

telstar



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

ISSUE 222 MAY 2000

Upgrade Day!

April 15, 2000 will go down as one of the milestone days of amateur radio. This was the day that the new FCC rules on restructuring amateur radio license classes came into effect.

Many amateurs in recent months had been taking various theory and code exams to qualify themselves for upgrades to General and Extra classes under the new rules.

Many VE teams around the nation scheduled test sessions on April 15 to allow their local hams to bring in their paperwork to qualify for their upgrades. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke W9JJ stated that they had about 250 test sessions scheduled for April 15 and estimated that they would be seeing about 10,000 license applications in the week or so after April 15.



STARS VE team was one of those teams busy on April 15. 41 people showed up and all 41 left with Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination forms in their hands for new licenses or license upgrades! That's what you call a really successful day! Two qualified for new Technician licenses, two for new Technician with HF licenses, 19 for upgrades to General class and 18 for Extra class upgrades.

VE's who participated on April 15 included Mark Johnston KE2YQ, Judith Levan N2TEZ, Bruce Howes KG2IC, Tony Balas Jr. KB2OUT, Richard Sellers KG2OR, Jim Livingston N2SKT, Jim Moxon N2OSSL, Joseph Lazzaro N1EAH, Joe Prockton N2BGJ, Dan Rozek W2CQX and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

May Meeting

Our monthly club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, May 4th at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues). Everyone interested in amateur radio are invited; neither an amateur radio license nor club membership is required.

Our program will be "Stealth Antennas" by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ. Ron who works for TX-RX in Angola, will talk about the various aspects of hidden antennas and working with limited lot sizes. This will be a PowerPoint / Projection program and should be very interesting.



New Edition of The ARRL's FCC Rule Book Available:

The rules have changed significantly, and The ARRL's FCC Rule Book (12th Ed) reflects the realities of the regulatory world. Edited by John Hennessee, N1KB, The FCC Rule Book incorporates the complete text of Part 97, including all changes that became effective on April 15, 2000. It has details on license restructuring and everything you'll ever need to know about the Universal Licensing System (at least until the FCC changes it) plus RF exposure guidelines and other technical standards. There's also a greatly enhanced chapter on repeaters, crossband operation and linking. The ARRL's FCC Rule Book is \$12. Order Item 7857. Visit ARRLWeb or call toll-free 888-277-5289.



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 WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

STARS VHF net meets at 7:30 PM on Thursdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 output/input— PL of 107.2 Hz) except on the first Thursday of the month (club meeting night).

From Your President

I wish to thank Andy KB2EOQ for the PSK 31 demonstration at the April meeting, for those that missed it you missed a great Demo. Maybe we can ask Andy to return in the fall to do it again.

As I wrote last month, the Dayton Hamfest is this month May 19, 20, 21st so you still have time to make your plans to go. Also within the next 30 days we will also have the Rochester NY and Butler PA Hamfests the first weekend in June.

STARS donated a car load of electronic equipment to the Pioneer Central School system last month. Most of the stuff was just salvage but it will give the kids a chance to tear things apart just to see how they tick. I am working on getting more stuff but my supply is starting to dry up.

Now for the Repeater, as some of you know we have been getting some kind of interference in the 2 meter repeater. We know that it is not in our equipment, nor is it in any of the equipment at the site. The best guess is that it is a commercial transmitter that is drifting and sooner or later it will fail and the problem will be gone. Until then, we have 12 control operators that will monitor the repeater and shut it down if necessary then turn it back on later.

This month a movie with a Ham Radio theme is hitting the silver screen, it is called "Frequency". The story line has to do with the present solar cycle and the strange things that can happen. I won't give any of the story away here, but you might want to check it out for yourself.

Congratulations to all those who upgraded at the last VE test session, and for those who now have a General Class license or better don't forget to check into the STARS Saturday morning net on 75 meters at 10 am.

I hope to see you at the May 4th meeting.
73's
Gary KB2YJ

STARS is an ARRL Special Service Club!



Arkwright Updates!

The Arkwright repeater on 146.670 MHz. is linked, almost full time to the W2HYP repeater, which is located on top of Bristol Mountain, South of Rochester. We linked these two for Skywarn activities, but found out that people were having so much fun, we (Mike and I), decided to keep the link active full time!

The W2HYP repeater transmits on 145.110 MHz, with a PL of 110.9 Hz (which usually is not on). The PL for Arkwright (107.2) is ALWAYS required, when on that machine.

The coverage of the two machines extends from SW of Erie Pa, all the way East to Syracuse, NY, with just the two machines! The Bristol machine picks up where the Arkwright machine ends at Batavia, so mobiles should plan on switching repeaters at that point, heading in either direction.



W2HYP has 440 MHz (WR2AHL), 10 meter, and 6 meter repeaters tied in to the 145.11 machine, selectable by tone control that adds to so exciting times! Last week we had a station in Ohio talking to KC2CKX, who was 18 wheel mobile on route 81 heading out of Syracuse!

For those that would like codes for turning the link between Arkwright and Bristol on and off (from either side), drop me an email note, and I will email them to you. They are not to be shared, or otherwise discussed with anyone. I will send along the rules governing use of the codes in that email. I will only send them out via email, as I have been changing them, as new features have been added, so this way I can send out emails to all who have the codes at one time, whenever there are updates.

Hopefully, at some point, when finances allow, I will be able to purchase a Kenwood 400 MHz rig, that will allow linking on 440 MHz, back to WB2ELW.

We hold 3 regular nets, the CARC (Cyber Amateur Radio Club) net on Saturdays at 2100, which broadcasts the ARRL audio news; the Erie County Aries/Races net on Sundays at 1900; and the Skywarn informational net on Tuesdays at 19:30. Stop in and join us for one of these nets, or catch the "morning crew", weekdays from about 0550 to 0715, with our morning "anchor" K2JYC, Frank in Lockport.

73, de KE2VW

New York PRB-1 Effort Gets Companion Senate Bill

A companion PRB-1 bill, S.7324, has been introduced in the New York State Senate by Sen Dale M. Volker of Buffalo. The Senate measure mirrors the assembly bill, A.9947, submitted earlier. ARRL Hudson Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, urges amateurs to write their state senators and assembly representatives in support A.9947 and S.7324. Proponents are hoping for a hearing in the Local Government Committee. A directory of senators and representatives is available at <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us> and <http://www.senate.state.ny.us>. Sample letters and links to the state legislators are also accessible at <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org>.

-Frank Fallon, N2FF, via The Hudson Loop

Club Member Roster

We have held up publishing a new club member roster for this year because we knew that many people were going to be upgrading in April. We will publish it in June.

If you have changes to your address, call sign, class, telephone number or e-mail address, please get them to Terry K2OO by May 22. He can be reached at k2oo@bigfoot.com or by calling 656-0865.

April Meeting



Andy O'Brien KB2EOQ gave an excellent presentation on PSK31 at STARS April Meeting. Photo courtesy of Rick KD2QV.

"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 15

We will wrap up the series in this month's issue, with a discussion of the high speed Local Area Network(LAN) that joins the various servers here in WNY.

We now have at least one of every type of service linked together at relatively high speed (9600 baud minimum, to 56K maximum)!

The LAN is setup on a diode matrix ring, that is a diode board linking tncs' serial ports together, to allow them to directly communicate, independent of any computer.

This is critical if the network is going to continue to function when a computer "goes down", due to lockups, or power failures.

A user can come into the network on any user port, and by checking a nodes list he/she can travel the network (akin to "surfing the net" on internet), to gain access to regional or distant servers/nodes.

As I type this article, I am staring at the LAN, which is composed of multiple tncs. Two of these are user ports, and three are "backbone" forwarding ports, one at 9600, one at 19.2K, and the last at 56K.

A backbone is simply a group of nodes that link regions/services together over radio. (There are wireline nodes of course, but we will limit our discussion to packet .

On 145.710 Mhz which is the "main" user port for the dxcluster, you can connect at 1200 baud to DXWNY.

You can connect at 9600 baud on 223.68 to KE2VW-7, and "gateway" out to the LAN.

On 446.825 Mhz, you can connect at 19.2K baud to KE2VW-13, and "gateway" out to the LAN.

From any of the nodes, you can directly connect to any of the other user nodes (ie BLISS, STARS, SBFFLO, etc), or regional servers (ie BBSVW, DXWNY, ROCBBS, etc).

Each of the major servers will have their own forms of user help files on-line, so remember to use the ubiquitous "?" command! Remember more importantly, to have fun!!

I have enjoyed committing my thoughts to writing, to help to answer some of the more common questions asked of me in this series on packet radio.

No book/manual will answer all the questions. That's where

teamwork, and Elmering come into play!

Enjoy the hobby by helping others with their attempts to learn the digital aspects of the hobby!

73, and keep those packets flying!

Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the STARS KE2VW BBS
c 1995

Public Service Event

This a note from Hams Operating Public and Emergency Services, which is the coordinator of communications for the upcoming International Beach Cleanup which will be held on September 16, 2000. We are looking for amateurs to man up to 55 zones, from N. Falls to Presque Isle Beach which is near Erie PA. We are encouraging all clubs and groups to get involved. The time of this event would start at 10 am and last about 2 hrs. If you or your group are interested please contact Gary Tillinghast KB2YAA either by radio or by phone at 592-9554. Many clubs and groups are all ready involved, and any communications provided will make this event more enjoyable for all.

Some of the areas that communications are needed are along creeks and streams that feed into Lake Erie. Groups such as the Adirondack climbing club have been cleaning the banks of the Cattaraugus Creek in Zoar Valley.

If there are any questions please contact me. Please announce this at your meetings until September as well as any nets. Thank you for the opportunity to present this event for service.

Gary KB2YAA
HOPES coordinator

STARS Board of Directors

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|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
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President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ may be reached at Kb2yj@aol.com or by calling 549-8476

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 5/13 and 7/8 in 2000 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM; Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registering will reduce time at exams.. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT at 992-2011 or Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865..

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions at the Aurora Middle School, Lancaster, NY on 5/10 (no tests, upgrade paperwork only), 6/14, 7/12 in 2000.. For information on Lancaster exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. on 5/6 and 6/10 in 2000.. 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.

Raymond W. Murray Sr. WA2UJU SK

Pat NW2I has asked me to let the amateur community know that her husband, Raymond W. Murray Sr. WA2UJU passed away yesterday (April 22). I had the pleasure to meet and speak with Ray several times, he was very much a gentleman in the finest sense of the word, as well as a Marine during WW2.

Expressions of condolence can be sent to:
Patricia Murray
585 NORTH STAR RD
EAST AURORA, NY 14052

-Bruce KG2IC

You're Invited!

Will you be at the Dayton Hamvention / ARRL National Convention this year??

If so, we hope you'll join us for ARRL's "PR Sprint."

When: Saturday May 20th, from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Forum Room #1 of Hara Arena

The PR Sprint will be a rapid fire Q & A session, during which a panel of experts will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about public relations and publicizing ham radio. The Sprint's moderator will lead the session by asking the questions, and then ultimately decide which panelist's advice you should take home with you! Audience members are encouraged to ask questions of the experts as well.

This promises to be a fun and informative forum for anyone interested in publicizing Amateur Radio in the new millennium.

Meet the panel of experts:

Moderator:

Dave Bell, W6AQ - Award winning television and movie producer from Hollywood

Announcer:

Dick Stein, K2ZR - Owner, President/C.E.O., Dick Stein Advertising, Buffalo, NY (& STARS member!)

Panelists:

Mel Granick, KS2G - Senior Vice President and Director of Healthcare Media Strategy, Edelman Public Relations Worldwide, NY

David Greer, N4KZ - Publisher, The Kentucky Standard, Bardstown, KY

Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR - Principal, Reinhardt & Reinhardt Advertising, Agoura Hills, CA

Dennis McAlpine, K2SX - Wall Street Securities Analyst with regular appearances on CNN, CNBC and Fox News

Alan Kaul, W6RCL - Producer, NBC News, Burbank, CA

Door prizes will include:

- Alinco's DJ-195 VHF hand-held
- "Goldline" studio microphone from Heil Sound, Ltd.
- Ham radio training materials from the Gordon West Radio School
- ARRL publications

Hope to see you there!

73, Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY
Media Relations Manager, ARRL
Direct: 860-594-0328



STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input, with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 out/in, with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 107.2 Hz.)

CLUB PACKET

The STARS KE2VW BBS, located in Colden, NY is accessible on 145.61 MHz or 145.65 MHz (indirect) by typing: C BBSVW, using 1200 baud. Or connect using 19.2K 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

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