

telstar



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

ISSUE 165 JUNE, 1995

Ham Events Are In Full Bloom!

Yes folks, we have declared an end to bad weather, and ham events are busting out all over the place!

You remember when you were shoveling snow and dreaming about green grass and trees with leaves? Well, they are back and going to be on full display at Field Day '95. We will be back at the field behind the Moose Lodge in Hamburg for Field Day. Set-up will begin in the morning on Saturday, June 24. Contest operations will begin at 2 PM. Make sure you come out to the club meeting on Thursday June 1 to hear more about Field Day and get in on the fun. You can bet we will be operating on SSB, CW, FM, Packet, satellites and more!



Hamfest season is in full swing. Many members have already been to Dayton and/or Rochester. Lancaster Hamfest will be in June (see page 2), followed by Batavia, PROS, Buffalo and many others.

Don't forget about public service events, STARS members already have joined with other WNY hams for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica to help raise \$190,000 this year! The MS 150 Bike Tour will be in June (see page 3) and the American Lung Association Ride will be in Aug.

And we haven't even mentioned the summer cookout, the Erie County Fair, etc!

June Meeting

The June club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license are required.



Our program time at this meeting will be devoted to our club's plans for Field Day '95. Make sure you are there so you can find out what will be going on and can help in the preparations!

Why Not Upgrade?

If you have been getting ready to upgrade but haven't set your exam plans yet, don't worry! STARS is here for your rescue!

On Saturday June 10, we will be holding a VE test session at the Hamburg Youth Center. We do allow walk-ins, but you must be there by 9:00 AM. If you pre-register, you can arrive by 9:45 AM. The test will start at 10 AM.



For information or to pre-register, call Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Remember, many people have gotten last minute doubts about their ability to pass, only to get great marks, so be there!

★ 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.

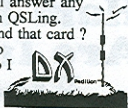
STARS VHF net meets at 7 PM on Wednesdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 (output/input). Net control is Tony KB2OUT.

STARS Swap Net meets at 7 PM on Tuesdays on STARS WB2ELW 147.09 repeater. Net control is Marc N2UBT.

Special Informational Net

I would like to say thank you to Dennis K2CEC for a job well done on the net Wednesday May 10th. We had several people try to stomp him with questions on ATV but Dennis was ready for them. The net ran for 2 hrs and 3 min. EXCELLENT JOB !

On Wednesday June 7th I will have Kash WB2RAJ on net. Kash will answer any questions you may have on QSLing. What is the best way to send that card ? What is the cheaper way to send that card ? Where do I send my QSL to and any other questions you may have.



If anyone would like to be a guest speaker on one of our special nets or for more information give me a call at 992-2011 or drop me a line on the STARS KE2VW BBS (BBSVW).

Thank You
Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT
Net Controller

Lancaster Hamfest

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will present their 7th Annual Lancaster Hamfest on Sunday, June 11, 1995 at the Darien Center Firehall from 6 AM to 3 PM.

The firehall is located on Route 77 just North of Route 20. From the Thruway, take exit 48A and go south on Route 77 past the Darien Fun Park.

Talk-in will be on the 147.255 (+600) repeater and the 443.850 (+5) repeater. All amateurs who check in will automatically be entered into a special check in drawing for a \$25.00 prize.

New and used equipment will be sold both inside and outside. Lots of door prizes with a grand prize of a dual band HT or \$500.00 cash. A fox hunt will be held at noon with a \$25 prize.

STARS will have a table there to tell everyone about our great club! Why not stop by for awhile and help staff the table?

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the May meeting was sure an interesting one. I wish to thank Greg KE2VW for the time and effort that he put in to the program to acquaint our members about the new additions to the STARS BBS. Don't know where Greg got that monster screen, and it was nice for the sysop from another frequency to come and assist. One thing, whenever the speaker can hold the interest of all these people, it shows that there is quite a lot of interest.



The 5 ft. by 5 ft. screen was sure a help. After Greg ran through the different sections, he opened it up to questions and answers from the members. Kash WB2RAJ, an avid DXer, gave Greg info about DX and how to make it interesting. He had the members on their best behavior. You know, it is nice to see all this, but remember that you all can do the same with a lot of effort. This is a hobby, and you should enjoy yourself while doing it.

Had the pleasure to attend the Rochester Hamfest. It was a success as far as attendance was concerned, it was wall to wall hams. The only bad part was the large stones and gravel that you had to walk on. I had a pair of sneakers and sure felt the bumps.

You know that STARS is a learning club and never a dull moment. What with the VE sessions, transmitter hunts, MS Bike trek, and last but not least, the Erie County Fair exhibit where we represent amateur radio in all its glory!

This year we have a new Field Day Chairman, Gene KE2LO. He will need lots of assistance and equipment to make it a success. One thing, the trees at the site will get a rest as there will not be many arrows to dodge. Hi! Hi! So see Gene and sign up for the upcoming Field Day. I know that you new members will enjoy it, and you will be surprised at what you will learn at the Field Day.

As a general rule, I always put a warning in the article at least twice a year to make sure that no one forgets to renew his license. I have been told that the FCC will send you a form to fill out 60 days before expiration of your license. Now PLEASE take notice, you must send the form back to them. Not some other form that you have laying around the shack. These new forms are made special to fit their equipment and makes it easier to process. So please remember!

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Special Thanks!

We want to give recognition to Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN for the work that they did to benefit the club.

On their own, they got equipment donated, fixed it up and took it to an out-of-town swapmeet to sell to raise money for our Nike Base Club Station.



From the money that they raised, we already have obtained an Autek Deluxe SWR & Wattmeter which shows SWR and power simultaneously. The rest of the money will go towards a new floor for the back social room.

MS 150 Bike Tour

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help provide radio communications for the MS 150 Bike Tour on June 24-25. The ride goes from Chestnut Ridge Park to St. Bonaventure University in Olean on Saturday and then back on Sunday.



All that is needed is 2 meter equipment and 2 meter privileges. This is a good chance for you to get experience in public service events while having a lot of fun.

For more information or to volunteer for one or both days, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.

"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 13

The utility of any BBS is measured by its users judgement of how the BBS supports the other areas of amateur radio they are interested in.

BBSVW aims to cover a wide range of interests, not the least of which is Dxing. One of the most powerful servers available, in addition to the International callbook (ICB), and the numerous Dx databases available to the connected user, is the Dx server.

This server, for those of you familiar with the DxClusters, is a combined SH/QSL (Manager) and GOLIST utility. This server will provide current QSL Manager/home address information not yet found in the conventional callbooks/databases.



The information in this server is updated at a minimum of once every 2 weeks, as opposed to the GOLIST, which is updated monthly.

This server can be accessed either while connected to the BBS, or remotely, while connected to another BBS/DxCluster.

Lets look at the remote request (connected elsewhere) first. To get information on a Dx station, you need to send a private message to the server at KE2VW.

When prompted for your title (subject), type the list of Dx callsigns you are looking for information on, separated by a comma between each.

When prompted for the message, you can enter more callsigns, but ONLY ONE PER LINE!

For example:

```
SP REQDX @ KE2VW
title: UN2P,ZP6CW,PY5BI
message: SV1AKX
        3D2CT
        PJ9T
        etc, etc.
^Z (control Z), or /EX to end the
        message.
```

The BBS will process your request, and automatically send it back to you, to the BBS/Cluster you originated this request from!

To access this server, while connected to BBSVW, the process is even easier. Simply type: IDX callsign1,callsign2,callsign3, etc.

This will give you the desired Dx QSL information in real-time.

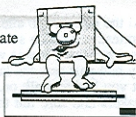
Although I update this utility every 1 to 2 weeks, it will be only as good, as you are willing to help keep it current! How do you update the data contained in this server?

Send the BBS a message in the following format: SP DX @ KE2VW

When prompted for the title (subject) type: DX UPDATE.

Start the body of the text (message) out with: BEGIN DATA. Make sure this is on a line by itself!

Enter your data (as shown below) starting with the Dx callsign, followed by the date of your information (YYMMDD format only), and finish with your callsign, which ends the second line of the message.



Then enter the Dx data. Follow this with END DATA on a line by itself! End the message in the usual fashion, with a ^Z, or /EX, again, on a line by itself.

Sound confusing?.. Well one picture is worth a thousand words..

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 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 a test session on June 21, 1995 in Lancaster, NY. For information, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will hold a test sessions on 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.

SP DX @ KE2VW

title (subject): DX UPDATE
message: BEGIN DATA
KB2NQG,950329,WB2RAJ

(This example says that WB2RAJ heard the rare Dx station KB2NQG on 3/29/95. NOTE: There are no spaces between the data, including before & after the commas. Spaces will kill your updates!)

Michelle Young, KB2NQG
S-8590 Phillips Road
Holland, NY, 14080
END DATA
^Z

Your update, with your callsign being given the credit, will be sent out Internationally, back to the source of the data for the Clusters. Dont be surprised to see your callsign as the credited source for information contained in the SH/QSL, etc utility next time you are logged into one of the DxClusters.

For those of you that enjoy following the birds,

you will find our REQest KEplerian elements server to be most useful. This server will allow you to have desired Keplerian elements, satellite documentation, or satellite beacon frequencies sent to you, in the form of a message from the BBS!

The format to initiate a message to yourself is:
SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < yourcall
title: /parameter @ yourhomeBBS
message: /EX

The parameters you may use (only ONE per request however!) are:

/A -> provides you with a numerical list of the satellites available.

/D -> provides you with the satellite documentation available.

/F -> provides you with the beacon frequencies of satellites that are available.

/N -> provides you with the numerical listing of satellites available.

/S -> provides you the actual Keplerian elements on the desired satellite!.

For example: If KB2NQG, whose home BBS is KE2VW, wants a listing of satellite files available on BBSVW, she would send this note:

SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQG
/A @ KE2VW
/EX

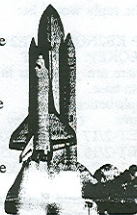
She would get a receive a message back, in this form:

SP KB2NQG @ KE2VW < KE2VW
REQKEP: /A

* There are __ objects in the KE2VW satellites data base.

Alphabetical list #1

Name	Object	day	reference	year
AO-10	14129	299	94	
AO-13	19216	358	94	
AO-21	21087	360	94	
DO-17	20440	278	94	
IO-26	22826	299	94	etc, etc.



"Packet Racket"

Continued From Page 5

She could qualify her note, by limiting the search for weather satellites only, by typing this message:

SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQG
/A @ KE2VW

MET <- This is where you would put any qualifiers (when prompted for the message text, OTHERWISE LEAVE THE MESSAGE TEXT SECTION BLANK, TYPING IN ONLY the /EX!!)
/EX

The reply would be:

SP KB2NQG @ KE2VW < KE2VW
REQKEP: /A MET

There are __ objects in the KE2VW satellites data base.

Alphabetical list #1

Name	Object	day	reference	year
MET-2/17	18820	301	94	
MET-2/18	19851	352	94	
MET-3/2	19336	352	94 etc.	

For the desired Keplerian elements, she would send this note:

SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQG
/S @ KE2VW

AO-21 (if that was the satellite she wanted the keys on) Again this is the qualifying statement.
/EX

That gives you the idea! The other parameters all work the same way.

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

**ARRL Atlantic
Division Awards**

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 53 ARLB053

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT

May 17, 1995

To all radio amateurs

The ARRL Atlantic Division has announced its 1995 award winners.

The Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year for 1995 is Kenneth Botterbrodt, WA2CVJ, of Marlton, New Jersey. Ken is Assistant Section Manager for Youth for the ARRL Southern New Jersey Section. He has been instrumental in taking amateur radio into schools and arranging television exposure for amateur radio in southern New Jersey.

The Grand Ole Ham for 1995 is Donald E. Wagner, W2QFC, of East Aurora, New York. He has been licensed since 1934. In the 1935 ARRL transoceanic 80 meter tests, he had QSOs with two Europeans, quite a feat in those days, especially for a 15-year-old boy. Recently, he organized the Association of D-Day Utah Beach Radio Amateurs.

The 1995 Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award goes to Tim Duffy, K3LR, of West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. A world-class contest operator, Tim moderates the antenna forum at the Dayton Hamvention, and has written on technical subjects for major amateur magazines, including QST. He also is the division's representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and formerly Technical Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Section.

These awards will be formally presented the weekend of May 20 at the ARRL Atlantic Division/New York state convention in Rochester, New York.



"THE HT BOOSTERS"

Paul Wendzikowski, WA2LJW

How would you like to double or quadruple the effective power and sensitivity of your 2m HT for less than 5 bucks? Here are two old but simple HT antenna ideas that can do just that. They're used with, or in place of, your rubber duck antenna (or more accurately, your "rubber resistor").

The first idea is the easiest—a single 1/4 wave (19 inch) radial wire hanging from the outer shell (ground side) of your HT's BNC connector. Antennas West sells them as "Tiger Tails" for \$7.95, but you can build one yourself for almost nothing. Use insulated wire of any small gauge (flexible test lead wire is nice), with a 3/8 inch crimp-on connector on one end that's filed to just fit over the BNC jack's lugs. You could also strip, tin, and form a loop at the end of the wire to just fit the BNC, or use some sort of alligator clip. Just make sure you've got 19 inches of wire hanging free below the BNC connector.



Hook the wire end over the BNC jack, reconnect your rubber duck or the antenna described below, and start talking. The Tiger Tail drapes over your hand and just hangs there as you talk. Nothing could be cheaper or easier—and it will dramatically improve your transmitted and received signals.

The second idea is to replace your inefficient rubber duck with a full 1/4 wave (19 inch) metal radiator and boost signals even more. There are many ways to do this, but here's what I've used. At some hamfests or dealers you can find ready made telescoping 19 inch whips with a BNC connector on the base—this is the most portable way to go.

Another option is to get a Radio Shack BNC to Phono adapter (278-254, \$2.49) and a single phono plug. Solder a stiff wire into the phono plug's center pin, leaving 19 inches exposed above the shell of the plug. (Make sure the wire doesn't short to the shell—use spaghetti tubing at that point or fill the gap with epoxy or plastic cement.) Copperweld wire about #18 works well, as does spring steel hobby wire or brass

welding rod. Cap the top end of your new 1/4 wave whip with a plastic bead (or form a tiny top loop) for safety, and you're done. Plug the phono plug into the adapter and connect it to your HT. It's another easy, low cost idea that helps your HT a lot.

Use these HT boosters individually or together. Individually, they will enhance signals about 3 dBrd (dB over a rubber duck), together, about 6 dBrd. Together, they form a full size, center-fed, vertical 1/2 wave dipole. Either way, they'll give your poor little HT bigger ears and a much louder voice.

Silent Key

We received late word that STARS member Michael Pollutro N2ETH passed away. The funeral was planned for May 27.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Oklahoma Bombing

The primary Amateur Radio operation in support of recovery efforts in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City ended at 4 PM on Tuesday, May 2. Amateurs had maintained a network continuously since 9:15 AM on April 19, with more than 300 operators from Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas providing communication through the Oklahoma City Autopatch Association repeater.

Amateur operation then shifted from the blast site to coordinating Salvation Army activities, on a simplex frequency. As of 4 PM on May 4, Amateur Radio operators in Oklahoma City had conducted emergency communication for more than 360 hours. ARRL Public Information Coordinator Tom Webb, WA9AFM, said that those involved in the post-bombing communication effort credited numerous disaster drills, established Amateur Radio networks, emphasis on proper on-air procedures, and experience in weather spotting nets for the success of this operation.

Later this month, Oklahoma City amateurs will meet to discuss their activities and for a debriefing.

From ARRL Bulletin 53



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



JOHN CULLUM JR. KB2ESM
6871 WEBSTER RD.
ORCHARD PARK NY 14127