

telstar

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

ISSUE 173 FEBRUARY, 1996

From the Prez

As 1996 is well underway, we need to start looking ahead to this rapidly evolving year, to determine where STARS should be heading. The best way to begin is to look at those aspects of the club that are our strengths....

The repeater, potentially one of our strongest assets, is in need of immediate attention. The repeater committee, chaired by WA2IYW, has spent a busy 1995, getting to learn the quirks of our equipment and installation site. Improvements have made a difference, but we have just about peaked as to what can be done with the existing system hardware.



If you, the club members value the repeater as much as I think you do, then the time has come to take a hard look at our options, and make a decision in the very near future, as to the direction we should/should not head into.

There are several solutions to our present limitations, but at least one of them will be very costly. That particular option will take care of our site-induced desense problem once and for all, as well as greatly improve our reception in the fringe areas in Hamburg, etc, but it will be costly. I have made the necessary initial referrals, which will be required if you, the club members feel the expenditures are worth it. We

February Meeting

The February club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

You are invited

Our special guest speaker will be Bob Johnson W2WVC talking about antennas. Bob is one of the leading radio experts in our area, and his previous talks at our club were very professional and well received. This is a great chance for you to learn more about a subject near and dear to the heart of all amateurs!

Don't Let Your Membership Lapse!

Have you remembered to renew your STARS membership for 1996? If you have, you will find your membership card and new repeater codes included with this newsletter unless you have previously received them. The new repeater codes will be going into effect on or about February 1.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet please fill out the membership update form and bring it to the February meeting or send it with your dues to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

STARS is a great club, and we need members like you to keep it great. Renew now!

★ 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 WB2EZX.

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

I would like to say thank you to John KA2RFT and Judy N2TEZ for a job well done on the special net Wednesday Jan. 10th. We had 18 check ins with questions for Judy and John who had all the answers. For more information on Sky Warn or about the National Weather Service you can call Judy

at 565-0204 or

you can leave her voice mail at the same

number. You can

also leave Judy a packet message on BBSVW or you could drop her a line on 145.590 by connecting to KB2UQX or NWSBUF.



On Feb. 7th I will have Anne WI2G and Leo KB2TIY on net with me. They will be on net to answer questions concerning the National Traffic System, the Western District Net, what being a traffic handler is about, HF traffic, CW nets and how to use the system in general.

If anyone is interested in helping out with one of the special nets drop me a line on BBSVW or give me a call at home (992-2011).

Thank You!

Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
Net Control

General/Advanced Training Classes

Vern AA2AC is working on organizing a training course for people wanting to upgrade to General or Advanced class licenses.

The classes will be held on Saturday mornings around the middle of February at a central location to be determined.

Those interested in the classes should contact Vern as soon as possible at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (evenings).

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the January meeting was a nice meeting. Greg is trying out something new. The first part of the meeting is strictly business. Then there will be a pause to let everyone to talk to their buddies, plus the 50/50 drawing. Then the guest speaker or a program will be run until adjournment. It sounds like a good idea.

You know, we usually have a mini-flea market at our meetings. There were ten items on display at this meeting including two transceivers. Hope everyone looked at them on the pool table to the left of the room. We will continue this till the weather gets better and hamfest season starts.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Vern AA2AC wants to start some classes. Last year, several of the students took their test at the STARS VE session with good results. Get in

touch with him if you are interested in upgrading. It is easy to go from a "T" to a "G". STARS is a learning club, and you should take advantage of Vern's offer. He is a good teacher. Get in touch with him and get upgraded. Call 693-5977 days or 634-5276 evenings.

Well, here it is February already, and the President will be appointing chairpersons for the various committees that make the club operate so efficiently and make the club run so smoothly. So join in and have a good time.

Please use the very fine BBS that STARS maintains for the benefit of the members. There is always someone around to guide you through it.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

East Coast Amateur Radio Reopens

In case you haven't already heard, we wanted to let you know that East Coast Amateur Radio has reopened under new management at their old location of 496 McConkey Drive in Tonawanda. Their hours are now Monday thru Friday from 1 to 9 PM and Saturday from noon to 5.

Many people in the area have regretted the loss of this store when it closed, so now is your chance to get back up there and support the new owners.



STARS VE Session

In the VE Session held 1-13-96 at the STARS Club house, one candidate (Richard Lepkowski) received credit for a Tech Plus license and for General written element, one candidate (Marjorie Skrzypek) received credit for a Tech No Code license. One candidate failed advanced. VE's participating were Vern AA2AC Liaison, Norm KD2KK Contact, Fred AA2VZ VE, and Guz WB2EZU VE. Next Stars session is scheduled for March 16, 1996

"Q" CODES

These are three letter codes, all starting with the letter "Q" which are ciphers for complex phrases. With the introduction of audio transmission, the codes became redundant, but there are still those out there who speak the codes as a means of separating the cognoscenti from the uninitiated.

QSL

Originally "I acknowledge receipt", now:

1. A way to say "Yes" using three syllables instead of one.
2. An alternate to "Roger", the single most popular name among amateurs (Roger, Roger).
3. The amateur equivalent of a "Big Ten-four".

QSO

This is supposed to mean "Can you communicate with direct or by relay?" but has now been converted into a word (pronounced KEWSO) to substitute for "chat". Thus, once licensed, you no longer chat to a friend, you have a Kewso with him (or her). Worse yet, if this conversation were to take place without the aid of radio, it would become an "Eyeball Kewso"! There is

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From The Prez

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may be limited by the managers of our site, so nothing is definite as of this date.

The club Nike Base, probably our most underutilized asset, needs to be addressed. We need to finish the site, which will entail laying the linoleum in the back room, something we had decided two years ago. With that done, the site is finished for all practical purposes.

With that in mind, what can we do to improve utilization? How about getting members with areas of interest, to donate one shift (3 hours on one Saturday, every 2 or even 3 months), to demonstrate and teach those particular aspects they would like to focus on.

For example, I could come out and demonstrate packet to those present, with hands on teaching. I am sure Dave, WA2TVT, could come out and demonstrate RTTY; Kash, WB2RAJ could demonstrate how to work dx, including pileups; and Shane, WB2WPM, could demonstrate Slow Scan TV. I am sure Leo, KB2TIY, would be willing to teach us how to format/work NTS traffic.. These are just examples. How about other members demonstrating proper use of soldering equipment, and kit building? What about proper use of test equipment, and setup of mobile installations? I'm sure we could tap Marc, N2UBT, to give a demonstration on setting up peripherals for computer's, some do's and don'ts. This list could go on and on...

Let's not forget, that with minimal capital, and some good old fashioned ingenuity, we could work to get a satellite station at the base, something that should really be a draw, as few of us have our own satellite stations! The same can be said of ATV, which was quite a crowd pleaser last year at the Erie County Fair. (It really excited our club members too!!)

Our VE sessions, led by Norm, KD2KK, and Vern, AA2AC, are running quite well, but there are always opportunities to come out and give a hand!

I am trying to maintain our BBS/packet system, but I certainly could use some volunteers, that could help out as "Co-Sysops", whose role would be to help new/veteran users out by answering their questions, and providing hands-on demonstrations, where necessary.

One of our largest undertakings, the EC Fair, is always in need of new ideas, and of course volunteers. This year, I would like to do more advanced planning, to include some new undertakings at our "second site".

I'll close for now. This month's business meeting will deal with several of these issues, so I think you will want to be there. As always, I look forward to hearing the ideas YOU have. Drop a note in the suggestion box at one of the meetings, or drop me a note on packet. If you are not on packet yet (why not?), you can use the conventional mail system, if you prefer... See you in February!

73, Greg, KE2VW

Sno-Fest

The 1996 Sno-Fest will be held at the Hamburg Nike Base on February 3 and 4. People will have a chance to enjoy many winter-time activities there.

As part of the Sno-Fest, STARS will be hosting visitors at our club house and will demonstrate amateur radio.



We need members to help us with the visitors on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. If you would be willing to help, please contact Nike Base Chairman Shane Brady WB2WPM at 675-5797.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Terry Rockhold	KM4XZ
Vice President	Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Dave Bago	WA2TVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Mike Wojcieszak	WA2HEV

Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold test sessions on 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 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 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 Feb. 14, March 13, April 17, May 8 and June 5, 1996.

"Q" Codes

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very little evidence of serious or lasting optical damage as a result of this strange practice, although it has been publicly condemned by the College of Ophthalmic Opticians. However, until he gains experience, the new ham is advised to wear protective eyewear for his first few "Eyeball Kewso's".

QSY

Officially "Please change frequency to ---kHz." On 2 metres now used to indicate that you are moving (QSYing) to another repeater.

Harder to say but much more satisfying.

QRT

Officially either "I am ceasing transmission" or "Please cease transmission". In audio it becomes "going QRT". See also "Going clear" (not to be confused with transparent).

QRU

It means "I have nothing for you". If you have nothing to say, why say it? (Because the two metre band would be totally silent if we all did that, that's why!)

QTH

Yet another advantage of your licence. You no longer have a house, apartment or address - you now have a QTH! Actually, it's supposed to mean "What is your position (or My position is) in latitude and longitude (or according to any other indication)."

Other people merely live in your town - you have a QTH there.

Author Unknown. Submitted by Kash WB2RAJ.

Video Missing

One of the members borrowed from Terry KM4XZ the video about VHF/UHF radio communication shown at one of our club meetings last year. Terry would appreciate its return.



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.

Board 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 Hamburg Youth Center.

STARS

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