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# telstar



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

ISSUE 223 JUNE 2000

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## From Your President

### Field Day-Field Day-Field Day

IT's finally here, As decided by the members at the May meeting we will be holding Field Day at the Nike Base. If you are asking why we are not going back to the Hamburg Moose grounds, well things changed there last year. The Moose put up a shelter in the grove that we used to use, and rent it out all weekend. Therefore we have been pushed out into the gravel field with no trees to hang antennas, and try to pound stakes into rock hard ground. If you made it out to Field Day last year you know the temperatures reached well into the high 90's with no shade. It may be a field exercise but I do not feel that I need to put the members through that again. As of right the now the plans are to put up some tents and run as we have in the past. Just in case the weather turns on us we can always move inside. Keith KC2DGC is bringing a small tower to put up and John K2CF is bringing his mini beam like last year. We will have two stations on the air, one CW and one SSB. I will bring my 10 ft tripod and 10 meter vertical for anyone that wants to get on that band. Jack KB2ESM and Tom KC2FCB will do the cooking and ETC. Tom KC2FCB has offered us the use of his 10x20 ft tent for the mess hall "tnx Tom". If you have ever eaten at Tom's restaurant, then you know how great a cook he is, and lets not forget Jacks skill with a grill. So lets all get involved, all of you that have just upgraded to General or Extra now is your chance to get on the bands during one of the Biggest World Wide events in the year 2000. Everyone is welcomed and everyone will get a chance



## June Meeting

STARS club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, June 1 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

After the business meeting, we will be discussing plans for the STARS 2000 Field Day. As noted in the article to the left, this year we will be operating from the field at the Nike Base this year. Come on out and have some fun!



## STARS Is a ARRL Special Service Club

to help and operate if they wish. 20 years from now you can brag how you operated during the Millennium Field Day.

(Get involved and make a difference)

## Erie County Fair is only two months away

Greg KE2VW has given so much to the Fair Display and to all of the Hams in the Western New York area, is stepping down from his position as the Chairman of the Fair display. It is with a heavy heart he does this. Sighting up coming family obligations and the ever increasing load at work, Greg feels the he just cannot give the display the time it needs this year. I am hoping that Greg can take over again in the near future. To fill the roster with the 100

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## 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).

## Grounding

As the weather warms up we will be looking to install towers, antennas, and grounding systems at our homes. With many of you upgrading to the General or Extra class, this will bring you to the world of HF operation, and a new type of RFI problems.

You may ask if I have any training in the area, well I was trained in the service as a Power Generation Specialist. I was in charge of setting up and running a launch site for Pursing Nuclear Missiles. This included wiring and grounding with 440 volt 60 and 400 cycle power all of the launch sites and maintenance on all other systems.

I will try to give you some do's and do not's when it comes to installing Hf antennas, grounding and etc.

When it comes to grounding most of us cannot afford to do it to specs. That is bury a 12 foot square metal plate 10 feet down and attach ground rods to each corner. So we try to do our best with just stakes and wire.

There are two types of grounds, electrical and rf. A good electrical ground may not be a good rf ground. When installing the ground to the shack you must use a good, and in my opinion, solid copper ground stake at least 6 to 8 feet long. You must try to keep the runs to your ground stake as short as possible. When too long they can radiate harmonics and cause RFI. You can get by this by using heavy shielded wire or coax. If you chose to use any kind of shielded wire you, must solder a capacitor rated at .001uf at 1000 volts between the shield and center conductor. This isolates the center wire from spurs and bleeds off any rf to ground. This method works very well on 6 and 10 meters. There is also some thought to attaching bare wire to your stake at 1/4 wave of the frequency that you are operating on or an offending frequency. Lets say that you are having problems on 75 meter phone, then you would want to run a wire from your ground stake out about 65 feet.

If you have copper or the old galvanized piping in you house you may want to run a separate ground wire and stake. This will help to bleed off any harmonics to ground instead of radiating them. If installing more than one ground stake you will have to check the impedance between them. The standard is less then 5 ohms between them, so if you can not achieve that then you will need to increase the conductivity of your ground stake. Just remember that if you live in a new home your gas and water service lines past you meters may be plastic, not a good ground

Conductivity of the ground and the ground stake is also very

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## Frank Modzelewski WG2H SK

We were saddened to learn of the death of STARS member Frank Modzelewski WG2H.

Often known as "Frank the Barber", he ran a barber shop in Kaisertown which was originally started by his father. After a putting in a hard week in his shop, Frank would often use his off days to go out and cut the hair of shut-in senior citizens, veterans in hospitals, etc.

Frank served as Financial Secretary and Membership Chairman for STARS for many, many years. For his devoted service, Frank was elected a Life Member of STARS.

Frank was also interested in boating and scuba diving.

Frank was a good man and will be greatly missed!

## New Stars E-Mail Reflector

This is an invitation to join the new STARS-WB2ELW group, an e-mail group that STARS moderates at eGroups, a free, easy-to-use email group service. By joining this group, you'll be able to easily send messages to fellow group members using just one e-mail address. eGroups also makes it easy to store photos and files, coordinate events and more.

The new STARS e-mail reflector has now been set up. The name STARS was taken, but STARS-WB2ELW was available. All e-mail sent to STARS-WB2ELW@egroups.com will be forwarded to all of the members of the list (as long as the person sending the original message is also a member of the group).

At the last STARS club meeting, the members present voted to establish a new official e-mail reflector. This will serve the various needs of the club and its members by allowing messages about upcoming meetings, guest speakers, and planned activities to be announced. It also will give us all the opportunity to discuss amateur radio related matters with other STARS members and seek advice when needed.

TO JOIN THIS GROUP, simply choose ONE of these 2 options:

1) Go to our site at:

<http://www.egroups.com/invite/STARS-WB2ELW> and click the "JOIN" button

2) users without web access ( such as Juno users ) that wish to subscribe can send an e-mail to: STARS-WB2ELW-subscribe@egroups.com. Web access is not required to become a member of the list.

## Hams 'n Eggs Breakfast

There will be a Hams 'n Eggs breakfast on Saturday, June 10, 2000 at 10:00 am at Kirl's Restaurant , 3700 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park. We will have a private room.

Kirl's has a great breakfast menu and the food is really good. Many people have been unable to come to the breakfasts, because they were on Sundays. So, here's your opportunity to attend. I

need to let the restaurant know in advance how many to expect. Please drop me an E-mail: KB2KVA@juno.com or leave a message at my business answering machine, 874-0120. Looking forward to seeing you.



Ed Taublieb KB2KVA.

## Repeater News

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2000, I attended the Western New York and Southern Ontario Repeater Council meeting in Canada. There were several reasons why I needed to go to this meeting representing STARS:

1. Pay our annual dues.
2. Fill out the annual update for both of our repeaters that keeps us current with the council's database, also accurate info for the ARRL Repeater Guide.
3. Since we rebuilt our repeaters last year, we have been putting out a more efficient transmit signal. There have been some complainants from a repeater group to our east on 147.105. They claim that we are interfering with their user frequency. Our repeater technical committee has tested our repeater and found it to be within the guidelines set for repeaters. We filed a report to the council with our findings, and the Council has dismissed the other group's complaint as "unfounded".

So my thanks to all that worked behind the scenes to make sure that we were running in compliance with FCC regulations.

Some of our members have said that we do not need to comply with the repeater council rules and regulation. IF any of you have ever traveled to a major metropolis, you would have heard chaos with several repeaters on the same frequency. This has led to arguments, lawsuits, physical violence and arrests. WE are very lucky that for the last

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## Rochester Hamfest

The Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show combined with the ARRL Atlantic Division/New York State Convention will be held June 2-4, 2000 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, Route 15A, Rochester, NY. This is the largest hamfest in our area and is attended by many Buffalo area hams.

The outdoor Flea Market will open at 6 AM on Friday, June 2 and will run continuously all weekend. The indoor vendors in the Exhibit Hall will be open from noon to 5:30 PM on Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM on Saturday and 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Sunday.

Tickets are \$9.00 at the gate. Outdoor flea market vendor permits are \$10.00 per 10' x 20' parking space. This year there also will be an indoor flea market in Building 2 in the Northeast corner of the fairgrounds. Indoor space had to be reserved in advance, and the deadline is already past. For ticket information, call (716) 381-7757 before 9 PM. For other information, call (716) 424-7184 during business hours.

Kevin Kedzierski WA2FKV of RAWNY will be giving W2RUF code proficiency tests.

## Atlantic Division Award Winners

FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, has been named the Atlantic Division 2000 Amateur of the Year. Riley serves as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement. Since September 1998, he has been in charge of the FCC's amateur enforcement. Almost every ham who wanted the amateur bands cleaned up has heard of him. Some of those who didn't clean up their act on the air have also heard of -- and quite possibly from -- Riley.

Hollingsworth is credited with encouraging compliance with Part 97 rather than coming down hard on those in violation of the rules. As a fellow Amateur Radio operator, Riley shares a passion for wanting our hobby to grow and for it to last for future generations.

The Atlantic Division 2000 Grand 'Ole Ham Award goes to Bill Thompson, W2MTA, of Newark Valley, New York. Bill recently retired as Western New York Section Manager after 20 years of service. He has been actively involved in the leadership of the National Traffic System. His dedication to Amateur Radio goes well beyond his leader-

ship responsibilities. He was one of the hams to work satellite operations in its early stages. He is an avid, expert CW operator, and has been involved with packet radio from its beginnings.

The Atlantic Division 2000 Technical Achievement Award goes to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, of Silver Spring, Maryland. An aerospace engineer and active amateur, he has been heavily involved in space-related Amateur Radio activities, including the Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX), Phase 3D and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--project. Bauer serves as AMSAT's Vice President for Human Space Flight Programs and a member of the SAREX/ARISS Working Group. He was responsible for the acquisition, integration and testing of the ARISS Initial Station VHF and UHF radio, TNC, cables and antenna sets for the ISS Crew. This will be flown later this year on the Space Shuttle and installed in the Russian FGB Module. Bauer also has served for two years as vice president of the Goddard Amateur Radio Club, and four years as its president. He is active in his club's education and outreach programs and in Field Day.

Frank was responsible for setting up and operating the world-wide retransmission of Space Shuttle Air-to-Ground Communications from the Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN from its initiation in 1983 until 1990.

At NASA Goddard Flight Center, Frank is the Chief of the Guidance, Navigation and Control Center (GNCC).

The 2000 awards will be presented at the annual banquet to be held Friday evening, June 2, at the Rochester Marriott Thruway Hotel.

## STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Paul Julyan	WB2KFL

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 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 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 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.

## From Your President

*(Continued from page 1)*

slots needed for to man the display we are going to do two things this year. **One**, I will contact the other area Club Presidents and offer them some space to set up their Club banner and Ham Radio display. They will need to supply at least one person a day for the display. **Two**, Rick and I will use our Clubs reflector and other reflectors to ask for volunteers. We are going to keep track of everyone by Name, Call and Club affiliation on the duty roster, if you take one then one shift you can tell us which Club you want to give credit to. Any Stars member that wants to get a good shift "sign up early".

Just remember that June meeting is the last month that we will be at the Hamburg Youth Center, until September. July we are planning to have a tour of the Channel 4 transmitter site like we did last year. If you wish to bring a friend or two please feel free. . We are going to also have a clinic at the Channel 4 site so you can check out your radios for calibration and deviation. The tech will only tell you if you have a problem but WILL NOT adjust or fix the problem. I hope to see everyone at the June meeting.

Sincerely and 73's  
Gary KB2YJ President

## Grounding

*(Continued from page 2)*

important. Just because you pound a stake into the dirt it does not necessarily mean that you have a good ground. If you have low moisture or you property is shale you may want to consider watering your ground stake. This can be accomplished in any one of creative ways. With a post hole digger sink a 4 to 6 foot hole near your ground stake, then put a piece of 3 to 4 inch pvc pipe in it "Don't forget a cap for the top". Then back fill around the hole with small stones and fill it with water until it can not take anymore. You may also try to run the discharge of you sump pump. Others also want to consider running the discharge of your water softener.

Next month I will complete this article until then 73's  
Gary KB2YJ

## Repeater News

*(Continued from page 3)*

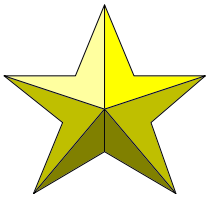
several years we in western New York have had little or no repeater wars going on. We have the repeater council to thank for that.

The noise that has plagued our 2 meter repeater for the past few weeks is still with us. We have run test at the site and are very positive that it is coming from an off site source. We have yet to be able to track it down, but we are still working on it. Since I became the Repeater Chairman, we have brought on board a real technical committee, and total of 12 control operators, instead of 1 or 2. This gives us better control over the repeater, just in case it locks up. So from time to time the repeater may go off the air if the noise keeps cycling it. I have asked the control operators to ID before turning it off then wait a few minutes then try turn it back on. Sometimes if we can not over ride the noise we turn it off via the phone line so you may not hear an ID from the control op.

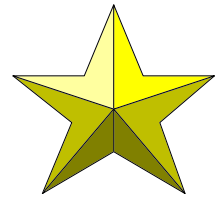
As some of you may know, WIVB is in the process of getting ready to install HDTV. This will include new transmitter, tower and antennas. Once up and running the old tower will be striped and removed . IF we had been short sited and moved our receive antenna to the main tower as proposed, STARS would have been out a substantial amount of money.

I am always looking for suggestions to improve the repeater or add features, so if you have anything in mind please feel free to drop me a note.

73's  
Gary KB2YJ  
Repeater Chairman



# 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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