

telstar



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

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STARS Member Honored!

STARS member Dave Tinkham K2ECK was recently honored by the American Lung Association (ALA) for his public service work. At the ALA reunion held on December 2, Dave was presented with the RICHARD SMYKA SPIRIT OF THE TREK award. This was given in recognition of personal and professional commitment to the ALA Bike Treks. Richard Smyka was involved with the Treks and fund raising with the ALA and was killed while riding his bike in Buffalo in July 1994.



Dave has participated in many bike treks for the ALA and other WNY charities providing communications from his bicycle. But beyond that, Dave often rides sweep bike and gives encouragement to the slower and less experienced riders at the back of the pack. He does this even though he is an excellent rider and could easily be riding up at the front of the pack.

Dave wanted to share this award with the club because many of his fellow members had participated in the treks and made this presentation possible because of their excellent road support. He noted that it was mentioned at the reunion that the radio communication on the treks helped to insure the safety of the riders.

Good job Dave!

February Meeting

The February club meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on Thursday Feb. 2 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be having a very special program at the meeting. The Group Commander and the Director of Communication for the WNY Group of the Civil Air Patrol will talk about their program with special emphasis on their various modes of communication including HF voice and High Speed digital, VHF voice and packet network, direction finding for lost aircraft, etc. They will tell you how you can use your ham skills to help their service. You definitely won't want to miss this!



!!! NOTICE !!!

In accord with Article VI of the STARS Constitution, notice is hereby given that at the meeting on **March 2, 1995**, there will be a vote on an amendment to the constitution to allow absentee mail-in ballots for the election of club officers and directors.



Note that this will be the **March meeting**, not the upcoming **February meeting**.

★ 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.

New Russian Satellite

On December 26, 1994 the RS-15 Amateur Satellite was launched into space from the Baykonur space center in Russia.

All the electronic on board the RS-15 satellite were designed and built by a group of Radio Amateurs at the Tsiolkovskiy Museum for the History of Cosmonautics in Kaluga (about 100 miles southwest of Moscow).

Fans of RS-10's Mode A transponder (2 meters up/ 10 meters down) will be glad to know that the RS-15 also operates in Mode A. This allows hams with fairly simple equipment to operate the bird. These two satellites are the only active Amateur Radio satellites including Mode A operations.

The transponder data is as follows:

Uplink: 145.858 - 145.898 MHz
(Aprpx. 100 Watt EIRP)

Downlink: 29.354 - 29.394 MHz
(Up to 5 watts)

CW Beacon 1: 29.3525 MHz

CW Beacon 2: 29.3987 MHz

The acceptable modes are CW and SSB only.

The above information was gleaned from the 1/15/95 issue of W5YI REPORT and the 1/12/95 issue of THE ARRL LETTER.

Anti-Amateur Radio Group

The 1/15/95 issue of THE W5YI REPORT reveals the existence of an anti-amateur radio group called V.O.I.C.E.S. - short for Victims Of Interference Caused by Electronic Signals!

The organization is headquartered in Tuckerton, NJ. The president Michael Morris claimed 150 members who are plagued by electromagnetic interference.

They have a promotional campaign underway to reach people who are bothered by two-way radio communications interference so they may form a more powerful lobby for the rights of homeowners!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The January meeting was a very spirited meeting and hope something good will come of it. You know, when we were a small club, it was easy to have an election of officers to run the club. But now with almost 300 members in the club, it is a different story.

All members are asked to submit their ideas for a more efficient way of running the election. Now remember, it might require an amendment of the constitution in order to get an efficient and foolproof system. So be prepared to get some good ideas.

At present about 30% of the members vote, and looking over the recent elections throughout the states, that is about average for the elections.

In the February 1995 issue of QST on page 34 is a very interesting article about propagation charts. They usually are good reading during snow storms, and this time they picked up low power.

You would be surprised at how accurate these charts can be. In other words, if you got a free time, you can plan on how to make the most of it. It might take a month or so to get organized.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Nike Base SnowFest

STARS Nike Base club station will be open from approximately 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday February 4 and 5 as part of the Nike Base SnowFest. This is a winter mini-carnival staged by the Town of Hamburg.



Volunteers are being solicited to help demonstrate amateur radio to the general public visiting the site. To volunteer, contact Nike Base Chairman Shane Brady WB2WPM at 675-5797 or drop him a note on the STARS KE2VW BBS.

New Members

Welcome the new members from January:

Phil Atchison WA5PQL
 Richard Bralla N2ZTL
 Ron Canazzi AA2VM
 David Eiss
 Richard Feist
 Beverly Hutter
 Glenn Kerwin KB2TEA
 Joseph McGurrin N2YVV
 Michael Metlak N2MWL
 David Rodrigues
 Tamara Rodrigues
 Robert Volkert KB2QWY
 Stefan Wawrzynski N2ZDM

STARS 2 Meter Net

On Wednesday, February 8, I am going to have Kash WB2RAJ on the net with me as a Guest Speaker. Kash will be there to answer any questions you may have on DXing. I am going to try and run similar nets like this one on the first Wednesday following our regular club meetings.

Examples: Packet Radio, ATV, Direction Finding, Satellites, etc.

Anyone having any ideas or if you would like to volunteer to be a Guest Speaker on one of these nets, give me a call. Home - 992-2011; Packet - KE2VW BBS; Radio - STARS Repeater (147.090+).

Thank you,
 Tony J. Balas Jr. KB2OUT
 Net Controller

Santa Net

The STARS Wednesday night net the week before Christmas had a major celebrity as Guest Speaker - Santa Claus! Santa (Jim Moxon N2OSL) took Christmas gift requests from children and was assisted by Demi the Elf (Sandy Balas, wife of Tony KB2OUT) and Teeny the Elf (Valari Zanghi, wife of Gary KB2YJ).



"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 10

This month we will depart from our usual forum, which has been to discuss only those commands which are generic to all FBB BBS(s). The rest of our chapters will cover those servers which have been added to BBSVW. To use these servers you need to be in the normal BBS section, indicated by the normal BBS prompt: KE2VW BBS (? , CB, HELPVW, ICB, SH) > .

One of the most useful, especially to new users, is the HELPVW server. This program is the ONLY source, outside of the users' manual, which provides instruction on using the various features of the BBS. This section includes all recent additions to the BBS, as well as reviewing important topics and changes on-going at the BBS. ALL users should make it a habit to check in on this, at least monthly!

To enter this server simply type: HELPVW. You will be sent a chart containing two columns. The first column gives you the commands to actually type to get the desired information, which is described in the second column. Here is a section of it:

HELP & INFORMATION ON USING THE
BBS FEATURES Type: Desired Info/ help:

7p Information on our server for
transferring binary files...

BBS How to look up the home BBS of a
station.

CALL How to use the callbook servers (N,
American.... etc. etc. etc.)

BYE LEAVES THIS SERVER &
RETURNS YOU TO BBS

Let's suppose we want to know how to look up
the home BBS of a ham you wish to correspond
with. Typing: BBS gives you:

=====

HOW TO FIND THE HOME BBS OF
ANOTHER STATION

To find the home BBS of any packeteer, while
connected to this BBS type: I callsign, where
callsign is replaced by the actual callsign. For
example.etc.etc.etc. Press ENTER to continue...

This gives us the information we were interested
in. When we are done reading it, we MUST
press the ENTER key. If we try typing BYE, or
anything else, we will stay "locked" into the
server. I have watched many new users, who

don't read the prompts, and can't get out of the
server, so they disconnect from the BBS in
frustration. If only they followed the prompt's
instructions!

When you press enter, you will be returned to the
initial two column chart. If you decide you don't
want to read any more sections, then type: BYE.
You can do this ONLY when you see this
prompt:

BYE LEAVES THIS SERVER &
RETURNS YOU TO BBS

If you don't see this at the bottom of the chart,
you may see instead:

ENTER=continue, A=abort, N=next,
C=cancel paging -->

Remember the paging command, that limits you
to one screen of information at a time? If not,
reread the section on the commands. In this case,
since you have paging turned on, you need to
press ENTER to continue to the end of the chart,
where you will then see the BYE exit prompt.
Then you can type: BYE.

Typing: BYE, when leaving this server will NOT
disconnect you from the BBS, it merely returns
you to the normal BBS prompt.

Again, I will be adding new sections to
HELPVW, which serve as additions to my users'
manual, as new features are added to the BBS, so
be sure to check into it!

Another popular server the BBS has in operation
is the callbook servers. Notice I said server(s).
We have three different callbooks on-line at
BBSVW! One is the USA/Canadian callbook,
known at the SAMS database, which is updated
quarterly. The second is the Canadian callbook,
a COMPLETE callbook program updated
bimonthly. This is MUCH more accurate and
timely than the SAMS database. The third is the
International callbook, known as the Buckmaster

STARS Board of Directors

President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Vice President	Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Frank Modzelewski	WG2H
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Mike Wojcieszak	WA2HEW

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 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 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 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.

CD-ROM hamcall database. This is updated annually. This server also provides some very interesting data on the US hams, data you will NOT find in any other database! All databases allow looking up hams by their callsign, but the **SAMS** additionally allows looking up hams by their name/zip code!

Let's start off with the USA/Canadian (**SAM**) database. To enter this type: **CB** (which stands for CallBook). Do NOT add the callsign at this point. You will enter the server, and see this prompt: Welcome to the KE2VW N. American callbook server! **B, C, F, H, M, N, Z, ?**

Typing: ? explains these "cryptic" symbols as:
B Disconnects from the BBS
C Go to the CALL lookup menu
F Return to the previous menu
M Return to the main BBS menu
N Go to NAME lookup menu
Z Go to ZIP code search ?

Typing: **C** prompts you to type in callsigns you are interested in finding information on, **ONE AT A TIME**. Try one to test it out. When you

are done, type: **F** to get back to the main **CB** menu.

From the menu, type: **N** to lookup hams by their name. You will be asked for their last name, then their first name. You must be exact in the first name. Do not use nicknames, or Dick for Richard, etc. If you do you will NOT get a match. Finally you will be prompted for their middle initial. If you don't know it, press **ENTER**. You will receive a listing that may/may not contain the ham you are interested in. The middle initial really is necessary, in many cases!

Once you have tried this, type **F** to get back to the main **CB** menu. Now let's type: **Z** to lookup hams based on the zip code area they live in. Once you have typed: **Z** you will be prompted to type in the desired zip code. After the calculations are completed, you will be given a list of hams living in that zip code area. I have limited the list to 100 hams, as it does take some time for **BBS** calculations. Oh well, maybe when I get the pentium...

Typing: **M** sends you back to the **BBS** prompt, closing this server. If you are ready to disconnect from the **BBS** entirely, type: **B** instead.

For the Canadian callbook, type: **CI** callsign, substituting the desired ham's call for "callsign". For example: **CI VE3MX**. This server automatically returns you to the normal **BBS** after each entry! No menu here to worry about.

Finally, let's try the International callbook. Type: **ICB** (which, you guessed it, stands for International CallBook). This prompts you: "Welcome to the KE2VW callbook server. Type the call to look up, or **QUIT** to return to the **BBS**." Try an American call, to see the additional information you are given in this database. Lookup your **Dx** here!

There you have it, our start into the many servers **BBSVW** has available for you to enjoy. Have you ever wondered just how many are available? Here's a hint, at the normal **BBS** prompt, type: **PS** to see the Program Servers which contain many, but NOT all, of them. To get information on the others, refer to our users' manual, which is being written section by section (this being one), or **HELPVW**.

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). 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

Don't lose your STARS membership! If you haven't renewed for 1995, send your name, call, class, address, telephone # and dues to WG2H. (See Page 2 for address). Do it now!



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