

telstar



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

ISSUE 163 APRIL, 1995

Constitution Amendment Vote Held

At the March club meeting, a vote was taken on amending the club's constitution to allow mail-in votes for the election of club officers.

This issue had been debated between club members for the previous two months.

Supporters of the amendment thought that all members should have an opportunity to vote on the club officers, even if they couldn't attend the November club meeting.

Those against the motion seemed to think that old system had worked well for years and were concerned about making changes that might prove to be detrimental.

After members had a chance to express their opinions, the issue went to a written ballot.

The vote was: 45 For, 21 Against, and 1 Abstention.

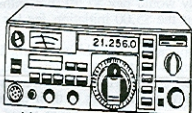
Thus, the motion received approval from approximately 2/3 of the members present. However, the club's constitution requires that any amendment must be approved by 75% of those members present, so the motion failed.

Therefore, the members wanting to vote on the election of club officers will be required to attend the November meeting.

April Meeting

The April club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 6 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 have many things to discuss including the repeaters, the Erie County fair exhibit, Field Day, public service events, etc.



For our program, we have an excellent video from CQ Magazine on An Introduction to Contesting. Some of the top contesters in the US discuss the basics of contesting including contest jargon, tips for beginners, how to compete from a small station, practical ways to improve your scores, etc. For the experienced contesters, there are shots of QSOs from some of the biggest stations in the world. We will try to get some of STARS experienced contesters to answer questions you might have.

Public Service Events

We are now approaching the big season for public service events. These are great chances for you to use your radio to help out a good cause. The March of Dimes Walkathon will be on Sunday, April 30. After that will come the American Lung Association, MS, and CF Bike Treks and other events. To volunteer or for more information call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony at 992-2011.

★ 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.

Wanted ... Rides to Club Meetings ...

I am trying to get a list of volunteers started. The list will be made up of persons who wouldn't mind lending a hand by giving a ride to club members who for what ever reason can not find a ride to the meeting.

As of 3-19-95 I have 3 volunteers on the list. If anyone is interested in getting on the list you can call ...

- 1) TONY KB2OUT 992-2011
- 2) MICK N2PZX 874-6931
- 3) RON AA2VM 632-4174

If you have any questions,

Please feel free to give one of us a call. We are not asking that you go out of your way. We would look at the list and call the closest volunteer. If you wouldn't mind giving a ride to a non club member let us know when you call. This can work but we need all of your help.



Thank you!
Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT

Erie County Fair Meeting

Our first meeting to organize the STARS Erie County Fair exhibit will take place at the Nike Base on Saturday April 8th at 10:00 am.

Those of you who were involved last year, please bring your ideas for this year.. now is the time to be thinking about it. We can really do this up right this year!!! Maybe a STARS royal blue paint job.. new shelves.. music (code of course!) in the hallway.. all sorts of neat things.. Only limitation here is our imagination.

HF can be a go, if we get enough time, and come up with a good antenna system, that won't qrm things.. Please talk it up on the repeater. If you were not involved last year, and missed out on the fun, join in.. now's the time!

73, see you on April 8th, Greg KE2VW

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the voting on the change to the constitution was not successful, but I am sure that the Board of Directors on their next meeting will come up with another plan.

STARS had their VE session in March, and there were 14 people taking the test. Everything went smooth and without a hitch. 50% were fortunate to upgrade at this session. In fact, one person took the Novice, Tech and General test including the CW portion also. I had a chance to talk to him, and he said about a year ago he made up his mind to become a ham. by the way, we gave him a form to join the club, HI, HI!

You know, there is a very forgotten type of amateur radio known as a county hunters net. It is a very active bunch of hams, and they have certain frequencies that they meet on and pass along info and cards. They have their own QSL buro and special cards. Can you imagine working thousands of counties in the USA? They make it look easy. Take for instance, you are driving down to Florida. You go down near the east coast and on the back, take a central

state route. When you do that, you get requests from the members for certain counties, and during a lunch break, you knock off a few contacts. It is mostly on the most popular bands.

One nice thing is that you get requests to go to a certain county, and, if it is a rare one, you will spend some time giving all the members their contact. They have special QSL cards, and sometimes you can give them five counties on one card. By the way, one of our members, Bob WA2YSJ wrote an article on this in the February 1995 CQ Magazine with a lot of info. (Editors Note: the county hunters will be holding their 1995 National Convention from July 5 to 9 and will be based at the Holiday Inn at Exit 75 of the NY Thruway in Hamburg, NY!)

Well, it looks like STARS is on its busy part of the year, what with the Nike Base club station open on Saturdays, the various nets on 2 meters and low bands, and also the bike treks, runs, and walkathons, and then comes the antenna and Field Day action, so be prepared!

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EJU

My Radio Ham

By Doris (Betty) Brown

I'm married to a man who's a radio Ham
He messes up my TV and don't give a damn....
I get on the phone and nothings clear
He yells, Betty it ain't coming from here....
Somethings happening in the atmosphere
Hang up the phone for a while my dear....
He says I'm trying to work this station and
there's a mighty jam
But you know how it is with a radio Ham....
He use to have a job with uncle Sam
But he gave it all up to be a radio Ham....
He's got a big mouth, boy can he shout
I'm always glad to hear when its over and out....
I get real mad and he know I am
Doesn't bother him, he's a radio Ham....
He sits there listening with those things on his
head
If I didn't know him I'd think he was dead....
His code rings out loud and clear
A sound that's music to another Ham's ear....
He talks to Moscow and Amsterdam
Lets everyone know he's a radio Ham....

One day I'm gonna give him a big black eye
Cause he ain't done a thing about this TVI
I'm stuck with him and he's stuck with me
Guess I'll never stop hearing N5CB

Special Net April 12th

On the first Wednesday following our regular club meeting, I have a guest speaker on net with me who will be there to answer any questions you may have on what ever topic they are there for. Examples...In Feb. Kash WB2RAJ answered questions about DXing and in March Dave AA2GF answered questions on satellites.

I am very happy to report that this type of format appears to be a big success. I'd like to say thank you to Kash and Dave for the great job they did on answering your questions.

On Wednesday April 12th Greg KE2VW will be my quest speaker on net to answer any questions you may have on the BBS or packet radio.

Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT Net Controller

"PACKET RACKET"

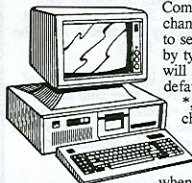
an introduction to packet radio, part 12

We will now cover one of the most utilized, and enjoyed server that BBSVW has on-line: the Scan Bulletin server.

A brief review of listing bulletins is in order, to help understand the power of this server.

To list bulletins of special interest, you can do this in several ways:

1) To change what bulletins you will list by typing: L, you need to change the LIST



Command. Before you change anything, check to see where it is set, by typing: LC. This will show you the default setting, which is *, unless you have changed it to something else.

This * means when you type: L you will get a listing of all bulletins that are active on the BBS, since the last time you typed: L.

If you wish to only list SALE bulletins for example, typing: LC SALE, will change your list filter. Anytime you do a LIST command, you will only get SALE bulletins. To change back to seeing everything, type: LC *.

If you are like me, you will forget where you left your filter. A more select way of listing bulletins is:

2) Doing selective lists, using the TO field, the FROM field, the @ field, or the SUBJECT field, by typing: L>, L<, L@, or LS subject, respectively. (If you need a review of this, please refer back to our LIST command section of the manual.)

3) The BEST way, is to not have to change your message filter, as in section one, nor have to selectively list bulletins each time you connect, but rather to use our automated SCAN BULLETIN server!

This server will review all incoming bulletins received in the previous 24 hours, while the BBS

is down for its daily housekeeping, and make a list of bulletins that meet the criteria you have set up in the server.

When you next connect you will be given a message that lists ALL bulletins meeting your criteria. It can't be easier!

Now we need to review how to setup your list of criteria, how to add to them at times, how to delete those you are no longer interested in seeing, and how to modify those you do wish to receive.

Typing: SCAN at the normal BBS command prompt provides us with: *** Valid SCAN commands are:

SCAN ADD keyword (adds "keyword" to your list)

SCAN DELEte keyword (deletes "keyword" from your list)

SCAN DELEte * (deletes all your keywords)

SCAN LIST (Lists your keywords)

SCAN HELP (for detailed help information)

You only need to type the capitalized parts of the above commands. They may be typed in lower case, they are capitalized here for clarity only.

Now let's get to the heart of this server. This will scan various parts of bulletins, to find those of interest to you. SCAN BUL will scan the TO field, the FROM field, the SUBJECT (title) field, the distribution (@) field, and/or the body of the message.

If you pick an area of interest you desire bulletins to be scanned for (we will use ARRL in this example), and add the keyword (ARRL) without any qualifier, you will get a HUGE list of bulletins, including every active bulletin that contains ARRL anywhere in its header, or the body of the message!! SO, in other words, any reference to the ARRL, even if fleeting (ie "I am

STARS Board of Directors

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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 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 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 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 a test session 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.

not an ARRL member") will result in that bulletin being listed for you to review.. Not too helpful if done this way!

You need to add a qualifier, that tells it to scan for your keyword (ARRL), in part of the header. It can be the TO field, in which case you will get a list of all bulletins sent to ARRL, or the FROM field, in which case your list will get those bulletins from the ARRL, or possibly the SUBJECT field (title), in which case you will get those bulletins with ARRL somewhere in the title (ie "ARRL helps in zoning ordinance").

Here is a list of the qualifiers, and what they mean: /T searches only the TO field for your keyword. /F searches only the FROM field for your keyword. /@ searches only the @ field for your keyword (@ARRL in this case). /S searches only the SUBJECT (title) field for your keyword. /B searches only the BODY (text) of the bulletin for your keyword.

SCAN ADD ALINCO/T will search for all bulletins sent to ALINCO, regardless of where

they originated from, their distribution (local, allusa, etc), or their title.

SCAN ADD FIELD DAY/S will search all bulletins with the words "field day" in their title, regardless of where they were sent from, who they were sent to, or their distribution.

SCAN ADD WNYBBS/@ will search for all bulletins sent with a distribution of WNYBBS, regardless of where they were sent from, who they were sent to, or their title.

SCAN ADD APRS searches EVERYTHING, all headers and the complete text of all bulletins, for the keyword aprs. THIS IS VERY TIME CONSUMING TO THE BBS, AND RESULTS IN A GREAT DEAL OF MEANINGLESS BULLETINS YOU WILL BE LISTING. PLEASE DO NOT USE KEYWORDS LOOKUPS IN THIS FASHION!

You can use combinations, to enable you to look for your keyword in several areas of the header. For example: SCAN ADD SALE/TS, instructs the server to lookup and list for you all bulletins that have the word sale in their TO field, or in their title. This avoids the horrendous list you would get if you listed by: SCAN ADD SALE. You would get meaningless bulletins that had the word sale in them, even once. (ie "I should consider going to a sale one of these days"). Not very useful, is it?

Until next time, 73,
and keep those packets flying!
Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the
STARS KE2VW BBS
c 1995

Congratulations

Anyone who has followed the exploits of Tony KB2OUT, STARS Wednesday Night Net Controller, in his efforts to increase his code speed to pass the 13 WPM test so that he could become a General, will be interested to know that Tony was successful at the STARS VE session in March and is now a General.

Tony not only passed the 13 WPM, but he came within 2 correct answers of passing the 20 WPM!



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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