

# B-Plus

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Affiliated with The American Radio Relay League  
An ARRL Special Service Club



## AARA

Meets at the  
Colonie Community Center  
1653 Central Ave.  
Colonie

**Friday Nov. 10**

Social Hour 6:45 PM  
Meeting 7:45 PM  
Refreshments  
cookies. soda. diet soda. coffee

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## Nov Meeting

**Rob Leiden, KR2L, Eastern New York  
Section Manager.**

**He will speak about What's Happening in  
the ENY Amateur Radio Community**

**Also ARRL program about certification  
and continuing Education**

**Course on Emergency Communications**

**K2CT repeater**  
**Talk-in repeater 145.19 (-) MHz**  
**pl tone 107.2hz**  
**or 146.67 (-) MHz pl tone 127.3Hz**  
**linked to**  
**444.30 (+) MHz pl tone 100.0Hz**



Field Day  
2000

## **AARA ANNUAL SPRINT**

The Albany Amateur Radio Association will once again hold it's annual 10 meter sprint on **Thursday, December 9, 2000**. The sprint will begin at 0000 GMT (7:00 PM) and last one hour. All contacts must be made between the frequencies of **28.400 and 28.500 MHz using USB**. Exchange will consist of **signal report and first name** (e.g. "59 Ernie"). Each contact is worth 1 point and a 10 point bonus is awarded for working the AARA club call "K2CT".

Logs should be e-mailed to [K2ONP@arrl.net](mailto:K2ONP@arrl.net) or call book address. Put logs in body of e-mail Please, no attachment.

Hints for new testers.

Before submitting your logs, check for broken calls. If you worked Bud W2FB, it was probably WF2B.

Keep your log times in GMT not local time.

59 is the normal signal report given in a contest. Remember, if you can hear him, he's 59. If you can't he's 57.

73, K2EP

### **A Thousand Marbles:**

And article found and submitted by Nathaniel, KB2HPX

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles."

I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. "Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed

your daughter's dance recital." He continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles." "You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime.

Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to roundup 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear.

Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time. It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75 year Old Man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!" You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

**Pay your Dues \$15/year**

Checks should be made out to AARA and sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA, 307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

**Public Service:**

**Upcoming events:**

Please contact me or see me at a meeting if you would like to work at any of these events. Remember, public service is a way of justifying our use of the spectrum!

Laurie M. Warner, AARA Public Service Chair  
(518) 872-9056 or [n2osb@arrl.net](mailto:n2osb@arrl.net)

**Band plans redux--or little satellites have big ears:** In the wake of a recent FCC statement touting the value of Amateur Radio band plans, Chris Kelly, KOPF, thinks it's a good time to also remind all amateurs that terrestrial operation in the satellite subbands causes interference to the Amateur Satellite Service. "There are now three satellites that can operate in Mode J FM, with uplinks in the 2-meter band from 145.8 to 146.0 MHz," Kelly said in a note to ARRL Headquarters. "It is common now to hear a QSO in progress in which the hams do not seem to know that all of North America can hear their 'simplex' QSO." Kelly says that in the last month alone, he's monitored conversations in which husband-and-wife hams "discuss the relative merits of Safeway mayonnaise and other subjects a good bit more personal." He points out that the satellites are very sensitive and will easily pick up even handi-talkie signals and relay them to the whole continent. "The users of this subband usually don't know they are causing interference, because the downlink is in the 435 MHz range," he said. John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL's Regulatory Information Bureau says Kelly makes a good point, especially as the launch of Phase 3D draws closer. He recommends that FM simplex users stick to recognized simplex channels to avoid satellite input frequencies on 2 meters. *From ARRL*

**WHAT ARE ARISS/SAREX RADIO FREQUENCIES?**

The following VHF frequencies are used for some ARISS/SAREX contacts. These frequencies were chosen after much deliberation, to minimize problems between ARISS/SAREX and other 2-meter users. If you have comments, please direct them to AMSAT via Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, at his address in the Radio Amateur Callbook or email [ka3hdo@amsat.org](mailto:ka3hdo@amsat.org)

Frequencies used for ARISS/SAREX  
FM Voice Downlink: (Worldwide) 145.55 MHz  
FM Voice Uplink: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, and 144.99 MHz  
FM Voice Uplink: (Europe only) 144.70, 144.75, and 144.80 MHz  
FM Packet Downlink: 145.55 MHz  
FM Packet Uplink: 144.49 Mhz

Frequencies used for ARISS/SAREX during Shuttle Docking Missions

FM Voice Downlink: 145.84 MHz  
FM Voice Uplink: 144.45, 144.47 MHz

Most ARISS/SAREX operations are split-frequency (everyone uses separate receive and transmit frequencies). Please do not transmit on the shuttle's downlink frequency.

The downlink is your receiving frequency. The uplink is your transmitting frequency. Earth stations should listen to the downlink frequency and transmit on the uplink frequency only when the spacecraft is in range and the astronauts are on the air.

The P3-D spacecraft



## SWAP SHOP

Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at [wd2ajs@arrrl.net](mailto:wd2ajs@arrrl.net) or call 489-3110

## Upcoming Events

Nov 10-12 Worked All Europe Contest RTTY  
18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone  
25-26 CQ WW DX Contest, CW

DEC 9 **10 meter sprint** rules in page 2

## **ATVET SCHEDULE** **Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team**

This year the exams that are held on Saturday's will start at 10:30 AM. The Wednesday night schedules will start at 7:00 PM just as in the past.

For **ALL exam dates** the doors open 45 minutes prior to the starting times listed below. For those of you that missed last year's exams you'll find out that the parking lot next to the old Troy Armory is now gone!

You'll be best to go south on 15th Street just a bit further until you see a set of traffic lights that are in front of the Troy Armory & Robinson Swimming Pool. Take a right at the lights, then go in until your first right-hand turn and go straight in. You'll see that in goes in about 50 yards then you must turn right again. I think this parking lot will be a lot easier for all of you. Plus there is Handicapped Parking too!

If you need better directions just call me at or give me a shout on the 145.17 MHz / 444.225 MHz repeaters.

If any of you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any of the following addresses: [ny2u@n2ty](mailto:ny2u@n2ty) -- [atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) -- [mrbill1953@aol.com](mailto:mrbill1953@aol.com)

**LOCATION: RPI CAMPUS  
CII BUILDING -- ROOM 3051**

**NOVEMBER 11 SAT 10:30 AM**

## **The New AARA Roster Coming in FEB 2001**

**ANY CHANGES** in your personal info by Jan 3 let us Know contact Bill, K2BX at [k2bx@arrrl.net](mailto:k2bx@arrrl.net).



W1AW, Newington, CT

B-PLUS Nov. deadline is Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>

**Are You Changing Your Address:** Please contact Bill with your address corrections write to Bill Nettleton, K2BX 7 Frederick Pl., Troy, NY 12180 or e-mail at [k2bx@arrrl.net](mailto:k2bx@arrrl.net)

edited by Mike Bergman, WD2AJS, 45 Swartson Ct., Albany, NY 12209 489-3110. **Articles** and B-PLUS **Swap Shop items** accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail to [wd2ajs@arrrl.net](mailto:wd2ajs@arrrl.net) 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.