

telstar



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

ISSUE 169 OCTOBER, 1995

STARS Raffle A Success!

The drawing for the STARS Raffle '95 was held on September 16 at the Buffalo Hamfest. The winning ticket was held by Tom Schwabel N2WLG, a member of STARS who just began college at Cornell University this fall.

Tom couldn't get to the hamfest, so he asked his father, who is also a ham, to buy him a ticket. His father bought three tickets, put his own name on two of them and Tom's name on the third.

Last year ticket number 002 was the winner. Tom's ticket this year was ticket number 200. Watch out for ticket number 020 next year!

We want to thank all the members who helped us to sell the tickets. We made approximately \$700 profit on the raffle to help out the club's treasury!



October Meeting

The October Meeting will be held on Thursday October 5 beginning at 7 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



After our business meeting, we will be accepting nominations for club officers for 1996. If you are interested in running for an office or want to nominate someone, you will want to be there.

Due to the nominations, we won't be having a guest speaker at this meeting. This will allow extra time for eyeball QSO's and still make it an early evening.

STARS VE Session

The STARS VE session at the Hamburg Hamfest was very successful with 11 people qualifying for their first ham tickets! Six others qualified to upgrade their current license classes.

VE's assisting in giving the exams included: Tony KB2OUT, Dick W2UJR, Norm KD2KK, Anne WG2I, Pat NW2I, Dex W2VCI, Frank W2ZJ, Paul WA2IJW, Bob K2PPK, Guz WB2EZU, Woody AA2TL, Vern AA2AC and Ron KC2P.



★ 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 WB2E2U.

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.

Novice/Tech Classes

STARS Novice/Technician classes began on September 30. The classes are being held on Saturday mornings at Hamburg Senior High School.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend the classes, please have them contact Vern Siegel at 634-5276 immediately. There is no charge for the classes other than the cost of the book.

CF Bike Trek

The Cystic Fibrosis 150K Bike Tour was held on September 23-24. Starting in East Aurora, the ride went to an overnight stay at a private camp south of Franklinville and then back to East Aurora. Providing communication for the ride were STARS members: Mike WA2HEV, Dave K2ECK, Jim N2OSL, Terry KM4XZ, Garry KB2TDT, Tony KB2OUT, Leo KB2TIIY and Terri KB2TRS.

All the bike riders made it around the course safely, but some of the rest stop workers were involved in an automobile accident north of Franklinville on Saturday afternoon. They were transported to the hospital, but fortunately they only had bruises and a few scrapes. They all were at the dinner on Saturday evening.

Wednesday Night Net

I would like to say thank you to Mick N2PZX and Ron AA2VM for a job well done on the special net on Wed. Sept. 13th. On help for the handicapped and amateur radio. For more information you can call or write to *****

Handi-Ham Courage Center 3915 Golden Valley Rd. Golden Valley, MN 54422
Or call 612-520-0515

My special guest for the Wednesday night net on October 11th will be Paul, WA2IJW. Paul is our Repeater Chairman and his topic will be the STARS repeaters and repeater operating in general. He'll be available to answer your technical questions about repeaters, antennas, etc, or questions about repeater operating procedures.

Thank you,
Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
Net Control

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

September sure was a busy month with STARS. Our meeting was well attended also. Our topic was on SKYWARN and Judy N2TEZ, a member of our club and also a member of the Buffalo National Weather service, presented a SKYWARN training program, which some of our members are a part of. Also, she brought us up to date on the new doppler radar.

STARS was asked to conduct a VE session at the Buffalo Hamfest. We had a very large crowd, but we were ready for them. There were 10 VE's to make things go smoothly. There were quite a lot of hams from various parts of the state, and Pennsylvania was very well represented also.

The weather was half way decent, and it looked like a lot of amateur equipment changed hands.

Well now, with October coming up, it sure will be a busy time. It is the month to nominate the officers of 1996, and it is usually a very spirited meeting. One thing I hope for is that the

candidates will write articles for the October newsletter to inform the members of what your campaign promises will be. There are a lot of members who are unable to attend the meetings, and this will give them a chance to study the platform of the various officers to be.

In October QST page 65 is a unique type of indoor type antenna, and it seems to work on 10, 15 and 20 meters with a two to one SWR. It was installed in a town house attic, no snow or shorts from snow or moisture. Give it a good look if you want to work some DX.

You know, I was just dreaming here. About 10 years ago, you would spend 75% of your time on your equipment and working stations on the air. Then the computer came along, and it was 50% computer and 50% on the air. I admit that it helped the state of the art, but is the struggle worth it and are we better hams??

Happy hamming Guz WB2EZU

An Eyeball QSO

By Terry KM4XZ

During late May, Tony Ramos KP4FP talked to several STARS members on our repeater including myself. His KP4 call indicated that he was originally from Puerto Rico, but he told us that for the last year he had been living in the southern part of Japan.

He was very busy driving all over checking out the local sites including Niagara Falls, Batavia and East Aurora.

Tony told us that he was in town to attend a judo tournament that was going to be held at the University of Buffalo the weekend of May 27 & 28.

Since I had never seen a judo tournament, I decided to check it out on Saturday and maybe have a chance to meet Tony. The tournament was the Am-Can International Judo Tournament and brought nearly a thousand young participants to Alumni Arena from the United States,

Canada, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, and Russia.

After a search I finally found a coach for the Puerto Rico team who pointed out Tony to me. Tony was very pleased to meet someone from our repeater and did a great job explaining what was going on in the judo tournament to me.

Tony had trained many children in Puerto Rico in judo. He explained that many of the children came from poor families, and judo gave them a great chance to get scholarships to universities that they would otherwise not be able to afford to attend. Apparently, Tony was a very good instructor, because his kids took one first place, two second places and one third place on Saturday. Remember, they were competing against some of the best from the United States and Canada.

He introduced me to one of his 11-year old girls. She couldn't speak English, but Tony translated for me. Later, he told me that she had been abandoned by her mother when she was 10 days old. A lady at the tournament had found her in

VHF/UHF Frequency Planning

This month, I will dispense with my "packet racket" to allow space for a much more important issue, updating our Vhf/Uhf bandplans!! Some may ask why bother? "Don't fix it, if it ain't broke!" I agree with that statement to a point... (That's something computers have taught me!!!)

The problem is that our bandplan, which worked for years, is dated, and needs revision. There are plenty of problems with it. Here are just a few examples.. ATV receives interference from voice repeaters in the 440 band, and can add broad band noise to their inputs in return. AM voice is found in the middle of the "new OSCAR" subband, which has been in the ARRL directory for a number of years. Packet is on frequencies viewed as simplex by some hams/control link frequencies by some repeater operators, etc., etc., etc.

The ARRL national has not opted to revise its bandplans, instead delegating this to local groups. As a result the ARRL bandplan has not changed in years. The Canadians had adopted our bandplan, but after experiencing a number of co-channel interference related problems, and seeing no movement from the ARRL, they found it necessary to develop their own. They tried to keep it as close as possible to our existing plan, but they found it necessary to take on the issues the ARRL did not address in our current plan. (ie the explosive growth of digital communication, which greatly exceeded the similar growth of mobile communication through voice repeaters in years past.)

The Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC), to which many of us belong, was the logical frequency coordination/spectrum management body. This group however voted to confine its activities to those frequencies contained in the repeater pairs that we are all familiar with, and not get involved with the rest of the spectrum.

Knowing this had to be addressed, especially in view of the proximity of the two countries, a new organization was formed, (initially to address digital communication), called OWNYPAG (Ontario Western New York Packet Advisory Group). The group was composed of hams from

different backgrounds/interests, most of the founders of which were from WNYSORC.

It became apparent very quickly that it is not possible to help coordinate one segment of the spectrum, without impacting upon all the other areas. The end result was this group decided to take on the job of spectrum management for the Vhf/Uhf spectrum. OWNYPAG elected to not work in a vacuum, and included in its membership a member from the ARRL national Vhf/Uhf bandplanning committee, as well as his corresponding Canadian counterpart. The group filed notice with the ARRL, FCC, RAC, and IC, among others, to get the process started.

At present OWNYPAG is taking comments on the proposed bandplan, which as I understand at the time of this article has passed through their approval process, and is awaiting implementation (in part awaiting their neighbor to the South's response!).

As you review the bandplan, remember it is a compromise, trying to accommodate as many different modes of communication as possible. Some modes may have to give up some spectrum, to accommodate the needs of the majority of the amateur community. This is not a new concept. (The sparkgap, once an approved method of communication, is no longer allowed, due to its spectrum bandwidth demands.) The proposed plans seem to assign a piece of the spectrum for each of the current modalities, and will of course need to be a "dynamic plan", (one that will be changed in the future, as the utilization of the bands changes).

OWNYPAG is seeking your input. These plans are being presented to each of the local amateur clubs, by various members of the group, to get input. Once the input has been collated, recommendations will be considered, the bandplans adjusted if warranted, and finally adopted by OWNYPAG. They will then be referred to the above mentioned organizations, hopefully to serve as a model for an updated national bandplan!

Our area, serving to border two countries with very active amateur communities is a logical choice to serve as model for this bandplanning

process. We need YOUR input in this involved process.

73, Greg KE2VW

MARCH 1995: THE RADIO AMATEURS
OF CANADA BANDPLAN
BAND: 144 - 148 MHz
STATUS: AMATEUR EXCLUSIVE

FREQUENCY (MHz) UTILIZATION

144 - 144.1	MOONBOUNCE AND TERRESTRIAL CW
144.1	CW CALLING FREQUENCY
144.1 - 144.2	CW/SSB WEAK SIGNAL
144.2	SSB CALLING FREQUENCY (1)
144.2 - 144.275	AM NARROW BANDMODES (ACSSB, SSB, CW, other modes with bandwidth <= 3 KHz, ie FAX, SSTV, RTTY) EXCLUSIVE
144.275 - 144.3	PROPAGATION BEACON NETWORK EXCLUSIVE
144.3 - 144.5	DIGITAL (2)
144.340	NATIONAL ATV COORDI- NATION FREQUENCY (1)
144.39	NATIONAL APRS FREQUENCY (9)
144.5 - 144.6	REPEATER INPUTS PRIMARY, LINEAR - TRANSLATOR INPUTS SECONDARY (10)
144.6 - 144.9	REPEATER INPUTS (10)
144.9 - 145.1	DIGITAL (3)
145.1 - 145.2	REPEATER OUTPUTS PRIMARY, LINEAR TRANSLATOR OUTPUTS SECONDARY (10)
145.2 - 145.5	REPEATER OUTPUTS (10)
145.5 - 145.59	SAREX/MIR/SPACE STATION LINKS
145.59 - 145.79	DIGITAL (4)
145.8 - 146.0	EXCLUSIVE AMATEUR SATELLITE SERVICE
146.01 - 146.37	REPEATER INPUTS (10)
146.4 - 146.58	FM SIMPLEX (5)(6)
146.52	NATIONAL FM CALLING FREQUENCY (1)
146.61 - 147.39	REPEATER OUTPUTS (10)
147.42 - 147.57	FM SIMPLEX (30 KHz raster)(7)
147.435 - 147.585	DIGITAL (30 KHz raster)(8)
147.6 - 147.99	REPEATER INPUTS (10)

Footnotes:

- (1) Once communications are established QSY off the frequency.
- (2) Seven (7) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster 144.37, 144.39, 144.41, 144.43, 144.45, 144.47, 144.49. Occupancy to occur ONLY when available Digital frequencies within the sub bands 144.9 - 145.1 Mhz and 145.59 - 145.79 Mhz are exhausted. Consult with your local digital coordination body regarding maximum ERP, Bandwidth and coverage area within this subband. Operation may occur on 144.31 Mhz provided operating bandwidth, ERP do NOT cause harmful interference within the propagation beacon network subband.
- (3) Ten (10) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster. 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, 144.99, 145.01, 145.03, 145.05, 145.07, 145.09. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (4) Eleven (11) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster 145.59, 145.61, 145.63, 145.65, 145.67, 145.69, 145.71, 145.73, 145.75, 145.77, 145.79 Mhz. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (5) The frequencies 146.40, 146.43, 146.46 Mhz continue to be used as repeater inputs in some areas. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (6) Thirteen (13) Channels on a 15 KHz channel raster 146.415, 146.430, 146.445, 146.460, 146.475, 146.490, 146.505, 146.520, 146.535, 146.550, 146.565, 146.580, 146.595 Mhz.
- (7) Six (6) Channels on a 30 KHz channel raster, 147.420, 147.450, 147.480, 147.510, 147.540, 147.570 Mhz.
- (8) Six (6) Channels on a 30 KHz channel raster 147.435, 147.465, 147.495, 147.525, 147.555, 147.585 Mhz. Consult your local coordination body for available frequencies, ERP and bandwidth.
- (9) Consult with your local coordination body.
- (10) Repeaters may include FM, ACSSB or digital modes of modulation. Consult with your local coordination body for frequency and modulation scheme allocations.

RAC NATIONAL BANDPLAN -- 70 CM. --
 MARCH 1995
 STATUS AMATEUR - SECONDARY
 RADIOLOCATION - PRIMARY

(2) Once communications has been established, QSY off frequency to allow others to call.

(3) ATV operations may be for point to point, or repeater input operations. Note that any non ATV activity below 444.0 Mhz must be coordinated with ATV users to minimize or eliminate interference to the video signal.

Consult with RAC for advice on administrative and technical means to achieve this. Note that Double Sideband Video is NOT sanctioned from a technical, spectrum, interference and power conservation viewpoint. Note that non video Digital operations in this sub-band should only occur if other frequencies allocated are exhausted, consult with your local coordination body.

(4) Local Option - consult with your local coordinating body.

(5) Repeaters - includes Narrowband FM, ACSSB, Digital (Voice, video and data) modes. Frequencies must be coordinated with your local coordinating body, or RAC VHF UHF Advisory where no coordination body exists.

(6) Non conforming analog links on 70 cm are grandfathered provided that their existence does not cause harmful interference with amateur operations designated for that sub-band. In the case of interference, coordination discussions must be held to resolve the problem. Note grandfathering ceases once that link goes out of service, consult with your local coordinating body.

(7) Digital operations may include repeater operation, crossband duplex operation, links or simplex. Consult with your local coordination body.

FREQUENCY	UTILIZATION
430.025 - 431.500	DIGITAL MODES (1)(6)(7)
431.5 - 433.0	CW, SSB, MOONBOUNCE (Global Exclusive Allocation), Amplitude Modulation narrow band modes.
432.0	Centre frequency for EME, globally coordinated frequency allocations exist above and below 432.0 Mhz
432.1	National CW Calling Frequency (2)
432.2	National SSB Calling Frequency (2)
432.3 - 432.4	Propagation Beacon Network Exclusive (10)
432.4 - 433	Experimental Narrow bandwidth modes
433.0 - 434.8	DIGITAL MODES (1)(7)
434.8 - 434.9	Analog Repeater Links(4)
434.9 - 435	Guard Band
435 - 438	SATELLITE (Global Exclusive Allocation)
438 - 444	Amateur Television (NTSC, Vestigial Sideband, Digitally Enhanced Video)(3)(6)(8)
439.25	Video Carrier Frequency
442 - 445	Repeater Outputs (5)(4)(11)
444.0	Spread Spectrum (9)
445 - 445.775	Analog and Digital Links(4)(1)
445.8 - 445.975	DIGITAL (1)
446 - 446.175	FM Simplex
446.0	National FM Calling Frequency (2)
446.2 - 446.375	FM Remote Base (Uncoordinated)
446.4 - 446.775	Analog and Digital Links (4)(1)
446.8 - 446.975	DIGITAL MODES (1)
447 - 450	Repeater Inputs (5)(4)(11)

Footnotes:

(1) Digital Channelling 25 Khz "minimum" raster, contiguous multiples of 25 Khz should be released based on required Digital System Bandwidth. (Data Rate and Modulation scheme will govern bandwidth). Consult with your local coordinating body, or RAC where no coordination exists.

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 be holding test sessions on Nov. 11, 1995 and Jan. 13, March 16, and May 11, 1996 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins). 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 will hold test sessions 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 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.

Commercial Radio Examinations

Examinations are being given monthly for the following commercial radio licenses: General Radiotelephone Operator License; Marine Radio Operator Permit; First, Second and Third Class Radio Telegraph Operator's Certificate; Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Operator's License; Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Maintainer's License; and a radar endorsement for the above licenses.

Exams are held at the Aurora Middle School, 148 Aurora Street, Lancaster. For information and registration contact Vern Siegel at 634-5276 and Chuck Koester 937-3592.

The exams are scheduled for Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13, 1995 and Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 17, May 8 and June 5, 1996.

(8) RAC encourages development of Digital compression techniques to reduce video bandwidth within this sub-band.

(9) Spread Spectrum centre frequency, secondary, operations per IC bandwidth limit of 12 Mhz (max spreading), may occur within these sub-bands, but must not cause interference to primary Amateur systems.

(10) Propagation Beacon frequencies are to be coordinated through the RAC VHF UHF Advisory Committee.

(11) RAC encourages the use of CTSS encoding where spectral congestion occurs.

Eyeball QSO

Continued from Page 3

the apartment building and had gone on to raise the little girl. This really brought home what he meant by saying that judo gave opportunities to kids who had very little!

Meeting Tony was a great experience for me. I encourage everyone to talk to visitors that show up on our repeater and welcome them to the area.

Congratulations

A big congratulations goes to STARS member Pat NW2I who recently passed her last commercial radio license exam. She now holds all of the licenses, permits, and endorsements noted in the article to the left.

For Sale

PK-232MBX multi-mode TNC with cables and manual. Latest V.7 firmware. \$175.00. Call Shane WB2ELW at 675-5797.

ICOM IC 725 HF transceiver in excellent condition. 3 years old. \$525.00. Contact Bill Parker N2WYA at 668-4873.



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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