

# telstar ★

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

ISSUE 167 AUGUST, 1995

## STARS Does the Erie County Fair!!

This year, STARS will return to the Erie County fair, and put on the most ambitious project in the club's 30 year history!!

The fair, which runs from August 10th through the 23rd this year, drew a record attendance of over 900,000 people last season! Our exhibit is, according to the EC Fair Board of Directors is their "anchor exhibit" for the public services building.



Last year we staffed the exhibit on relatively short notice, 2 hams per shift, 3 shifts per day for the eleven days of the fair. This year, we will keep the same 10am-2pm, 2pm-6:30pm, and 6:30pm-10:30pm shifts, but we will increase our staffing to 3 amateurs per shift. This will allow us the opportunity to adequately run the exhibit, which will cover essentially the full gamut of what amateur radio is all about.

We will have an exhibit of "old" equipment, running chronologically, up to our current club equipment. All the equipment will be in operating condition...

We will have a CW practice station where teams of 2 visitors can send CW to each other, based on a wall chart showing the characters of the code.

Satellite tracking will be running continuously, to acquaint the public with how we "track the birds".

## August Meeting

The August club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, August 3 at the STARS Nike Base club house. The meeting is open to all interested in amateur radio; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

This will be our last chance to talk about the Erie County Fair display. We will also be talking about the American Lung Association bike trek, the STARS Raffle '95, the PROS Hamfest, and much more.



Don't forget that the August meeting is our annual mini-cookout. We will have hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks. Members are encouraged to bring some finger foods to share with others.

This meeting will be outside, so don't forget your lawn chairs. In case of bad weather, the meeting may have to be rescheduled, so listen to the STARS 147.090 repeater for any possible announcements.

## STARS Raffle '95

Tickets for STARS Raffle '95 will be on sale at the August club meeting and will be available until the drawing at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 16, 1995.

Tickets will be a donation of \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00.



We have an exciting list of prizes for the winner to make his/her choice from:

# ★ 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.

## STARS Raffle

Continued From Page 1

ICOM IC-2000H 2 Mtr. 50 W Mobile Transceiver, OR  
ICOM IC-T21A 2 Mtr. HT (w/440 MHz Receive), OR  
AEA PK-232MBX Multi-mode Data Controller, OR  
TIMEWAVE DSP-59+ Advanced DSP Noise Filter, OR  
GAP TITAN DX Eight Band Vertical Antenna, OR  
\$250.00 in Cash!

This raffle is going to be one of the few fund raising efforts that we make this year, and it is important that it be successful. Club members are asked to please take one or more groups of 10 tickets that we will have available and sell them to co-workers, friends, relatives, etc. (don't forget the \$250.00 in cash!). This will only take a small effort on your part and really beats being asked to sell light bulbs, magazine subscriptions or first aid kits!

For more information or to obtain tickets, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

## PROS Chaffee Hamfest

The Fourth Annual PROS Chaffee Hamfest and Computer Show will be held Saturday, August 26 at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY from 7 AM to 3 PM. This is billed as "A good old fashion tailgating, coffee drinking, rag chewing good time!"

There will be free tailgating and parking with admission. There will also be dealer displays and door prizes.

Talk-in will be on the 145.39 repeater.

*Congratulations!*

Dana Partis N2ZUZ completed his requirements for a Master's Degree in Ceramic Engineering and at the same time upgraded to Technician Plus. Good job!

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the weather was not cooperative at the July meeting. Hope August, which is expected to be more popular as all members and their families are invited to a picnic type of meeting, it gives a chance for everyone to meet the person you have been talking to throughout the year and discuss the problems face to face.



August is the Erie County Fair and STARS has been asked to represent amateur radio to the public at the fair. Greg KE2VW needs a lot of help, so if you are free, please get in touch with him and get a spot to assist for the duration of the fair to make it a success.

Then, September 16 is the Buffalo Hamfest where STARS will have the VE session. So keep it in mind, and you can give the info to the public.

In the July issue of QST on page 27 is a very nice antenna, and it works on 80 meters very well. One thing is that the antenna must be higher in the center than the ends. My antenna was 40 feet high in center and 20 feet on the ends, with good reception. I cut it for 3.925 MHz, a very famous frequency for STARS, HI, HI! The 400 ohm lead in was 30 feet to the balun. I like the way that he used fishing sinkers and fishing swivels as he solved the problem of the antenna twisting. so it foes to show that you can combine two hobbies to get good results. By the way, I used pulleys on each end in order to make it easier to make any adjustments.

Well, hope this will be an inspiration to all members and then about December you will be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

## CW FOREVER

You must have, at times thought into the past,  
Where some things go out, while others last,  
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,  
That has weathered the storms from abode,

To talk with ones fingers, is surely an art,  
Of any info you care to impart,  
In most conditions the signals get thru,  
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through the trash,  
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash,  
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,  
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,  
(in such poor conditions, that's quite a feat !)  
To roger the message that came off the air,  
These brass pounders sure do have that flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,  
But don't despair, there's always that need,  
That when conditions get rough for the new  
automation,  
Be rest assured, there'll be need for your station,

CW is dying ? believe it never,  
This mode will be round forever and ever,  
But one thing is sure, what we really need,  
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone,  
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song,  
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,  
We can rest in peace, it's CW forever.

Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY 07/4/85  
Forwarded from packet by Tony KB2OUT

## WNY Amateur Radio Picnic

Don't forget the Amateur Radio Picnic sponsored by the Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawanda's. This will be held on Sunday, August 6th starting at 1:00 PM at Pinewoods Park in North Tonawanda. ALL Hams, and anyone with an interest in Ham radio are welcome to attend.

Bring along what you want to eat and drink (they have a beer permit). They will have grills and charcoal available for your cooking pleasure.

## Repeater Corner

Paul Wendzikowski, WA2IYW

Last month we covered technical aspects of how a repeater works. This month's column looks at some basic repeater rules and operating procedures.

A repeater is an unattended station using remote and automatic control to make sure its transmissions comply with FCC rules. Automatic control is done by the computerized controller at the site. It gives a station identification (ID) in Morse code or voice every 10 minutes or less when active, and has a timeout timer so an input signal can't keep it on the air for more than 3 minutes continuously without resetting the timer with the courtesy tone.

Remote control is done by designated control operators and, to a limited extent, by club members. Control operators monitor the repeater during normal hours and have remote control codes that let them disable the repeater, or various features on the repeater, if necessary. Club members have another set of codes, issued each year, that let them use the special features on the repeater, like autopatch/autodial, weather, signal strength, etc. Remote control is done with touchtone codes on the repeater input frequency, over the repeater phone line, or on a special control link frequency.

The STARS control operators are Tony, KB2OUT, Ken KB2HRZ and Paul, WA2IYW. If anyone hears a problem on our repeaters, technical or otherwise, make sure you contact a control operator. They and the station trustee are legally responsible for the proper operation of the repeaters. Their phone numbers are in the club roster, and they will take care of the problem or alert the appropriate club members to handle it.

The FCC has ruled that repeater owners may restrict who uses their repeater and how they use it. However, the STARS repeaters are open to everyone. Only the special features are restricted to club members, and club policy is for members to ID before using these features, so we know you're an authorized user. For interference control, the 442.325 MHz and 146.97 MHz machines have a 151.4 Hz tone access.

The STARS repeaters aren't super busy, nor is

there a problem with operating procedures on them, but it doesn't hurt to review key points periodically. Remember, repeaters enhance communications for stations that might not be able to communicate otherwise, and the single frequency is shared by many users. Please keep that in mind during the morning and evening peak use hours, or when you want to have a long conversation with someone within simplex range. It's good practice to: leave pauses between transmissions so others can interject their call signs to use the repeater or join in; use "break" only for emergencies; ask if the repeater is in use if you haven't been monitoring for a while and want to use it; ID more than required by law--it's helpful and OK; use plain English in conversations, and phonetics as required.

Unfortunately, malicious interference is a fact of life that we must learn to deal with. There will always be a few sorry individuals who take pleasure in causing problems for others. Psychological studies cited by the ARRL recommend that you completely ignore the interference. Do not even mention it--act as if it isn't happening. Try to work around it if possible. If not, then sign off and try again later. The best way to encourage the aberrant behavior is to talk about it, get mad, and make idle threats on the air. The attention is what that person wants, and if you give it to him, he'll keep coming back for more. Note the details of the incident, date, time, frequency, what happened, signal strength on the input, etc. and get it to a control operator over the phone. With enough information, and some behind-the-scenes work, persistent offenders can be dealt with effectively.

The most popular repeater feature, the autopatch, deserves special mention. It is there for the convenience of STARS members, not just for emergencies, but for their normal communications. Having said that, note that hams cannot provide competition for the phone company, so if you're at home, or can easily use a phone for your call, then don't use the autopatch. When calling non-hams, all third-party communications rules apply; also make sure they know they're on the radio, so that embarrassing or obscene things are not said over-the-air. In case of a malicious autopatch hang-up during your call, use the custom cancel code in the repeater user instructions. It's easy and solves the problem. Our 2m repeater's phone line has a Boston exchange (941). If you make autopatch calls outside the local calling area for that exchange,

the club is charged for a toll call. The only exchanges you may call with the autopatch are: 337, 369, 432, 441, 443, 445, 457, 471, 472, 496, 537, 542, 549, 561, 562, 563, 564, 592, 622, 623, 626, 627, 629, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 639, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 648, 649, 651, 652, 655, 656, 662, 667, 668, 674, 675, 677, 678, 681, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 741, 759, 773, 774, all 8xx Buffalo exchanges, 937, 941, 947, 992.

If it's not on this list, then don't make the call!

Finally, in September 1993, the FCC relaxed the "business rules" for ham radio. The main principles now for any ham communications are: 1) Amateurs can't be paid for communications; 2) Communications for the benefit of one's employer are prohibited; 3) Communications in which the control operator, licensee, or repeater user has a financial/business interest are prohibited; 4) Amateur radio can't be a regular substitute for other radio services. If it isn't in violation of these principles, and is not specifically prohibited, then it's OK. (Other prohibited communications are: broadcasting; music; those used to commit a crime; codes and ciphers to obscure meaning; obscene, indecent language; false, deceptive signals; and retransmissions of other radio services, except NOAA, WWV, and NASA.) Swap nets are OK, as long as it's not a regular business for you. Keep these guidelines in mind as you use our repeaters and the autopatch.

## WNY Radio Picnic

Continued From Page 3

There will be organized games for the kids, thanks to Vince, N2WUV. Areas are available for adult games, but you must bring your own equipment. (Boccie, Softball, Horseshoes, etc) Also, plenty of trees for stringing antennas!

Also, that morning they will be holding a Hidden Transmitter Hunt. The starting location will be Veteran's Park in the City of Tonawanda. They will be starting at 10:30 AM. At the finish location, you will be given (if needed) directions to Pinewoods park for the picnic.

Contact: Larry N2XXF 873-7927  
Al N2UBW 695-2540

## STARS Field Day '95

Field Day has come and gone, and I am sorry for everyone that missed it. The weather gave us just about everything, a little rain, a little thunder and lightning, a beautiful double rainbow and plenty of sunshine to go around.

John KA2RFT showed up bow in hand, and with his mighty arm and his deadly aim fired off a couple of well placed arrows and things were under way. Greg KE2VW was armed with a sling shot and a fishing reel and plenty of assistants to critique his style. With the accuracy of a hunting rifle, he hit his mark and hung the 40 meter dipole used by the brass pounders station.



Setup went well and all stations were on the air by 2100 hrs. The team work demonstrated by all during the setup is to be complemented. Antennas and shelters went up with out a hitch and each station had respectable operating conditions. Sincere thanks to all for the cooperation and help in showing up early for the setup, without you it couldn't have happened, nice job again.

A special thanks to those who went beyond the norm in bringing equipment and seeing that equipment needed from other locations was on the site in time. I would like to mention individual names but I am bound to forget someone and create hard feelings, but you know who you are and I and most others know who you are and you are the kind of club members that form the foundations from which great structures are built.

I also want to thank John Errington KD4ARA for going out of his way to make sure we were not without a van this year, and am sorry for any inconvenience we may have put you through. Thank you!

There were 34 people that attended Field Day this year, and all had a good time. The bands were not in as good of shape as they could have been, but we all know that we are at, or close to

## EC Fair

Continued From Page 1

SSTV will be demonstrated continuously via a computer display of actual received pictures.

We will have voice on 2 meters, and 440Mhz. We have the capability of SSB on 2 meters, if any are interested in setting up some skeds.

Packet will be alive and well, with BBS and DxCluster demos for those interested in the "computer revolution".

Third party traffic will be sent out via packet to our local NTS group, who will see to it that the messages get forwarded via packet/hf to their intended destinations! This was a favorite of the visitors last year with about 175 pieces of mail being forwarded out! Let's break that record in a big way this year!!

Hf will be fully operational, with the use of 10/15/20/40 meter dipoles, already in place. This will be the first time we have attempted Hf at the site, so keep your fingers crossed! We will have full access to all the amateur bands mentioned above, both phone, and CW, depending on the choice of the operators present. Next year, assuming all goes well with our Hf site, we plan to hold a special event station, for part of the fair!!!

ATV will be demonstrated, via a portable camera/microphone that will "rove" the fairgrounds and "televise" some of the many visitors that will visit the fair this year. Last year it rode the Giant Ferris wheel. This year, who knows?... How about a bungee jump Vern?



Satellite connects can be done. We have the equipment on site for 2 meter uplinks, and 440/Hf downlinks already in place. It's up to those staffing the exhibit on any given shift.

As you come up the hallway in the main entrance (located on the Midway), you may recognize some familiar music....

The exhibit this year has been completely redone. We have built mahogany covered tables, that stretch around the perimeter of our exhibit.

We have run two separate lines of electrical conduit to power our display. The walls have been painted white, the cupboards and floors different shades of "STARS blue". This exhibit will be a real eye catcher!!

For our video we will be displaying..... enough said, you need to come to view this yourself...

I owe many thanks to many members of the club for making my dream of an amateur radio exhibit at the fair a reality, but especially the following club members who have gone out of their way, and helped to physically construct our "second clubhouse". Thanks especially go to:

AA2GW, AA2TN, KB2JDB, KB2OUT, KD2KK, WA2ABN, & WB2WPM.

Many thanks go to ALL of you who staffed the exhibit and were active on our E C Fair committee last season, and again this year, and to the "new" volunteers who have committed time to helping staff the exhibit this year.

This project is truly our chance to expose the public to what amateur radio is all about. We have the privilege of the use of our frequencies, as long as we are perceived to be of value to the public. Let's show them what we are all about! There are still shifts available. If only a few more would try one shift, we'd be fully staffed! You don't need any expertise. You will have fellow amateurs that can "show you the ropes", enabling you to operate just the parts of the exhibit you feel comfortable with.

Remember your Elmer? I am sure he/she would be proud of you for taking the time to volunteer and bring amateur radio to the public... just like he/she did for you!

73, see you at the Erie County Fair,  
Greg, KE2VW

### STARS Board of Directors

|                |                   |        |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| President      | Terry Rockhold    | KM4XZ  |
| Vice President | Tony Balas, Jr.   | KB2OUT |
| Treasurer      | Jack Cullum       | KB2ESM |
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| Secretary      | Dave Baco         | WA2TVT |
| Director       | Vern Siegel       | AA2AC  |
| Director       | Mike Wojcieszak   | WA2HEV |

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a test session at the Buffalo Hamfest. All candidates must be preregistered for this test. For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

For information on ARATS exams, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

For information on Lockport ARA (LARA) exams call Judy Cianchetti at 751-9223.

Most sessions except for STARS non-hamfest exams do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

We hope to have a new 1995-96 schedule of exams in the next newsletter.

## STARS Field Day

Continued From Page 5

the bottom of the sun spot cycle and poor propagation can be expected.

Here's the way we scored:

2 METERS PH = 10 CONTACTS  
 40 METERS SSB = 182 CONTACTS  
 80 METERS SSB = 446 CONTACTS  
 20 METERS SSB = 237 CONTACTS  
 80 METERS CW = 42 CONTACTS  
 40 METERS CW = 553 CONTACTS  
 PACKET = 4 CONTACTS  
 Total ph contacts =  $875 \times 1 = 875$  qso pts.  
 Total cw. contacts =  $599 \times 2 = 1198$  qso pts.  
 Total Qso pts. =  $2073 \times 2$  for 100-150 wts.  
 = 4146 Qso pts.  
 plus estimate bonus pts = 1020  
 Total Estimated Field Day Points = 5166

STARS Field Day 1995 was a successful one. Hope to see you all again next year for fun in the field and hope for better band conditions and every CQ, will be a contact.

Bob WA2ABN and Gene KE2LO

## Public Service Events

We have two bike treks coming up soon for which we have been asked to provide communication support.

The American Lung Association is holding a one-day ride on August 26 starting at Wide Waters Park in Lockport. They will be riding near the Erie Canal to Medina and will have loops of 10, 37 and 65 miles.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will hold a two-day ride on September 23 & 24. They will begin in East Aurora and will ride down to a private camp south of Franklinville on Saturday. On Sunday, they will return to East Aurora.

All that you need to help us is 2 meter equipment and 2 meter privileges. No prior experience is necessary. If you would like to help in one or both of these rides or would just like more information, please contact Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.

## World Championship at Rich Stadium

August 7-12 will find the Drum Corps International World Championships at Rich Stadium. This is a unique chance for you to attend an exciting family-oriented program.

Some of the country's best high school and college musicians will play classical, jazz, rock and roll, World War II, Broadway etc. music while marching backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally. They are backed-up by great looking color guards twirling flags, rifles, sabers, etc. and dancing their hearts out!

The big show is the Open Class Finals on Saturday night. The top 12 corps will fight it out for the World Title. To save money and get better seats, go to the Quarter Finals on Thursday or the Semifinals on Friday. For more info, call your editor at 656-0865.

## For Sale

Mosley four element beam 10/15/20 Model TA-24-XL antenna, along with a Yaesu G 800 SDX rotator & control box, also 3 regular sections of tower plus 1 top section (holding rotator). All of the above for \$475.00 (you remove). Call Ray N2NXX at 648-1672.



# 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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Depew, NY 14043  
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