

telstar



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

ISSUE 176

MAY, 1996

Need 120 Hams!

The Empire State Games will be in Buffalo this year from Wednesday July 24th through Sunday July 28th.

Amateur Radio will be a principal form of communications during this activity. Ham operators are needed to cover communications for some twenty-nine sporting activities at thirty different venue locations. This will include communications through out at least two counties. We need ham operators that will be available for both daytime and evening venues. Formal invitations will be available soon.



You need not be a member of any organization to participate. The only requirements are that you possess a valid license Technician or higher, have a 2 meter HT and be at least 18 years of age. No previous experience with public service communications are needed.

Please let me know if you can help.

Ray Baker N2DAY
EC/RO of Erie County

Phone: (716) 668-4870
Email: N2DAY@aol.com
Internet: N2DAY@hamgate.sunyerie.edu
Packet: N2DAY@VE3SNSP

May Meeting

The club meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2 starting 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.



In the business meeting, we will be discussing the club repeaters, the Erie County Fair Display, Field Day, public service events, etc.

Special guest speaker will be Karl Weir N2NJH, who will talk about IPBUFF, our region's link between packet and the internet. There also will be a live demonstration of IPBUFF. Come join us for a great meeting!

Request For Help!

STARS VE team is in dire need of a permanent site to hold ham tests for all new licences and upgrades. We are looking for a hall that could accommodate at least 35 people in the Hamburg area.

We ask all STARS members to contact your clergymen, vets post, Knights of Columbus, etc. that may have a hall that we could use for free. We will need it for at least 5 test sessions on Saturday mornings where we will not be in conflict with the owner's functions. The time frame for a test session is about three and one-half hours.

If you locate such a hall, please contact Woody at 823-0055, Norm KD2KK at 824-1148, or Vern Siegel at 693-5977 (days) or 634-5276 (nights).

★ 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 Leo KB2IY.

Repeater Corner

Here's a quick look at recent happenings and plans for the STARS repeaters for 1996-1997.

Thanks to Greg, KE2VW, the southern club repeater (KE2VW/R, 146.97-, PL 151.4) is back on the air with a great signal and wide coverage from Perrysburg. Those to the southwest having problems with 147.09's coverage holes should check it out.

The UHF repeater is still down, and will be for a while yet. It will be back at the Nike base after more testing using its controller.

A new Polyphaser phone line surge suppressor was installed at Colden on April 13 to prevent another lightning surge from frying our connectors.

That didn't help another strange phone line snafu the same weekend. You could dial in to the repeater, and it could dial out, but there wasn't any dial tone at the site, nor any audio coming in from the party being called. Audio was going out over the line.

Incredibly, and to my relief, after phoning it in Saturday, the phone company fixed it Sunday morning, of all things.

The primary focus the rest of the year is to improve 147.09's pesky coverage and desense problems. We couldn't get an OK to put an antenna on the big TV tower, but we can add one more to the platform with the repeater and packet antennas.

The third antenna will be a new Sinclair SRL229, a heavy duty commercial model with higher gain and a better radiation pattern than the Hustler G7 now being used. It will receive for the repeater. Our Diamond X-500 will replace the G7 and will transmit. The SRL229 will be slightly higher and to the west of the other antennas.

The new antenna has been picked-up and will be installed in a few weeks, after some changes to the grounding and cable routing in the repeater building.

The combination of positioning, gain, pattern, and separation of transmit and receive antennas should improve the 147.09 repeater's

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STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Before I forget, STARS has a VE session on May 11, 1996. Get in touch with Norm KD2KK for the place to take the test. Our amount of people taking the test has dropped down, but the ones that took the test were happy, as every one of them went home with a new license or upgrade. So dear members, with nice weather coming up, please take advantage of it; and then you can have your antenna up when your ticket does arrive.

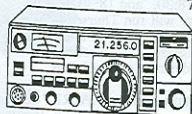
You know there is a lot of action coming up in 1996, so make sure that you will be a part of it. Greg KE2VW would sure like to have the schedule before the Erie County fair and the new things to show the public.

The April meeting was an interesting meeting, and we should thank Kash WB2RAJ and Terry KM4XZ for the nice videos.

Wish to remind you all that this is your club and anything you can do to make it better, why just

let the Board of Directors know about it.

Years ago, most of our transmitters were home made, and receivers were purchased, as a rule at a hamfest. In fact, QST in August, 1995 page 22, there is a simple crystal socket transmitter. It is almost the same as the transmitters in the



70's. What we did was simple.

Everyone would put in a few bucks and helped to assemble it.

When it was finished, we would raffle it off (no, I didn't win it). How about having something like this now at the Nike Base? We got some very good members which I am sure will cooperate. I bet that there would be a lot of surplus parts donated and am sure it will be fun.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

Special Wednesday Night Nets

I would like to say thanks to Terry for a job well done on the special net on Wed. April 10th. He not only answered questions on direction finding but went out into the field and hid. At the same time he was answering your questions, we had several people out looking for him. I am happy to report that a few found him before the close of the net.

The guest speaker in May will be Kash WB2RAJ. Kash will answer any and all questions you may have on DXing. This net will be on Wed. May 8th at 7 PM on the STARS WB2ELW repeater.



I need your suggestions for future nets. If you or anyone you know would like to help out give me a call at 992-2011 or drop me a line on packet at BBSVW

Thank You
Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
Net Control

Public Service Events

As we go to press, many STARS members are joining with other WNY amateurs to provide communications for the March-Of-Dimes Walkathon. We will have a story about it in the next newsletter.

We have had a number of people volunteer for the upcoming MS 150 Bike Tour on June 22 & 23, but we still need more. All that you need to volunteer is a 2 meter radio and 2 meter privileges. No prior experience doing bike treks is necessary. This is a great chance for new hams to learn about public service events and have fun at the same time.

If you have been thinking about volunteering, now is the time to do it! You may volunteer for either or both days. For more information or to volunteer, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.

There also will be one day bike trek for the American Lung Association on August 17 starting and ending in Lockport, and a new one-day MS bike trek in early September.

Erie County Fair Display

The first meeting of the EC Fair committee was held at the Nike Base on 3/30/96 at 14:00Z. Those present reviewed last years display. A number of ideas were brought out in discussion. The summary is as follows:

The shifts should continue as in the past (10:00-14:00, 14:00-18:30, and 18:30-22:30). The EC Fair this year will run Thursday, Aug. 8 through Sunday, Aug. 18. We will aim for 3 hams per shift, as mandatory on weekends, optional (but highly desired) on weekdays.

The signage needs improvement. KA2RFT will procure 2 wooden signs, approx. 18-20 x 24-30 inches, to read "Amateur Radio - live second floor", spaced in 2 lines, with black lettering on a lime-green background. They will be located adjacent to the entrances of the building.

The local communication will be improved. We hope to have the radio and power supply loaned again from KB2JDB. The antenna will be in the attic and will be a 2 meter quad beam, hopefully to be built by KB2HRZ.

The ATV display, as supplied by Vern, was a highlight last year. We hope to have it back with an amplifier, to improve signal strength of the picture.



We are in need of a TV (19 inches or more), and VCR. The VCR is kept under the counter, out of sight. The TV is up on the rack, out of harms way. KE2VW will make a tape using scenes from past Field days, the raising of his 100 foot tower, satellite communications, etc, and limit the tape to about 10 minutes, with repeats to fill a 2 hour video tape. Any volunteers that can help us get the TV and VCR??

Our group today decided that WE WILL BE HOLDING A SPECIAL EVENTS STATION THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE FAIR! The station will be primarily run from volunteers at their home stations, from Thursday, August 8th, thru Sunday, August 18. KD2KK will coordinate the efforts. We will have certificates made up after the event, as recommended by

KA2RFT, using 90 wt. paper. We have pencilled designs to used, and will have them laser printed. Hopefully, KB2KVA will help with effort, regarding the information we need submitted to QST, as he did with the Friendship Festival! The event will be monitored at the EC Fair site, freeing the members there to explain how an event like this works. KE2VW will contact the EC Fair board for some publicity on this event.

KB2TIY will coordinate the nts packet messages, which this year will be limited to N. America, to avoid any third party problems. He will draft 6, or so, sample messages, already in the correct format for people to use in sending out messages. They will be handled by WDN.

KD2KK will again coordinate the antique section, with hopefully the "wall of green" again this year, from WB2WPM. We are looking for some kits, that can have the cover off to view, and some really old equipment this year, such as a working spark gap transmitter, etc. Any ideas for sources on this?

We are hoping WB2WPM, can loan us his pc again this year, with software written by AA2GF, to view SSTV pictures, as we had 2 seasons ago.

KE2VW will load APRS on our club computer (we need an inexpensive newer unit, a PC clone, like a 486.. any thoughts from anyone?). This should make an interesting demo.

We will once again ask N2UBT for a loan of a PC, to use as a satellite tracker. It really caught attention last year. WA2ABN will once again provide his CW

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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 a test session on May 11, 1996. Location of the exam 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 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 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 May 8 and June 5, 1996.



Repeater Corner

Continued From Page 2

performance. If we're still not satisfied, plans are in place to add a remote receiver, albeit with more expense involved.

If we decide to make do without a remote receiver, a versatile digital voice record system using a PC at Colden will be the next major addition this year. This would give us real voice announcements, voice mailboxes, or several other possible applications.

In either case, an audio equalizer is going in place very soon to improve the 147.09 repeater's audio quality. Hopefully, it will make the output sound more like the input signals, which have distinctly better fidelity.

Next year, we'll look at replacing 147.09's old tube-type MastrPro repeater with something newer. Maybe our standby MastrII if it tests OK, maybe something else. The ACC RC-85 controller will not be replaced as long as it keeps working OK.

73's, Paul, WA2IUV

EC Fair Display

Continued From Page 4

station, for the enjoyment of both the young and the old!

We are in need of a cassette player and amplifier, for the "rhythm of the code". Can any one help with this?

N2TEZ will be contacted to provide her Skywarn display, if available again this year. WA2ABN will bring the 24 inch fan for ventilation again this year, in case it's warm again!

Our next meeting will be at the site (EC Fair), on Saturday, May 4th at 10 am. We will meet at the McKinley entrance. This is YOUR chance to come out and see what ideas the site will offer us for our display!

Respectfully submitted, Greg, KE2VW



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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