

telstar



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

ISSUE 179

AUGUST 1996

STARS Field Day 1996

I wonder how many club members really know what Field Day is all about and, and why we have a Field Day each year? Is there a purpose behind this event, other than a bunch of Amateur Radio operators taking to the field, stringing up antennas, setting up stations and contesting all day and night, just to compete with other Amateurs in this fun filled activity? Not for one moment; let's assume that next week we have a natural disaster like a tornado, or even an earthquake, and all power was down, the only form of communication was via Amateur Radio. This is not a hypothetical scenario, it happens all around the world each year, especially during the hurricane season. Would you as a licensed Amateur have the knowledge to set up an emergency station using only portable power and makeshift antennas? Well, Field Day provides the experience and the skills needed to accomplish this task. Many of lives have been saved because Amateurs around the world have put forth the effort to equip themselves with these necessary skills, and many have done so through events, like Field Day.



The rules established by the ARRL are only a means of recording how effective your portable station is compared with other stations

See Field Day 1996 on Page 4

August Meeting

Our club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 1 at our Nike Base Club Station on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20. All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

Final plans for the Erie County Fair Display will be discussed as well as many other projects.



After the business meeting, we will have our annual cook-out. The club will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. You are invited to bring finger foods to share with the other members. Good company and free food! What more could you want?

From the Prez

Hi fellow STARS members:

With the EC Fair only 2 weeks away, I am asking you to sign up for AT LEAST one 4 hour shift (if you haven't already!!) We have less than 1/3 of shifts signed up for. We can not continue this exhibit, unless we get your cooperation! By the meeting, it will be too late. I plan to have the passes available for that meeting!



I need help on the 2-6:30pm shifts Thursday 8/8, Mon 8/12, Tuesday 8/13, Friday 8/16, Saturday

See From the Prez on Page 2

★ 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.

From The Prez

Continued From Page 1

8/17 & Sunday 8/18. I need help on the 6:30-10:30pm shifts on Sat 8/10, Sunday 8/11, Mon 8/12, Tuesday 8/13, Wed 8/14, Thursday 8/15, Sat 8/17 & Sun 8/18.

Once those are filled, then the partially filled shifts (8 others) will be filled as well. Many of the above shifts have NO ONE scheduled to work. We are committed to having at minimum 2 club members at each shift. There are several of you who have made a huge commitment, so those of you, (and you know who you are), please ignore this message.

For those new to the club, remember, you need NO experience. You will be with others who have some.. remember, our's is a learning club!

Passes for entry (valid the entire day) will be given to those who volunteer their efforts. Parking passes will NOT be given, but if you submit your hang tag after the EC Fair is over, you will be reimbursed the entire \$4 parking fee by the club..

BTW, last week KA2RFT and myself hung the 2 new signs, and BOY, do they catch people's eyes. They are 3x4 feet in size! I then stayed the rest of that day and completed painting the new table/storage facility that was built the week before, thanks to the efforts of WA2ABN, AA2GW, N2ZDL, KB2VWC, and KA2WYE, who also helped me install our new 2 meter omni antenna, to provide local communication to the various repeaters/ground crews! Thanks guys!

The EC Fair construction work is now DONE!! (except perhaps a new outdoor 80 meter dipole... maybe next year... maybe sooner)

For those of you who have committed equipment, please bring it to the Nike Base at August's club meeting (the picnic).

Also, I need help with setup (Tuesday, Aug 6th, starting at 1pm, going until...), and takedown (Monday, Aug 19, starting at 9am). You can reach me at 537-2830, and leave a message, or via the BBS.

73, see you at the club meeting, Greg KE2VW

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the weather man was kind to our members for our July meeting. Keep your fingers crossed for our August meeting as it is a more attended meeting as all the club family is invited to a cook-out and goodies, including the children also.

By the way, our big moment is coming up to show the people in Western New York what Amateur Radio is all about. Greg has a very nice display planned for the Erie County Fair and people to explain to the guests what it is all about. People are not very well acquainted with what you members do with your nice hobby. By the way, get in touch with Greg and put your name on the list for a few hours at the desk. Remember some antique radio equipment could be brought in to show how the radios are used in the good old days. I know some of our members can locate some very fine units to open the eyes on display. So please help Greg fill up the list as soon as possible.

STARS has been appointed as a Special Service

Club by the ARRL out of more than 2000 clubs, only 20% qualify for this service, so keep up the good work.

You know this has been very good antenna weather. Hope you all took advantage of it.

On page 35 of QST, August 1996 is a very good idea to help you get a tower up the right way. So study the plans before you start so you know what you are in for.

You know, I would like to see more members taking advantage of our VE sessions. There is going to be a nice VE session at the Buffalo Hamfest. Get in touch with Norm KD2KK; he can make arrangements for you at the hamfest or with other clubs as at the present time we do not have a room for our sessions. Don't deny yourself the privilege of upgrading and more enjoyment from your equipment.

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.

Chaffee Hamfest

The Fifth Annual Chaffee Hamfest and Computer Show will be held on Saturday, August 24 at Manion Park in Chaffee, NY. From Buffalo, take NY 400 south to Route 16 to Chaffee. Turn right on Grove Street (across from hotel) and proceed one quarter mile to hamfest. Gates open at 6:00 AM.

There will be free tailgating (with admission), dealer display, door prizes and refreshments available. Admission is \$3.00 advance sales and \$4.00 at the gate.

Tickets can be ordered by sending an SASE and check made payable to Bob Michals, 1500 Genesee Road, Arcade, NY 14009.

Talk-in will be on the 145.39 repeater. For further details, call Mike Buttino N2LBV and Mike Wrona KB2TDN 675-2071,



STARS Field Day 1996

Continued From Page 1

participating in the same event. Also it adds a little competition and fun for those Amateurs that want to enhance their skills in all facets of portable emergency communications. This can and does include HF, VHF, SATELLITE and this year SPACE SHUTTLE, the whole ball of wax.

This is another advantageous opportunity for new amateurs to get acquainted to the hobby and to enhance their operating skills on frequency privileges outside of their present license class.

The Field Day committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the 21 members who attended and participated in our event this year and also all who helped by lending equipment, in making this year a great Field Day. THANK YOU!

Just a little bit of what Field Day setup consisted of this year. First station to setup was the 20 & 40 meter ssb. Al K2DWI, Station Engineer and Supervisor, instructed as to where he wanted the bidirectional dipole antennas placed and the fun began.

Without any problem, Little John KA2RFT with the help of his trusty bow strung the lines and raised the antennas to about 40 feet.

While this was going on, Al and his helpers managed to get a wall tent set up and things were going well. The station was starting to look promising. As we stood and gazed at the marvel we had just accomplished, oh boy! One station up and no serious problems.

On to the next station, the 40 meter CW tent. Bob WA2ABN, Station Engineer and Dining-fly Consultant, paced out the exact location to set up the dining-fly and painted an X on the ground. Bob put his left hand to his forehead shading his eyes from the noontday sun and located the precise trees for the antenna. Grabbing Little John by the arm and pointing to the preferred tree, explained in detail as to what limb and the route the arrow should travel. Little John

without remorse drew his bow to the fullest and whizzed the arrow with extreme accuracy.

There was a new addition to the CW station this year. Bob WA2ABN loaned us his computer and most contacts were computer generated and logged via computer. This worked out very well, after some grounding problems were solved. Bob operated and made about 95% of the 510 qso's logged, thanks to Bob and his perseverance. Because we were fortunate enough to have a dining-fly expert as Station Supervisor, we had very few problems constructing the shelter. This station would have been on the air by 2:00 PM EST; but, when it was time to fire up the rig, guess what? Gene KE2LO forgot the power cord for the rig. No need to tell you that the Bronco violated a few speed limits on the way back to Orchard park and back to the site.

Now to the next station, the 80 meter ssb. with Fred AA2VZ, Chief Engineer, resident Custodian and Station Supervisor. Well, by the time I arrived at this station site, the antenna was in place. There were about 10 people each holding a pole and corner of the dining fly. All I could hear was Fred saying, I think we have the wrong tent poles. Everyone was playing musical poles, and the music never stopped. I never knew what a Chinese Fire Drill really was, now I know. After about 60 minutes of trial and error and nothing working, Fred suggested that he truck back home and pick up the proper poles. Someone suggested before we take that route, let's start over and give some thought to this whole situation. It only took a cool head and a little common sense to come up with the proper



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 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 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.

tent pole placement. I hope that someone had the foresight to make a sketch or drawing or instructions on how it went together because I don't think many of us could go through this another year.

The frustration was growing, and people were anxious to power up the rig and check out the antenna and SWR. But, before that, the generator needs to be gassed up and started. You guessed it, the generator wouldn't stay running. It kept stalling. Murphy had to be involved. All the curb-stone mechanics jumped in, and each one hovered over the engine espousing their theory as to the cause and what had to be done to repair the problem. It began to look like a complete overhaul. A voice from the gallery stated that it appears to be a fuel problem, maybe a dirty filter. The kibitzer just happened to be Jack KB2ESM. After the suggestion, one of the guys said, you just might be right Jack, let's give it a look. The sediment bowl was removed, and the filter cleaned with a napkin and replaced. With fingers crossed and a pull of the rope, HURRAH! It started and purred like a kitten.

After these fiascoes, it was time to get down to business and get down to business they did. 80

SKYWARN

There is a new SKYWARN net heard every Thursday night on the 145.31 repeater. It was originally planned to start at 7:30 PM, but we heard that it might now be starting at 7:15 PM, so check both times!

In the past, SKYWARN net operators used whatever repeater was closest to the action. This year they are trying a new plan. SKYWARN spotters in the Niagara Frontier (Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming counties should look for the SKYWARN net operators on the primary repeater of 145.31 with a backup repeater of 146.64. People in the Western Southern Tier (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties) will use a primary repeater on 146.88 with a backup on 146.79. Genesee Valley and Western Finger Lakes (Monroe, Livingston, Ontario and Wayne counties) will use a primary repeater on 146.88 and a backup on 146.82.

STARS Swap Net

I am looking for a Alternate NCS for the Swap Net. It would be helpful if they had Packet and or a E-Mail account to exchange the currant list. Give me a call at 684-2389.

Thanks De Leo II KB2TIY

Autodial Change

It has become necessary for me to change my home phone number. Thanks to Tony KB2OUT, Ron AA2VM and Leo KB2TIY for getting out my new phone number on the Tuesday Night Swapnet and the Wednesday General Net. For those of you who do not regularly check in to the nets and who want autodial slots, my new number is 874-2647.

Happy Dialing! Mick N2PZX in Riverside

meters was alive, and the antenna was performing beyond expectations. One CQ CQ Field Day, and the pile up had started. WB2ELW was heard throughout the US & Canada.

See Part II of Field Day 1996 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.

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