

telstar



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

ISSUE 178

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STARS Honored by ARRL!

STARS has been appointed a "Special Service Club" by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The Special Service Club recognition is reserved for Amateur Radio clubs that meet the highest standards of community service established by the ARRL, which represents over 160,000 amateur radio operators in the US.



STARS has been an ARRL Affiliated Club for more than 25 years. Out of more than 2000 affiliated clubs, only about 20% qualify for the Special Service Club designation.

To qualify for this honor, STARS had to submit an application outlining our activities in the areas of new ham development and training, public relations, emergency communications, technical advancement, operating activities and miscellaneous activities. We covered many areas, such as the Erie County Fair Display, the training classes and VE exams, our club nets, public service events, the Nike Base club station, the STARS KE2VW BBS, Field Day, our Youth Center station and the work of members with children, programs by guest speakers, special event stations, etc.

This is a great honor recognizing the efforts of many of our members to advance amateur radio in Western New York. We congratulate all STARS members!

July Meeting

The club meeting will be held on July 11 starting at 7 PM at the Nike Base Club Station (Lakeview Rd. 1.75 east of Rte. 20). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



We will be talking about the Erie County Fair display, the summer raffle, Field Day, public service events and more.

Don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on. In case of bad weather, listen to the STARS repeater for announcements.

Fifth Anniversary!

This issue marks the fifth anniversary for me editing the Telstar. It certainly has passed quickly. I took over when the previous editor Steve KB2EQV was leaving to go to college.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me through the years. Guz WB2EZU has been doing his monthly column since long before I took over. Greg KE2VW has written his From the Prez and Packet Racket columns. Paul WA2IYW is now doing some great articles in his Repeater Corner. Tony KB2OUT, Shane WB2WPM and others have submitted articles.



I have a new computer now, and as soon as I can learn to use the new desktop publishing program, I will be giving the newsletter a new fresh look.

Terry KM4XZ

★ 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.

Batavia Hamfest

The 1996 Batavia Hamfest, sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs, Inc., (GRAM) will be held on Sunday, July 28 at the Alexander Fire Department Recreation Grounds on route 98 south of Alexander, NY. The outdoor flea market will begin at 6 A.M., and the indoor vendors will begin at 8:30 am. Talk-in will be done on the 145.31 repeater. There will be a contest check-in on 146.52 simplex.

Tickets are \$4.00 advance purchase and \$5.00 at the gate (under 12 are free). Advance tickets can be obtained from Barb Carlson KB2AXM, 26 Burke Drive, Batavia, NY 14020. Make checks payable to GRAM. A large SASE would be appreciated.

Flea market spots are \$2.00 for an 8' space and \$4.00 for an 8' covered space. Camping is permitted at no extra charge. There will be breakfast served from 6:30 till 10. Afterwards, there will be lunch served including their famous chicken barbecue at 11 (pre-sale Sunday only).



Prizes include an Alinco DX-70T HF/6 meter mobile, an ICOM 2350H 2 meter/ 70 centimeter mobile, a KAM Plus all mode TNC, a MFJ 259 SWR Analyzer and a Comet GP-3 base antenna.

There will be an ARRL forum at 9 and a talk by Joe Fairclough WB2JKJ on education through communication.

Weather permitting, there will be a high altitude ATV balloon launch at 10.

STARS will have a booth there to recruit new members for our club and to sell raffle tickets.

Public Service Events

Volunteers are still needed for communications at the Empire Games in Buffalo 7/24-28. Call Ray Baker N2DAYat 668-4870 immediately!

Ditto for one-day bike tours for ALA on 8/24 at Lockport and MS on 9/7 at Darien Lake Theme Park. Call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011.

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, never a dull moment at STARS. Due to July 4th is on Thursday, the club meeting has been moved to July 11th. Not only that, the meeting will be at the Nike Base Club station. So please keep that date open. A good chance to talk over the Field Day events! Hope nature will be kind to us.



The V.E.'s are still looking for a permanent site to conduct our sessions. Not only that, but Vern AA2AC will conduct classes to give everyone a chance to upgrade, so let him know if you are interested. They will start in the fall. So, maybe by

December 1996 you will change from a T to a G and end 1996 in a good year.

Greg is still looking for more help at the Erie County fair as more action has been added and more help is needed. So put your name on the list and help out. You will enjoy it very much and meet a lot of people who want to become hams.

By the way, do you want a cheap antenna to start off with? In QST for July, page 57, is a very great idea and sure seems to perform good. It runs about \$50.00 just for the antenna. Let me know if you put it up and how results were.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

STARS Raffle '96

STARS is again holding a big summer-time raffle!

The winner will receive choice of one of the following:

ICOM IC-2000H 2 meter 50W mobile transceiver, or

Kenwood TH22AT(H) 2 meter 5W HT, or

AEA PK96/100K packet TNC, or

Timewave DSP-59+ DSP Noise Filter, or

Bearcat BC-890XLT 200 Channel Scanner, or

\$275.00 in cash

Tickets will be a donation of \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 21, 1996.



This is an important fund raising effort for STARS. We ask members support both in buying tickets and in taking packets of tickets to sell to family, friends, workmates, etc. Contact Mike WA2HEV at club meetings or by calling 675-3757 to obtain tickets.

Radio Direction Finding

A hidden transmitter hunt will be held on Saturday, July 20 beginning at the Cheektowaga Town Park (on Harlem Road between Walden and Genesee). The hunt will begin at 10 am so you should be there a little earlier to check-in. The hidden transmitter operator will be Bob N2ZTM. All are invited to participate.

Transmitter hunters will also be involved in searching for the high altitude ATV balloon package to be launched at the Batavia Hamfest on July 28.

For more information on direction finding, call Terry KM4XZ at 656-0865.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to STARS student member Don Trzepacz Jr. KB2UVI for a front page story and picture in the Memorial Day issue of The Buffalo News.

The story outlines Don's efforts in to restore a historic cemetery in Elma as a final step towards achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts Troop 238 in Elma. Don was assisted by other Boy Scouts and local Girl Scouts in the project. Great job by all!

Erie County Fair Display

The third meeting of the EC fair committee was held at the Nike Base on June 8th, at 10:00 EDT.

The quad antenna offered by KF2WM does not seem likely. Joe, KB2JDB will bring a 2 meter antenna to the next meeting, to try. KE2VW has just secured a 5/8 groundplane to use in the attic as well. We still need a 10 - 20 amp power supply.

We have not heard from KA2RFT as to whether the signs are done. We need them to erect this July! KE2VW will contact KA2RFT after field day.

KE2VW has the 19 inch TV to loan for the fair. He has purchased the club's VCR, a nice Sony HIFI VHS VCR, with a lifetime parts & service warranty! WA2ABN has provided us with a tube amplifier to use with the sound system. We utilize this for the rhythm of the code. KE2VW will loan us an autoreverse tape deck.

KD2KK informed the group that the QST & CQ information is in for our special events station. They listed 80/20/15 correctly, but our 40 meter frequency was listed out-of-band! We will attempt to have KB2KVA correct this, before it goes to press. KD2KK is developing the schedule for the sp. events station.

N2UBT has 2 486(s) to loan to the club for the station. One will be for satellite tracking, the other SSTV, if we can get the software to change pictures, as well as the SSTV pictures themselves. We need help on this one. Are any club members able to help out with either???

KD2KK contacted the Antique Wireless Association, who are not interested in helping out, due to the length of the EC Fair event.

Judy will provide her SKYWARN display, and will be able to provide a video on bad weather (i.e. Hurricanes, etc.) on their VCR unit.

AA2AC is working on a better antenna for the ATV unit. This may mitigate the need for an amplifier. KE2VW contacted the EC Fair's

public relations director, who felt that it would be best to announce the times of ATV demonstrations, in advance to attract a crowd!! We are thinking about 1, 3, & 7 PM times.

We will ask KM4XZ to follow up on handouts, including club info, and pamphlets, which are low.

AA2GW has very graciously donated \$50 to the club, and given it to N2ZTL, who will print business cards, to leave at the information booth at the fair, and to directly hand out to people as they leave other exhibits, informing them of our exhibit, and the traffic we are sending out gratis! KE2VW will work with the EC Fair public relations staff to get an article on our exhibit in their brochures. They also have committed to getting us some commercial television exposure!

AA2GW will be donating us additionally a US map to put onto the cork board being fabricated for the special events station, and 30 ft of coax with ends, to provide the hookup to the attic 2 meter antenna. KE2VW has contacted the ATV club of WNY about giving us some ATV footage from one of their balloon flights, but he has not been able to get a firm commitment on this.

N2DNR will get plans for a spark gap transmitter to WA2ABN. WA2ABN will provide us with 2 fans to provide cooling for the display, and especially its staff! KB2OUT will be contacted to provide the other floor fan that he provided last year.

We are in need of antique radios, in visibly good condition, thought they need not be working, for

See EC Fair Display 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
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 ocaon of the exams iwll 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 be holding test sessions during 1996. For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test session during 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.

MS 150 Bike Tour

STARS members joined with other WNY amateur radio volunteers to provide communications for the MS 150 Bike Tour on June 22 & 23 to St. Bonaventure in Olean.

Members included Terry KM4XZ, Mike WA2HEV, Garry KB2TDT, Jim N2OSL Dave K2ECK, Mike N2YNL, Cheryl KB2REF, Leo KB2TIY, Terri KB2TRS, Bob N2ZTM, Fred KA2EUS, Dana KB2WTB, Lembit KB2VWA, Don KB2UVI and Al KB2TFI. Others included Les KC2JY, Joe N2PPC, Roger KB2YNH, Al N2UBW, Dave KB2VVD, Steve N2QJE, Don KB2VDT, Dave KB2VVV and Anita KB2VVW.

Field Day '96

STARS again held their Field Day behind the Moose Lodge in Hamburg. With the area having been cleared out this year, the three HF stations were spread further apart. New hams joined with old Field Day veterans to put our WB2ELW call on the air.

We hope to have a complete report on Field Day in our next newsletter.

EC Fair Display

Continued From Page 4

the display, since WB2WPM's "wall of green" is no longer!

Leo KB2TIY has provided some excellent samples of the message types he wishes to use. The group felt that more room for message content, as written by the sender, should be included in at least one of the messages.

The group also felt that if we could get enough help, talented in carpentry, that we could using some plywood, 2x4 lumber, and a door frame for top, construct one table, behind the wall, which we could box in, as we did for the front table, so we could have a secure storage area for pamphlets, keys, etc., as WA2ABN is unable to provide his foot locker this year. Can any of you carpenter types get back to me before the next committee meeting?

Our next club meeting on July 11th will discuss the plans for this year's events, and a schedule for signing up will be available for the first time. The next meeting of the committee, and probably the last, will be held on Sat. July 13th from 9am, until ?. At that time we will: 1) Put up the 2 signs KA2RFT is providing. 2) Install the 2 meter antenna, and run the feedline. 3) Hopefully, build this one last table, if we can get the man power to help design and construct this.

We need each of you to help us out this year. With the potential threats to our bands, whether real or just perceived THIS TIME, we MUST get ourselves out into the public's eye. This exhibit is a huge undertaking, and a few of us can't do it alone. It is the ONLY exhibit of its kind, of this size, in our region. Please help us out on this one!

See you at the EC Fair site on Saturday, July 13 at 9am, at the McKinley gate.

Respectfully submitted, Greg, KE2VW

New (Old) Call

Woody AA2TL has again become Woody KB2ESN.



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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