

# telstar



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

ISSUE 224 JULY 2000

## Field Day 2000

This year Field Day was held at the STARS Club Station. There were two hf stations running on emergency power. ( Generator, provided by Paul, WB2KFL.) Well over 30 people were there and a good time was had by all.. even a certain two who stayed up all night.

The bands were in good shape. It rained and rained and then.....it rained some more. We were off the air for a while on Saturday because of lightening but then things Leittened up (HI HI). All agreed that it was a wise decision to move Field Day to the Club Station. Most all stayed dry.



Our rough total including all multipliers and bonus points was around 2,500 points. As this is the first year we operated 2E we don't have much of an idea how well we did compared to others. We will have to wait for QST to publish the results .

Field Day was a success because it was a group effort with many people contributing . Those who weren't there missed the activity that really makes you part of the club .....Of course the great food contributed too.

Field Day Chairperson John Leitten, KA2RFT, Asst. Chairperson Bob Koster KA2WYE and the many others did a great job.

If you have never been to Field Day make a promise to yourself to be there next year, the last full weekend in June.

Ed Taublieb, KB2KVA

## July Meeting

Our next club meeting will be at the Channel 4 WIVB transmitter site located on Center Road in Colden, NY on Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Go south on Center Road from East Aurora. Look for a BIG tower on the west side of the road. Call for directions if you need them on our WB2ELW repeater (147.090 MHz plus 600 Hz with a PL of 107.2 Hz.).



Tours of our repeater and the Channel 4 transmitter equipment will begin around 6 PM. We will have hot dogs and soft drinks available.

As always, our meeting is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required. Don't forget to bring the family and friends too!

Editor's Notes: STARS Field Day 2000 got some great publicity. The Buffalo News had a nice article entitled, "Ham Operators To Go Whole Hog At Field Day." Rick KD2QV said that BEN AM and STAR 102.5 were also running a public service announcement for us.

Richard Budzynski KC2FRG sent nice pictures taken at STARS Field Day. Unfortunately, I ran into computer problems trying to get them into the Telstar this month. I will try to get the problems worked out and have some of them in the next issue.

Terry K2OO  
Telstar Editor

## 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 will be off the air during this summer. The second week in September it will return on a new day—Wednesday at 7:30 PM on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/ .69 output/input—PL of 107.2 Hz) It will then be on weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Look for it then!

## From Your President

I will do just a short column this month and just hit the highlights. With my work schedule and getting ready for Field day there has not been enough hours in a day. Better to be busy than not.

I wish to thank Dave WA2TVT for suggesting that we hold Field day at the Nike Base, I heard a lot of positive comments from members and some non-members that came out for the event about our Club station. Lets not forget to mention the downpour of rain that might have ruined our HF equipment. The rain came in hard and fast and would have blown over any tents that we would have had up. Next month we should have some point scores to give you. I also wish to say thank you to all the people that helped out setting up or just came to operate.

Marc N2UBT has secured us our own domain name for the stars web site, so no matter what server we may use to host our web site.

**WWW.WB2ELW.COM**

The new server is much faster and a lot friendlier to AOL so you should not have any problems.

We are still taking names for anyone that wishes to help out at the Fair Display this year E Mail me at ["FairDisplay2000@aol.com"](mailto:FairDisplay2000@aol.com) or a voice mail at 716-549-5107. This number is voice mail only, so leave a message and I will call you back. That number is good 24/7 so call anytime.

Remember we are holding our July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Channel 4 transmitter site located on Center Road in Colden NY. We will start the tours of our repeater and the Ch 4 transmitter at about 6pm. We will also have hot dogs and soft drinks available. This is open to anyone so bring your family and friends "Please no bus tours" ha ha.

Everyone have a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday

Sincerely,  
Gary KB2YJ  
President

## STARS VHF Net

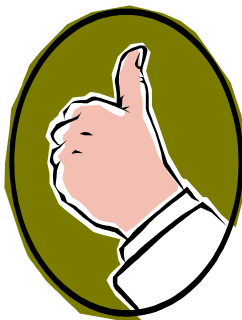
Note the changes in STARS VHF net outlined to the left of this message!

# Letter of Thanks!

To: Dave, WA2TVT

This is Dave (KB2ZHU). Last night you helped apprehend a DWI by calling the Hamburg police after I followed the DWI from Tonawanda to Hamburg. I just wanted to say thank you, and STARS for helping your community in such a great way.

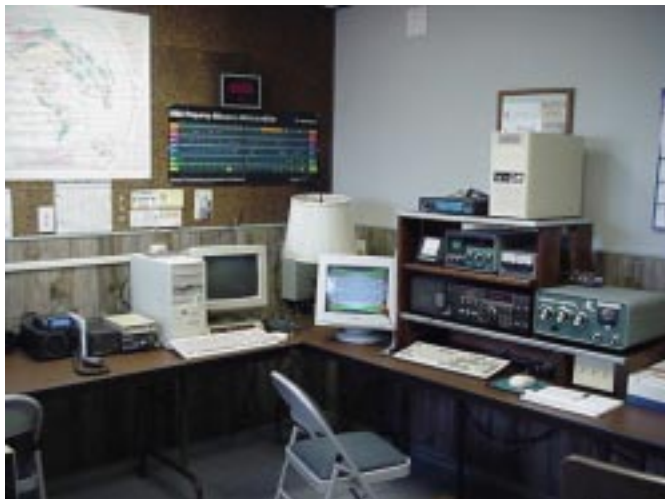
This DWI tried to run me off the road in North Tonawanda, and I decided to follow him. We had accidentally left our cellular phone at home. I immediately turned on the radio and started calling for help. As we traveled through 4 police jurisdictions, I could not raise anyone on the air to help from other area repeaters. One response I received was that they had called the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, but by then, we were in Buffalo.



You're insight to patch me through directly with the Police Dispatcher was something that even I hadn't thought of. I want to say thank you and the STARS club for being there. This is the spirit of Amateur Radio, and what it was designed for.

Incidentally, the Hamburg Police took my name and phone number and the officer wanted me to pass along the thanks. As I left the scene, the driver was being placed under arrest.

Dave Ashelman  
KB2ZHU



**STARS Nike Base HF Club Station.** I was at the Nike Base on Saturday (June 17) and took these pictures. I thought it would be nice for those who have not be out there in awhile to see what a nice job Dave, WA2TVT has done. It's a pleasure to work this station. 73, Keith Patterson KC2DGC

# Congratulations!

John Crawford, Jr. KG2OY now has a new call sign N2OY to go with his new Extra Class license!

Likewise, James Clark KC2AFV (12 year old son of Jay Clark KF2JY) has a new call sign KC2GKB to go with his new General Class license.

# Public Service Don'ts and Dos

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, presented a portion of the "Public Service Wants You!" forum at the Dayton Hamvention-ARRL National Convention 2000 on May 20.

"Public Service Don'ts and Dos" looks into what motivates Amateur Radio operators to volunteer for public service activities.

Now, she's sharing her notes and Power Point presentation on the ARRL Public Service Web Page, <http://www.arrl.org/field/pubservice.html>.

The ARRL Letter 6/24/00



## Dayton 2000 –My Take

I spent a total of \$29 on 3 Hiram Percy Maxim Coffee mugs, and 2 log books from the ARRL. Perhaps another \$10 on pink wire ties (for Christine) and some octal plugs. That's it, no radios.

Stayed at the Homewood Suites in Fairborn, Ohio., Great hotel, and free coffee and popcorn in the rooms! Understandable as you can't have enough coffee or popcorn.

No really clean boatanchor gear, a lot of radios in rough condition with astronomical prices. The Internet and Ebay are taking a toll here.

Very overpriced Collins gear, most of which was still left on Saturday when we pulled out.

Good WX, despite thunderstorm on Wednesday evening/ Thursday morning. A little cold on Saturday.

New Yaesu FT-90 dual band mobile is very neat, about the size of a business card, really! The mic is bigger than the control face.

New Elecraft K1 CW transceiver kit is also very slick, looking forward to it.

Highlights of the weekend, 1) Tim WA1HLR with his arm around Riley Hollingsworth (FCC Enforcer) in front of the AM station during a friendly visit. 2) Stop off and visit with "Ashtabula Bill" W8VYZ on Sunday!

Low Points of the weekend, 1) Discussion each evening about where the group will eat dinner. 2) The restrooms - very, very scary!

AM "Festival Station": (Editor's note: more about this next issue). Worked flawlessly, over 100 contacts logged, operations on 75, 40 and 20 meters. The Heathkit DX-100 and National NC-300 suffered no crapouts. We had a vendor selling engraved badges across the aisle from the station, and every few minutes he would fire up his vacuum cleaner, which made a screaming that can only be imagined, it was very loud. So if you heard a loud sucking sound in our transmitted audio, now you know.

Would I do it again? Yes, but only if I was going to run another AM station. After attending for 5 consecutive years, Dayton has lost some of its luster as the place to shop for vintage gear. No bargains to be had, anywhere!

Summary: Attendance seemed down quite a bit from last year, many of the vendors pulled out Saturday night, it will

be interested to see the official counts. No bargains, best to find boatanchor gear locally. Great source for parts, tubes and such. Also great place to find strange, unidentifiable electronic gizmos to baffle your friends with. The social activity was great, it was nice to meet others whom I had only spoke with on the air. Enjoyed seeing the new high tech gear, great place for freebies from the major manufacturers, missed the Yaesu hats-darn. You have to do Dayton at least once in your ham career, then realize that you can find almost everything there at the Rochester Hamfest.

Sincerely,

Bruce James Howes KG2IC



## STARS Is An ARRL Special Service Club!

### 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 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. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738.

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

## Ham Tracks Taunting Teens

According to news accounts, a group of Ohio teenagers have a local ham to thank for helping to land them in juvenile detention. Authorities report the youths used a pilfered police radio to taunt police over the air June 17, then bragged that they'd never be caught.

With help from a local amateur, however, police in Amherst and Vermillion, Ohio, tracked down the young miscreants. The towns share a public safety communications network. The interference came while the two departments were dealing with a fish festival crowd in Amherst and a search for a burglary suspect in Vermillion.

Authorities report that one of the youths--all between 14 and 16 years old--had stolen three hand-held radios from the public works department, where he had a summer job. Using two of the transceivers, the teens reportedly commenced to badger the police over the air with obscenities and threats, at times calling the officers by name. The cops tried to enlist the aid of the FCC's Detroit field office, but Commission personnel reportedly said they couldn't get direction-finding gear out there until the next day.

Enter Todd Dunlap, KC8EDS, of Amherst (Ohio), who was able to track the signals to a basement recreation room in his own neighborhood, a police spokesperson said. Within a few minutes, police were knocking on the door of the house, awakening the sleeping grandmother of the teenager who lived there and getting permission to search. According to news reports, authorities found the youths and two of the stolen radios. They later recovered the third at the home of the teenager who had allegedly stolen it. In addition to theft and harassment, the teenagers also were charged with possession of marijuana and disruption of public services.--from news reports

The ARRL Letter 6/30/00

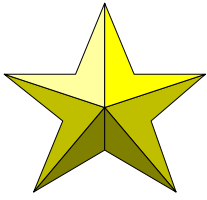
## Youngsters Hailed in Radio Rescue

Two young Oregon brothers are being credited with quick thinking after they intercepted a plea for help transmitted via a Family Radio Service UHF transceiver by some injured mountaineers more than 80 miles away. Fletcher and Parker Wold, ages 7 and 5 respectively, of McMinnville, heard the call for help put out by climbers Iain Morris, 23, and Jim Clark, 38. Morris and Clark had been caught in a rock slide on Mount Hood June 20, and Morris was seriously injured. The brothers immediately alerted their dad, Mike Wold, who contacted authorities, triggering a full-scale mountain rescue. Mike Wold says he gave the boys the hand-held transceivers to use when playing in the woods, so

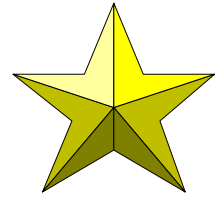
he could keep in touch with them. The hikers had tried their more-powerful VHF transceiver before giving up and using the FRS set they used to keep in touch with one another along the trail. In a related story, REACT International is suggesting adoption of FRS channel 1 (462.5625 MHz) with the CTCSS tone disabled as a national call channel. REACT says it came up with the idea after lost hikers in Southern California spent 40 minutes calling on 14 different FRS channels using 38 different tones. In that case, an 11-year-old boy, Kristofer Moore, heard the distress call on his FRS H-T while camping with his family.--thanks to Cindy Wall, KA7ITT; REACT

The ARRL Letter 6/30/00





# 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.wb2elw.com>

# STARS

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**k2oo@bigfoot.com**