

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 180 SEPTEMBER 1996

Buffalo Hamfest '96

The Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show will be held on September 21 at the Erie County Fairgrounds on South Park Avenue (Route 62), Hamburg, NY. This will be combined with the ARRL Western New York Section convention. The outdoor flea market will open at 6 AM and the indoor commercial exhibits will open at 8:30 AM in the International Agri-Center building. Talk-in will be on the 147.090 repeater.



Tickets are \$5.00 at the gate (children under 12 are free). Flea market spaces are an additional \$5.00 for each parking space occupied.

A full schedule of programs will be presented. At 10 AM, Ed Hare KA1CV, ARRL Laboratory Supervisor, will talk on "The QST Product Review Testing Process". At 11 AM, Bernie Fuller N3EFN, Vice Director, ARRL Atlantic Region, will host an ARRL Forum. At noon, STARS member Judy Levan N2TEZ, will talk on SKYWARN.

STARS will be busy with the VE team giving exams starting at 1:30 PM and with one table indoors to tell people about STARS and another table outdoors to sell raffle tickets. Our raffle drawing will occur at the hamfest that afternoon. We need volunteers to staff our tables!

September Meeting

The September club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, September 5 at the club's 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.



Remember to bring your lawn chairs to sit on. In case of bad weather, listen to the 147.090 repeater for possible rescheduling of the meeting.

Come on out to hear about current club activities and to share some fellowship with other club members. Hope to see you there!

STARS Raffle '96

STARS big summer-time raffle will soon be here! Get your tickets before it is too late!

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.

★ STARS ★

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio; and 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.

Pumpkin Patrol

Dear Fellow STARS members, some of you may recall an event that we helped with in 1993 along with numerous other clubs through out New York State called the PUMPKIN PATROL.

The PUMPKIN PATROL — Capt. Gerald T. Derby (now retired) New York State Police summed up this public service event as follows:

"The purpose of this action is to assist the State Police with "Operation Pumpkin Patrol"...the assistance rendered shall be in the form of observation and subsequent notification of law enforcement authorities...

What we did to assist the New York State Police was to post ourselves near over passes on the N.Y.S. Thruway and other major highways on Halloween night. In the past there have been people injured or even killed when debris has been thrown from over passes down to on coming cars.

Terry forwarded a letter to me from a Sergeant Andrew F.O'Mara, N.Y.S. Police. The sergeant replaced Capt. Gerald Derby when he retired. I was asked to coordinate the pumpkin patrol for 1996 since I was the coordinator in 1993. I discussed this matter with the STARS board on 8-22-96 and they gave the approval to do the event.

In the sergeant's letter he says he could make himself available most anytime to address the officers of the club as well as the club itself. I called him on Fri. Aug.23rd but he is on vacation till the end of the month. They assured me that he would get back to me as soon as he returns. I am going to ask him to attend our Oct. 3rd. meeting and explain what the Pumpkin Patrol is and answer any questions you may have. Maybe he could bring the pictures that we the volunteers of 1993 saw on just what damage can be done by these acts of vandalism.

I know Halloween is still a couple of months off but there is much work to be done to coordinate this event. I will be asking for volunteers to help for the evening of Thurs. Oct. 31st. If you or anyone you know can help with this very worth while event give me a call at 992-2011 or drop me a line on BBSVW or e-mail me at kb2out@juno.com.

See Pumpkin Patrol on Page 5

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the August meeting was sure a nice day weatherwise and nice to see youngsters enjoy themselves even when they did not know each other until that time. After the meeting, we had the pleasure of Jack KB2ESM grilling a few hot dogs and hamburgers. He was lucky to have Judy N2TEZ assisting him in doling out the goodies. We even had soft drinks and cookies to feed the appetites of the members. Everyone was sorry to go and I am sure that it will be remembered for some time.

Oh well, December is the installation of officers, and at that time the special cooks sure put out a nice spread of cookies. I never saw so many colored pastries at one table.

Well, the Erie County fair is long past and I am sure that the volunteers were happy to assist and

make a nice display. It sure looked professional, and the children got to use the key to tap out their names. They all went home with the dits and dahs still ringing in their ears.

Well, now we can get down to basics and put our signals on the air again. You know with September coming upon us, it is a good idea to take a good look and see if your antennas are in good shape. Better now with nice weather than after you have to change the antenna wires with bad weather. In the September QST page 61 is a nice review test and a lot of info which you should try to remember, so try it. Don't turn the page over until you are done with the answers.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

FCC to open Gate 2 For Vanity Call Signs

The FCC has announced that vanity call sign filing Gate 2 will open September 23. Under Gate 2, Amateur Extra class licensees may request a vanity call sign on or after that date. File requests on FCC Form 610V. Legibility is critical. If your application is not legible, you could experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want.

Under Gate 2, you must hold an unexpired Amateur Extra class operator/primary station license to request a vanity call sign for your primary station. To request a vanity call sign for a club station under Gate 2, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as the license trustee. Applicants should refer to the licensee data base to verify that a requested call sign is not already assigned. A call sign is normally assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void ab initio, or death of the grantee.

Using Form 610V, provide a list of up to 25 call signs in the order of preference. The first assignable call sign on the list will be assigned to

your station. Remember: When requesting a call sign under Gate 2 for your primary or club station, the call sign must have been unassigned for at least two years. As an Amateur Extra class operator, you may request a call sign from any group, A, B, C or D.

Any call sign requested must be one designated for the region of your mailing address, as follows:



One of the contiguous 48 states: Regions 1 to 10.
 Alaska: Regions 1 to 11. American Samoa:
 Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 8.
 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands:
 Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 0.
 Guam: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having
 numeral 2. Hawaii: Regions 1 to 10, or Region
 13 having numeral 6 or 7. Puerto Rico: Regions
 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 3 or 4.
 Virgin Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12
 having numeral 2.

See Vanity Calls on Page 5

Repeater Corner

This month's column is a more detailed look at the autopatch—a topic first covered in the August 1995 Repeater Corner, which addressed basic repeater rules and operating procedures.

First, a brief recap of the applicable FCC Rules. All autopatches are a form of third party traffic. To legally conduct such traffic there are three requirements: (1) there must be a control operator at each station's control point; (2) for international autopatches, there must be a third party agreement between the foreign country and the U.S.; (3) for international autopatches, U.S. stations must identify both stations' call signs at the end of the traffic.

Repeaters are normally remotely controlled by touchtone commands over the phone line or over the air. Having one of the repeater control operators monitoring at a remote control point satisfies requirement (1), which applies to all autopatches.

Requirement (2) is also satisfied for autopatches made from Canada, a country with which the U.S. has a third party agreement.

Requirement (3) is satisfied as long as proper ID's are made. (Remember, U.S. stations operating in Canada must state so in their ID, for example, "portable VE3".)

In addition, the FCC has "business rules" for using the repeater and/or the autopatch. Please refer to the August 1995 column for these.

Currently, the club's repeater committee and board are reviewing our repeater control procedures to ensure that the club repeaters continue to be in compliance with requirement (1) above. If further review requires any changes to our autopatch procedures, the membership will be notified ASAP.

In particular, as of now, autopatches made from Canada are legal and permitted on the club's 2m repeater. Also, there are no legal limitations to area codes from which an autopatch may be originated.

These are the legal conditions under which the club operates the autopatch. However, the club imposes other restrictions on autopatches in

accordance with ARRL guidelines and club policies.

These additional restrictions are:

1) Autopatches should not be made solely to avoid telephone toll charges. Autopatches should never be made when normal telephone service could just as easily be used.

2) Third parties should never be retransmitted until the responsible control operator has explained to them the nature of amateur radio. This avoids confusing, embarrassing or obscene incidents on the air.

3) Control of the station should never be relinquished to an unlicensed person, as when a third party uses a foreign language you don't understand, or a third party attempts to communicate over the autopatch with any station other than the two stations involved in the traffic.

4) Autopatches must be terminated immediately in the event of any illegality or impropriety.

5) Autopatches should be kept as brief as possible as a courtesy to other amateurs, since the amateur bands are intended to be used primarily for communications among radio amateurs.

6) Autopatches may only be made to exchanges on the approved list published in the annual repeater user instructions. Otherwise the club is charged for a toll call.

7) Station identification must be given clearly BEFORE you begin an autopatch so control operators know you are an authorized user. (This applies for ANY touchtone function on the repeater.)

The club has designated control operators

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 on 11/16 during 1996 and 1/11 and 3/15 during 1997 at Grace Luthern Church (McKinley and Newton Roads).

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 on 9/11, 10/16, 11/20, and 12/18 during 1996 and 1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21 & 6/11 during 1997 at the Aurora Middle School Lancaster, NY. For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test session on 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, & 12/7 during 1996 and 1/7, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3 & 6/7 during 1997 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. 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.

Pumpkin Patrol

Continued From Page 2

All you need is 2 meter equipment and of course 2 meter privileges.

If you don't have a car we may be able to put you with another ham who does. I will pass along more information as it becomes available to me.

P.S. I am not just limiting this event to STARS members. If anyone knows of any other amateurs who would be willing to help out let me know. The more people we can get the more roads & bridges we can cover.

If you have any questions or to volunteer give me a call.

Thank You Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
Pumpkin Patrol 1996 Coordinator
Vice President ** STARS

Repeater Corner

Continued From Page 4

monitoring the repeater whose job, along with the station trustee, is to ensure compliance with FCC Rules and the club-imposed restrictions and policies. They have the control codes to shut down the repeater or various functions on the repeater if necessary.

The STARS control operators are Paul, WA2IJW, Tony, KB2OUT, Ken, KB2HRZ, and Greg, KE2VW. If anyone hears a problem on our repeaters, technical or otherwise, make sure you contact a control operator. Their phone numbers are in the club roster, and they will take care of the problem or alert the appropriate club members to handle it. 73's, Paul, WA2IJW

Vanity Calls

Continued From Page 3

For explanations of Groups A, B, C and D and the geographic Regions, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-S, Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System. For more information, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System.

Advanced, General, Technician Plus, Technician, and Novice class operators are not yet eligible to request by list. Advanced class operators will be eligible at Gate 3. Others will be eligible at Gate 4.

A separate Public Notice will be released providing guidelines for the implementation of electronic filing procedures for FCC Form 610V.

From ARRL Bulletin ARLB055

Field Day '96

The conclusion of our summary of Field Day '96 will appear in next month's newsletter.





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