in candidate win an election, he/she will, of course, be given a chance to accept or decline the position.

The candidates for the contested position of Vice President were offered the opportunity to write a short message to the other club members. These appear on page 4.

★ 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.

Hidden Transmitter Hunts

STARS held a hidden transmitter hunt on the morning of October 8. The hunters assembled at the Nike Base club station and waited for the first transmission from the operator of the hidden transmitter, Terry KM4XZ. Then they proceeded east following the signal.

Most of the hunters didn't have too much trouble figuring out the Terry was hiding in Chestnut Ridge Park. Once there though, they learned that finding him wasn't that easy! Following radio bearings were a problem since the road zigs and zags through the park while going up and down hills. Terry was in the south west part of the park, behind a hill behind a shelter. His location was completely invisible from the paved road going through the park! You had to follow a gravel road past the shelter and behind the hill. Nevertheless, the hunters eventually found him!

First place went to the team of Al N2UBW, Larry N2XXF, Debbie and Amy (they have a van!) who traveled 11.5 miles to find the transmitter in 1 hour 27 minutes. Second place went to STARS members Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT who went 14.3 miles in 2 hours and 45 minutes. Third place went to the team of Pete N2AWT and Patty who covered 21.5 miles in 2 hours and 22 minutes.



We also wanted to recognize the team of Ed N2NPR and his young son Vic from Derby who participated in their first hunt in this area.

ARATS held a hidden transmitter hunt on Sat. October 29. STARS members Terry KM4XZ took first place and Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT took third place.

STARS will stage another hidden transmitter hunt on Saturday November 19 beginning at the Nike Base club station. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM and the hunt will begin at 10:00 AM. The operators of the hidden transmitter will be Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT. We want to encourage more people to come out and participate. If you are looking for a partner to compete with or want more information on the hunt, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the October meeting went smoothly. The nomination of officers went off without a hitch, and the program was superb. The photography was of first class and the information was of the best.

At this November meeting, we shall embark on a very important part of club operations. So be there to express your desire with a vote.

You know, a few years ago we started a mini-flea market at the meetings, and it went over big. One good thing about it was you don't have to take the articles home with you if they don't sell. Just donate them to the club.

One year, Bob WA2IQX and John KA2RFT took some of the articles to a hamfest and got a few hundred bucks for the club also. Bob polished them up and they looked great.

Maybe we could have something like that again and even enjoy it. How about starting the new year with the January 1995 meeting for a starting point.

Well, this month the Big Star goes to Greg KE2VW for his untiring effort to keep STARS up-to-date with the latest state-of-the-art.

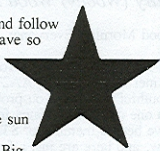
Without his prompting and follow through, we would not have so many different ways to use and enjoy the new electronic age.

As the saying goes, "The sun never stops shining on clever people," and the Big Star always shines on Greg.

On page 35 of the October QST, the ARRL Laboratory evaluates new products and what the numbers mean. It is very interesting reading.

Happy Hamming!

Guz WB2EZU



Club Honors

At the October Board of Directors meeting, the Board nominated one member for a Life Membership and two members for Honorary Membership for 1995. Per our club's constitution, the members present at the November meeting will vote on awarding these memberships recommended by the Board.



Greg Young KE2VW was nominated for Life Membership. Greg served as Club President during 1992 and 1993 and has served on the Board of Directors as Past President in 1994.

But, Greg has done much more for the club than just serving as an officer! He has gone to great time and expense to make the STARS KE2VW BBS one of the best packet BBS's in the area. Greg also secured permission for our club to once again stage an amateur radio exhibit at the Erie County Fair in 1994 and then served as

Chairman of the committee devoting time both prior to the fair and then on every day of the fair, to make the exhibit a great success. Greg has also given up his personal time to represent the club at ARRL and repeater coordination meetings, to teach training classes, to serve as VE exam coordinator for the club, and much more! The Board believes that Greg is very deserving of this honor.

Nominated for Honorary Membership for 1995 are Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT and Shane Brady WB2WPM.

Tony's nomination was in recognition of his service as controller for the club's Wednesday night informational net as well as for his participation and leadership in public service events and for encouraging new hams.

Shane's nomination was in recognition of the outstanding job that he has done over the last two years in organizing and directing fund raising raffles that have brought in well over two thousand dollars for the club treasury.

Election Comments

The following comments were submitted by the two candidates for the position of Vice President:

Gary (Woody) Wood AA2TL:

Good Morning Everyone:

This is just a short note from ex-KB2ESN, former KF2VG, now AA2TL, "boy that was a mouthful" HI. As you probably already know, I am one of the candidates for Vice President. I have been a member of STARS for seven years now, and here are just a few things that I have done with this club. I was co-coordinator of the Nike site with Steve KB2EQV for two years, repeater control op for four years, participated in too many field days to count, director of the club board for two years, many bike treks, liaison to RACES with the club, ran the club net for a lengthy time, ran the first swap net even though it didn't go over too well at that time.

I feel that if you would be so gracious to give me your vote, you would not regret it. I feel that I can have a part in the guidance of the club, in your interest and on your behalf, in a honest and forthright manner that the post demands,

Thank you,

Gary (Woody)
AA2TL

Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT:

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Tony Balas Jr. (KB2OUT). Some of you may know me as your Wednesday-evening Net Controller (going on 2 years now). I have been nominated for the office of Vice President. Which, I have graciously accepted.

I have been a resident of Western N.Y. all my life. For over twenty-one years, I've been an employee of Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna Plant as a A-Millwright-Welder.

I am a ARRL member and a active member in STARS. I coordinated the 1993 Pumpkin patrol, Division Four-West, I was Net Controller this year for both the March Of Dimes

WALK-A-THON and the M.S. Bike Trek. I am the clubs Wednesday evening Net Controller and a substitute Net Controller for the Tuesday evening Swap Net. I am also on the Repeater committee.

Some of my interests in radio are 2 meter voice, Packet, RTTY, a little 6 meter phone, 220 MHZ phone, 440 phone and even a little HF SSB and CW.

We are almost 300 members strong now, the largest this club has ever been. I would like to see the club offer more training classes to help those who are interested in obtaining a licence or up-grading. Together we can educate the public and broaden their horizons about the world of amateur radio. I would like to see us go into the classroom on a school day to talk to the students and give them a demonstration on the hobby.

I assure all the members I will be available and open to all suggestions for the betterment of the club. I will also be a very active Vice President working along with the president and board of directors.

Please try to make the November meeting.
!!! VOTE !!!

Sincerely : Tony B. Jr. (KB2OUT)

Get Well Soon!

We received word that Fred Partis is recovering at the Cleveland Clinic from a liver transplant. His operation took less time than normal and it is hoped that he may be able to beat the normal time for coming home too.

STARS members wish you the best of luck,
Fred!

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

"PACKET RACKET"

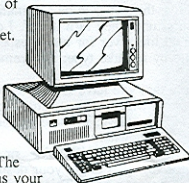
an introduction to packet radio, part 8

In this month's article we will start to explore the more advanced features the BBS offers its users. We will start off by exploring the files the STARS BBS contains, describing how they are organized.

We will also take you through the DOS commands that all FBB BBSs allow. This will allow you to learn how to access the file structure of any BBS, be it packet, or landline!

To give you an analogy, think of a file as a sheet of information, that is kept along with other such sheets in a folder, which in turn is kept in a drawer, which is one of several drawers that makes up a file cabinet.

If you think of this sheet of paper as a FILE, then the folder which contains your file becomes the SUBDIRECTORY. The drawer which contains your folder, as well as other such folders, becomes the DIRECTORY. The drawer is contained in the file cabinet, which is.. you guessed it.. the hard drive/CD-ROM.



When you think of it that way, it becomes much less confusing!

Now to actually see the files contained in the BBS, we need to get into the DOS section. To do this, while connected to the BBS, simply type: D You will then see the BBS prompt change from: (6) KE2VW BBS (? ,CB,HELPVW,ICB,SH) > to the DOS prompt: (6) [1/250kb] C:\>

Before going any farther, lets analyze the prompts above. The (6) refers to the channel number you are on. It will probably be different each time you connect. The (? ,CB,HELPVW,ICB,SH) tips the user off to some on the more popular command that can be typed, to enter various servers/help sections the BBS contains, while in the "normal" BBS mode (the non-DOS mode).

In the DOS prompt you will again find your channel number followed by a group of numbers that shows you the number of kilobytes of programs you have down-loaded so far that day, as a fraction of the total number allowed on that port per 24 hour period. It allows 250 KB/day on the 1200 baud ports, vs 1.5 MB/day on the 9600 baud/phone ports. Quite a bit different!

Now that we are in the DOS section, now what? Don't forget your old friend, the universal "always there to help" ? command. Typing: ? will list all the available DOS commands. To get more information on any one of them, just type the ? in front of the specific command. ie ? LIST gives you a description of what list does in this section. It IS different than what you will remember it does in the "standard" section of the BBS.

List is one of the reasons we use the DOS section to examine files, and subdirectories, because it includes a description of each file, along with its listing! These descriptions have taken myself, and other SysOps/authors considerable time as we developed our file sections. They were put there for your benefit, to make sense of program files, that otherwise you may not be able to ascertain just what they contain/do.

Typing: LIST (list works the same, as DOS is NOT case sensitive) will provide the complete listing of the BBS's user accessible subdirectories. In the case of BBSVW, this will list out: ARRL, BYAPP, COLOR, DIGICOM, DX-SWL, HAMFESTS, HANDBOOK, KEPS, MODS, NASAMSAT, NETS, PHONEBBS, RACES, RADIOBBS, REPEATER, REVIEWS, SPACENWS, STARS, TPK, VESESION, WNYDXA, YAPP, MISC, APRS & GIF.

To see what goodies are stashed away in one of these subdirectories, since you are really in DOS, you must change to one of these subdirectories. You do this by typing: CD\MODS for example if you want to see what the MODS sub-directory contains. The prompt now changes from: (6) [1250kb] C:\> to: (6) [1/250kb] C:\MODS\> showing you are in the MODS subdirectory. If you now type: LIST, you will see what this subdirectory contains. In this case you will get a list of quite a few more subdirectories, contained in the MODS subdirectory, or I guess you could call them subsubdirectories!

"Packet Racket"

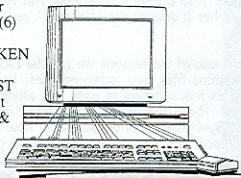
Continued From Page 5

Some of these in the MODS directory include: 10TEC, AEA, ALINCO, AZDEN, COMPUTER, ICOM, KANTRON, KDK, KENWOOD, MFJ, MISC, PACCOMM, RADIOSHK, etc. Remember that directory, subdirectory, and file names only may have a 8 character prefix, and a 3 character suffix, which is why some of them are abbreviated; ie RADIOSHK stands of course for RADIO SHACK!

Once again, typing: CD\KENWOOD, will change your prompt to: (6)

```
{1/250kb}
C:\MODS\KENWOOD>
```

Typing: LIST now will get you LOTS & LOTS of mods that apply, in this case, to the Kenwood products.



Once you find your desired file, you ask the DOS section of the BBS to GET it for you. Let's assume we want to get part two of the mods for the Kenwood TM 741A. You listed out the file TM741, TM741.1, TM741.2, TM741.3, etc. You would, while still in the MODS\KENWOOD\ subdirectory type: GET TM741.2 That's all you need to do. The file will come to you, in a very quick fashion.

This command works for the ASCII (text files), contained throughout the BBS. It will not work for the binary (digital/program executable) files, which are located strictly in the YAPP subdirectory, which in turn is also broken down into numerous subsubdirectories, just as in the case of the MODS sub- directory above.

Although we will cover this later, you may get these files by typing: YGET, which stands for GET using YAPP (Yet Another Packet Protocol), a protocol that allows the transfer of binary data, without which it would be not possible to do.

Wait you say, you can't get the file without it scrolling past your screen? You are running a WHAT??? a dumb terminal.. heaven forbid!! Are you out of luck? NO YOU ARE NOT! Even those with limited scroll back buffers, or no scroll back buffers in the case of a dumb terminal user (no, I don't mean you I mean the terminal!), can still get these files in a readable fashion.

Type: O, at the DOS prompt. It will tell you the options you can change. You will find that typing: OP toggles your "paging" on/off. If you have it off, typing: OP turns it on, having the downloads stop after one screenful of information is sent to you, allowing you time to read/print it before getting the next "page". If on when you type: OP, it turns this function off.

I have this setup to be automatically on for all users, until they turn it off. I consider this to be a real life saver for users, especially for those who by mistake type: LB (remember that one!!!)

Now that you have OP turned on, you can view these downloads by substituting the command TYPE for GET. In the example above: TYPE TM741.2, when at the C:\MODS\KENWOOD\> prompt of course, will allow you to get your desired information, one page at a time. This is another very powerful feature only the DOS section of the BBS has to offer, so you can begin to see why I suggest you do ALL of your file work through this section of the BBS!

This ONLY works for ASCII files, not the binary files. You need YGET to obtain these, and a "real" computer to capture them.

Now that we obtained our file/files, how do we get out of here???? Again DOS to our rescue. To go back to the start, type: CD\ This takes us to the "root" directory, in this case the C:\> reappears. If we want to go back only one level, ie to see what other mods there are, when we were in the \MODS\KENWOOD\ subsubdirectory, we would type: CD .. The 2 dots, separated by a space from the CD tells the computer to go back one level of directory structure. Once again the prompt changes back to C:\MODS\

What about the 2 CD-ROMS BBSVW has on-line you might be asking, the ones you heard have 500 plus MEGABYTES of strictly ham radio related software on-line? How do you get to

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 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 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 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 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.

those? It's easy. Those are on different drives, namely the D, and E drives.

To get to those you need to be back in the C:\> prompt. When you are there, type: D: or E: to get into the D, or E drives respectively. Don't type the letter alone, it must have the ":" with it! You can go through the CD-ROM drives using the above listings, but remember, these contain 500 MEGS plus each, so the files are extensive!! You can spend months going through each one, and still never see all the files it contains! Try it, you'll see!!

To get back to the "main drive", type: C: and you will be back to where we started.

Now that we are really done, and are back to the C:\> prompt, how do we get out? If you aren't sure, you will find out by typing: ? This will tell

you that to exit back to the BBS, you can do it by typing: EXIT, or QUIT, or F. To leave the BBS, and disconnect, just type: B, as you would normally do.

That wasn't so hard was it? You learned some DOS, as well as learned how to explore the extensive file sections I have written for the BBS. This is the area where the SysOp makes his/her mark, the area that makes each BBS different from the other. This is the area that takes me the most time to setup and maintain, and therefore is the area of which I am most proud.

In next month's article we will start to explore some of the servers available on BBSVW, and begin to show you how to unleash the power of a number of these to make your BBS connects much, much, more enjoyable.

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

Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the
STARS KE2VW BBS
c 1994

Diagnostic Session

STARS will be holding a Diagnostic Session on Saturday, November 12 at the Nike Base club station. We will have a deviation monitor, and the club's watt meter on hand to test your rigs.

This will be a chance to see just how much power your radio is putting out, and to see what it's actual deviation is. All club members are invited out to see and to learn. For more info, call Shane WB2WPM at 675-5797.

Donation

Joe KD2JDB wanted to express his thanks to Gary (Woody) Wood AA2TL for his gift of an MFJ random wire antenna tuner to the Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) so that they could load up their 160 foot long wire antenna.

So, here is a big thanks!





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 Perryburg, 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

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