

telstar

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 159 DECEMBER, 1994

1995 Club Officers Elected!

At the November club meeting, the following members were elected to be club officers for 1995:

President KM4XZ Terry Rockhold
Vice Pres. KB2OUT Tony Balas, Jr.
Secretary WA2TVT Dave Baco
Treasurer KB2ESM Jack Cullum, Jr.
Fin. Secr. WG2H Frank Modzelewski
Director WA2HEV Mike Wojcieszak

These members will join Vern Siegel AA2AC, who will be in the second year of his Director's position, in making up the Board of Directors for 1995.

Transmitter Hunt

On Saturday November 19, STARS held a hidden transmitter hunt beginning at the club's Nike Base club station. The transmitter was hidden in a parking lot behind some stores in downtown Angola. Ron N2TIE and Jim N2SKT were the hidden transmitter operators.

Winning the hunt with a distance of 14.5 miles was Howard K2UD. Second place went to the team of Al N2UBW, Larry N2SFF, Debbie and Amy with a distance of 17.0. Third went to Terry KM4XZ with 17.3 miles.

Meeting & Party!

The December club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on December 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.



We will be having our annual Holiday Party after the business meeting. The club will be providing pizza and soft drinks, and we encourage everyone to bring finger foods to share with the other members. This is a great chance to bring your spouse out for some fun!



Time To Renew!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership dues form for you to renew your membership for 1995 and allow us to update your information. Please complete this form and bring it along with your check to the December meeting or mail them to Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206.

We will be changing the codes for our repeater in January, so get your renewal done now so that you receive your new codes on time!

★ 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.

"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 9

People often ask me what "servers" are. These are features added to the BBS which work separately from the message/bulletin forwarding that BBSs are known for. They are independent programs, each of which is designed to perform some task. Several are included with the FBB software, but most of those found on BBSVW have been added by me "over the years" to expand the utilities the BBS offers its users.

Let's start off with those servers "built into" FBB. To begin exploring we need to get out of the "normal" BBS mode, much like we did when we got into the BBS's DOS mode by typing a command. Technically the DOS session is actually a server mode in itself! The command we type to get into the server mode is: F.

Once in the server mode we get a new prompt. The (6) KE2VW BBS (?CB, HELPVW, ICB,SH) > changes to: (6) SERVER-MENU (C,D,N,Q,T,F,B, ?=help) >. Typing: ? now explains what these "cryptic" letters mean! You will get this display:

(C) Connections-Stat, which information on the BBS statistics, as far as its usage..

(D) Docs, which refers to the document section of the BBS. This section is rarely used by most SysOps, as there are better ways of providing information to our users..

(Q) QTH locator, which calculates your QRA locator based on latitude/longitude and vice versa, among other things..

(N) User data, which allows viewing/inputting of user data..

(T) Satellites, which refers to our satellite tracking program, presently following the more than 300 satellites that currently are active..

(F) Return to BBS-mode, which is self explanatory..

(B) Disconnect (from the BBS), which is self explanatory..
For help, type ? command

Off we go into these servers, which you will find

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Wish to thank everyone for the splendid cooperation that we had at the election. The ballots were courtesy of Terry KM4XZ; counting them was a breeze. Understand that the board is looking into an idea of a different way to vote to increase more participation.

December is going to be a fun meeting. After the officers are sworn in, the club will spring for some pizza and soft drinks. You know the last few years, the chief bakers made some nice cookies, and it is open to all who wish to participate. Last year, we had some very nice colored cookies and three types of brownies. You know, each batch tasted a little different, and they did not go to waste.

It is nice to see the mini flea market gaining momentum, and members can bring radio type articles and sell them. If you don't want to take them home, why not just leave them for the club. All donations are gratefully accepted.

If you want some light reading, on page 55 in the November issue of QST is a good place to start.

By the way, the board of directors and officers

of the club are picking out the chairpersons for the various committees that make for smooth sailing for the club. If you want to chair or work on a committee, why not let them know and make their job more pleasant.

If you want to spend a pleasant evening and get informed, why not check into the club's BBS. It is better than watching a dull TV program, and you might make it a habit. I like the way that when you check out, you are told how long you were connected.

You know, I have been checking into the WNY emergency net on Sundays at 12:30 PM on 3916 KHZ. It is a controlled net, but all check-ins are welcome. They have a system where all check-ins can become net control operators and get some practice. I was thing of adapting the same system in our Saturday morning net and get a different net control operator for every Saturday. I think everyone is tired of hearing the same old net controller every week. How about starting the system in January 1995 and see how it works out?? Try it, you might like it!

Happy Hamming !
Guz WB2EZU

provides us some interesting data! Let's start off with the connection/statistics section, by typing: C. The prompt will now change again, this time to: (6) CONNECTIONS- STAT. (G,H,I,J,L,O,F,B. ?=help) >. Typing: ? explains these commands as:

- (G) General
- (H) Use per hour
- (I) List of callsigns (using BBSVW)
- (J) Use per day
- (L) Details
- (O) Percentages
- (F) Return to the main server menu (the one above)
- (B) Disconnects (from the BBS)

All statistics are cumulative, since the BBS first started. Since this would not be very helpful to our users, I wrote a simple program to delete data older than 30 days, so our statistics are recent, and reflect current BBS usage!

Typing: G gives us the total number of active messages, the number of connections to BBS (again in the last 30 days!), the average time spent per connection, the average number of connections per day, and the rush hours (peak hours of BBS usage). This will help guide you in avoiding times when throughput will be slow!

Typing: H will provide you with a graph showing BBS usage per hour. Remember, the BBS is based on UTC time, not EST/EDST!

Typing: I will list the callsigns connecting to the BBS (within the last 30 days). If an amateur last connected 31 days ago, his/her callsign will NOT be shown.

Typing: J will provide you with a graph showing BBS usage per week. Currently, it is fairly evenly spread out, with the only real peak being Fridays.

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See Packet Racket on Page 4

"Packet Racket"

Continued From Page 3

Typing: L will list the callsigns connected to the BBS, with the most recent first, and going backwards throughout the time period the data is maintained (the last 30 days). It will provide the list in the following format:

B 04 8188 KE2SK 27-Nov 04:48 = 1'11"
 B 04 8187 N2EJT 27-Nov 04:43 = 2'25"
 A 08 8186 WB2VPH 27-Nov 0440 = 0'16"
 etc

This means, in the case of KE2SK, he connected on port B [this is our 145.71 Mhz port.. remember we have 5 radio ports, and one modem port, each of which has a number of channels (usually 4), except for the modem, which has only one], on channel 4 of this port, # 8188 for the month of November, on Nov 27th at 04:48 UTC, with a total connection time of 1 minute, 11 seconds.

This listing will continue to scroll back in time if you type: ENTER, but will stop when you type: A (for abort).

Typing: O will provide you with a breakdown of the BBS usage, based on server vs "normal" BBS activity. Note: This only keeps track of the servers that come with FBB, not the additional ones I have added.

To get back into the "main" server menu, now that we have finished our look at connection statistics, type: F. We now get the original server prompt.

Typing: D to get into the document section will offer the user of the STARS BBS nothing, as there are no documents there. Rather they are written in the help commands, and the HELPVW sections.

Typing: N puts us into the user data section of the server. The prompt changes to: (6) USER-DATA (I,N,R,F,B, ?=help) >. Typing: ? yields: (R) Read information (I) Show list of users (same list we saw in the connection statistics section) (N) Change own data (F) Return to server-menu (B) Disconnect (fom BBS)

If you now type: R you will be asked for a

callsign. Typing that callsign (any of the callsigns that have connected to BBSVW.. seen on the connection list) will provide an abundance of data the user/system has provided, including: home BBS, name, address (this is not from the automatic callsign database, but rather relects user input data, which is presumably more accurate and up-to-date!), QTH-locator, work/home phone numbers, and the time and date of the last connection to the BBS! That's quite a bit of information on each of our users!

If you type: I you will get the current user list at BBSVW.

Typing: N will provide you with your current user data. Once you check its accuracy, you can either type: N to NOT make any changes and leave this section of the server, or type: Y to make changes to your data. You can only make changes to your own data, of course. If you do elect to make changes, the BBS will prompt you through these changes, and when done you will be given this data again in toto, to review, and then again to change or leave alone.

Let's type: F to get back into the main server menu. From there we can type: Q to get into the QTH locator section. The prompt now changes to: (6) QTH-LOCATOR (C,D,L,Q,F,B, ?=help) >. Typing: ? gives us this screen:

(Q) Qth -> Long. Lat. (L) Long. Lat. -> Qth
 (D) Dist. and Azimuth (C) Distances (F) Return to server-menu (B) Disconnect

Typing: Q triggers the BBS to ask us for our QTH locator (also called QRA locator). If you don't know yours yet, by typing mine at BBSVW (FN02RP), you will get the longitude and latitude of the center of this grid square, which is 78 degrees, 33 minutes West longitude; 42 degrees, 39 minutes North latitude.

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 test session 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 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 Dec. 10, 1994 and Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1 (no fooling!), May 6 and June 3, 1995 in 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.

Nike Base Station

Don't forget that the Nike Base Club Station is open every Saturday from 1 to 3 PM for you to come out and operate, learn about different modes, ask questions, check our reference library or just visit with other members! Recently we have been host 10-15 people each week.

Remember the Erie County Fair? Some of you that donated equipment to display there still haven't picked the equipment up! Please come out to the station and pick up your equipment so we can cut down on the clutter!

Thanks to Shane WB2WPM and all other the other volunteers for giving up their time to open up the station each week!

"Packet Racket"

Continued From Page 4

Typing: L will prompt you to enter your longitude, then latitude, to calculate your grid square QRA locator. When entering this data, you must use the correct format, but don't worry, if you forget how, the BBS help section will give you the instructions on the proper format, which basically is: degrees:minutes:seconds W (longitude). For me it's 78:34:51 W. This is followed by degrees:minutes:seconds N (latitude). For me it's 42:38:51 N. That's all you need to get your QRA locator. This locator is used for other calculations by the BBS, the most important being its built-in satellite tracking program that will calculate satellite trajectories, using current Keplerian elements, for your home. You won't need a tracker, with the one the BBS offers!

To finish this section, you must type: F, or QUIT, which puts you back into the above servers menu.

Typing: D will provide you with both the direction (azimuth), and distance in kilometers between any two stations, when you know their QRA locators. This is very nice for determining beam headings from your QTH, along with distance, to a Dx station! Again, when finished with these calculations, you must type either: F, or QUIT.

Typing: C will provide you with distances between stations only. Again type: F, or QUIT to exit back to the menu.

That finishes the QRA locator section, so let's return to the main server menu by typing: F again.

In the next issue, we will address the final built-in server that every FBB BBS contains, the Satellite server.

Until next time, 73, and 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 with a PL of 151.4 Hz).

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

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
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