

telstar ★

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

ISSUE 181 OCTOBER 1996

FCC Vanity Gate 2 Opens Big!

FCC Gettysburg reports today (Sept. 26) that they have received to date from Mellon Bank 4,184 paper applications that were filed as of September 23rd--day one of Vanity Gate 2 (the gate which opened for Extra class licensees and Extra class club license trustees). FCC also reports receiving 339 electronically-filed Gate 2, day-one applications.



This brings the total of Gate 2, day-one receipts to 4,523 (to date).

NOT yet be the total Gate 2, day-one receipts from Mellon Bank. FCC says it has not yet begun receiving September 24th applications from Mellon Bank--so more September 23rd receipts may still be forthcoming. This should, however, represent the total of all electronically-filed Gate 2, day-one (September 23rd) receipts.

FCC said that new Vanity call sign grants for Gate 2 may be forthcoming in about two weeks--depending in part on the final total number of applications that were filed for Vanity Gate 2, day-one receipt.

FCC once again reaffirms that NO Gate 2 call-sign grants will occur until ALL day-one receipts are entered into their system

October Meeting

The monthly club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is necessary.



At this meeting, we will be nominating club officers for 1997, so make sure you are there to participate.

Special guest speaker will be Sgt. Andrew O'Meara of the NYS Police. He will talk about the Pumpkin Patrol '96.

We look forward to seeing you there!

queue--and at such time they will begin making grants from the queue in a random sequence. FCC also confirms that NO Vanity Gate 2 grants have occurred to date (checking with the FCC on scattered rumored grants have so far shown them to all be Gate 1 applications, or non-existent [BJJ]).

73,

Bart J. Jahnke, KB9NM Manager ARRL/VEC
From Packet

Brief Edition

Due to business and personal demands on the editor, I had to go with an abbreviated version this month. Hope to do better next month!

★ 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 KB2TYY.

Pumpkin Patrol 1996

The time is near and we still need your help. Once again we were asked for our assistance in helping out the N.Y.S. police by watching the overpasses on our major highways (I-90, I-290, I-190) on Halloween evening. There are over 40 bridges on these highways in Erie County alone.



We are trying to get as many as possible covered for that one night. This service event is open to anyone who can help out. You do not have to belong to any club, all you need is a 2 meter rig (with 2 meter privileges) and preferably a car. Feel free to bring someone with you for that evening.

I have given numerous hours of my time in attempt to recruit help for this event. Unfortunately we are still short of our goal. If we can deter just 1 vandal from throwing debris down onto the highway we could save someone's life.

For more information or to volunteer for this event "PLEASE" give me a call.

Thank You

Tony KB2OUT
Coordinator of Pumpkin Patrol 1996
Vice President of STARS

STARS Raffle '96

The drawing for the big STARS Raffle '96 was held at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 21. A young girl reached into the bin and pulled out the ticket of well-known STARS member Gene KE2LO. This is the 2nd year in a row that the raffle was won by a member. Gene selected the \$275 cash as his prize.



We also heard that STARS member Mike N2MRN won a door prize at the hamfest of a 10 meter radio!

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, it looks like the September meeting will be the last outdoor meeting at the Nike Base this year, and we will hold the October meeting in the Youth Center on Prospect Ave.

October, November and December will be very important meetings, so plan to attend to participate in the nomination of club officers and then the voting for our future officers and



installation of officers for 1997. So if you would like to be an officer and help, why not get nominated in October, and elected in November and inaugurated in

December. It promises to be three very busy meetings besides all the regular usual meeting action. You know, it has been the policy to give the nominated officers space in the Telstar to acquaint the members to your ideas of what you will do in 1997.

1996 was a very busy year, and the upcoming year officers will have their work cut out to make it a better year. So if you wish to become an officer, why not give it a try? You know you will have the members to help out and put STARS in the action area.

Well, Norm KD2KK has had some luck in getting a nice place to conduct our VE sessions. They will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church in one of their buildings at McKinley and Newton Road. Thanks Norm, I knew you could do it! So now, no excuses about not being able to take the test. Don't be a couch potato. Upgrade and you will be a better ham. By the way, one of our very busy VE's is going to start classes this fall and winter. More on this later in the newsletter, so keep informed.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

HAMS CHARGED IN PHONY "PIZZA DUDE" POLICE CALLS

Three ham radio operators from Mesa, Arizona, have been arrested and charged in the wake of a nearly year-long spree of false distress calls and profane transmissions on police, fire and ham radio frequencies. One of those interfering with police calls had identified himself on the air as "Pizza Dude." The trio, reportedly led by a 16-year-old former Mesa Police Explorer Scout, faked reports of bomb scares, carjackings and robberies, and officers in distress, according to an August 20 report in The Arizona Republic of Phoenix. Investigators said they also played music on emergency channels and harassed police dispatchers. "They taunted us for months, saying they wouldn't get caught," the newspaper quotes police Sgt Ben Kulina as saying. On some occasions, police dispatched officers in response to the false calls.

Members of the Arizona Repeater Association's Local Interference Committee located the troublemakers and helped police and FCC officials to obtain enough evidence to make the arrests. In late July, the Committee heard reports

of abuse of the 911 emergency system on two local repeaters. Serious interference to one Mesa machine was occurring almost nightly. Similarities between the repeater interference and what Mesa police had been experiencing for nearly a year led to a cooperative arrangement between the ARA and authorities. Lance Halle, KC7FVX, chairman of the Interference Committee, reports that within a couple of days, two of the perpetrators were located (using DF equipment) and the information relayed to Mesa Police. The police—with help from city communication officials, the FCC and local hams—started keeping an eye on the suspects, monitoring, recording and DFing. "The FBI was brought in for voice-print analysis to insure an airtight case," Halle said. When enough evidence was gathered, the arrest warrants were issued.

Taken into custody and charged were 20-year-old Christopher R. Johnson, KC7QPJ, and two 16-year-olds, Brad E. Shelley, KC7JQY, and Joshua D. Cavender, KC7JGH.

The Local Interference Committee is an ARRL-recognized organization within the Amateur Auxiliary Program. All members of the ARA Local Interference Committee are ARRL Official Observers.

The ARRL Letter 9/20/96 Update



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 Rt 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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