

telstar



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

ISSUE 184 JANUARY 1997

From The President

Well 1997 is here and we have some exciting and new changes that will be taking place in the club.

THE REPEATER ** STEP 1 ** At present I have Paul WA2IJW our repeater chairman researching a new repeater and controller. The new system will be a state of the art one. The new controller will provide the club members with some added features and better capabilities to put up voice messages to keep the people informed of up coming events. Paul is at present looking into several different lines (Kendecom/MCS, Motorola, GE and Spectrum Communications). If anyone has an opinion on any of these manufacturers or would like to suggest others please drop Paul a line on packet or give him a call. After the new system is put into place the present one will remain on site and be used as our back up repeater. **** Step 2 **** is to put up a remote receiving unit, probably at the Nike Base to help with the shadowed areas out here in the South Towns.

NIKE BASE ** Most of you may all ready know that we have a new Nike base chairman, his name is Rick AB2CT or some of you may know him as KB2WUO. Rick is looking for some club members who would be interested in opening the Nike Base on Saturdays with the possibilities of extra days added if the demand is there. If anyone is interested please drop Rick a line on packet or give him a call. We are also setting up a video library at the base. The clubs TV and VCR along with several tapes have been placed out there for all to enjoy. If anyone has any tapes that they feel may be of interest to the club

January Meeting

The January club meeting begins at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 2 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.) All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.



Our featured speaker for this meeting will be former STARS President John Leitten KA2RFT. John will discuss how to use the various features of the club's 147.090 repeater such as the autopatch, the talking S-meter, NOAA weather, autodial slots, the touchtone pad test, etc. This is an excellent chance for members to learn more about the repeater and get answers to questions they might have about it.

Dues Are Due!

Dues for 1997 membership renewal are due January 1. If you haven't already renewed, do it right now so you will receive your new 1997 repeater codes on time.

Just complete the form included with your November newsletter and bring it along with your 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.

★ 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 147.091.69 (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.

From The President

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please let us know. If possible we could run off some copies for the base library. Rick was looking into starting up some programs on Saturdays at the base like code learning, packet radio, etc. If anyone has any ideas or feels they could help out give him a call.

HAMBURG YOUTH CENTER ** I have been in touch with Randy KA2RFW and we talked about several possibilities for the station. One of the things the station is in need of is some 2 meter equipment. We also talked about setting up a packet station for the kids. The club does have an extra (donated) computer in it's possession that could be put up at the Youth Center. Unfortunately, due to the great expense of our new repeater and controller the board decided that we would have to wait some time before we could dedicate funds to the purchase of equipment for the Youth Center. The station means a lot to the club and especially the kids that use it. What we are asking for is if anyone could help out with this very worth while cause with donations of equipment like a 2 meter rig, tnc, packet programs, etc. you can contact Randy or me.

MEETING PRESENTATIONS ** My PR/Guest speaker committee has been hard at work working along with me trying to set up some interesting presentations for our monthly club meetings. Some of the presentations for 1997 will be on the new DX cluster, traffic handling, the Internet and our repeater and it's functions (How to use them properly). I would like to find someone to speak on A.P.R.S. If anyone would like to do this presentation or know of someone who would, please drop me a line. We will be looking for suggestions on presentations you would like to see. You could drop one of us a line with your ideas. Tony KB2OUT, Mick N2PZX or Ron AA2VM we are all on packet and can be reached by phone.

Well that's about it for now. If anyone has any comments or ideas please feel free to drop me a line or give me a call.

Thank You Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT
President....STARS

STARS GOSSIP COLUMN

Well, December has come and gone. John KA2RFT, our club station trustee, sure did a good job in swearing in the 1997 officers. Sure was nice to see all the families come to this meeting, including their children. They sure got acquainted fast. Wish to thank all the bakers for their donation of cookies and finger food.

One thing, please remember that the officers are counting on your assistance in 1997 in making it a banner year. 1996 was a very good year, counting the Erie County fair which was a success, plus the bike rides that Terry was coordinator of.

So don't sit back and just dream about upgrading your ticket. Vern AA2AC and Tony KB2OUT started up classes last year. I am quite sure they will have some this year so take advantage of their generous offer. There was a 75% upgrading at the last VE session. Remember that you can do the same this year (1997) and

get more enjoyment out of your hobby.

Do not forget Paul WA2IJW. He keeps our repeater in apple pie order in spite of all old parts. Our photographer took some photos from the repeater site. The pictures sure were beautiful.

We can not omit our past president, Greg KE2VW, how he was able to cram all those ideas into a day to day situation to keep us updated to all the new ideas.

I think we should give credit to the members that keep the Nike Base in nice order, and there is always a member to help you in order to achieve your goals,

So remember 1997 is a do year, and we have a good crew to help it.

Happy Hamming Guz WB2EZU

KC2AIF Now QRV! Pat Murray NW2I Honored

Pioneer High School ARC just received it's own club call sign, KC2AIF, from the FCC. At the suggestion of John KA2RFT, I sent for the special 610 form. To my surprise, it required the signature of the club president, a Junior - Josh AB2AV.

The club now has 5 officers with licenses. Some 6 unlicensed middle and high school kids are studying for their licenses.

Our most recent project was the construction of 10 copper cactus antennas. We sold them at the PROS auction and earned sufficient money to buy an additional Handi.

We plan to use our new call sign during school club roundup!

You can support our club by donating any electronic and radio gear. We have a need for dumb terminals and computers.

Joe KB2JDB

Pat Murray NW2I was honored at the December meeting of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club (LARC) being selected as their "Member of the Year."

Pat has been a member of LARC for nine years and currently is their Sunshine Person. She has been a Volunteer Examiner for a number of years and has participated in over 100 VE exam sessions.

Pat is an avid CW DX'er and has won many awards including DXCC (CW and SSB). She possesses four special Russian award certificates. She also has all the licenses that the FCC offers.

Pat is also a member of STARS and PROS. She has lived in this area since 1944. She and her husband Ray raised a family of six boys.

Information from The PROS News - January 1997.

Vanity Call Sign Update

The FCC reported December 18 that it's processed vanity applications received through November, which means the FCC is less than three weeks away from being completely caught up with its current application backlog. However, a spokeswoman at the FCC office in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, said she didn't expect the FCC to get to the applications received during December until after the first of the year.

Gettysburg issued more than 700 new Vanity grants this past week. But, some 640 applications were set aside for special handling, including those for which the FCC was unable to grant any of the applicant's call sign choices. However, the FCC said many applicants failed to include their current call signs under Item 6 on the Form 610V application, and this also can delay issuance of a new call sign.

The FCC has not announced an opening date for Gate 3. --Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

The ARRL Letter Electronic Update 12/20/96

Congratulations

Rick Lepkowski KB2WUO recently upgraded to Extra class and now has the new call sign of AB2CT.

Glenn Kerwin KB2TEA now holds an Advanced class license.

James Clark, 9 year old son of Jay Clark KF2JY, qualified for a Novice class ticket and now holds the call sign of KC2AFV.

Congratulations to all!



Nike Base Club Station

The Club will host a RTTY demonstration with Q&A Session at the base by Dave KB2TVT and Kash WB2RAJ. Date to be determined.

The Nike Base club station will be participating in the Hamburg Nike Base Winterfest the 1st weekend in February 1997. We will need several members to help us entertain visitors to the station. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rick AB2CT at 847-3766- leave message.



New Club Logo

The Board is interested in developing a new club logo for STARS. This could be used on club letterhead, club jackets, club hats, club tee shirts, etc.

You are invited

Members are invited to submit designs for the new logo. They should be sent by February 15 to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

STARS Board of Directors

President	Tony Balas, Jr.	KB2OUT
Past President	Greg Young	KE2VW
Vice President	Bob Koster	KA2WYE
Treasurer	Jack Cullum	KB2ESM
Fin. Sec.	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Director	Vern Siegel	AA2AC
Director	Gene Metzger	KE2LO

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 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 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.

Transatlantic Anniversary

The W1BCG operation from Greenwich, Connecticut, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first successful transatlantic tests on ham radio made over 800 contacts with the replica transmitter--despite its being out of service for a short time late on the evening of December 14 because of a keying relay problem. Operators reported the noise level was high enough to cover many stations on 160 meters. "We could hear pileups of about S 5-6 signals, but the noise kept us from picking the pileup apart and working through it," said Al Brogdon, K3KMO, an ARRL staff member who volunteered to be one of the W1BCG operators over the weekend.

The ARRL Letter Electronic Edition 12/20/96

Phase 3D Delayed

The European Space Agency has announced a launch delay for Ariane 502, the rocket that is supposed to carry Phase 3D. AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, reports that the launch has been pushed back to "early July," but said a specific launch date was not yet available. ESA said the change resulted from the recent establishment of a "detailed timetable" that's required to permit launch.

A brief ESA news release said: "As each individual operation will require very close analysis, the 502 campaign is scheduled to begin on Wednesday 9 April 1997, the launch itself being planned for early July."

"We'll be ready," said Baker, adding that the new schedule will give AMSAT "a little more time to make things right." The Phase 3D satellite itself is under assembly in Orlando, Florida. Baker said there's still a lot of work to be done, but the project was on schedule for an April launch. The new launch schedule means that the Phase 3D satellite will not be operational until September or October.

"Obviously we would like to have the satellite in orbit a lot sooner," said Baker. "But we don't want anything to be launched if it's not ready."

ARRL Space Bulletin 017

In The News

In the January 1997 issue of QST, we noted items of interest to STARS members:

On page 97, there is an article talking about the Pumpkin Patrol that STARS participated in on Halloween. There is also a picture which includes Sergeant Andrew O'Mara who spoke at our club meeting.

On page 90, the DX Century Club Awards lists two STARS members: Kash WB2RAJ qualified for the Honor Roll for confirmed contacts with 320 out of the 329 currently recognized counties. Shane WB2WPM qualified for 5 Band DXCC meaning that he has confirmed contacts with at least 100 countries on 5 different bands. These are great awards representing many years work.



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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