

telstar



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

ISSUE 195 DECEMBER 1997

1998 Club Elections

The 1998 STARS club elections were held at the November 6th club meeting. The election drew a great crowd with 62 members voting. The following are the winners of the election:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------|
| President | Tony Balas, Jr. | KB2OUT |
| Vice President | Bob Koster | KA2WYE |
| Secretary | Leo Karr II | KB2TYY |
| Treasurer | John Cullum, Jr. | KB2ESM |
| Financial | | |
| Secretary | Judy Levan | N2TEZ |
| Director (2 Year Term) | John Czuba | KG2IM |

These people plus Gene KE2LO (a Director in the second year of his two-year term) will make up the 1998 STARS Board of Directors.

License Exams

The STARS VE team held amateur radio license exams on November 8 and 22.

As a result of these tests, seven individuals earned their new Technician class licenses. In addition, five other individuals earned credit for passing Element 2 (Novice Theory) and are half way home towards earning their licenses.

STARS members who served as examiners in one or both of these sessions included John Czuba KG2IM, Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT, Norm Jones KD2KK, Vern Siegel AA2AC, Terry Rockhold K2OO, Jim Moxon N2OSL and Dick Hallett ND2C.

STARS next VE Exams will be held on Feb. 14. Be there!

December Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, December 4 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 are required.

Besides the usual club business, we will be inducting our new club officers.

Of course, this meeting will also conclude with our traditional Holiday Party. The club will be providing pizza and pop, and members are invited to bring finger foods to share with each other. We look forward to seeing you there!



1998 Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1998.

Members should 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.

Members who have renewed in time will receive their 1998 membership cards and the new 1998 repeater codes along with their January newsletters.

So get your membership renewed right now so that you will be ready with your new repeater codes when we change them in January.

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 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 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 KB2TY.

New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following NEW STARS MEMBERS accepted in November:

Thomas Banish - KC2CKX

Tom is an auto parts dispatcher for a Buffalo area firm. He lives in Lackawanna and currently holds a Technician Class License. Active on 2 Meters and having just built his own outdoor antenna, Tom is anxious to upgrade to Tech Plus and then General Class.

James Young - WG2G

Jim and his wife Betty live on Grand Island. Active since 1947 he is an Extra Class license holder. Jim is retired from Conrail and enjoys operating on 75-40-20 and 10 Meter bands. He also is having a lot of fun with packet.

Donald S. Nathan - KC2CAD

Scott lives in North Boston and currently holds a Tech. Plus License issued in June of 1997.



Centerville Dog Sled Races

If you are looking for a public service event that is something different, how about the Third Annual Centerville Dog Sled Races.

As in the case of the first two races, volunteers are needed to provide to several types of communications. The dates are Saturday, January 10th and Sunday, January 11th. They need help both days from about 7:30/8:00 - 12:30 and 12:00 - 3:30/4:00. Some people will work all day, and others will work just in the morning or afternoon.



Should you be interested in working this event, contact Patricia Scott N2LUQ at 688-2724 or try catching her on the 145.39 repeater.

From The President

The election of club officers was held at the November meeting. I would like to take this time to say congratulations to all the winners and thank all of those who supported my re-election. For those of you who were not elected this year I hope to see you and others on the ballot next year. I was very happy to see such a large attendance at this meeting, lets see if we can make all the meetings like this one.

The new welcome committee was a big success with their coffee and donuts. We will be having coffee and donuts at all the monthly club meetings except the December (Christmas Party) and August (Summer Panic) meetings.

I will be with the boards approval appointing a committee chairmen to head up a committee as per the motion that was made from the floor at the November 6th club meeting to look into the club's constitution and it's by-laws. This committee will review the STARS constitution and it's by-laws to see if it warrants any changes or additions. If there were to be any recommendations for change they would be done in accordance to the STARS constitution and By-laws. If any club member has anything to add please sub-

mit it to this committee for review. You can read more about this committee in your Telstar.

The Pumpkin Patrol was a success again this year. We had no major incidents to report. The news media did an interview at my house on the patrol and on the day of the patrol went out to 2 different bridges and talked to the Hams (all was shown on TV news). The NYS Police have asked us to help out again in 1998.

Rick (N2VZ) has notified the board of his resignation as the NIKE Base Chairmen. Rick will remain on the team as a opener. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Rick or myself.

If anyone has any comments or questions at all, Please give me a call or drop me a line.

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

Thank You
 Tony J. Balas Jr.

Santa Net

Special Santa Net, on Wednesday December 24th. I talked to Santa Claus again this year and he did agree to take some time out from toy making to talk to everyone on the STARS net. This will be a great place for the kids to check in and place their last minute orders with old Saint Nick. The net will start at 7 PM on the WB2ELW Repeater (147.090+). Have the kids ready Oh by the way mom and dad you can give Santa your list also as you all know ... we are all kids at heart.

Merry Christmas from Tony, Sandy, Cara and Connie
 Tony J. Balas Jr. KB2OUT

Meetings Rescheduled

Our monthly board meeting which is on the 4th Thursday of every month will be moved up to the 3rd Thursday (Thursday Dec. 18th) due to the Christmas holiday.

Our monthly club meeting which is on the 1st Thursday of every month will be moved to the 2nd Thursday (Thursday Jan. 8th) due to the New Years Day holiday.

Busted Pirate Broadcaster Is Ham

A well-known ham who thumbed his nose at the FCC was among those caught up in a Tampa, Florida, sweep by federal agents to shut down unlicensed broadcasting operations there. L. Douglas "Doug" Brewer, KC4HAZ, a General licensee of Temple Terrace, Florida, was detained when armed agents moved in to close down the pirates and confiscate equipment. Brewer is the trustee of several Amateur Radio repeaters in Tampa.

Brewer, 43, operated "The Party Pirate" from his home on 102.1 MHz. He told reporters that he was awakened November 19 at 6:30 AM by armed US marshals who handcuffed him. According to news reports, federal agents seized equipment from his home studio and from a remote broadcasting van that carried a "102.1 FM Pirate Radio" logo. They also dismantled a 150-foot tower. US marshals trucked away the equipment in a rental vehicle as Brewer looked on.

Known on the air as "Craven Moorehead," Brewer is said to have taunted FCC officials on and off the air and has refused to pay a \$1000 FCC fine. Brewer has hinted that he plans to return to the airwaves. The Party Pirate was the subject of an article earlier this year in The Wall Street Journal. Brewer's Web site includes pictures of FCC agents taking field strength readings outside his house.

Repeater Corner

Happy Holidays everyone! It's been a long year, but we're now the proud owners of a new 2m repeater, a 440 repeater back in operation and co-located at Colden, a new shared controller for both, and a new 2m remote receiver system.

There were many ups and downs along the way, but these accomplishments were due to a solid group effort by many people—those who helped with the work, those who helped with fund raising or contributions, and those who lent their moral support and patience throughout the year.

All equipment is fully functional except the remote receiver system, but by the time you read this, it may be up and running. Interface problems at Colden between the 440 link, the voter, and the 2m repeater are forcing me to bring all the pieces home and put them on the bench to straighten out the interconnects.

During tests so far, the remote receiver at the Nike base has proven to be very sensitive—more so than expected. It should prove to be a welcome addition to 2m operations. Its great sensitivity will rule out timesharing of the 440 repeater input frequency as a link frequency for very long. Just too much link activity. A separate link receiver and frequency are in the works.

On another topic, with the bad weather already upon us, it's time to remind everyone of the preferred repeater operating procedures during those nasty drives to and from work. First, remember that repeaters are mainly designed to help mobile and portable stations increase their range.

Because of that, base stations should lurk in the shadows and not dominate the repeater during the drive times (roughly 6-8 AM and 4-6 PM), when the mobiles/portables are out there and need the repeater's range-enhancing capabilities. Base stations should be monitoring and be ready to help if assistance is needed.

And if you are mobile or portable during those times, be considerate and don't carry on a long-winded rag chew, especially during bad weather. Waiting in the wings may be newer operators, or those who don't normally frequent the repeater, who would like to make a call, use the autopatch, or check on someone's progress.

They can be intimidated by others monopolizing the re-

peater, or playing quick-draw with their microphone switches. Keep your transmissions short and thoughtful, leave a pause between transmissions, and ask periodically if anyone else needs to use the repeater.

It's not that our repeaters are super busy all the time—they're not. Active repeaters are a good thing, and we encourage you to use them. But activity does peak at certain times, and with bad weather or drive time operations, an extra dose of thoughtfulness and consideration goes a long way.

If you'd like more information on proper operating procedures on repeaters, check these references: the ARRL Operating Manual; the FM and Repeaters section of Now You're Talking or the ARRL Handbook; or the Repeater Operating Practices section in the front of any ARRL Repeater Directory. If you don't have these, check the copies at the Nike Base, or, if you've been good, add them to your Christmas list!

Enjoy the repeaters! 73's, Paul, WA2IYW.



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 test sessions on 2/14, 4/18 and 7/11 in 1998 at the 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 tests, contact Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT at 992-2011 or Norm Jones KD2KK at 824-1148.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on 12/17/97 and 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/29, 5/20 and 6/10 during 1998 at the Aurora Middle School, Lancaster, NY. For information on Lancaster exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on 12/6/97 and 1/10, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, and 6/6 during 1998 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.

Arizona QRMer To Pay Up

Hams in Arizona are cheering, now that a man fined by the FCC for malicious interference and other rules violations has finally agreed to pay up. Last year, the FCC fined Timothy Harold Hoffman of Phoenix \$6000 for repeated violations, including interference to Phoenix-area repeaters. The violations were called to the Commission's attention by the Arizona Repeater Association's ARRL-sanctioned Local Interference Committee. Hoffman was cited for five specific violations, including transmitting on ham frequencies without a valid operator or station authorization, and willfully and maliciously interfering with ham radio communications. But, as Lance Halle, KW7LH, tells it, "it took a multitude of long distance calls by committee members, support from FCC personal, input from Congress, and the White House, to get a Notice of Forfeiture and then a federal court judgment" against Hoffman, which he called "one of the major interferers."

"The system does work," Halle said in alerting the ARRL to the October 26 judgment by US District Court judge Robert C. Broomfield. Hoffman will pay off his fine in increments of \$200 per month. "Spread the word! Maybe this will deter some of the would-be interferers."

The Arri Letter 11/21/97

Committee to Review the S.T.A.R.S. Constitution & Bylaws

As most of you are aware, during the November 6th, 1997 general membership meeting, a motion was made from the floor to review the current S.T.A.R.S. Constitution and Bylaws. Following up on that recommendation Tony - KB2OUT has selected me to Chair this committee. This action was approved by the Board on November 20th.

This committee will be responsible for reviewing any changes or additions found to be necessary and will evaluate any proposed changes for proper clarity and consistency with existing articles and sections. Once completed all recommendations will be presented to the board and ultimately to the club membership for a final vote.

The committee will be made up of the following club members:

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| WA2TVT | Dave Baco |
| KB2OUT | Tony Balas |
| AA2VM | Ron Canazzi |
| KD2QV | Rick Doherty - Chair |
| KB2TTY | Leo Karr |
| K2OO | Terry Rockhold |
| KB2YJ | Gary Zanghi |

It is imperative that we receive ideas from all interested club members. A suggestion box will be put out for this purpose at future club meetings. Please feel free to contact me at 648-0966 or E-Mail: KD2QV@juno.com with your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

Rick Doherty - KD2QV

ARRL Division Elections

In the Atlantic Division, incumbent Director Kay Craigie, WT3P, of Paoli, Pennsylvania, easily beat back a challenge from Jim Carson, WK2K, of Ithaca New York. The vote tally was 4918 to 1573.

Atlantic Division Vice Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, was without opposition for his seat.

Congratulations to Kay and Bernie!



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 Perrysburg, NY (146.97/.37 out/in, with a PL of 151.4 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (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 every 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

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