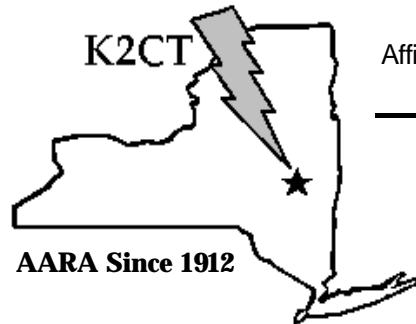


# B-Plus

Published by the  
Albany Amateur Radio Association  
Mid-Summer 1999



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

## AARA

Meets at the  
Colonie Community

1653 Central Ave. Colonie

### **NEXT MEETING** **Fri. SEPTEMBER 10**

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

Fred Lass, K2TR, will speak about  
digital TV and HDTV.  
The next era in TV. You won't want  
to miss the discussion. More details  
in the Sept B-Plus

The Sept. meeting will also be a combined  
AARA and YCCC meeting

### **FIELD DAY**

The Field Day Event was June 26th and  
27th. Those that came had a great time  
those that missed it did something else..

I would like to take this opportunity to thank  
everyone who participated in FIELD DAY 99  
for the hard work each and everyone did and  
the fun that we had doing it. I especially want  
to thank Nathaniel and his tower crew for the  
labor intensive job of erecting the towers and  
antennas, to the food crew, Seymour K2XF  
and Bill K2BX for the fine Saturday dinner  
and Sunday morning breakfast, and to all  
who made the club over 5000 points.

KUDOS TO ALL!!!!

Jim K2ZP Field Day Chairman  
[k2zp@localnet.com](mailto:k2zp@localnet.com)



K2CT repeater 145.19 (-) MHz  
or 145.37 (-) MHz tone 127.3

Pay your 1999 Dues \$15/year  
Checks should be made out to AARA and  
sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA, 307 Maple Rd.,  
Slingerlands, NY 12159

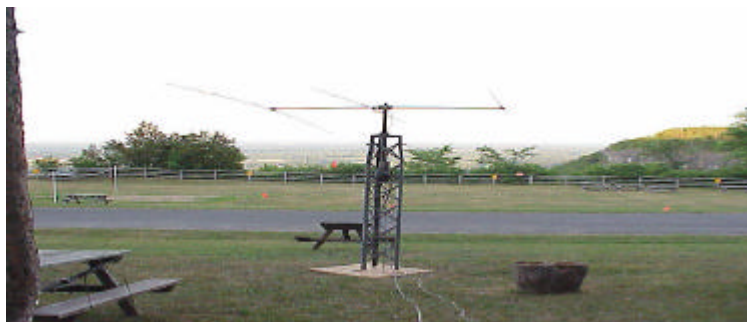
### Web site

<http://www.qsl.net/k2ct>

### Upcoming Events

Aug 21-22 North America QSO Party phone  
Sept 10 AARA Sept Meeting

Sept 11 Saratoga Hamfest Saratoga , NY  
Sept 11-13 Sept. VHF QSO Party rules QST Aug 99



### PUBLIC SERVICE

AARA was pleased to help the Hudson-Mohawk Road Runners Club with their annual Indian Ladder Trail Run on Sunday, 18 July. With hot, humid weather, hams manned water stations and checkpoints, much to the expressed appreciation of the race organizers. Thanks to Jerry KB2ZJI, Cody KG2QG, Herb N2TJM, Bill KA2OWW, Bud WF2B, Ken AA2CW, Tom N2SQO, Jim K2ZP, Marc N2XLC, Laurie N2OSB, and especially Tony WB2BEJ, who served as Net Control. *Well done!*

There will be no MDA Walk this year, so the **next event** I know of will be a HMRRC marathon on **17 October**. It goes from Schenectady to Albany ending at the Corning Preserve, involving both SARA and AARA. Following that, of course, will be the Pumpkin Patrol. Mark your calendars now! Anyone interested in working an event, please contact me

(July 28, 1999) Dear Laurie and all,

I am happy to report that the Hudson Mohawk Road Runners' Club's 5th annual Indian Ladder Trail Run was a grand success. A total of 255 runners from ages 11 to 69 participated in the two races. And we served more than 350 picnic lunches.

In the 15K race Peter Flynn, 22, Schenectady, won men's division (55:17), and Emily Bryans, 31, Schenectady, won the women's (1:08:28). In the 3.5 mile race, repeating last year's performance, Tyson Evensen, 17, West Sand Lake, was the overall male winner (21:29) as well as the winner of the NYS Parks Commissioner's Cup in the young men's Scholastic division. Veteran runner Amy Herold, 38, Clifton Park, won the women's division in the 3.5-mile event, and Laurel Kilgour, 18, Clifton Park (21:18) won the Commissioner's cup in the young women's Scholastic Division.

This was the fourth year that members of the Albany Amateur Radio Association volunteered their time and services to help ensure the safety of our runners. Your continued support has been instrumental to the success of this event, and we are deeply grateful.

Again, thank you for joining with us to provide a safe, fun, and quality event for our local running community. And we look forward to teaming with you on July 16 next year for our ILTR\*Y2K extravaganza.

Yours in Running, Jim Gilmer  
Race Director

**Contact Laurie Warner**, N2OSB by email at [n2osb@arrl.net](mailto:n2osb@arrl.net), or by phone at 872-9056. Laurie M. Warner, N2OSB Public Service Coordinator

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# Albany/Troy Volunteer Exam Team

## 1999 Examination Schedule

Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
September 29, 1999	Wednesday (evening)	6:20 PM	7:00 PM
November 13, 1999	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM

**ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams, WB2SBO at 439-7357 or [wb2sbo@aol.com](mailto:wb2sbo@aol.com)**

**ATVET LIAISON: Bill Eddy, NY2U at 273-9248 or [ny2u@n2ty.org](mailto:ny2u@n2ty.org)**

**General E-Mail can be sent to [atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org)**

ATVET will be holding their exam sessions in the C.I.I. Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I.. Examination room doors will open at 9:20 AM, with exams starting at the times indicated above. NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the starting time.

ATVET never requires any pre-registration for any of their exam schedules. A test fee of \$6.45 either cash, or check, is required for those taking any elements above Element -2 or Element -1A.

Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture ID. Also bring all of your original documentation (current license, CSCEs...etc.), along with photocopies, calculators, pens and pencils to the exam session.

Anyone needing special handicap arrangements is asked to call in advance.

The CII Building is handicapped accessible. Cancellations if needed will be announced on both the Capital District Repeater Net (Nightly on 146.94MHz at 6:30 PM) and WGY - 810 AM. Talk-in on 145.17/R .

**ARRL FIELD DAY -- 1999**

Call: K2CT  
 Novice Call: WD2AJS  
 Category: Multi Multi Class: 3A



BAND	CW QSO	CW QSO PTS	SSB QSO	SSB QSO PTS
160				
80	113	452	16	32
80N				
40	278	1112	261	522
40N				
20	139	556	329	658
15	42	168	65	130
15N				
10			32	64
10N	5	20	48	96
6	4	16	147	294
2	2	8	5	10
222			1	2
432			3	6
	583		907	
		2332		1814



$$583 + 907 = 1490 \text{ Total QSOs}$$

(2332 CW QSO PTS + 1814 SSB QSO PTS)

$$\begin{aligned} @2 \text{ POWER MULTIPLIER} &= 4,146 \\ + 1,000 \text{ BONUS} & \\ \hline &= 5,146 \text{ Total} \end{aligned}$$

Our score this year including the expected bonus points with 1490 total Qso's. How does that stack up to other years?

Year	points	class	QSO's
1997	3922	2A	869
1996	8780	4A	2599
1995	12026	4A	3517
1994	7644	3A	2129
1993	6498	3A	1894

**Net result: Good!** More importantly, everyone had fun. We had many more people wanting to operate this year than in past years. Much to everyone's amazement, people were actually WAITING IN LINE to operate the CW station. The suggestion was made to go class 4A next year and incorporate a second CW station setup. Also, a T-shirt is needed to add to the excitement of the day.

These recommendation will certainly be passed on to next year's FD Chairman. Overall attendance was quite good, due in no small part to the excellent weather conditions and our beautiful site in Thacher Park..

This year, our food committee outdid themselves. Special thanks to Bridget Nettleton N2NUJ for her wonderful spaghetti sauce. Cudos to Nathaniel KB2HPX, Scott N2MQQ, Dave KB2HPW etc etc for their expertise in putting up the towers, antennas, and in providing generator power. And, thanks to everyone else who helped, it made this year setup/takedown a breeze.

Band conditions are steadily improving and next year's scores should be even better.

T-shirt design is needed for Year 2000 Field Day. Design or the idea for the design to be submitted to Ernie, K2EP by DECEMBER.

Ernie, K2EP has joined the ranks of DXCC Honor Roll. Other members on the honor roll include Saul, K2XA, Seymour, K2XF, and Guy, WK2H.

**Congrats**

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## PSK31 Questions and Answers

*Ernest Mills, WM2U*

<http://www.qsl.net/wm2u>

In my recent talk on PSK31 at the AARA meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> June, there were a few questions that I could not answer at that time and others that I felt needed further explanation. I have since managed to collect, glean, or otherwise the following information.

Question: Will PSK work on other than SSB?

Answer: Yes! "I have used PSK31 on 2m FM with 100% success. Paul, M0BMN  
[m0bmn@pawebb.freemove.co.uk](mailto:m0bmn@pawebb.freemove.co.uk)

Question: What about satellite communication?

Answer: Peter, KD7MW [pklein@2alpha.net](mailto:pklein@2alpha.net) has this to say, "I had a PSK31 QSO with DL6DBN on Oscar 10. Signal weakness was less of an issue than transponder frequency shift, but the QSO was good. 400 bps PSK has been used on digital satellites for years and has been a standard for Oscar Phase III command stations.

Question: What are the QRP capabilities of PSK31?

Answer: Claude, VE3wqXXX reports a 300mw QSO with EA#XXX with 100 percent perfect copy. There are reports of 'micro watt' communication.

Question: What is the correct version of Linux kernel to run PSK31?

Answer: Salvador Caballe, EA3BKZ, [ea3bkz@amsat.org](mailto:ea3bkz@amsat.org) says, "I'm using the DL9RDZ PSK31 software. I compiled the sources without special problems, with REDHAT 5.2 and LINUX 2.0.36.

Question: Is there any DX on PSK31?

Answer: Yes, Karl, RS174461, a British SWL, [rs174461@aol.org](mailto:rs174461@aol.org) reports that he has logged 48 countries. Although unconfirmed, a Russian Ham reports 89 different DXCC countries worked.

Question: Why not 9600 baud PSK on VHF and up?

Answer: No reason at all. Peter Matinez, G3PLX, [Peter.Martinez@btinternet.com](mailto:Peter.Martinez@btinternet.com) says "...remember it's all been done before. Aviation has been using 1200 baud QPSK, (2400bps) on VHF for quite a while although they use AM not FM. Why stop at 9600 baud PSK? Your internet modem uses multilevel PSK and the signal is no wider than voice and all the error correction you want. Connect that to your VHF FM radio and work at 33kb and faster. Mmm! This particular wheel has already been invented.

Question: Can we use our narrow CW filters on PSK31.

Answer: No point other than to cut down on shack noise. The PSK31 software has a built in 'wide' filter of 45Hz and a narrow one of 31Hz.

Question: What is FSK31 and MSK?

Answer: Mmm! Yep! Well that is a different story and maybe material for a talk down the line.

Please feel free to e-mail me at [wm2u@qsl.com](mailto:wm2u@qsl.com) if you need help getting on line with PSK. Cu agn soon es enjoy, Ernie WM2U

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### NEED HAM PLATES IN NEW YORK? From: THE HUDSON LOOP Mon., July 26, 1999

I've been often asked how to order New York "ham license plates" from the Department of Motor Vehicles, similar to what I have on my car. Here's the latest way to do so, and you don't even have to stand in line...!

To order Emergency Services Custom Plates (as amateur radio plates are regarded in New York) from your computer, download form MV-411 from the NY State Department of Motor Vehicles website at <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/emerg.htm>. Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to access this, which can be downloaded from the site.

The initial cost is \$18.00. There is also an annual renewal fee of \$5.00, which is in addition to your registration fee. You will be billed for the plates every two years when you renew your registration. The current registration must be in your name.

If you are unable to download graphics, you may order plates by simply sending a check for \$18.00 payable to "NYS Custom Plates" with a copy of your FCC license and automobile registration to:

Department of Motor Vehicles, Custom Plates Unit, Room 231, 6 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12228

Information is not available on DMV's usual "800" phone line for vanity plates but you can call the DMV office in Albany during business hours at 518.474.6660.  
submitted by Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP (shirleyd@computer.net)

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B-PLUS Sept. article deadline is Sun, Aug. 30<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@msn.com

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