

# telstar



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

ISSUE 177

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## Write Now!

(Editor's Note: The American Radio Relay League is asking radio amateurs across the United States to help defeat a threat to the two most heavily used amateur VHF and UHF bands. The following editorial will appear in the July 1996.)

Reprinted with permission from July 1996 QST.

Get out a pen and paper, or boot up your computer. There's work to be done! Your help is needed to defend two meters and 70 cm. Yes, that's right -- the two most popular and crowded amateur VHF/UHF bands! But don't panic, and don't "go ballistic."

Here's what's happening, and what you can do about it.



The United States is preparing for the 1997 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-97. In the past, the public has been able to participate in the preparations for such conferences by responding to FCC Notices of Inquiry. In March, the FCC announced a streamlining of its International Bureau's preparatory processes for WRCs. Under the new scheme, the NOIs have been eliminated in favor of increased emphasis on WRC Advisory Committees.

For WRC-97, a series of Informal Working Groups (IWGs) of the Advisory Committee has been created to address specific agenda items. The output of each IWG will go directly to a

## May Meeting

The June club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 6 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 the business meeting, we will have a special program to discuss plans for STARS Field Day '96. This is your best chance to learn all about this year's activities and how you can participate. Don't miss it!



Special Note: Due to the Independence Day holiday, our July club meeting will be held on July 11 and will be at STARS Nike Base club station.

joint FCC-NTIA-Department of State Steering Committee of the Advisory Committee. There, draft proposals as received from the IWGs will be reviewed and forwarded to the FCC for possible release as preliminary U.S. proposals for public comment.

In announcing the streamlined WRC preparatory process, the FCC tried to reassure those who might be concerned about reduced opportunities for public participation: "Interested parties should note that input to the Advisory Committee may be sent at any time directly to the Chair of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee; the Chairs of the Advisory Committee's Informal Working Groups; Cecily C. Holiday, the FCC's federal officer of the WRC-97 Advisory

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# ★ 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 KB2TIY.

## Erie County Fair Display

The second meeting of the EC Fair committee was held at the EC Fair site on 5/4/96 at 10:00Z. Last years display was reviewed, and the site inspected. A number of ideas were brought out in discussion. The summary is as follows:

The proposed sign was examined. KA2RFT will procure 2 wooden signs. The group present felt the lettering needed to be 50% larger than the design reviewed. Sites were found on the concrete block of the building, so lag bolts will be needed to secure the signage, which will be installed before the Fair begins.

KB2JDB will supply the 2 meter radio, for local communication. The antenna, a 2 meter quad, will be in the attic. We are getting the antenna donated.

KE2VW will provide the 19 inch TV. The concept of our club purchasing a VCR, for our video library at the Nike Base, and for loan out to the EC Fair exhibit was endorsed by the group today. It will be brought up before the board, and then the entire club, for vote. 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.

The special event station was discussed with EC Fair officials, present today. They overwhelmingly supported the idea, and instructed KE2VW to work with their Director of Public relations, for some increased press for our display!! KD2KK is working with KB2KVA to get notice in CQ & QST. Norm will develop a schedule to insure that we are only on one band at a given time!

KB2TIY presented 6 sample messages, already in the correct format for people to use in sending out messages. They will be handled by WDN. He will have these loaded into Packet 6.1, on the club computer.

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,

## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the May meeting was a very informative meeting, and we have found a glitch in our volunteer exam program. You know the V.E.'s donate their time and energy to assist you members and help you upgrade so that you can enjoy your hobby more. Due to the budget cuts (at the Hamburg Youth Center), we do not have a room to conduct classes. The various clubs donate a Saturday for our use such as the Moose lodge, the Masons, etc. But we would like to have a permanent place. We had the Youth Center, but the budget was cut, and they eliminated Saturday from their list. so I would like to appeal to our membership to try to help out.

You know, there are more than 240 members and over 100 Technicians and Technician Plus

who as yet have not taken advantage of our efforts to help you all upgrade and gain more knowledge and also more pleasure from your hobby.

You members do not know how WNY clubs have combined to make it easier to get your test. Had the pleasure to talk with some members that came from Erie, PA in order to take the tests.

Talking about our hobby, the May meeting had Karl Weir N2NJH who gave us a nice talk about IPBUFF, our region's link between packet and the internet. What will they think up next? It was very impressive and well informed.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZX

### Lancaster Hamfest

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will present their 8th Annual Lancaster, NY Hamfest on Sunday, June 9, 1996 at the Darien Center Firehall on Route 77 north of Route 20. Talk-in will be on 147.255 (+600), and all amateurs who check in will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 prize.

The hamfest will begin at 6 AM. There will be an extensive outdoor flea market. Each admission ticket entitles the bearer to a no charge outdoor flea market space. There will also be an extensive indoor flea market.



There will be informative programs and an ARRL representative will be present. There also will be a fox hunt at noon with a \$25.00 prize and lots of door prizes awarded hourly.

Tickets are \$4.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. For information, call Jerry N2QLS at 937-3592 or Luke at 683-8880.

STARS will have a table there to recruit new members and to sell raffle tickets. Members are encouraged to help staff the table awhile during their visit to the hamfest.

### *Congratulations*

STARS member Bill Edgar N3LLR, from Bradford, PA, was appointed ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager to replace Bernie Fuller N3EFN when he was appointed Atlantic Division Vice Director.

We had a chance to talk to Bill and Bernie as well as Atlantic Division Director Kay Craigie WT3P and ARRL Vice President Hugh Turnbull W3ABC while attending the ARRL Affiliated Club meeting held in connection with the Rochester Hamfest. Congratulations on your new appointment Bill!

STARS member Jim Moxon N2OSL also deserves congratulations for completing the requirements to become an Extra class ham!

Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT was recently appointed as an Official Emergency Station by the ARRL.

### Field Day '96

Don't forget Field Day on June 22-23 at the Moose Lodge in Hamburg. For more information, come to the club meeting on June 6 or call John KA2RFT at 648-0341.

## Write Now!

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Committee, or to Damon C. Ladson, the alternate federal officer."

Hold that thought while we shift gears to the substance of the issue.

One of the WRC-97 agenda items includes consideration of possible additional frequency allocations for the mobile-satellite service. So-called "little LEOs," low-earth orbit satellites below 1 GHz, already have allocations. Their proponents claim these are inadequate and are trying for more. The needs of little LEOs are being addressed in IWG-2A, chaired by Warren Richards of the Department of State. The ARRL technical relations staff participates in IWG-2A to represent Amateur Radio interests.

At the May 7 IWG-2A meeting, an industry representative proposed a list of "candidate bands" for little LEOs. The list includes a number of bands that would negatively impact existing services, and does not include others that would be technically more feasible but to which strong objection from incumbents could be expected -- the point being that some political, rather than purely technical, judgment already has influenced the list.

Incredibly, 144-148 and 420-450 MHz were included on the list! This is the first time in memory that another service has been proposed for the two-meter amateur band. We must make sure it is also the last time.

We do not need to explain to ARRL members the extensive use that is made of these bands by amateurs. The two bands provide the backbone of our local public service communications effort. Voice and data, mobile and fixed, even television -- the list of present amateur uses is a long one, and of future uses is even longer. Both are already used for satellite services and for moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power.

Apparently we did need to explain all this to the little LEO industry representatives, so we did just that -- both at the meeting and in a followup letter on May 15. We also explained that we had

to regard the matter as extremely serious. No one with the slightest background in radio-communication could possibly believe that a mobile-satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future amateur operations. Therefore, we said, if we did not receive assurance that they would be taken off the list of candidate bands by the deadline for this issue of QST, we would have no choice but to bring the matter to the attention of the entire membership.

The response we received was unsatisfactory. In effect, we were told the little LEO industry would consider our views but that until their spectrum needs are satisfied, all bands must remain under consideration.

So, this is a call to action. We must get across to the industry and government participants in IWG-2A that the 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz bands cannot be considered as candidates for mobile-satellite services. We need to drive the point home so forcefully, with so many grassroots responses, that no one is ever tempted to try this again.

Which brings us back to that invitation for "interested parties" to send input "at any time." There's no time like the present! Here are the key addresses, including those of the mobile-satellite industry folks who seem to have started the ruckus:

Cecily C. Holiday, International Bureau, FCC,  
Washington, DC 20554; holiday@fcc.gov;  
FAX (202) 418-0748.

Warren G. Richards, Chair, IWG-2A,  
Department of State, CIP 2529, Washington,  
DC 20520; richardswg@ms6820wpoa.  
us-state.gov; FAX (202) 647-7407.

## 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 Baco	WA2TVT
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Mike Wojcieszak	WA2HEV

## Amateur Radio Examinations

STARS will hold test sessions during 1996. Dates and location of the exams will be announced. 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 a test session on June 12, 1996. For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding a test session on 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.

Tracey Weisler, FCC Rep., IWG-2A, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; [twisler@fcc.gov](mailto:tweisler@fcc.gov); FAX (202) 418-2824.

Mary Kay Williams, Final Analysis, Inc., 7500 Greenway Center, Ste. 1240, Greenbelt, MD 20770; FAX (301) 474-3228.

Leslie Taylor, President, LTA, 6800 Carlynn Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; [ltaylor@lta.com](mailto:ltaylor@lta.com); FAX (301) 229-3148.

Do comment. But be civil. Don't abuse people who are simply doing their jobs. We have to get across that casting covetous eyes on amateur bands is counterproductive, and contrary to the public interest. To accomplish this we need a lot of comments, including yours. But remember that the objective is to educate and persuade, not to intimidate. We don't need to. The facts are on our side.

To monitor the FCC's ongoing WRC-97 preparations, visit its WRC-97 home page at: <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc97/>.

Write now. Right now!

-- David Sumner, K1ZZ

## Fair Display

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and some really old equipment this year, such as a working spark gap transmitter, etc. KD2KK thought the Antique Wireless Association might serve as a good place to start. Anyone have a connection with this group?

KE2VW will contact N2UBT for a possible loan of 2 pc's for the event. The group today decided to rearrange the display, to accommodate the special event station. The Hf will go where the code setup was, with a large wall-mounted cork-backed map of the world, that will hold pins of contacts made during the event! This map will be part of the EC Fair's promotion of our special event station!!

KE2VW will try to get an automatically repeating cassette player for the "rhythm of the code". We still need an amplifier. Can anyone help with this?

Our next meeting will be at the Nike Base on Saturday, June 8th, at 10:00am. This will be one of the last meetings for the committee. WE NEED YOU THERE! If you have ANY ideas, about what you would like/not like to see at the EC Fair exhibit, please get them to me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg, KE2VW

## Public Service Events

People, Inc. is sponsoring a 5K race and a 1 mile walk in downtown Buffalo on June 20. A few volunteers are needed to provide communications for the event. Volunteers will need to be at Lafayette Square at 6 PM and will probably be done by 8 PM. To get more information or to volunteer, contact Leo Karr KB2TIY at 684-2389.

A few volunteers are also still needed for the MS Bike Tour on June 22 and 23. Also we are also recruiting for one-day bike tours for the American Lung Association in August and the Multiple Sclerosis Society in September. For any of these bike tours, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.



# 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

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