



## Repeater Corner

The new repeater and controller were installed on Saturday, June 14. Special thanks to Dave, KB2YTC for his help in testing, and to Tom, KF2VX and Ralph, K2ZUW for helping with the move. It was a lot of work to get to that point, especially with the controller, and it will be continuing, as we fine tune the repeater's operation.

The Kenwood repeater sounds great, but there's been some interference from another system at the site that's been tough to crack--the intermittent squelch breaks of about a second or two. After trying several different fixes, I think it's under control, but it means operating with slightly less than optimum sensitivity on the repeater.

The repackaged Mastr II solid state amplifier is putting out about 70 watts to get 50 watts out of the duplexer into the hardline, but it was running pretty warm--too hot to touch. A larger fan was installed and now it's operating at a more reasonable temperature.

The controller's setup programming took longer than I expected, especially with my time limitations the last few months. It will be a continuing process, as time permits, to refine the programming until it's just exactly how we want it. However, the new controller is much easier for control operators to modify messages and operating parameters, and will give us more digital voice capabilities when that option is added.

This month's newsletter contains an update to the repeater codes for the new system. The most used feature, the autopatch is exactly the same as before. Some features, like the audio signal check, alternate cancel codes, and autodial,

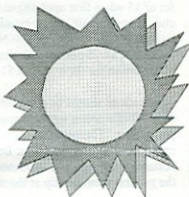
## July Meeting

The next club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, July 3 at the club's Nike Base Club Station on Lakeview Road (0.75 miles east of Route 20). Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

This meeting will be outdoors, so don't forget to bring lawn chairs to sit on. In case of bad weather, listen to the club's 147.090 repeater for information about possible rescheduling of the meeting.

At the meeting, we will discuss the new repeater system, Field Day, the cook-out in Aug., the club raffle, etc.

Greg Young KE2VW will be speaking on our amateur radio exhibit at the Erie County Fair. This will be here before you know it, so don't miss this meeting.



are new or slightly different. A few less frequently used features are either not yet implemented, or will not be implemented due to differences in the controller. Subtle differences in touch tone muting, hang time, courtesy tone, ID's, etc., will also be noticed with the new controller.

Work is underway on the next step in upgrading the repeater system--the remote receiver. The voter has been built, a remote receiver and link transmitter have been purchased and tested, and I'm checking out the link receiver. I'll need help soon with the antenna work at the Nike base and Colden. Dates for the antenna work aren't set yet, but it will be in the near future.

73's, Paul, WA2IJW.

## STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levant 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 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 usually Tony KB2OUT.

STARS Swap Net meets at 7 PM on Tuesdays on STARS WB2ELW 147.09 repeater. Net control is usually Leo KB2TTY.

## From The President

I am very happy to report that the new repeater and controller were put into service on Saturday the 14th of June. For the most part the new controller will function the same as the old one. You will use the same codes as you did in the past. The few changes that had to be made were explained in a packet message from me to all in the STARS CARBON SERVER on BBSVW. Paul WA2IJW will be putting out a new Repeater Codes pamphlet in the Telstar. This new pamphlet will explain how to use the new voice report feature.

Your auto-dial slot numbers will remain the same but there is a slight difference in how you access them. You may also notice that some of the features the old controller had were removed from the new one. The features removed were very seldom to say the least ever used.

We will be starting on what I call phase 2 of the repeater project soon. Paul has asked for some hands on help with this part of the project. What this will consist of is the installation of a remote receive unit at the NIKE Base. If anyone would like to lend a hand Please drop me a line on packet or call me at home at 992-2011 (Fax 992-2011). You do not need any experience, you will be working along with others.

I would like to remind everyone of our upcoming August meeting at the NIKE Base (Thursday Aug. 7th) 7PM. This is our annual cook out meeting so bring the family. There will be plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers and pop for all.

ENJOY THE NEW REPEATER AND CONTROLLER !!

Have A Happy And Safe Summer !!

Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT  
President of STARS

## Field Day '97

STARS completed another great Field Day on June 28-29 in the field behind the Moose Lodge in Hamburg.

Wire antennas went up, generators were started and members worked other club stations all over the US and Canada.

We will have a complete wrap-up of Field Day in our August newsletter.

## New Yorker's Ham Ticket Suspended For 15 Months

The FCC has suspended the Technician Class license of a ham in Brooklyn, New York, for causing willful or malicious interference, using obscene or indecent language and failure to identify. The licensee, Anthony Barben Jr, N2WNF, consented to a 15-month suspension which resulted from the FCC's efforts to resolve a rash of interference cases in the New York City-Long Island area. The FCC said the violations occurred in November 1996.

The FCC's Enforcement Division has requested that Barben forfeit his license to the Commission. The suspension became effective this week.

The ARRL Letter 6/13/97

## Special Event Stations

Special event station K3VOA will be on the July 4, 1997, 1200 to 2200 UTC, on or around 7.240 and 14.240 MHz, SSB. The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society (MADRAS) and the Voice of America Amateur Radio Club are sponsoring the operation from VOA headquarters in Washington, DC to celebrate the Fourth of July and VOA's 55th anniversary. Send QSLs (with SASE) to MADRAS, Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902. -Leo Boberschmidt, KA3TGY/MADRAS



Circus train special event: Talk to a circus train July 7, 1400 to 0100 July 8, and July 8, 1400 to 2000 UTC. Frequencies, 7.240 or 14.240 MHz SSB; 21.350 MHz SSB, and 146.55 FM. A color certificate is available. Send a 9 x 12 SASE and three units of postage (overseas hams should enclose four IRCs) to K9ZZ, 412-1/2 Ash St, Baraboo, WI 53913. -Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

The ARRL Letter 6/7/97

## Batavia Hamfest

The 1997 Batavia Hamfest, sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs, Inc., (GRAM) will be held on Sunday, July 13 at the Alexander Fire Department Recreation Grounds on route 98 south of Alexander, NY. The outdoor flea market will begin at 6 A.M., and the indoor vendors at 8:30 AM. Talk-in will be done on the 145.285 W2RCX repeater. There will be a contest check-in on 146.52 simplex for a \$50 gift certificate from East Coast Amateur Radio.



Tickets are \$5.00 at the gate (under 12 are free). Flea market spots are \$2.00 for an 8' space and \$4.00 for an 8' covered space. Camping is permitted at no extra charge.

There will be breakfast served from 6:30 till 10. Afterwards, there will be lunch served including their famous chicken barbecue at 11 (pre-sale Sunday only).

Prizes include an Alinco DX-70T HF/6 meter mobile, an Alinco DR605 2 meter/ 70 centimeter mobile, a MFJ 1278B all mode TNC, an ADI 201HP 2 meter HT and a Diamond X50 2 meter/70 centimeter antenna.

An ARRL forum will be held at 9 AM. There will be a 2 meter foxhunt at 10 AM. Winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from East Coast Amateur Radio.

Their popular Boat Anchor Auction will begin at 2 PM. You never know what, but it will usually be a bargain!

STARS will have a booth there to recruit new members for our club and to sell raffle tickets. Members are requested to help staff the table for a while during the time they attend the hamfest.

## STARS Gossip Column

Due to a technical problem on the part of the editor, we won't be able to bring you the STARS Gossip Column this month.

It will return again next month.

# Erie County Fair Planning Meeting

The first meeting of the EC Fair committee took place on Saturday, June 14, 1997 at 10 am at the Nike Base.

Attendance: KB2OUT, KB2VWE, KB2ZWE, KD2KK, KE2VW, KF2JY, N2OZE, N2TEZ, N2ZDL, WA2TVT

Excused: AA2GW, AA2TN, KB2JDB, KB2TTY, KG2IM, WA2ABN

The 1996 EC Fair amateur radio exhibit was reviewed in detail by all present, in a round table fashion.

1997 proposals/plans:

WA2TVT:

- 1) Delete the satellite display, based on limited interest shown at last year's display.
- 2) Using the club's IC735, and PK232, a PC, and his personal scope, setup a receive only RTTY display.

KF2JY:

- 1) Develop 5 minute training videos showing amateurs how to operate the equipment. He will donate the tapes for this project.

N2TEZ:

- 1) She will redo the map, using WB2ELW QSL cards, new ribbon, and a new map. The map will be a semipermanent display.
- 2) The SKYWARN display will be loaned to us again.
- 3) Get the Copper cactus antenna back for the wall display.
- 4) Offer shifts preferentially to STARS members before opening them up to non-club members. KB2JDB's school club members were felt by the group to be welcome to help out whenever they could!
- 5) She will compose an informational pamphlet about STARS to serve as one of this year's handouts.
- 6) She suggests an insert to go into the July Telstar, re: shifts available.

N2OZE:

- 1) He will provide black plastic to be velcro'd over the map, for the off season, to avoid dirt/fading of the map.
- 2) He will serve as a backup for any last minute shift can-

cellations.

KB2OUT:

- 1) He will help with calling members for participation, if needed this year.
- 2) He will check with KB2ESM, to see if non-club members are covered under our insurance, to allow them to work the exhibit.

KD2KK:

- 1) He will also check in with our insurance company, to see if non-club members can be covered.
- 2) He has made contact with Gary, allowing the loan of more/different antique equipment this season!
- 3) We will offer another special event station! It is too late to get it into QST this year. He will coordinate the schedule with KE2LO, and other interested club members.

KB2ZWE:

- 1) He would like to see the code reader loaned to us again. It, along with WA2ABN's "morse machine", was a big hit with the audience.
- 2) SETUP date is Tuesday, Aug 5, at 8am. We will meet at the Nike Base.

N2ZDL:

- 1) He submitted 4 designs for this year's QSL certificate. Those present selected one. He will print up 200 of those. They will include the club's web page address.
- 2) He will volunteer along with his dad, and WA2ABN to cover mornings.

KB2VWE:

- 1) He said he, and many others who worked the exhibit learned quite a bit.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## STARS Board of Directors

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

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold a test session at the Buffalo Hamfest at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Sept. All candidates for this session must preregister. For information on STARS test sessions, contact Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

For information on Lancaster ARC exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

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.

## EC Fair Display

(Continued from page 4)

2) He will work the mornings along with his son, and WA2ABN.

KE2VW:

- 1) He will check to see if we can setup an 80 meter dipole outside of the building this year, going toward the park.
- 2) He will check with KA2WYE, and AA2AC, to see if they are interested in another ATV demo this season, and in installing a 440 horizontal beam in the cupola on the roof.

The next (and probably last) meeting of this year's committee will be held at the Nike Base, on Saturday, July 26th, at 10 am. ALL ARE INVITED!

The Erie County Fair runs Thursday, August 7th thru Sunday August 17th.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2-6:30pm, and 6:30-10:30pm SHIFTS FOR EACH DAY.

We will need 3 amateurs for each shift! Please drop KE2VW a note, AS SOON AS YOU CAN COMMIT TO (A) SHIFT(S). It should be another fun year!

Respectfully submitted, KE2VW.

## Queen Elizabeth Makes Ham Radio History

Queen Elizabeth II wrote a page in the annals of ham radio history Wednesday by becoming the first reigning British monarch to speak over ham radio. The Queen spoke briefly from Canada to England during a visit to Cabot Tower on historic Signal Hill in St. John's, Newfoundland, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's "Voyage of Discovery." The Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA), which arranged the contact, operates a ham station in the building in tribute to Marconi's reception of the first transatlantic wireless signal in 1901 at a location some 300 feet from the tower.

The Queen spoke during a QSO between VO500JC, the Cabot Tower station, and GB500JC, in Bristol, England, the port from which Cabot began his voyage in 1497.

The ARRL Letter 6/27/97

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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 Per-rysburg, NY (146.97/.37 out/in, with a PL 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 537-9334.

## 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.

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. A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

## CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cmp-express.com/stars/>.

# STARS

**Terry W. Rockhold K200**  
**4805 Transit Road #1903**  
**Depew, NY 14043**  
**(716) 656-0865**

JOHN CULLUM JR. KB2ESM  
6871 WEBSTER RD.  
ORCHARD PARK NY 14127

