

# telstar



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

ISSUE 160 JANUARY, 1995

## STARS Concludes Record Year!

STARS finished 1994 with a club recording setting membership of 283! Our new members continue to reflect the wide variety of hams. Some are in their teens and others are grandfathers in their 80's. Some are Novices or Techs who just got their licenses, and others are Extras who have had their licenses for 40 years or more.



We have a new roster showing all 283 members as of the year-end. They will be available at the

January meeting. If you would like a copy and can't make the meeting, send an business-size SASE (don't forget the new postage rates) to Terry Rockhold KM4XZ, 4805 Transit Rd. #1903, Depew, NY 14043. We couldn't put them in this newsletter because we were already sending out a lot of repeater codes and membership cards with it.

1994 was a great year for STARS! We returned to the Erie County Fair for the first time in many years and told lots of people about amateur radio. We had great meetings, put a new UHF repeater on the air, participated in many public service events, and outfitted the Nike Base club station to make it one of the best in the area.

With your help, we will make 1995 an even bigger year!

## January Meeting

The club's January meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 5 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited;

*You will invited* neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

STARS Repeater Chairman Bill Siska N2GAO will be the featured speaker at the program. Bill will explain about the special features of the repeater and will answer questions about it that you might have.

Why not come out and join us as we begin our new year!

## Dues Are Due!!

Have you renewed your membership in STARS for 1995? If not, why not? Dues were due on January 1.

To renew your membership, see Frank WG2H at the January meeting or send your dues along with the renewal form that came with your December newsletter to Frank Modzelewski WG2H, 1818 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY 14206 or see Frank at the January meeting. If you don't still have your renewal form, send a paper with your name, call, class, address and phone number.

We will be changing the repeater codes shortly after the January club meeting, so get busy and get that renewal done now!

# ★ 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: *... Jr.*  
KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefit!



## 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.

## Radio Direction Finding

Why should you learn radio direction finding? Well, of course, we have hidden transmitter hunts in the area which give you a chance to get out of the house, enjoy a little competition and have fun with fellow hams. There are also other uses you can put your skills to.

Locally, STARS president Terry KM4XZ recently received a call from STARS new Vice President Tony KB2OUT to report that the club's repeater had been timed out by what appeared to be a stuck transmitter on the input frequency. Tony couldn't hear the offending transmitter from his home in Eden, and Dave WA2TVT reported that he couldn't hear it from his home near Boston. When Terry checked the input frequency, he found that he could hear signal from his home in Depew. Terry put his direction finding equipment in his car and began searching for the transmitter. About half an hour later, he had located the signal. Checking the club's roster, he found that a member lived at the address that he located. Since it was at night, he went to a phone and called the member. A quick check found that a speaker microphone plugged into a HT had developed a faulty connection and caused the transmitter to stick on. Thus, the problem was quickly solved, and the club's repeater was put back on the air!



In the December 15th issue of W5YI Report, some other examples of direction finding were outlined:

Would you believe Russians in Seattle? Forest Service smoke jumpers reported interference on their frequency while they were fighting forest fires. The FCC, using the one of the new GPS mobile direction finding and mapping vehicles that was described by the FCC representative who spoke at the STARS meeting in 1994, traced the problem to the Boeing Control Tower in Everett, WA. where the Russians had placed a transmitter on the air, testing it in preparation for President Yeltsen's visit!

See RDF On Page 5

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Wow!! STARS broke another record with the attendance at the December meeting. I think we used all the chairs at the Youth Center to take care of the overflow crowd.

The installation of officers was a huge success, of course. We invited the members and their families to participate in the ceremonies. It was nice to see all the past officers that attended. The club celebrated by having some pizza and liquid refreshments which went over big. One thing was the sweets and cookies which were donated by the bakers in the club. I never seen so many different types and colors of the cookies. They sure looked good, and they were tasty also. First time I have seen brownies in a round type of shape. Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN took care of supplying the crowd, and no one went home hungry. Thanks also go to Jack KB2ESM for helping get supplies for the party.



1994 was a good year for STARS and kept the members busy keeping up with the changes and improvements to amateur radio. I know the new officers for 1995 will surely try to keep up the good work.

You know, the Saturday morning net on 3.925

+/- Mhz at 10 AM will try a new system and teach more members to act as net control operators. I have the pleasure of checking into the New York Emergency net held Sundays at 12:30 on 3.915 Mhz where they take turns as net control operators, so if anything happens everyone can take over the net and keep it going. I think it is a good idea. So come January, 1995 STARS will try the same system, and anyone can pick a Saturday and run the net. Our nets are very informal, but it will be a good place to get acquainted with the net operation. So check in a few times, and then give it a tryout. You will enjoy it.

The other nets on our repeater are a huge success, and everyone looks forward to check-in.

Don't forget to make a trip to the Nike Base club room some Saturday. As a general rule, Shane WB2WPM, our Nike Base chairman, or one of his helpers opens it up about 1 PM until 3 PM. If you have 2 meter facilities, check on the STARS repeater before going down to the Nike Base. You know, there are various contests on weekends, and you are welcome to use the club's transmitter if conditions are right for a few contacts.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZX

### For Sale

Kenwood PB17 12V 700 mah high power battery pack, brand new, as used with the Kenwood TM 24A/48A/78A handhelds. \$45.00

Radio Shack 400 channel PRO 2005 AM/FM scanning receiver, with GRE Super Converter 8001, like new. \$145.00

RCA Wonder Video (CLR200) Camcorder, like new. Larger, older style unit. Stored and not used, many extras, remote microphone, wide angle lens, extra long life battery pack. \$325.00

For above items, contact Ray N2NXX at 648-1672.

### Silent Key

We are sad to report that STARS member Jim Luscher AA2EN is now a silent key.

We have been told that Jim passed away on December 9, 1994 while visiting his son Brian in Tempe, Arizona.

We know that Jim was also a member of the Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) and possibly other clubs in the area.

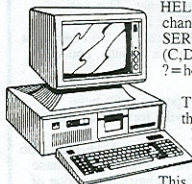
We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and want them to know that he will be missed by our club.

## "PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 10

This month we will conclude our look at the servers "built into" the FBB BBS software.

To begin exploring we need to get out of the normal" BBS mode by typing a command. 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,



HELPPVW,ICB,SH) >  
changes to: (6)  
SERVER-MENU  
(C,D,N,Q,T,F,B,  
?=help) >.

The final section of the servers that we have to explore will be accessed by typing: T.

This will get us into the satellite section, which is the most interesting to many! The prompt changes to: (6) SATELLITES (C,P,T,F,B. ?=help) >. Typing: ? gives us this screen:

- (C) Descriptions
- (P) Show orbiting parameters
- (T) Calculate orbital data
- (F) Return to server-menu
- (B) Disconnect

After you have used command C, P, or T, send L for list!

Typing: C asks you for your choice of satellite to get information on. Please note that each of the descriptions that has been put into this section has been added by me. These have taken me some time to acquire, so you will only find information on about 20 satellites. You will be choosing a satellite by its number. To get a listing of satellites by number, as the prompt says, type: L to get a complete listing. At present there are over 300 active satellites!

Type the number, representing the satellite you are interested in, and you will get whatever information, if any, is available on that satellite! For example, typing: 58 will provide information on AO-21. Once the information is presented to you, you are back in this section's menu. If you decide not to type a number, you will have to

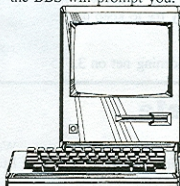
type: F to get back to this sub-menu.

Typing: P will provide you a complete list of parameters for the satellite of your choice, in case you want to manually load them into your own satellite tracking program. These represent the most current Keps available. Again, you have the option of typing: L to list them, in case you don't remember their number (same as the above list).

Finally typing: T gets you into the actual satellite tracker built into BBSVW! Again, you will be prompted either to enter the number of your desired satellite, or to type: L to get the list. Let's assume you want to calculate when you can acquire signal from AO-21, and where to point your directional array. You will start off the calculations by typing: 58.

You will now be asked for the start date (day/month/year) for the calculations. If you wish to calculate information for December 01, 1994, for example, type: 01/12/94. The BBS will then ask you the starting time for your calculations. If you want to start looking for passes after 04:00 UTC (REMEMBER THE BBS USE UTC, NOT EST/EDST!), type: 04:00.

Again, if you don't enter the time/date correctly, the BBS will prompt you. It will then tell you to



wait, while it quickly does the calculations, the results of which will be presented in a chart, with the QRA locator on which the calculations are based identified,

along with the chosen satellite, (on the top row), and calculations starting with

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Vice President	Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Finc. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Mike Wojcieszak	WA2HEV

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a test session on 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 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 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.

your desired start time, and continually progressing, each time you type: ENTER, until you type: A to abort the calculations. This is one of the most powerful servers contained on BBSVW. It prevents mistakes in satellite calculations which occur when people try to manually load Keys into their own tracking software, which is more common than you may think! Type: F to get back to the main server menu, where we started, and then type it once again, to get back to the normal BBS prompt.

This concludes our tour of the built-in servers every FBB BBS contains. In the next issue, we will start addressing the multiple servers unique to our BBS.

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

Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the  
STARS KE2VW BBS  
c 1995

## RDF

Continued From Page 2

The manager of a Sears store in Omaha, NE contacted the FCC to report that customers were complaining that their garage door openers wouldn't open once closed. Several local hams assisted the FCC in locating the source of radio interference at the Offutt Air Base. A new air-to-ground communication system was using a frequency too close to that used by the garage door openers and was effectively jamming their receivers.

The FCC's Kansas City office received a complain about "foul" language business radio operations on a rural ambulance frequency. They traced the signals to a tractor-tailer service using the frequency to coordinate traffic at loading docks at a Ford assembly plant. The radio company that installed the equipment had mistakenly programmed it with the ambulance frequency!

So, you can see that there are lots of uses for radio direction finding skills!

## Club Badges

Don't forget that you can get a STARS badge with your name and call sign for only \$3.50. They are available with white letters on a blue background or blue letters on a white background. To order your badge, contact Membership Chairman Frank Modzelewski WG2H at any club meeting or by writing to him at 1818 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY 14206.

## License Classes

STARS has completed a great Novice/Tech license training class. Held at the Hamburg Youth Center, the classes were attended by 25 to 30 people.

Thanks go to Dick Haungs W2UJR for coordinating a test session on December 3 to give the people a chance to earn their licenses. We haven't heard the results yet, but we are sure that most people were successful.

Special thanks go to Vern Siegel AA2AC and Al Beutler K2DWI for teaching the course!



# STARS



## Club Repeaters

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input). Auto-patch 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 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Hamburg. (442.325 MHz w/ PL 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



**Have You  
Renewed Your  
Membership  
for 1995?**

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ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127