

# telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) ISSUE 183 DECEMBER 1996

## From The Prez

Hi fellow STARS members:

This will be my final article for the Telstar, as president of the club. I have enjoyed being an officer, working along with the other board members, on your behalf.

During this past year the club: offered more VE sessions than ever before under the leadership of AA2AC and KB2ESN, resumed the "Pumpkin Patrol" under the net leadership of KB2OUT, installed a commercial 2 meter antenna for our repeater and finally eliminated all dense under the guidance of WA2IJW, and expanded the display at the EC Fair and broke all sorts of records there! The BBS throughput was dramatically improved with 19.2Kb links, and DXWNY, a new DxCluster was born. It was a very good year!



As one of my final acts, I asked the board to authorize WA2IJW, to research and put together an RFP for a solid state commercial repeater to REPLACE our current GE Master Pro. That unit has served us well, but it is time to replace it, before it fails. The replacement unit should be essentially plug and play, except to wire it up to our present controller and set audio levels. Once this is up, we can then setup a remote receiver, probably from the Nike Base, to put the issue of repeater coverage to bed.

## December Meeting

The December club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 5 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.

After our business meeting, we will hold the installation of club officers for 1997.



Then, we will have our annual Holiday Party! Pizza and soft drinks will be provided by the club. Members are encouraged to bring in finger foods (cookies, brownies, chips, cup cakes, vegetables and dip, cheeses, you-name-it!) to share with the other members. Family members are invited too! See you there!

## 1997 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1997. Members should complete the form included with your November newsletter 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.

If you can't find the renewal form, just put your name, call, address, phone number and class of license on a piece of paper. Also, please let us know if you are on packet, if you use the STARS KE2VW as your home BBS, and if you are an ARRL member.

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# ★ 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 Levay 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 WB2EZX.

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 KB2TY.

## From The Prez

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I also talked with WA2IQX about tiling the back room floor at the Nike Base. The funds for this were already approved last year. He will accomplish that later this spring.

Upon the club's approval, I will be purchasing a color TV for the base, to finish our video library. We already have the vcr, and several tapes in our library. The tapes cover some of the exciting speakers we had during my first two terms as president!

I am looking forward to the new directions the incoming president and the board will help to lead the club in during the 1997 year. Time for some new initiatives.

We will start planning the EC fair exhibit in about 2 months. We have talked about a large 80 meter dipole, and a new 440 antenna (yagi), to allow atv from the opposite side of the fair! It will also be a cooperative venture this year, with interested hams from other clubs that have an area of expertise/interest, to assist us in this massive undertaking.

The BBS, and DxCluster will be keeping me busy, along with the fair exhibit, so I won't be fading out of amateur radio, or STARS, at all. This move will allow me to focus my energies, and be more productive.

Time to end, so I can finish off a new addition to the outside Xmas display at my home. This is a 1800 watt computer controlled tree. I am just finished running the 20 amp power line to handle the tree... now just a finishing touch or two... Drive up and check it out some night!

73, have a great holiday season, and I'll see you at the holiday party, Greg





## STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, the month of November was a very successful one. Vern AA2AC and Tony KB2OUT had a class of students for getting their licenses, and our VE team had a test for the students. They were very well versed and were able to take advantage of Vern's and Tony's instruction.

December will be a red letter meeting and installation of our 1997 officers.

The families of members are invited to this meeting as it promises to be a very good time for all. The club usually springs for pizza and soft drinks.

Not only that, but the bakers of the club prepare a lot of colored cookies to make it a joyful time for all.

Looking back on 1996, STARS out did itself in the new type of the state of the art. Remember



that it is for the good of the club and better advancement for all the members. You know, Paul WA2IJW, our repeater chairman, sure timed the overhaul before the bad weather so that we can have better reception for the upcoming winter.

1997 will be the upgrading of the Nike Base, and it is not too early to start on it. The most important job will be the tower which has been neglected for some time.

Understand that the special paint is already at the Nike Base. Am sure it will be taken care of properly, and the weather will favor us in this major project. You know, every December we always do some wishful thinking for the upcoming year, so hope fortune favors us this year.



Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

### STARS Honors Three Members

In keeping with the STARS tradition of recognizing various members for their contributions for the betterment of the club, the club voted at the November meeting to honor three members.

Terry Rockhold K200 (ex-KM4XZ) was elected a Life Member of STARS. Terry served on the Board of Directors for 5 years including 2 years as Club President (1994 & 1995). Terry has been club newsletter editor for over 5 years and was Nike Base Chairman for 3 years. He also has been coordinator for several charity public service events in Western New York since 1991.

Dave Baco WA2TVT was elected a Honorary Member for 1997. Dave is stepping down from the Secretary's chair after 7 consecutive years service to the club.

Bob Dudek WA2WBN was also elected a Honorary Member for 1997 in recognition of the extraordinary time he contributed to the Erie County Fair exhibit and for his efforts in making the STARS Field Day a big success.

### CW Practice Net

Vern AA2AC tells us that there is a local CW practice net that meets on 21.125 at 7 PM daily. Those interested should give Clarence AB2BP a call on the air or at 434-7965 to coordinate the practice.

### Vanity Call Signs

After waiting since the opening of Gate 2 on September 23, about 4,000 Extra Class hams finally received word of their new calls on November 5. Included among those was your newsletter editor formerly KM4XZ, now K200.

Since then, the process bogged down while the FCC tried to straighten out first day applications with minor discrepancies. Plus, a number of hams had their applications rejected because they had arrived a day too early and they petitioned the FCC to reverse this decision.

Per the ARRL, the FCC is now back to issuing new vanity calls. So far no dates have been announced for the opening of Gates 3 (Advanced class) and Gate 4 (all others).

## 1997 Pumpkin Patrol

I would like to say thank you to all the people who helped make this years "PUMPKIN PATROL" a big success. I received a FAX message from Sgt. Andrew O'Mara (Troop T) on the morning following the event. In his fax he let me know that they were getting your certificates prepared.

\*\*\*\*\* GREAT JOB EVERYONE\*\*\*\*\*  
hope to work with all of you again in 1997.

I requested a report from Tpr. Dino Marrocco on how the evening went throughout the whole patrol, from one end of the state to the other. When I receive this information I will pass it along.

Here is a copy of the report on the evenings events that I sent to Albany and to the local state police:

South Towns Amateur Radio Society  
(STARS)

\*\*\*\* KB2OUT \*\*\*\*\* Anthony J. Balas Jr.  
(Coordinator for the Pumpkin Patrol 1996)  
3028 Hillbrook Dr. Eden, NY 14057

Home Phone : 716-992-2011  
Home Fax : 716-992-2011  
E-Mail : KB2OUT@JUNO.COM

Pumpkin Patrol 1996 Thursday Oct.31,1996

Total Operators: 25 (Counting myself)  
Total Bridges Covered: 19

### Comments/Incidents

The weather in the Buffalo area at the start of the event (6:30 PM) was...42 deg. with windy conditions. The weather at the end of the event (11:20 PM) was...42 deg / clear skies / no wind.

I called all of the local police departments in our area at approximately 6:00 PM to inform them of the Pumpkin Patrol and where our vehicles would be stationed. All of the authorities were very polite however, like in 1993 most of them were totally unaware of the Pumpkin Patrol. Our local TV station, Channel 7 called me the day of the patrol and did get a car out to one of our bridges to get a short interview from the

amateur (HAM) on duty. I also spoke to the Buffalo News, and they put a very nice article in the paper. On Friday morning Larry Norton from the local radio station 97 ROCK called me for an on-the-air interview.

Mark N2LAB from bridge No.437.66 / Amsdell Rd. Hamburg, was monitoring the police bands and heard reports of groups of youths that were smashing pumpkins and throwing eggs. They were of no threat to his site.

Jim N2OSL from bridge No.422.10 / Genesee Rd. Cheektowaga, while listening to the Citizen Band heard a trucker report of youths by / on the Sowles Rd bridge, No. 435.60 in Hamburg. I called the State Police in Boston, NY just to let them know of the potential problem. A car was sent out and after a search of the area nothing was found. Bob had to leave his post early but was assured by the Hamburg Police they would try and keep an eye on the bridge.

We had a couple minor incidents not pertaining so much to the Patrol but I did report to local authorities.

1) A suspicious car parked by a closed building (After Hours) with people in it for a while....Police sent out a car and found a couple just trying to get to know each other better (OOPS). \*\*\*\* Town Of Tonawanda \*\*\*\*

2) 2 vehicles off the 219 but still on the highway enough to cause an accident (Abandoned). I reported them to the Boston, NY State Police and a car was sent out.

If you have any questions give me a call. It was a pleasure working with all of you and hope to here from you in 1997. 1997 will be even bigger and better !!!!!!!

Thank you ::: Tony J. Balas Jr.

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Past President	Terry Rockhold	K2OO
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 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 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 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).

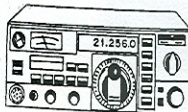
Most sessions except for STARS' non-hamfest exams do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

## Nike Base Club Station

STARS Nike Base Club Station is open for visitors almost every Saturday from 1 to 3 PM. We have a HF station & VHF packet station.

The HF station features not only SSB and CW but also Baudot, Amtor, Pactor etc.

Even Technicians without HF privileges can operate under the control of another member who has a higher class license.



You can come out to operate, to learn more about operating procedures, to review some of the books or magazines in the library or just to rag chew with the other members.

## PR/Guest Speaker Committee

Attention all STARS members! A new committee has been formed. The committee is called the Public Relations/Guest Speaker Committee. This committee has been established by STARS President-elect Tony Balas, KB2OUT. It will serve two main functions. First, it will bring media attention to events sponsored by The STARS leadership and any affiliated members or organizations. Second, it will assist the president in securing guest speakers for the clubs' monthly meetings.

To publicize STARS events or to submit guest speaker suggestions, contact ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Tony, KB2OUT, PH: (992-2011);  
Packet: KB2OUT@KE2VW;  
E-mail: KB2OUT@juno.com

Mick, N2PZX, PH: (874-2647);  
Packet: N2PZX@KE2VW

Ron, AA2VM, PH: (632-4174);  
Packet: AA2VM@KE2VW;  
E-MAIL: cb944@Freenet.Buffalo.edu

This is a team effort to promote the growth of STARS as a club; therefore we welcome suggestions and ideas.

73, Ron AA2VM and Mick N2PZX.

## Christmas Net

STARS will be holding a special Christmas Net on December 18th at 7 PM.

Santa will be on net with me along with a couple of his helpers. Children of all ages are invited to check in on this very special net and let Santa know what you would like for Christmas.

Thank You Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT  
Net Control





# 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 K200  
4805 Transit Road #1903  
Depew, NY 14043  
(716) 656-0865



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