



From The President

I am happy to report that after our February club meeting it was decided to purchase a new repeater and controller at this time. The repeater and controller were ordered the next day along with the voter for the remote receive unit. All the above mentioned items have arrived. The voter is in kit form and will take some time to build.

It was explained to the members what it would cost and what we had in the bank. There was much discussion of where the remaining needed funds would come from and how do we raise the money to pay for all the things we wanted to buy. The members did vote and accept a motion that was presented to them.

We started a repeater fund at that meeting to HELP pay for all the things we would need. There were approximately 45 members present at that meeting so we passed the hat or should I say box. We collected a grand total of \$411.00 including the generous offer from the club member who won the 50/50 split and elected to put his winnings back into the repeater fund. If we could collect this much at 1 club meeting imagine if we all gave just a little.

On Sat. Feb. 8th I received a letter in the mail from Ray N2NXX a club member to inform me that he wanted to donate to the club some equipment. Ray donated a 45 ft. steel tower, Mosley 4 ele-

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March Meeting

The March club meeting begins at 7 PM on Thursday March 6 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

We will be getting an update on the progress of our new repeater equipment and the repeater fund as well as discussing other important club business.



Our featured speaker will be STARS member Leo Karr KB2TIY. Leo will cover traffic handling and how you can get involved. Leo is active with the ARRL Western District Net and will provide information about it.

Repeater Fund

As noted in our From The President article, STARS has started a repeater fund to pay for our new repeater equipment. We got a nice start from the members who were present at the February meeting, but we need help from everyone. So we have included an envelope with this issue so that you can send in a contribution to the repeater fund. Please mark "repeater fund" on your check or money order.

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in 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 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 per month) plus the \$5 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 the 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 KB2TY.



From The President

(Continued from page 1)

ment beam that covers 10-15-20 meters and Yaesu rotor all to be sold by the club with all proceeds going into the repeater fund. Glenn KB2UGT another club member also donated 2 computer tape back up systems to the club.

Please do not call these members direct, I am handling the sale of the above equipment. You can get the prices for this equipment from the Tuesday evening swap net or give me a call at 992-2011.

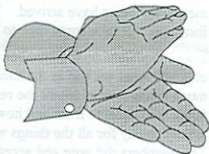
This is a great start and I have to commend all of you, but we will need more funding. What I am asking of you people is to put the word out on what STARS is doing to upgrade its repeater system, and we would appreciate and need contributions to this fund. We are not setting any dollar amounts that you should give all we are asking is to Please give what ever you can afford. I can tell you one thing, after that Feb. club meeting seeing

the membership pull together as they did makes me VERY PROUD to be the president of this club. You can mail your contributions to :

John Cullum Jr. KB2ESM
6871 Webster Rd.
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Make your checks or money orders payable to STARS and put on them Repeater Fund. You do not have to be a member of STARS to contribute to this repeater fund and your contributions would also be graciously appreciated. The WB2ELW repeater has always and will always be out there for all amateurs to use. If anyone has any questions please call. Tony KB2OUT 992-2011.
Thank You!

Tony B. Jr. KB2OUT
President of STARS



STARS Gossip Column

The February meeting was sure a very interesting meeting. After a lot of information about our repeater, it was finally decided to make arrangement for a different repeater. Most of the members were in favor of our repeater with all its nice units.

The March meeting should have some more final information. You know, 1997 will sure be a very interesting year. The repeater has finally seen its best days. It will make Paul WA22IJW, repeater chairman, happy and with the full cooperation of all the members, I am sure that everyone will assist. If you have any questions, please see Paul and discuss it with him.

Our membership has 261 members, 108 general, advanced or extra, and 153 technician or technician plus. How about our technicians and technician plus members working on upgrading? ARRL is taking a pool of active members and states that technician and technician plus licenses are not used as much as the other classes. They are considering

eliminating some of the classes. So be warned!

I was talking with Judy N2TEZ, and she keeps track of upgrades and licenses. So please let Judy know about any upgrades and changes to licenses.

We are fortunate to have Vern AA2AC and his classes, so get in touch with him and try to attend for an upgrade. From the last group, ten took the test for upgrading and seven passed, so let us try to keep that up every month and bring down the number for March.

Our guest speaker sure gave us a look at the Internet. You know, it is not ham radio, but it sure looks beautiful. The club was looking for some logos for the club, and some that he had sure looked very nice and impressive.

Happy Hamming Guz WBEZU

Editor Retires

No, not for STARS!

Gail Lewis W2CRY is retiring after serving 10 years as newsletter editor for The Pioneer Radio Operators Society (PROS). Gail is, in fact, the only editor that THE PROS NEWS has ever had.



His first issue consisted of two simple typewritten pages which talked about club activities and funds. He has turned those humble beginnings into one of the finest amateur radio newsletters in the area. Congratulations Gail!

Congratulations

James Clark KC2AFV, nine year old son of Jay Clark KF2JY, has upgraded to Technician Plus!

Mr. and Mrs. Kash Kashdin WB2RAJ are the proud parents of a brand new daughter!

Rick Lepkowski (ex-AB2CT and KB2WUO) has the new call sign of N2VZ!



If you have good news, let Terry K200 (992-2011) know so we can share it with our other members.

The National Traffic Service Comes To STARS

There will be a presentation regarding the National Traffic System at the STARS meeting in March. I will be addressing questions or comments regarding the National Traffic System and the American Radio Relay Leagues Field Service Organization.

Public-Service Communications have been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service since 1913. Amateurs at the University of Michigan and Ohio State University, in conjunction with numerous individual amateurs in and around the region, successfully bridged the communications gap surrounding a large isolated area left by a severe wind storm... ARRL PSCM foreword L. Hurder KYIT

Amateur Radio Disaster Preparedness is handled on a day-to-day routine by three groups recognized by the American Radio Relay League:

ARES (The Amateur Radio Emergency Service). This group is made up of Licensed Amateurs who have registered their availability for Emergency Operations in the Public Interest. In this area ARES groups are divided by county. Our Emergency Coordinator for Erie County is Ray Baker N2DAY.



RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) is provided for by FCC Regulations Part 97 Subpart F. This phase of operations is to provide service for Governmental Civil Preparedness. The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have a signed memorandum of understanding, regarding these operations.

NTS (The National Traffic System) is designed to pass written messages local, medium and long distances. The NTS consists of four levels of operators. Liaisons between Net Levels ensure systematic flow of the written messages into and out of Disaster Areas. Meeting every day to ensure

point to point delivery, with organizational training for the event of mass handling of written traffic.

I currently hold three appointments from the American Radio Relay League from The Field Service Organization. OES, ORS, and NM.

OES Official Emergency Station
 ORS Official Relay Station
 NM WDN/L (The Western District Net Late Session) Net Manager for the Local VHF NTS Net...

The Western District Net meets at three times a day, 11:00am, 6:30pm and 9:30pm, for the purpose of handling formal written traffic into and out of the Western Area of New York State. I look forward to your questions and comments at the upcoming meeting. I will have written literature provided by the ARRL.

Get Involved!! Part 97.1(a) of The FCC Rules and Regulations states the "...basis and purpose..." for our frequency allocations is... "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications [97.1(a)]." Lets not prove them wrong!!

Volunteer today!!

STARS Board of Directors

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 3/15/97 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley and Newton Roads). Walk-ins should arrive by 9 AM and pre-registered candidates should arrive by 9:45 AM. For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on 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 sessions on 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) and 634-5276 (nights).

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

Ham Radio Grows In 1996

Good news: The number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US rose by approximately 1.9% last year! FCC statistics show that ham ranks increased by 12,207 from December 1995 to December 1996. During 1996, 28,854 new licenses were issued by the FCC, while another 13,926 hams upgraded their operating privileges.

Not-so-good news: During January 1997, the total number of hams dropped by 641 (possibly due to the cancellation or expiration of the licenses of deceased hams). The number of new and upgrading hams also was off slightly last month compared to the month previous.

Bad news: The number of applications forwarded to the FCC by the ARRL-VEC for new and upgraded licenses during 1996 was down by 5198 over the previous year. That represents a 16% drop--consistent with what other VECs are reporting.

The ARRL Letter 2/21/97

New FCC WATS Line

The FCC has designated a new, toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries--including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The new number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau.

Callers to the old consumer information number will get a message referring them to the new number.

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STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input). Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

The southern club repeater (KE2VW/R) is located in Perysburg, NY (146.97/.37 output/input, with a PL access of 151.4 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Hamburg (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 151.4 Hz.)

CLUB PACKET

The STARS KE2VW BBS, located in Colden, NY is accessible on 145.71 MHz (direct) or on 145.61 MHz or 145.65 MHz (indirect) by typing: C BBSVW, using 1200 baud. Or connect using 19.6K baud on 441.050 MHz (direct)

Using a telephone modem, you can reach the STARS KE2VW BBS by calling 527-9334.

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) 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 Road 1.75 miles east of Route 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
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Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865

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