

B-PLUS+

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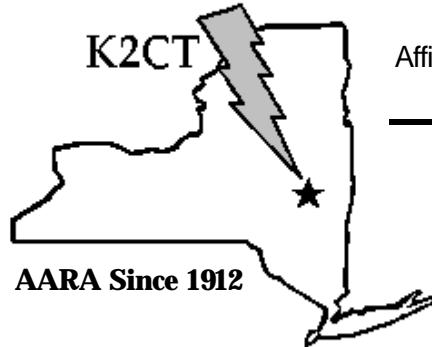
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An ARRL Special Service Club

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A A R A
Meets at the
Colonie Community Center
1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday Dec. 11

Social Hour 6:45 PM
Board Meeting 7:15 PM
Meeting 7:45 PM

refreshments are on the club this meeting

Talk-in
repeater
145.19 (-) MHz

See page 3

December Meeting

Its Election Time

See page 2

Come see the latest antenna video from the ARRL

Holiday Greetings

Food, soda, coffee are on the house

Another great reason to
come to the meeting

AARA web site:

<http://users.aol.com/k2ct/index.htm>

For Sale: 1999 Ultimate Entertainment Books at a cost of
\$40.00/each. The profits from the sales are going to the
AARA Repeater Fund.
See George, K2ONP at the meeting.

Join in the fun of the **AARA Sprint**
Thurs. Dec. 10th, 7 to 8PM on 10 meters

Nominating Committee of Jay Freud, K2QNU, John Nagi, N2CQA, Bob Raffaele, W2XM have officially nominated the following slate for 1999:

- George Wilner, K2ONP - **President**
 - Ernie Popp, K2EP - **Vice President**
 - Saul Abrams, K2XA - **Treasurer**
 - Bill Nettleton, K2BX - **Secretary**
 - Dave Patti, KB2HPW - **3 year Director** (99-02)
- If George wins re-election, then nominated to fill-in as the 1 year director Jim Noble, K2ZP

The election will be held on December 11, 1998 at the Colonie Community Center. You must be present to vote! Nominations will be accepted from the floor per the AARA Constitution.

Pay your 1998 Dues \$15/year
 Checks should be made out to AARA and sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA, 307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

Field day results were published in OST magazine Dec 1998
 AARA place 32nd in the 4A class (out of 139)

"A" stations are clubs or groups operating with 2 or more operators

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>total QSO's</u>	<u>number of participants</u>	<u>total score</u>	<u>section</u>
4A out of 139					
1	W3AO	6697	15	19,366	MDC
2	W2GD	6119	50	18,912	NNJ
5	N2SF	3541	70	10,958	ENY
32	K2CT	1747	53	4,562	ENY
33	W2DMC	1299	42	4,464	ENY
91	W2MO	449	12	1,836	WNY
5A out of 75					
1	K4BFT	4484	50	13,830	AL
4	K1MUJ	2082	10	6,894	WMA
13	K2AE	1385	10	5,214	ENY
3A out of 358					
1	W4KX	4030	28	13,424	NC
5	W2RDX	2774	24	10,038	WNY
8	N2YL	2752	35	9,288	ENY
71	WB2T	1433	45	4,058	ENY
104	K2DS	1069	50	3,124	ENY
123	W2YRC	733	43	2,798	ENY
124	WA2ZWM	993	10	2,786	NNY
153	N2TY	667	41	2,350	ENY
202	N2YQI	468	18	1,744	NNY
ALSO					
16A	AA6CV	1501	45	12,840	SB
19A	KK8M	2233	5177	18,650	MI
26A	N1FD	8744	87	26,274	NH

if I missed something drop me a line Mike, WD2AJS

Upcoming Events..

- December 10 **7-8PM AARA 10 meter Sprint**
- 12-13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Jul QST
- January 2-3 ARRL RTTY Roundup
Dec QST
- 23-25 VHF Sweepstakes
Dec QST

Public Service**B - P L U S + S W A P S H O P**

free ad to members send or call Mike, WD2AJS

FOR SALE: From the estate of Bob Hassett: CSC DesignMate4 pulse generator, \$15; CSC DesignMate3 R/C bridge, \$15; Realistic digital sound-level meter, \$10; Radio Shack battery tester, \$5

FOR SALE: Club **QSL 2-color** cards about \$25.00 per 1000. Typically 1000 cards would cost at least \$40. Samples will be at the meeting or contact Ernie, K2EP.

From the junkbox of Bob Raffaele: NEW Cosmo brand AM, FM-stereo, stereo dual-cassette boom box, \$30; A Carole Perry video: "Reading, 'Riting & Radio - An introduction to Amateur Radio," \$4; A video produced by WB2JKJ, the Radio Club of JHS 22 in NYC: "EDUCOM - Education through Communication," \$5; ARRL video: "Friends for Life," \$9 Contact W2XM at 459-8435 or via raffaele@capital.net

Contest **AARA Sprint** will be held on
Thurs. Dec. 10 from 7 to 8 PM.

Where: Freq. 28.400 to 28.460MHz

Exchange: signal report and first name
(keeping it simple this year)

Submit logs to George, K2ONP at the meeting
or e-mail at k2onp@aol.com

Score is **total number** of completed contacts

The AARA board of Directors would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the 145.19 repeater fund drive.

Robert L Delaney	K2BUF	John A Wright	N2LEX
William Nettleton	K2BX	Given S Hynds	N2PZS
Peter A Beresford	K2KUZ	James Toomey	N2SQQ
Joseph P Lucey	K2MBF	Herbert Orth	N2TJM
Robert J Bartlett	K2RJB	Curtis W Rose	N2ZZX
John Naberezny	K2SIG	Virginia F VanDyck	N5HGX
John Yodis	K2VV	John A Covey	NB2Q
Seymour Miller	K2XF	Walt Baker	W2EQV
James Noble	K2ZP	William Barnes	W2GM
William E Houlton Jr	KA2OWW	Greg Lawrence	W2JWM
Herbert S Gawronski	KB2BB	Walter Logowski	WA1KKM
Nick Rutkowski	KB2CDS	Hi Lasher	WA2JVC
Kenneth & Marilyn Davis	KB2KfV & KB2JZI	Irving Ratchick	WA2LFC
Matt Klapp	KB2RBB	Charlie Glover	WA2VUO
Don Herring	KB2SCO	Anthony J Pazzola	WB2BEJ
Mac & Karen Smith	KB2SPM & KB2UUC	Gary M Sottosanti	WB2FQL
William J Sullivan	KB2UUD	Frank Cedilotte	WB2KDH
Beth Whiting	KC2BSC	William P Stewart	WB2MNV
Donna M Lasher	KF2KP	Nelson Williams	WB2SBO
John Pritt	N1JP	Jay Freud	K2QNU
Samuel & Sylvia Dickstein	N2AKR & WA2GYW	Harry "Bud" Hovey	WF2B
John L Nagi	N2CQA	Henry L Schultz Jr.	WI3U
Richard L. Jacobs	N2GSI	John E Tutein	WM2Y
Stanley Murawski	N2LBX		
David Lasher	N2HFI		

Once again THANK YOU
Jim Noble K2ZP

From "**The ARRL Letter**" November 20: The FCC has notified four individuals that it is setting aside their recent Extra Class license grants and privileges while it investigates alleged irregularities in the volunteer examination process. Letters from the FCC went out November 10 to Elmer J Smith, N3UNR, of Effort, Pennsylvania; Philip DiGenova, N3UNS, of Bartonsville, Pennsylvania; Wayne S Bowden, AA3RT, of Millsboro, Delaware; and Kenneth L Sharp, AA3RU, of Boyertown, Pennsylvania, that the Commission was setting aside their Extra Class grants. All four individuals were requested to return their Extra Class license documents and Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCEs) to the FCC's Gettysburg office.

"This letter is not a finding that you have engaged in misconduct," the letter said, adding that if the FCC's investigation concludes that it should grant the Extra Class license applications, it will reinstate the grants.

An FCC official said the investigation was looking into testing irregularities including allegations that examinees might have been coached or given test answers. "They are bumped back for now while we investigate, since we had enough evidence at the outset to do that," he said.

For the time being at least, Smith and DiGenova have been bumped back to Technician class licensees, while Sharp will revert to Advanced class and his former N3TPN call sign. All three took their examinations October 6 at a W5YI-VEC session in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Bowden apparently never held a ham ticket

prior to taking the examination elements for Extra Class at Spring City, Pennsylvania, on October 4 during a W5YI-VEC testing session. The call sign AA3RT no longer appears in the FCC database. The records of the other three amateurs involved were modified November 10.

Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

A.R.R.L. VEC Affiliated

A.T.V.E.T.

Contact Nels Williams, WB2SBO

at 439-7357 for more Info

Exams are held at the C.I.I. Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I.

FCC and ARRL/VEC Nov. 10, 1998

The FCC has announced its volunteer examiner expense reimbursement maximum as \$6.49 for calendar year 1999. Accordingly, the ARRL/VEC has set its 1999 test fee at \$6.45.

This increase, up from a 1998 maximum of \$6.39, is based on a 1.5% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the period September 1997 to September 1998.

As an ARRL/VEC policy, examinations which include only Elements 1A (5 WPM) and/or Element 2 (Novice written examination) will not be charged the standard fee in 1999. Morse code exemption applicants will be charged the standard \$6.45 fee in 1999.

For 1999, ARRL VEs may retain up to \$4 for each applicant they serve in order to offset their necessary and prudently-incurred expenses. ARRL VEs who retain such expense reimbursements are required by the ARRL/VEC to retain income and expense records for three years.

Any questions can be directed to the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-0300, or email to vec@arrl.org or <mailto:vec@arrl.org>.

FOR SALE: Club **QSL 2-color** cards about \$25.00 per 1000. Typically 1000 cards would cost at least \$40. Samples will be at the meeting or **contact** VP Ernie, K2EP.

HF on a Budget

By Richard H. Arland, K7SZ Here's an overview of what to expect on the various HF bands

160 and 80 meters (1.8-2.0 MHz; 3.5-4.0 MHz): These "nighttime" bands require big antennas to produce a big signal, but you can get creative with smaller radiators too. 160--called "Top Band" by old timers--and 80 can produce DX contacts, especially during the winter months when band noise is at a minimum. (By convention, the 80-meter SSB, or phone, band is referred to as 75 meters.)

40 meters (7.0-7.3 MHz): Propagation on 40 covers all of North America during various hours of the day and can produce some exotic DX. Antennas are very manageable, since a 40-meter dipole is about 66 feet end-to-end. Less than full-size antennas also still work pretty well. Much of the rest of the world only enjoys an allocation at 7.0-7.1 MHz, and overseas broadcasters can dominate the upper portions of the band at night.

30 meters (10.1-10.15 MHz): Propagation is a cross between 40 and 20 meters. Long-haul DX is possible on 30. You can only operate CW, and there is a 200 W PEP output maximum power limit on this band, so the you don't need a lot of power to be heard. Many low-power (QRP) operators find 30 meters a nice place to hang out.

20 meters (14.0-14.35 MHz): The DX band! When conditions are right, the band is open for DX all day and occasionally well into the nighttime hours. Antennas are comparatively small. A 20-meter dipole measures only about 33 feet end-to-end.

17, 15 and 12 meters (18.068-18.168; 21.0-21.45; 24.89-24.99 MHz): These are three great daytime (and sometimes nighttime) DX bands, but they require increased sunspot activity to produce reliable communications paths. Now that the sunspot cycle is on the upswing, these bands will be open more frequently. Antennas can be pretty compact, too.

10 meters (28.0-29.7): This band, our largest HF allocation, really hops during the sunspot maximum, yielding exotic DX from just after sunrise well into the hours of darkness. A simple dipole or shortened CB vertical antenna and a few watts of power will net lots of contacts. The upper portion of the band is home to some FM repeaters.

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edited by Mike Bergman, WD2AJS, 45 Swartson Ct., Albany, NY 12209 489-3110 and April Stack, K2ZCZ. Articles and B-PLUS+ Swap Shop Items accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail at michaelib@aol.com. Permission to reprint is granted if credit is given for article source as "Albany Amateur Radio Assoc. B-Plus"; and credit for specific bylines to the author when so identified. The contents of this publication are copyrighted in all other respects.