

telstar



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

ISSUE 171 DECEMBER, 1995

1996 Club Officers Elected

At the November club meeting, the following people were elected as the 1996 club officers and Directors:

President:

KE2VW Greg Young

Vice President:

KB2OUT Tony Balas, Jr.

Secretary:

WA2TVT Dave Baco

Treasurer:

KB2ESM John Cullum, Jr.

Financial Secretary:

N2TEZ Judy Levan

Director (2 Year Term):

AA2AC Vern Siegel

These people will make up the 1996 Board of Directors along with WA2HEV Mike Wojcieszak, who will be the second year of his term as Director, and KM4XZ Terry Rockhold, who will serve on the Board for the next year as Past President.



December Meeting

The December club meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, beginning at 7:00 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 are required.

After the business meeting, we will hold our annual Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and soft drinks, and we invite everyone to bring some finger foods to share with the others. So come on out and join us for the fun!



Dues are Due!

Club dues for 1996 are due on or before Jan. 1.

We have included with this newsletter a form to update our information on members. Please fill out this form and return it with your dues to our new Financial Secretary: Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043. Don't forget that our dues for 1996 are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for a family membership and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12).

If you prefer, you can renew your membership at the December club meeting.

★ 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 Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 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 \$10.50 (6 months X \$1.75/mth) plus the \$5.00 initiation fee for a total of \$15.50.

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ 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.

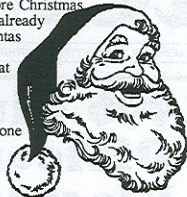
STARS Swap Net meets at 7 PM on Tuesdays on STARS WB2ELW 147.09 repeater. Net control is Marc N2UBT.

CHRISTMAS NET

Due to the Holidays I will not be having the special guest speaker net on 12-13-95.

Instead we are going to run a very special net on the Wednesday before Christmas

(12-20-95). I have already talked to one of Santas Elves. She said she would make time that night to help out. Santa is pretty busy this time of year so he may need some one to help him out.



If anyone is interested in helping us with the STARS Christmas Net, give me a call at 992-2011 or drop me a line at BBSVW or catch me on the repeater. I know the way my kids eyes lit up the first time they heard Santa on the radio.

Thank You
Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
Net Control

The Bozone Layer

At certain times of the year it seems that radiation from the Bozone layer increases to the point that it affects the operating behavior of certain individuals. These Bozos, so they are known, crawl out of the woodwork to disrupt conversations with jamming, crude noises, unidentified comments and obscene language. Some seem to pick on only certain hams, or certain events, such as SKYWARN nets, while others are all purpose offenders. Others use the call signs of innocent amateurs to make bogus calls. Still others have followed other hams into the hobby from other radio services, bringing well established grudges with them.

The one thing that all Bozos have in common is that they thrive on the attention that they get. Nasty responses, lectures, and threats from those whose conversations they have disrupted all feed the Bozos' egos.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

It is with great sorrow that I must start this column with sadness. Shorty WA2FCS became a silent key on October 25, 1995. Shorty was a VHF/UHF operator in the early 70's before the repeaters became popular. He conducted SSB contacts and nets on 2 and 6 meters. When the repeaters became popular, he worked mostly through them. Shorty also had a machine shop in his basement and was able to make his special equipment.

Also, Bob K2PPK became a silent key on November 7, 1995. Bob was very active in the club, and he also belonged to other radio clubs. He enjoyed his VE sessions and was happy when the hams upgraded to a higher class of license.

Well, November was election of officers, but let us give credit to the 1995 officers. They sure did a very good job in keeping the members happy and keeping up with the state of the art. In fact, some of them were elected for 1996. I am sure they have a lot of good ideas for 1996.

The only bad tragedy was when lightning struck the BBS system. It took quite a while to bring it back to working condition, plus about \$1,000 for replacement parts. Hope they can surpass the 1995 accomplishments. It will be a challenge, but, remember, they are doing this for you, the club members to keep you happy and also to make you all better hams.

Hope to see you all at the December meeting, which is the inauguration of our officers. It is a family meeting, and all members and friends are invited. As a rule, the club springs for pizza and soft drinks and will welcome any type of finger foods. You know last year there were three types of brownies, and it was hard to pick out one from the other. I had to try them all. Also, the bakers out did themselves with the multi-colored cookies which were displayed, and they sure disappeared fast. So come and get acquainted with the rest of the families and have an eyeball QSO. I am sure you will enjoy it.

Happy Hamming WB2EZU Guz

Radio Receivers Wanted

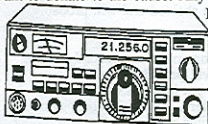
Our Buffalo VA recently took over the operation of the VA facility at Batavia. I have recommended to management that a ham radio and shortwave type listening post be set up for those patients who are interested in this type of recreational activity.

The Batavia Ham Radio Club (GRAMS) will be involved to assisting to provide ham radio classes as well as volunteer operators when it is set up. While many of the patients may not progress to passing amateur radio examinations, their interest in shortwave listening will give them something to do. The project has the full concurrence of our top management.

It would be nice to have a number of receivers set up with headphones so patients could monitor the shortwaves. The New York State Nursing Home at Batavia is also located adjacent to the Batavia VA. Many of these patients from this nursing home could visit the Ham/Shortwave listening post at the VA.

The Medical Director is Dr Bruce Small who is a ham operator and is in full agreement with the idea.

I am asking any of the local radio clubs to see if members might have any receivers they would want to donate to the cause. Any of the old



Hallicrafter or National receivers would be great for such use. Any war surplus

receivers would be good since some of the patients may have operated them during WW-2.

Letters of appreciation will be sent to contributors from the VA. Thank you for any consideration by any members of STARS.

73, Bob W2WVC.

Repeater Corner

Paul Wendzikowski, WA2IJW

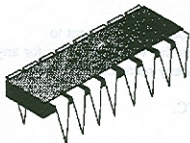
Thanks to Terry, KM4XZ, for spotting an article in December World Radio that sheds more light on the bleak prospects for future support of the Advanced Computer Controls (ACC) RC-85 controller we're using on the 2m repeater.

Per the story, ACC developed their repeater technology in the early 80's and eventually controlled up to 90% of the market. By the late 80's, their sales were dropping. In the last three years, their share of the market had dropped to about 10%. Newer technology allowed competitors to produce controllers at lower cost.

On July 25, 1995, ACC sold most of their holdings to Link Communications in Sydney, Montana. Allan Overcast, KF7FW, owns Link Communications. He bought the source code, vocabulary, parts and other proprietary information. "What we are going to do with it we have not yet totally decided", says Overcast. He says that when certain parts fail, there is little chance replacements can be found.

Overcast says his RLC-x controllers--which are designed with the latest technology available--may include some features previously found in ACC products. Overcast believes his already strong market share will grow even more as ACC owners find that parts are no longer available for their systems. He says that the Version 6 upgrade that ACC had been advertising has been shelved and will probably never be offered.

I wrote to Link Communications recently asking what support they will provide for ACC controllers and all I got back was a catalog for their RLC-x controllers. Our only consolation is that if our RC-85 failed irreparably, a comparable replacement could now be purchased for less than the approximately \$1,500 we've got in the RC-85 (original price + upgrades).



STARS Classes & VE Exams

The STARS Novice/Tech classes were successfully completed in November. Vern AA2AC was the primary instructor with Tony KB2OUT teaching the morse code portion and Greg KE2VW serving as a guest speaker.

On November 18, eight of the members of the classes took exams administered by a team of VE's not involved with giving the class. This team was headed by Dick W2UJR and included Paul W2JDK, John KF2JQ, and Jesse AA2UM. All eight class members qualified for their first licenses with one Novice, four Technicians and three Technician Plus. We also heard that another member of the class had qualified for a Technician license at an earlier exam.



Another VE team headed by Vern AA2AC and including Guz WB2EZU, Tony KB2OUT, Norm KD2KK and Terry KM4XZ tested walk-ins not associated with the class. Two candidates successfully upgraded to Technician Plus and Advanced, and three more qualified for their first Technician licenses.

Congratulations to all the successful candidates and thanks to all the instructors and VE's. This is a great example how experienced hams help new people qualify to get into the hobby.

We also hear that many of the class members will be joining STARS and/or other area clubs.

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 test sessions on 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 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 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 Nov. 8, and Dec. 13, 1995 and Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 17, May 8 and June 5, 1996.

The Bozone Layer

Continued From Page 2

So what do you do if you are plagued by a Bozo? Simple. MAKE THE BOZO THINK THAT HIS RADIO IS BROKEN! Don't respond to them at all or acknowledge them in any way. If the Bozo's signal is so strong that the person being jammed can't override it, it's best to terminate your conversation without any reference to what is going on. Experience has shown that lack of attention generally discourages the average Bozo within a couple of minutes.



No matter how angry or offended you are, and no matter how eloquent your words, any attempt to chase them off verbally will result only in more intense behavior on the part of the Bozo. Keep cool and keep quiet about it. Don't feed the Bozos!

De Dave Prestel W8AJR
May 1995 issue of The Spirit of '76 and '88,
The LEARA Newsletter

Congratulations

Jack Cullum, Jr., KB2ESM, long-time Treasurer for STARS, was honored as Legionaire of the Year by the Orchard Park Post 567 of the American Legion for his outstanding service to the post.

At the November meeting, Frank Modzelewski WG2H was awarded a Life Membership in STARS for his many years of service to the club as Financial Secretary and Membership Chairman. At the same meeting, honorary memberships for 1996 were awarded to Vern Siegel AA2AC for his service as a ham radio instructor and a VE, and to Paul Wendzikowski WA2IJW for his work teaching amateur radio to Boy Scouts and his work as repeater chairman.

Kyle KB2QZS upgraded to Technician Plus.



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