

telstar



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

ISSUE 172 JANUARY, 1996

Thanks For Two Great Years!

by Terry Rockhold KM4XZ

For the last two years, I have had the privilege of serving as the President of STARS. During this time, STARS has continued to be one of the leading amateur radio clubs in Western New York. There is one thing for sure, though. This was not a one-man effort! The success of the club is due to many, many people.

We returned to the Erie County Fair to present a great amateur radio display. Greg KE2VW and his dedicated staff of volunteers deserve tremendous credit for this.

We have a great HF club station. Bob WA2IQX and Jake KB2NNN put in lots of work remodeling it to get it that way. (By the way, thanks to Bob for donating a microwave oven for the clubhouse recently!). Shane WB2WPM serving as Nike Base Chairman along with his team of volunteers have worked hard to keep the station open on a weekly basis.

Tony KB2OUT, Guz WB2EZU and Mark N2UBT have served as our net controllers for our weekly nets, which many of our members join in to make a success.

Bill N2GAO and recently Paul WA2IJW have served as our Repeater Chairmen. Most people don't realize all the time and effort that they have to put in. We have had some technical problems



January Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.)

Special guest speaker will be STARS Repeater Chairman, Paul Wendzikowski WA2IJW. Paul will answer your questions about the repeater and will explain how members can use the special features of the repeater controller such as the autopatch, the autodialer, the talking "S" meter, NOAA weather, etc.

This will be the kick-off for our 1996 season, so come on out and see what is going on!



Renew Your Membership!

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1996! We don't want to lose you!

Complete the membership update form sent in your December newsletter and send it along with your dues to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 or, better yet, bring them to the January meeting. If you lost your form, put your name, call, address, class of license, and phone number on a piece of paper.

We will be changing the repeater codes early in February, so if we have your renewal in time, you will get your new codes and your membership cards with your February newsletter.

★ 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.

Wednesday Night Net

My special guest speaker on net Wednesday Jan. 10, 1996 at 7 PM will be Judy N2TEZ. Judy will answer any questions you may have about SKY WARN or weather forecasting in general. Examples :: What can I do as a HAM to get involved, how can I help out during threatening weather situations, What Frequencies can Sky Warn be found? Hope to here from all of you on Net and like always, I am looking for Guest Speakers or ideas for these special nets.



Thank You,
Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT
Net Control

Thanks!

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they have worked very hard to fix. The Repeater Committee has ideas on how to improve the performance of our repeater this year.

The STARS KE2VW BBS has become well known throughout the area and offers almost every service you could think of. This requires Greg KE2VW to spend time on a daily basis to keep all this going

Field Day pops up each year, and John KA2RFT, Gene KE2LO, Bob WA2ABN and many others keep setting new records for the club while helping new members learn about HF.

Our club has been very active in supporting charity bike treks and walks with Tony KB2OUT, Dave K2ECK, Jim N2OSL, Mike WA2HEV, and many more always helping.

Vern AA2AC and his teams have been very active helping people get their licenses through giving classes and tests.

And how about all the Board members who spend at least one night each month going over club business matters for the club.

This is just a few of the many people that have helped make STARS the club that it is. I thank you all for your help!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, our December meeting sure was an action meeting. Our club station trustee, John KA2RFT, gave the officers the oath of office. Now it is up to them to help make 1996 a year to remember. The 1995 officers are to be complemented for the action that they generated through out the year. The new officers sure have their work cut out to make it a better year.

You know, with the January meeting we also start a mini flea market for the members for the members. If you have something for sale, bring it to the meeting. We usually run this till the weather gets better and the hamfests get started.



It was a very nice meeting, and everyone enjoyed have an eyeball QSO with the families of the members. The pizza was plentiful, and the bakers in the club sure out did themselves with the home-made multi-colored cookies which sure tasted as good as they looked. Terry KM4XZ got a lot of compliments on the

fine articles in the Telstar and the nice pictures that are in it. You know, the members that work nights and are unable to attend the meetings depend upon the newsletter to keep them informed of the club activities.

STARS has other activities also to keep the members on their toes. Some are the bike treks for various charities, and the members sure look forward to them. In fact, one of our members received a nice plaque for his dedicated services.

Remember, STARS is a learning club, and there are all kind of activities to suit your choice, from the 2 meter nets that are on every week to the nice BBS that keeps you informed of all that goes on. By the way, we got too many "T" type licenses. Why not try to upgrade and enjoy more of the state of the art, OK??

We got a new chairperson for the repeaters. Am sure that Paul WA2IYW is open to any improvements.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Interference Test

I am conducting an interference test for the FCC with telephones on 10-meters.

If you can make the following interference test on ten meters it would be appreciated. Operate on 10-meter AM mode and see how severe your telephone interference might be. Switch to FM and see if the telephone interference clears up. Transmitter power level of 100-watts or less is fine for the test.

Send result via packet to myself: W2WVC@KE2VW. The results will be published along with credits for STARS.

Thank you for your assistance.

73, Bob W2WVC.

Santa Net

The STARS SANTA (Christmas) net was a big success. Santa (AA2VM) along with Rudolph and two of the elves Teny (Valari Zanghi) and Demi (Sandy Balas) took time out from the task of toy making to talk to the kids. We had kids of all ages check in to the net with their Christmas lists. Thank You SANTA, Rudolph, Teny and Demi.



Tony Balas Jr KB2OUT
Net Control

DICTIONARY FOR THE NEW AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR!

With the arrival of the new licensing regulations, we eagerly anticipate an influx of new amateurs. Those who tune in for the first time may be surprised to discover that the current inhabitants of the airwaves appear to be communicating in a language which bears only a passing resemblance to English. For the benefit of the newly licensed, the following is intended as a primer in this mysterious form of communication.

WE

It is not generally realized that, as the result of an obscure clause in the licensing regulations, the holder of an amateur radio licence becomes plural immediately upon receiving the licence. This is a privilege that was formerly reserved for royalty ("We are not amused"), but with the advent of radio has been extended to all licensed amateurs. Thus, before you became licensed you would say "I am driving down the road". Once licensed this becomes "We are driving down the road".

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I'm schizophrenic
And so am I (we)

HI (or HI)

A hangover from the days of CW communication, this was intended to convey a laugh in code. In audio communications the use of this expression means either:

a) The joke I (we) just told was so unfunny that I (we) find it necessary to draw your attention to my (our) pathetic attempts at humour.

b) I (we) suspect that the modulation on my (our) radio is so poor that it is unable to reliably reproduce the sound of a laugh.

SHACK

Be it ever so humble, all non-mobile radio equipment is housed in a "shack". Even though many of our wealthier brethren have megabucks

of real estate devoted to the hobby, it is still referred to by this unfortunate epithet. Perhaps a hangover from the arrival of indoor plumbing, when the budding ham was left with a redundant outdoor structure in which to house his equipment?

SILENT KEY

Passed over, passed away, ceased to be, gone to Glory, gone to that great ham shack in the sky, moved to Moncton! Obviously amateurs are as coy as the rest of the population when it comes to uttering the "D" word. Actually, since the introduction of voice transmission, the vast majority of the amateur population are silent when it comes to keys.

BAREFOOT

Originally a method of ensuring that the operator would provide a reliable path to ground in the event that he came into contact with a lethal source of power (see Silent Key above), this now refers to running a transmitter without the addition of an external power amplifier.

TWISTED PAIR

Thought by many to refer to two strange individuals given to certain unusual (and, in some communities, illegal) practices, this is actually a complex way of saying "telephone". Fortunately not in common use outside the ham community, or the Bell Twisted Pair Company would probably not have attained the position that it now enjoys.

XYL

The feminists favourite! It means "Wife" or, more likely, "The Wife" (eX Young Lady -

See Dictionary on Page 5

STARS Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Vice President	Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Finc. Sec.	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
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. Location of the exams is being determined. 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 on 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 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 Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 17, May 8 and June 5, 1996.

DICTIONARY

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XYL! Get it?). It's not entirely clear whether this intended to imply that the person in question is either no longer young, has ceased to be a lady, or both. Presumably with the current high incidence of divorce (yet another possible bi-product of your new found obsession with Amateur Radio), there are also a number of XYXs out there. Habitually referring to your Spouse in her presence as "The XYL" has been known to hasten this process.

HARMONICS

The unwanted bi-product of an oscillation. For some reason this has now come to mean "children". Obviously the term was coined by someone who didn't have any because houses containing them are rarely harmonious.

73

Chosen for its rhythm in morse, this means "Best wishes". It takes the same number of syllables to speak it as "best wishes" so no real time penalty. This one is now metamorphosing into "Best 73s" which translates to "Best best wishes's"

88

"Love and Kisses". Chosen for who knows what reason. Usually employed by YLs and XYLs (see above), this should be utilized with care by all who do not fit either of these categories!

807

A type of vacuum tube popular as a power output device a few years ago. This term is now used as a reference to beer - presumably because the glass bottle of the 807 bears absolutely no resemblance to a container for the Golden Throat Charmer!

Author Unknown - Submitted by Kash WB2RAJ

We will continue with some "Q" code definitions next month.



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 BBSVW. If that fails, on 145.61 MHz; 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 fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:00 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

STARS

Terry W. Rockhold KM4XZ
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865



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