

telstar



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

ISSUE 182

NOVEMBER 1996

STARS 1997 Officer Election

Nominations for 1997 club officers were held at the October meeting. The following people were nominated:

President:	Tony Balas Jr.	KB2OUT
Vice President:	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Secretary:	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Treasurer:	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Financial Secretary:	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director: (2 yr term)	Gene Metzger	KE2LO

Several others were nominated for various positions but declined.

Even though only one person is nominated for each position, we allow write-ins on the ballots.

The election will be held at the November club meeting

The winners of these elections will form the 1997 Board of Directors along with Greg KE2VW as Past President and Vern AA2AC who will be in the second year of his term as a Director.

Pumpkin Patrol 1996

STARS members assisted by other WNY amateurs successfully completed Pumpkin Patrol 1996 on Halloween evening. Complete report next month.

November Meeting

This month's meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 7 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be holding our election for 1997 club officers at this meeting, so you will want to be sure to be there to cast your vote towards the future of the club!



STARS member Dave AA2GF will be the featured speaker talking on the subject of weak signal operations on VHF and UHF, including CW, SSB, EME and satellites. This should be an excellent talk on some modes that many hams don't have much experience with on these bands.

1997 Membership Renewal

Included with this month's newsletter is a membership renewal form for 1997. Members should complete the form and bring it along with their dues to the monthly club meeting or mail them to Membership Chairman Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

★ 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.

Candidate Statement

For President: Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT. Some of you may know me as your Wednesday-evening Net Controller. I have been nominated for the office of President, which I have graciously accepted. I've been the Vice President of STARS for the past 2 years.

I have been a resident of Western N.Y. all my life. For over twenty three-years, I've been an employee of Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna Plant as a A-Millwright-Welder. I am also a Sub-Foreman at the same facility.

I am a ARRL member and a active member in STARS. I coordinated the 1993 and 1996 Pumpkin patrols, was Net Controller for the past few years for the March Of Dimes WALK-A-THON. I am the clubs Wednesday evening Net Controller (Going on 4 yrs now) and a substitute Net Controller for the Tuesday evening Swap Net. I'm on the Repeater committee and also help out as one of the repeater control operators. I teach novice/technician courses for STARS and hold a accredited volunteer examiners license.

Some of my interests in radio are 2 meter voice, Packet, A little 6 meter phone, 440 phone and even a little HF SSB and CW.

We are approaching 300 members strong now, the largest this club has ever been. I would like to see the club offer more training classes to help those who are interested in obtaining a licence or up-grading. Together we can educate the public and broaden their horizons about the world of amateur radio.

I assure all the members I will be available and open to all suggestions for the betterment of the club. This was my policy while I was your vice president and will remain the same as your president.

Sincerely : Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, November has finally arrived, and we are ready to elect the new officers for the 1997 year. I wish to thank all the officers of 1996. They sure did a very nice job and made the members happy.

Now remember, nominations are still in order, and there is a blank space on the ballot for anyone who wishes to apply for a position until the voting starts. But remember, notify the election committee or the President of your wish. Once the voting starts, there will be no more names added. You are responsible for making sure that your name is on the ballots.

November is for voting and December is for inauguration. The club usually has an open house in December for the families and friends of the members. Not only that, but some of our baking chefs make up a batch of cookies for the members and friends, plus pizza and soft drinks. So come and enjoy yourself and renew acquaintances with your club members.

There sure is a lot of work which must be done in 1997 in order to keep up our good standard of club usage. So if you are interested in a chairperson for some help to make it more interesting for the members, let the new President know.

You all know that the classes have started already, so get in touch with Vern AA2AC at 634-5276 or Tony KB2OUT at 992-2011. You know, according to our roster, we have over 119 T & TP (yes, 119!) members. Please put Vern and Tony and enjoy your upgrade. You will be a happy ham! Let's see how many of our members will take advantage of this golden opportunity. If you look in QST magazine, you will see ads up to \$150 for an upgrade course.

Our Nike Base club rooms are one of the best in Western New York, and it is yours to use for the asking.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

PROS 2nd Annual Auction

The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS) is holding their 2nd Annual Auction on November 9, 1996. The auction will be at the Sardinia Town Hall on Savage Road. From Buffalo, take NY 400 South to Rt 16 through Chaffee to Genesee Rd. (Just north of Earl's Restaurant). Turn right (west) and go to Savage Rd. Turn left (south) and go one quarter mile. The Town Hall and auction are on the right.

The doors will open at Noon. There will be a flea market until auction time which is 3:00 PM. There is a \$4.00 donation and a 10% commission on sales.

The auction will include ham radios, electronics, computers, old radios, etc. There will be a 50/50 raffle as well as coffee and other refreshments.

For further details, contact Don Gallaway KB2DNL at 492-4566; Mike Buttino N2LBV at 496-8241; or Mike Wrona KB2TDN at 675-2071.

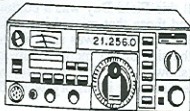
No Cat

When asked to describe radio, Albert Einstein is said to have provided an eloquent description: "You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this?" Einstein then continued: "Radio operates exactly the same way---you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

Thr ARRL Letter Electronic Edition 10/25/96

For Sale

From the estate of Sherwood Sipprill K2HL, Yaesu FT-890 HF transceiver. Make offer. Power supply also available, if needed. Contact Woody Sipprill at 649-1144.



STARS Field Day 1996 - Part 2

Bob Koster KA2WYE has a number of expertise. He was in-charge of the packet station and also was video Technician and "Gofer". Bob had his problems this year with the packet station. First he couldn't get a monitor to work after trying about three. Once on line, he forgot how to connect; he had people scrambling all over the site trying to find someone who knew the command to use to connect. Finally, one of the younger Amateurs, and I apologize for not knowing his name or his call, came to the rescue and took over the keyboard. The good thing is that Bob managed to get some good video (I'm going out on a limb with this statement because I haven't seen it yet Hi!) and it will be available for everyone to view at some later date. The other disappointment for Bob is he left his 2 meter antenna at the site and when he returned to pick it up, someone got there before him and it was gone. SORRY!



Kash WB2RAJ again this year received the ARRL Bulletin worth 100 points. Kash has had the responsibility of receiving the bulletin for several years and never fails to do so. Well done Kash and thanks for getting involved.

Chow time - Jack KB2ESM and Judy N2TEZ Chief Cooks and Bottle Washers always manage to have chow just in time. Jack serves the best beef on wick you can get anywhere. It's a big job and responsibility to be in-charge of having food available at Field Day. Jack and Judy volunteer each year for this non fun task. I will go on record as making this statement for the participants. We all want you to know we appreciate and thank you for what you guys do and for assuming this important function. THANK YOU and THANK YOU AGAIN.

All and all this Field Day was a complete success, and those that missed it surely missed a good time. The turnout was slim when you consider the size of our membership, only 21 members showed up. The facts are, we had 23 guests, the first time in history when the guests

outnumbered the members. SHAME.

Congratulations to Jeffery KB2TZL, John N2ZDL and Marge KB2WUP who started off logging and eventually operating. They operated phone on 80 meters and performed like veterans. I may be wrong, but I think this is their first Field Day. They learned, they participated and they had fun. This is what Field Day is all about. We urge new hams to get out and participate in Field Day, not only for your benefit but for all of the Amateur world. Help keep our hobby constructive.

We will be starting earlier next year preparing for Field Day. We expect to approach some of the newer amateurs to get acquainted, and also some of the experienced operators to get out and pass on their operating ability. There is a good chance that 10 meters will be open next year, and we can set up a Novice station on ten meters. Now that we have some background on Field Day, yes it is a fun event, but it also serves a useful purpose. One of these days, it may save a life and remember "THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN".

Last but surely not least STARS thanks the Hamburg Moose for graciously allowing us to use their grounds and facility to have our Field Day event each year.

Now here is how we scored:

20 mtr SSB	166 QSOs x 1 =	166
40 mtr SSB	167 QSOs x 1 =	168
80 mtr SSB	654 QSOs x 1 =	654
80 mtr CW	510 QSOs x 2 =	1020
2 mtr packet	6 QSOs x 2 =	2
	subtotal	2020
	Power Factor	x 2
		4040
	Bonus Points	700
	Grand Total	4740

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 Levay	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 Lutheran 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 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 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.

Field Day 1996

Continued From Page 4

Some scores from past years:

1995 5156 3A our best score yet
1994 4322 3A our 3rd best
1984 566 2A

11 people attended in 1984 when our membership was 50. We've come a long way in building our membership. The points were far superior in 1996, when compared to 1984, but the turnout percentage wise isn't even close. We hope to change this with your help in 1997.

Thanks for the Field Day committee!



Repeater Corner

The new Sinclair SRL-229 2m antenna was installed at the Colden repeater site on October 5. Because of the highly capable volunteers that showed up, the operation went like clockwork and took less time than expected.

Thanks to Mark, KB2RAS, John, KG2IM, Dave, N2OZE, Andrew, N2RHJ, and Dave, WA2TVT, for the expertise, manpower and equipment they supplied. Thanks also to Dennis, K2CEC, for his good intentions in buying doughnuts for the crew—but it went so quickly we were finished and all gone home except for me by the time he arrived. (They were delicious!)

Satisfactory connections between the donated 75 ohm, 7/8 inch hardline, the antenna, and the repeater took the next two days to complete. There are still a few details to work out, but everything is performing very well in the meantime.

The new antenna is being used for receive only, and the old Hustler G7 is still the transmit antenna. The new antenna is much quieter than the old when you tune across the band with it; it picks up much less noise from around our RF-saturated site.

Reports have been favorable. All the good coverage areas, and the poor coverage areas to the west and southwest, have shown worthwhile improvement in received signal strength. Plus, the pesky heterodyne noise is gone, along with, hopefully, the periodic bouts of receiver desense.

73's, Paul WA2IJW

MARS Drops CW

All CW nets and other CW activity in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) were ordered to cease operation effective October 1, 1996. After that time, no CW nets or other CW activity will be allowed on any DOD MARS frequencies. A final MARS CW message was transmitted simultaneously in Army, Navy and Air Force MARS frequencies on September 30.

- The ARRL Letter 10/4/96 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 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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