

# telstar



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

ISSUE 162 MARCH, 1995

## Vanity Call Signs Near!

In a January 24 news release, the FCC said: "In recognition of the strong sense of identity among amateur operators that is grounded in the call signs of their stations, the Commission has decided to offer a vanity call sign system to the amateur service community." The FCC will also resume issuing new club and military recreation station licenses.

There will be a series of four gates four people desiring to use the new system to select a new call sign.

Gate One will open as soon as the new application form, FCC Form 610-V is



available, apparently around late March or early April. Gate One will allow a previous holder of a call sign to apply

for that call sign. If the previous holder of a call sign is deceased, a close relative could apply for the call sign.

Gate Two will open next and will include all Amateur Extra Class amateurs. Gate Three will include Advanced Class amateurs, and Gate Four will all licensees.

Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area. The previous rules relating to Group A, B, C, and D call signs will still apply. For example, a Technician or

## March Meeting

The March club meeting will be held on Thursday March 2 beginning at 7:00 PM 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.

Along with other routine business matters, a vote will be taken at the meeting regarding amending the club's constitution to allow for mail-in absentee votes for the election of club officers and directors in addition to the votes cast by members present at the election meeting.

*You are invited*

Greg Young KE2VW, SysOp of the STARS KE2VW BBS, will be the special guest speaker at the meeting and will discuss advanced packet BBS topics such as the data bases, file systems, call books, etc. Greg is an excellent speaker and will have a live demonstration of the features of his BBS.

This will be a very interesting and informative meeting! Be there!

General could apply for any Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call sign available, but couldn't apply for a Group A (1x2, 2x1, or 2x2 starting with AA to AK) or Group B (2x2) call.

It appears at this time that the fees for call sign requests initially will be \$7 per year, payable as \$70 for a ten-year license.

How many people will apply for new calls? Nobody knows! Certainly some people are interested in getting a new call, but many have grown attached to their old ones!

# ★ 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.

## Winterfest "95"

The Snowbelt Amateur Group will hold Winterfest "95" on March 11, 1995 from 8:00 AM to ?? at the Bliss High School (Main St. east of Rt. 362) in Bliss, NY. They have set an alternative snow date of March 18.



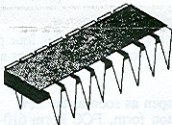
There will be a \$4.00 entrance fee. Tables are \$5.00 each which includes admission for one. They recommend that you pre-register early to save a table.

To pre-register send check (cheque if you are a Canadian!) or money order to David Dreier, 259 Main Street, Arcade, NY 14009.

Call-in frequencies are 145.170, 442.000, 444.100, and 145.390.

There will be refreshments and a test bench available.

For more information, call (716) 492-2306 between 9 AM and 6 PM.



**CQ CQ CQ**

On April 30, 1995, I will have my ticket 49 years!

I still enjoy ham operating very much and never get bored with being on the air. However, currently, I only use 2 meter FM due to restrictive circumstances.

Most of the time, the band is dead. I wish to make more contacts. I know that many guys listen. To all those who do listen, give me a call. I love to ragchew!

73, Jim W2PFK



## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Hope every one enjoyed the February meeting. Nice of the Civil Air Patrol to give us a low down on their activities.

In the February issue of QST, there is a unique type of 40 meter antenna which will interest the amateurs that are cramped for space. It is amazing to see the different types of construction for antennas. By the way, that coax balun is a very good idea if you are troubled with harmonics. The photo is very good.

The March meeting looks like a very interesting up-coming meeting. If possible, please attend and air your ideas on increasing the amount of members that vote. We got about 300 members but as of the last two elections there were only 30% who voted. It is not too bad. At the last election for President of the USA, the figures were about the same. But remember, we got more at stake and with the rapid change of the state of the art, we must be on our toes and keep

up with it. We are fortunate to have very dedicated electronic personal who assist most of the members to take full advantage of it.

Not only that, I changed over from a Commodore computer to a PC. Not familiar with it and had a bit of trouble, but the members came to my rescue. Hope I don't have to go through this again. Wish to thank all for the help.

It is nice to see the Nike Base club room open on Saturday afternoons for the benefit of the members. Not only that but some weekends there are contests and by request the club room is opened up to put WB2ELW on the air for points. See Shane WB2WPM Nike Base Chairman to make arrangements for that.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU



## Keep The Codes Secret!

We want to remind all members that STARS repeater codes are restricted to members only. In fact, revealing the repeater codes to nonmembers is one of the possible grounds listed in the club's constitution for terminating one's membership in the club.

It is important to remember this when utilizing the club's repeater. If you have forgotten the codes for some special repeater function, you can not ask someone to give you the codes over the repeater. You may be a member, but other people listening to the repeater may not be.

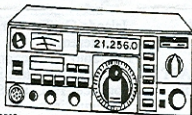
Likewise, if you are having trouble with the autopatch, you can't tell a person trying to help you over the repeater what codes you are punching in. It is far better to discuss any problems that you are experiencing like this over the telephone. Feel free to call any of the club's officers or directors.



## Wednesday Night 2 Meter Net

The special guest speaker on the Wed. March 8th net will be Dave (AA2GF). Dave will be on net to try and answer your questions on .....Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio or OSCAR.

He will be there to share his experience working AO-10, AO-13 & RS-10/11. For those interested Dave will cover basics such as satellite types, capabilities, ground station requirements etc. Maybe some of you have been curious but not sure what it takes to get started. Hope to here you on the Net!



Thank You  
Tony B. Jr (KB2OUT)  
Net Control

## "PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 11

In this issue we will continue with our discussion on advanced servers, focusing on the eighteen plus "databases" that are active on BBSVW.

To see what databases are available to you, simply type: SH DB. This of course stands for Show DataBase. You may also type: SHOW DB, if you prefer.

This should be done from the normal BBS prompt, not from one of the server sections. You will be given a list, which looks like this:

Filename:	Description:
ALLOC	Directory of International Prefix Allocations
BEACON	Directory of Worldwide Beacon Stations
CONTEST	Info. on Dx-related contests, including rules/results
COORD	Database of lat/long & Grid Squares for US cities
CLUBS	Database of Canadian Amateur Radio clubs
DEALER	Listing of Amateur radio Dealers & Manufacturers
DXCC	DXCC countries list with WAZ info.
DXNODES	Directory of Worldwide DxClusters/nodes
GUIDE	Information on Guide #s from the HAZMAT database
HAZMAT	HAZardous MAterials database
INFO	Huge database of varied information
IOTA	Islands On The Air (award) reference
MIC	Tnc/radio connection information
OBLAST	Russian/CIS oblast information
RULES	Complete FCC Part97 rules and regulations
TODAY	Historical information, along with perpetual calendar
XREF	Database of prefixes with current ARRL DXCC status
ZONE	Zone information by prefix or country
etc.	

There are other databases, not part of this grouping, which can be found by typing: PS, as we discussed in an earlier section of the manual.

Now that we have the listing of the available database, now what?

Just as for the other servers added to BBSVW, there is a help section for each of the databases. As an example we will pick one of these databases to review in some detail. Let's pick the INFO database.

Typing: SH INFO (show info) will list the sections available in this database. You can consider each of the sections shown as subdirectories, of the info directory. The mechanics are similar.

One important note: many DxClusters run databases, similar to these. Their command structure however is different. They require a "/" following the SH command, ie SH/INFO. When accessing these on the BBS, you must NOT use the slash. Two of the databases have been taken from a DxCluster, and modified to work on BBSVW. After modification was done, I edited the databases (some are very large), and attempted to remove any references to SH/etc. If you do see any references to the "/" following the SH command, just ignore them!

OK, back to our topic. SH INFO gives us the sections this database contains. Here is a PARTIAL list:

AIRPORTS = City codes  
 AREACODE = Codes/cities  
 ARRLADV = Committees  
 ARRLFCK = DXCC FieldCkg  
 ARRLMSG = Nbrs/Msgs

.....  
 SCANLAWS = State laws  
 SWL = SWL guide  
 SWR = SWR/losses  
 etc.

If our interest fell into the area of SWR

### 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 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 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 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.

values, and what they mean, we would type: SH INFO SWR. You need to type the full "path", not just SH SWR! As I stated, this is just like working with subdirectories.

SH INFO SWR would give us a chart, comparing SWR with return loss, with % power reflected, with Return loss in dB.

Typing: SH INFO SCANLAWS would give us another information file, which breaks down the laws we are interested in according to state:

SH INFO SCAN1 is for CA, FL, IN, KY, MI  
SH INFO SCAN2 is for MN, NE, NJ, NY, OK etc.

SH INFO SCAN2 provides us with scanner laws involving NY state. Citation for scanner laws are from V&T S397 (The Vehicle & Traffic laws). It goes on to say that scanners are prohibited in vehicles, and "improper" use of scanners is prohibited according to the Penal Law Section 140.40.

In a similar fashion, you can type: SH INFO "section", replacing the word "section" with any topic taken from the list of topics you see after typing: SH INFO.

Typing: SH INFO MONEY will give you the relative values of many different currencies, based on September, 1993 data!

The SH command will work with each database in a similar fashion, although the responses back to the command, will vary by database. Some of these databases are very fascinating, and are chocked full of valuable amateur, and non-amateur related information.

Typing: SH MIC will give you information about the microphone to tnc wiring for amateur radio packet stations, that many have problems with.

Typing: SH MIC INDEX will give an index of the radios contained in this database, one of which is the 8 pin Kenwood microphone arrangement.



Typing: SH MIC KEN8 then gives you the pinout arrangement to hook up each of the following tncs: MFJ, PK232, PK88, DRSI, KAN-VHF, KAN-HF.

Try your hand at each of these databases, following the outline I have given you. You will find a veritable wealth of information at your fingertips, much of which has been compiled by many individuals from multiple resources, and all put together into our database format.

If you have not tried the databases, you have missed a VERY substantial part of the BBS.

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

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



# 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

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