

telstar

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

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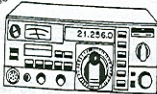
STARS Hosts Fair Display

STARS successfully hosted the amateur radio exhibit at the Erie County Fair again this year. This required over 400 man-hours of volunteer help. Greg KE2VW, the committee chairman, and all of those involved are to be commended for the great job they did.

Lots of various aspects of amateur radio were covered in the display.

A CW practice station was very popular with the children who had a chance to try sending their names and other things with the keys.

Radiograms were sent out for fair visitors via packet radio. Thanks go to Jerry N2GUN for his assistance with this.



This year we had a HF operating station at the fair, and members had a chance to make phone and CW contacts.

The National Weather Service provided us with a display showing SKYWARN and how they work with amateur radio operators.

There was a TV showing amateur radio activities featuring famous hams and NASA astronauts. We also could use the TV to show amateur

September Meeting

The September club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 7 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 is required.

We will be talking about the Buffalo Hamfest, the Erie County Fair display, bike treks, etc.

STARS member Judy N2TEZ of the Buffalo office of the National Weather Service will present SKYWARN training.

She also will be showing slides and giving an update on their new doppler radar.



Greg KE2VW will bring in his antenna to show you what lightning can do!

You won't want to miss this meeting!

television pictures from a portable TV station that could be carried around the fairgrounds.

There were also nice displays of older ham equipment, QSL cards, homebrew equipment and satellite radio.

We had a great chance to talk to people young and old and interest them in our exciting hobby!

STARS can be proud of this effort to promote amateur radio and to bring it to the attention of more of the general population. Hopefully, we will be bringing many of them into the hobby!

★ 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.

Wednesday Night Net

After my short summer break, I am starting up the special Wednesday evening nets again. The nets will still be on the first Wednesday following the regular club meetings. This September 13th, I will have Mick N2PZX and Ron AA2VM on net with me as the guest speakers. They will be there to answer any questions you may have on overcoming physical limitations. They will also give tips on how you can obtain your amateur license. Here are some examples of questions.

- 1) The Handihams Organization....What do they have to offer ?
- 2) The options the VE Team has in giving the test to someone with a disability.
- 3) How someone with a disability takes the Code test or the written elements ?

Some of you may have questions for our guest speakers but for what ever reason never asked them. Hope to here from all of you on net.

Thank you!
Tony KB2OUT Net Control

STARS Raffle '95

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



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

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!

Tickets will be a donation of \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. For more information or to obtain tickets, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

The August meeting at the Nike Base was on Wednesday as the Erie County Fair started on Thursday. Terry sure picked a nice day as the weather was excellent. It was nice to see all the families and their friends.

The cookout was a success and wish to thank the bakers that donated the desserts.

The brownies were very good, and home made chocolate chip cookies sure hit the spot. It was nice to see the children of different families get together and play as if they were old friends.



Well, August sure was a busy time for the club as we had a display plus a lot of electronic equipment at the fair. It was nice to see the boy scouts take advantage of our CW set-up. We had a set-up so they could send and receive back and forth. They sure enjoyed it. The satellite display sure got a lot of attention and when the

amateur radio TV was operating, everyone stayed until it was over. I was amazed by some of the high school students at the way they grasped the operation that we had hooked up to Greg's BBS.

But remember, STARS does not rest on its laurels. We have been asked to hold a VE test session at the Buffalo Hamfest. All candidates must be preregistered for this test. Also, don't forget the public service events. If you are interested, get in touch with Terry KM4XZ for the schedules.

Now that most of the hamfests are over, STARS always has a mini flea market that you can bring articles to the meeting. One nice thing is that you don't have to take it home with you, just donate it to the club and they will take care of it.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

ALA Bike Trek

The American Lung Association (ALA) Adventure Trek '95 was held on August 26 starting at Wide Waters Marina in Lockport. The course included loops of 10, 37 and 65 miles. Everyone rode along the Erie Canal and the people on the 65 mile loop got a rest stop right along Lake Ontario.

One rider early in the ride received numerous scrapes and bruises when he fell from his bike. He was attacked by a cat! The cat ran at his bike from a ditch along the road. The rider hit the cat with his front wheel and was pitched over the front of his bike. He was treated by Emergency Medical Technicians and had to quit the ride. Other than that, everything went well and the people had a great cookout at the end.

Communications for the event were provided by the following STARS members: Mike WA2HEV, Jim N2OSL, Dave K2ECK, Gary KB2TDT, Leo KB2TIY, Terri KB2TRS, Lee KD2NY and Terry KM4XZ.

We want to thank the Lockport Amateur Radio Association for the use of their repeater during the event.

Novice/Technician Classes

STARS will be holding Novice/Technician classes beginning in September. If you would like to attend or if you know someone who would, call Vern AA2AC at 634-5276.

Vern needs help to teach these classes, so if you are willing to provide assistance, give him a call.

Members in the News

Greg KE2VW was both on TV and in the newspapers for his role with the emergency medical care at the World Veterans Games held in Buffalo this summer.

Bob KA2WYE was in a picture of the helium balloon launch from the Batavia Hamfest which appeared in the Buffalo News.

Tom N2WLG has his name and picture in the September issue of QST for winning a college scholarship. He was nominated for this by Kash WB2RAJ.

REPEATER CORNER

By Paul Wendzikowski, WA2IJW

Just a short column this month, since time demands during August seem to have caught up with me. I'll briefly recap the status and plans for the main STARS repeaters.

We've corrected the major problems on both the 2m and 440 machines. The 440 transmitter board was replaced, as were the 2m final amplifier tubes. Both are operating reliably and putting out decent signals. Noise on the 2m side has been reduced from a horrible, weather-related squealing to a "whistle" on weaker signals. We're planning some more filter and isolator experiments, or an antenna modification, to get rid of that last little bit.

The "back-up" 2m Mastr II repeater works OK on the bench, but the power amplifier's output is down from where it should be. When the 2m noise problem is completely cleared up, the Mastr II will be put through some on-the-air testing to see if it can perform as well as the older Mastr Pro has.

Once we've looked at how the Mastr II works, we'll decide what's primary, what's backup, and whether we need to buy some additional repeater equipment. The used GE commercial gear we're using is older, well-built stuff but the way it's packaged for our use won't win any awards in the "easy-to-maintain" category.

Since ACC's demise, we've started looking at alternatives for upgrading our 2m repeater controller. However, these would be add-ons, not integrated improvements from the manufacturer. Everyone, please keep your fingers crossed that some enterprising and capable ham or group siezes this opportunity and starts producing some well-designed upgrades for ACC's controllers.

Down the pike are several ideas to improve our Hamburg-area coverage. One is to link a second input frequency from a Nike base receiver to the Colden site via 440 MHz. Another is to have a second, directional antenna at Colden connected to a second receiver, with a "voting" system to switch the repeater input to the antenna and receiver combination that's providing the best signal. A third is to design a new antenna with a

"shaped" pattern, providing more gain in certain directions. We'll have to look closely at tradeoffs in cost, complexity, and ease of use.

By the way, I'm not using the imperial "we" in this update. Your trusty Repeater Committee has the following lineup. Technical Steering Group: Paul, WA2IJW; Greg, KE2VW; Vern, AA2AC. Control Operators: Tony, KB2OUT; Ken, KB2HRZ; Paul, WA2IJW. Autodial Slot Coordinator: Mick, N2PZX. Thanks to these members for contributing their time and skills to keeping the repeaters up and running. Many others have helped in the past, and new members have volunteered for upcoming tasks. It's all greatly appreciated.

In Sympathy

Tanya Taublieb, daughter of STARS member Ed KB2KVA, passed away on September 1.

Sherwood (Woody) Sipprell K2HL, former STARS member, passed away in August. Woody was one of the early pioneers of amateur radio and had held an amateur radio license for about 70 years.

Our club wants to express our deepest sympathies to the families in this time of their losses.

For Sale

Yaesu FT 530 dual band HT (4 months old in mint condition) with charger, antenna, manual and box. \$400 firm. Call Mark N2TID 759-4277.

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	WA2TIVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Mike Wojcieszak	WA2HEV

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold a test session at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 16. All candidates must be preregistered for this test. To preregister, send a check for \$5.90 made payable to Vern Siegel along with your name, address and a list of elements that you wish to take to: Norman Jones KD2KK, 204 Aurora Ave., West Seneca, NY 14224 by September 2, 1995.

STARS will also be holding test sessions on Nov. 11, 1995 and Jan. 13, March 16, and May 11, 1996. For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC will hold test sessions Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, and Dec. 20, 1995 and Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 20, April 24, May 15, and June 12, 1996. For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 1995 and Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2, April 13, May 4, and June 8, 1996. For information on ARATS exams, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

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

CF Bike Trek

The Cystic Fibrosis bike trek will be on September 23 and 24. Beginning in East Aurora, the riders will go about 50 miles down through Strykersville and Arcade to an overnight stay at a private camp in the hills south of Franklinville. The riders will return Sunday to East Aurora through Franklinville, Delevan, and Holland.

Amateur radio operators will be providing communications for the event. To volunteer, all you need is two meter equipment and privileges. No prior experience is necessary.

To volunteer or for info, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.

Buffalo Hamfest

The Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show will be held on Saturday, September 16 at the Erie County Fair Grounds. The flea market will be open from 6 AM to 4 PM, and the commercial exhibits will be open from 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

Tickets are \$5.00 and there is a \$1.00 parking charge. Flea market vendors must also pay \$5.00 per space for a flea market permit.

Programs will include one on a motorcycle CW station at 10 AM, an ARRL forum with Atlantic Division Director Hugh Turnbull W3ABC at 11 AM and an ARRL Leadership Officials Meeting at noon.

STARS will be very active at the hamfest. Our 147.090 WB2ELW repeater will be used for talk-in. We will be holding a VE session to help people upgrade in the afternoon. We will have an indoor table to tell people about our club, and we will have an outside table to sell raffle tickets. We need volunteers to help us accomplish all of this!

Congratulations

Terry KM4XZ passed his tests in August to upgrade to Extra Class!

STARS Club Badges

Club badges are available in either white on blue or blue on white with your name and call sign for \$3.50.

Contact Frank WG2H at the club meetings if you would like to order one.

Frank is currently holding badges for people who previously ordered them. So if you ordered one, please pick it up as soon as possible.

Nike Base Station

Don't forget that the Nike Base club station is open almost every Saturday from 1 to 3 PM. Stop by to do some operating or just to do some ragchewing with the other members.



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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