

telstar



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

ISSUE 164 MAY, 1995

Repeater Chairman Change

The following letter was received from Bill Siska
N2GAO, Repeater Chairman for STARS:

March 27, 1995

Dear STARS Board and STARS Members,

Nine years ago, I was given the responsibility of maintaining the STARS 2 Meter Repeater. My goal as STARS Repeater Chairman was to provide the club with a reliable repeater which was something the club lacked at that time.

Through the success of a special repeater fund raiser, the club was able to purchase a used commercial quality radio set and a state-of-the-art, computer controlled, full featured repeater controller. Seven years ago, as the result of approximately 80 hours of work, I placed in operation a new repeater system that would give STARS reliable 2 meter communications.

As a business operator and a father with a growing family, my responsibilities increase in number on a daily basis. As a result, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to set aside the time required to keep the STARS Repeater Systems operating in a reliable manner. Therefore, after 9 long years of service in this capacity, I am resigning as Club Repeater Chairman and ask that the Club board embark on



May Meeting

The May club meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4 starting at 7 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.



We will be discussing Field Day, the Erie County Fair Exhibit, the MS Bike Trek, the repeaters, etc.

For our program, Greg KE2VW will present his program on advanced packet BBS topics which we weren't able to show at the March meeting due to technical problems. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about packet radio and the STARS KE2VW BBS.

an immediate search for a replacement.

I would like to thank those club members and non-members who, through the years, helped me with the repeater. I would especially like to thank John KA2RFT for his continued support over the last 9 years.

I trust that my successor will continue the tradition of reliable repeater operations for the years to come. Etched for ever in my mind will be the memory of local school children talking to a Shuttle Astronaut in orbit around the earth, through the WB2E1W Repeater.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Siska, N2GAO

See Repeater Chairman Change on Page 2

★ 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.

Repeater Chairman Change

Continued From Page 1

At the conclusion of the April club meeting, after a special meeting of the Board of Directors, Terry KM4XZ STARS President announced that he was appointing Paul Wendzikowski WA2IYW as the new Repeater Chairman.

Paul has an outstanding background for the job. He retired from the US Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel having been a Division Chief and Engineering Program Manager in the electronic warfare field. He also served as an Experimental Physicist for 10 years and developed lasers for weapons, radar and communications. He is an Extra Class ham and has held an amateur radio license since 1959. He has also held a FCC First Class Radiotelephone License since 1964 and worked part-time as a broadcast engineer for WABY-AM, WGR-AM, WBUF-FM.

Bill N2GAO was honored as a Life Member of STARS in 1992 for his outstanding contributions to the club both as an officer and as Repeater Chairman. All STARS members should make a point to thank Bill for all of his years of service to the club.

Paul will be working on getting the STARS Repeater Systems back up to top notch condition. We ask for members' patience during this period and will report progress to you in future issues of the newsletter.

Satellites Lost!

Two amateur radio satellites were lost on March 28th when their launch vehicle, a Russian START rocket exploded. The START rocket is based upon the SS-25 intercontinental ballistic missile. The first was an Israeli built GURWIN-1 Techsat, a 9600-bit/s packet store-and-forward satellite, and the second was a Mexican UNAMSAT.

The launch was to have demonstrated that refurbished military rockets could be used for civilian purposes. Radio amateurs, particular those in Europe, had hoped that the Russian rockets could provide an inexpensive way to launch amateur radio satellites.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

It is with the deepest of regret that Bill N2GAO has to give up the chairmanship of the 2 meter repeater due to his new work schedule. Remember that ham radio is a hobby, and it should not interfere with your life style. Bill should get a big thank you for the amount of time and effort he put in to keeping STARS repeater with the newest of the state of the art. We will miss him very much but am sure he will be available to assist us if needed. Our new chairman is Paul WA2IJW, and I hope he will follow in the footsteps of Bill with the assistance of all the members.



In the May issue of QST on page 50 is a very interesting article which shows how the state of the art is advancing in leaps and bounds. The

author Louren has a very nice and easy going article about interfacing your computer with your transmitter, you can also have all information printed out on a stick-on label, just like Terry has for our newsletter. And remember, this is all put on a disk or your hard drive for future use. Although these are not cheap, they are updated from time to time for better and more accurate information. Not only do we have a repeater plus a BBS, STARS also has a club HF station at the Nike Base WB2ELW where all members are welcome to use the equipment and get some experience in using other bands that are set aside for amateur use. Usually the club station is open on Saturdays between 1 PM and 3 PM. If you have a 2 meter rig, please give a call to see if it is open.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

MS 150 Bike Tour

Amateur radio operators are needed to help provide communications for the MS 150 Bike Tour on June 24 & 25. The Tour is staged by the Western New York/Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This is traditionally one of the biggest bike treks in Western New York for the year.

This year's Tour will begin on Saturday morning at Chestnut Ridge Park. The cyclists will enjoy a scenic ride through quaint villages and historic towns as they tour through some of Western New York's most beautiful countryside to an overnight destination of St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY.

After a fun night of catered meals, hot tubs, masseurs, swimming, movies, etc., the riders will be back on their bikes Sunday morning for the return trip to Chestnut Ridge Park.

Radio operators will be needed to provide communications for rest stops, Emergency Medical Technicians, supply wagons, bike repair vans, etc. All that's needed is 2 meter radio equipment and privileges. We will have a nucleus of operators who have worked many bike treks, so this is a great chance for new hams to learn about working public service events.

Like last year, the ride will be held on the same weekend as Field Day. This makes recruiting volunteers more difficult that for most weekends; however, we were successful getting a lot of people to help us last year and we hope to do so again this year. If you won't be going to Field Day, how about coming out to help us? Or, if you want to participate in Field Day, how about going one day and coming out to help us on the other?



If you would like to volunteer for one or both days, or if you just want more information, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

Transmitter Hunts

On Saturday April 29, ARATS held their first hidden transmitter hunt of the season beginning a Veteran's Park in Tonawanda. Howard K2UD was the hidden transmitter operator and was located at Blessed Sacrament School about 5 miles away. Terry KM4XZ took 1st with Al N2UBW and Larry N2XXF 2nd and Pete N2AWT 3rd.

Terry will put on a hunt for ARATS in May and STARS will stage a transmitter hunt that everyone can participate in during June!

TRY A BALUN!

Shane P. Brady WB2WPM

How many of you use a dipole which is feed directly with 52 ohm coax? If you are not using a BALUN (BALance:UNbalance) you have the 52 ohm coax being connected to the 300 ohm impedance of the dipole. Not only are you not effectively transferring all your power to the antenna, you may be causing harmonics, and TVI. When using unbalanced coax with a center fed antenna, you may be introducing currents back down the coax, which may radiate at frequencies other than the one you are trying to transmit on. In addition all energy will not be radiated by the antenna, nor in a 'balanced' manor.

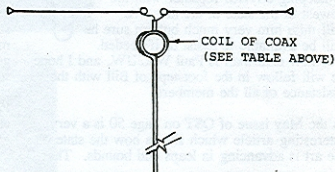
Remember, a so called transmatch only allows the transmitter to see what "appears" to be a matched impedance. Nothing has changed from the transmatch to the antenna. The unbalanced impedance still exists.

It is a simple matter to choke off the current from flowing on the outside of the feed line. You could go out and pay \$20 or \$30 for a commercial balun with fancy connectors on it which will work fine. However, if your like I am, cheap, I would prefer to make my own. The cost involved \$0.00! All that is required is to wind a number of turns of your coax into a choke (current) balun. The choke causes the currents on the outside of the coax to encounter the coil's impedance, while the currents on the inside are unaffected. This is known as a 1:1 balun. The method of coiling coax is used by a number of commercial antenna manufactures as it doesn't add cost to the antenna itself. The table below is from the A.R.R.L. handbook. The actual lengths and arrangements are not very critical.

MHz	RG-8	RG-58
3.5	22' 8T	20' 6-8T
7.0	22' 10T	15' 6T
10	12' 10T	10' 7T
14	10' 4T	8' 8T
21	8' 6-8T	6' 8T
28	6' 6-8T	4' 6-8T

* = TOTAL LENGTH OF COAX
T = NUMBER OF TURNS REQ'D

The actual balun should be placed as close to the feed point of the antenna as possible. This simplistic balun may solve some of your radiating problems; it sure can't hurt. To maximize, a further step is required, that being a 4:1 balun. For easy construction details of a 4:1, and how and why it works, consult either the A.R.R.L. Handbook or Antenna Manual.



A 1:1 BALUN CHOKE USED WITH A DIPOLE

STARS Club Rosters

Members will find an updated club roster included along with their newsletters this month.

Currently we have 259 members who have paid their dues for 1995.

If you have any corrections or updates for the next roster, please contact Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or write to him at the address noted on the back page of the newsletter.

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	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 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.

Hams Provide Emergency Communication At Oklahoma Blast Site

Within minutes of the deadly explosion at the Oklahoma City Federal Office Building, amateur radio operators set up an emergency coordination network that has been in non-stop operation since April 19.

According to updates from Thomas Webb, WA9AFM/S, during the first few hours after the blast, telephone circuits were jammed and often inoperative. Amateur radio provided vital emergency communications to rescue and relief organizations until regular telephone service was restored. Located at the Salvation Army Emergency Coordination Center, a net control station coordinated the efforts of more than 20 amateur radio stations in downtown Oklahoma City.

Volunteer operators were assigned to the five Salvation Army canteens, the Salvation Army Area Headquarters, the Red Cross command post, and the primary search and rescue command post. Using hand-held and mobile radio equipment, hams provided relief workers with reliable, mobile emergency communication for more than 190 continuous hours. Besides coordinating the distribution of supplies, food, water and equipment, the volunteer hams also drove vital supplies to locations in the disaster area.

During early relief efforts, technical skills of volunteer hams were put to the test when it was determined the buildings in the downtown area were blocking radio signals. A mobile repeater station was established at a Salvation Army canteen, allowing for communications to be sent and received easily.

In addition to providing communications to rescue workers, hams at the Salvation Army Emergency Coordination Center continue to process health and welfare inquiries from friends and relatives outside the Oklahoma City area.

More than 100 hams have participated in relief efforts, with between 60 and 80 hams working at any one time. Most of the ham volunteers are from the Oklahoma City area, but offers of assistance have come from all over Oklahoma as well as Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. NNNN

Relayed from WIAW to packet with BID SARLB046 by KD30A@KD30A.PA.USA.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to STARS member Pat NW2I for passing two more parts of her FCC Commercial License.

If you are interested in talking Commercial Radio Operator License exams, you should contact Vern Siegel AA2AC at 634-5276 or Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

Exams are currently scheduled for May 10 and June 14 at 6:30 PM in Room 114 at the Aurora Middle School in Lancaster, NY. Pre-registration is not necessary.



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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