

# B-Plus

## AARA

AARA Meets at the  
**Bethlehem Town Hall**  
**445 Delaware Ave**  
**Delmar, NY 12054**

**Friday March 18th**

This is the third Fri of March

~~Social Hour 6:55 PM~~

refreshments  
soda, coffee, cookies etc.

[www.k2ct.net](http://www.k2ct.net)

**Affiliated with the American Radio Relay  
League**

**An ARRL Special Services Club**  
**104<sup>th</sup> Year**

RANDY WOESSNER, KC1NN  
PRESIDENT  
374-0597  
kc1nn@arrl.net

SUE ROTHSCCHILD, N2LBR  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
456-3637  
sue.walt@dososaur.com

SAUL ABRAMS, K2XA  
TREASURER  
439-5700  
k2xa@arrl.net  
sabrams@nycap.rr.com

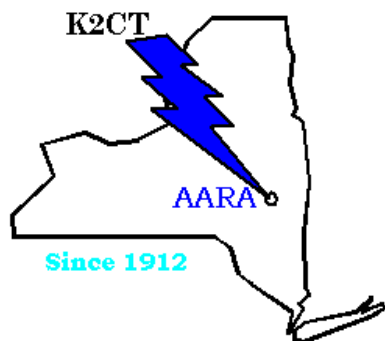
WALT LEGOWSKI, WA1KKM  
SECRETARY  
456-3637  
sue.walt@dososaur.com

BUD HOVEY, WF2B  
283-2337  
DIRECTOR

JIM GRACE, KA2AQV  
272-8653 DIRECTOR

jamesgr520@hotmail.com

BRUCE GOLDSTEIN, WA3AFS  
765-2893 Webmaster  
wa3afs@arrl.net



DAVE GALLETTY, KM2O  
PAST-PRESIDENT  
767-9103  
km2o@arrl.net

JOHN FRITZE, K2QY  
439-4240  
DIRECTOR  
k2qy@arrl.net

MIKE BERGMAN, WD2AJS  
489-3110 B-PLUS EDITOR  
wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com

ERNIE POPP, K2EP  
477-9581  
TRUSTEE of K2CT  
k2ep@arrl.net

## MARCH MEETING

MARCH meeting is the 3rd Fri of March  
on **MARCH 18th**

### Skip Zimmerman

Regional Volunteer Services Officer  
American Red Cross  
Eastern New York Region

He plans to give us an overview of the Red Cross, Red Cross disaster activities, and how radio communications folks can integrate into a disaster response. He will also spend a short time on the volunteer registration process to get folks started toward electronic engagement

145.19 (-) MHz  
pl tone 103.5Hz

### **AARA Dues**

Dues cheerfully accepted,  
**Dues are \$20.**

B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the  
K2CT Web page in .pdf format  
[www.k2ct.org](http://www.k2ct.org)

Checks should be made out to  
**AARA** and sent to:

**Saul Abrams, K2XA**  
**307 Maple Rd.**  
**Slingerlands, NY 12159**

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

If you can HELP OUT: call Gerry, WA2IWW

Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Start
====	===	=====	=====
3/12/16	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
5/14/16	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
7/6/16	Wednesday	6:20 PM	7:00 PM

2. The exam fee will remain at \$15.00 for 2016.
3. The current Extra Class question pool will expire on June 30, 2016.
4. The new Extra Class question pool will become effective on July 1, 2016.

Contact ATVET LIAISON: Gerry, WA2IWW [atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700

If you are interested in amateur radio, and would like to take the exam, the Albany/Troy VE Team (ATVET) stands ready to assist. ATVET is a joint effort of the Albany Amateur Radio Association (AARA), and the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984.

### National Parks on the Air Update

The ARRL Letter for January 21, 2016

Great pileups were reported from many National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) activators over the January 16-17 weekend. We're getting more and more comments from participants who are catching "NPOTA Fever" and beginning the chase.



At three weeks into the year-long event, we've seen nearly 200 of the 483 NPOTA units activated -- an amazing level of participation! Several Chasers are taking the event seriously as well; 11 Chasers have more than 100 NPOTA units confirmed, and 84 have 50 or more units in the bag. And it's still mighty cold in a large part of the county...just think what activity will be like when it warms up a bit.

NPOTA Managers Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, are talking NPOTA, ham radio, and RVing on this week's RoadTreking.com [podcast](#), "Reliable Communications for the RVer," hosted by Mike Wendland, K8ZRH, an NPOTA Activator.

More than 20 Activations are scheduled for the week of January 21-27; check the NPOTA Activations [calendar](#) for details. Follow NPOTA on Facebook and Twitter, too! -- *Thanks to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X*

### ***AARA is on Facebook***

[/www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/](http://www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/)

### ARRL 2016 August UHF Contest Cancelled

03/11/2016

The ARRL August UHF Contest for 2016 has been cancelled, while the ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization Committee considers alternatives.

## Elementary Schoolers' CubeSat Ready to Deploy from ISS

03/05/2016 from ARRL.org

The 400 youngsters attending a suburban Washington, DC, parochial school are eagerly awaiting the day the CubeSat they constructed will be deployed from the International Space Station. The little **STMSat-1** spacecraft — an educational project of pupils attending St Thomas More (STM) Cathedral School in Arlington, Virginia — is equipped with a slow-scan TV (SSTV) payload that will transmit on 70 centimeters (437.800 MHz). The school won a NASA competition for the launch. The satellite is the first to be designed and built by grade schoolers, who have been supported by NASA technical advisors. Transported to the ISS in December by an Orbital ATK Cygnus spacecraft, the kit-built satellite had been scheduled for release in mid-February, but that event was postponed, apparently due to crew scheduling priorities. Now the 1U CubeSat's release could happen as early as Monday, March 7.

“The STM Sat-1 mission is to perform Earth observation and engage grade-school students around the world as remote Mission Operation Centers,” the STMSat-1 website explains. The satellite project is part of the school's STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education initiatives. St Thomas More includes students from pre-kindergarten through grade 8. School Principal Eleanor McCormack is the project manager.

NASA's Technology Demonstration Office is the space agency's sponsoring organization. The school has been working with Joseph Pellegrino at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. NASA provided the school with a mobile “clean room” to ensure that the construction phase met with strict guidelines and standards for launch and deployment from the ISS. NASA also provided the school with an antenna, so the school can receive the SSTV images and temperature readings the satellite sends back. The students already have tested their CubeSat by sending it aloft on a tethered balloon.

The SSTV camera onboard STMSat-1 will transmit a Martin-2 image every 30 seconds. It will not transmit a beacon signal, however. The youngsters are hoping it will send back images of Earth as seen from space. The transmitter runs 3 W, and there is no onboard data storage capability.

The little satellite also carries a medal blessed by Pope Francis, a capsule filled with personal items from St Thomas More's annual auction winners, and a metal plate etched with the signatures of all STM students, faculty, and staff.

The project aims to engage other schools around the world as “Remote Mission Operation Centers” (**RMOCs**). So far, some 10,000 students are said to be following the project's progress, and others are welcome to join and become equipped to monitor STMSat-1's transmissions.

The school has been working with the Arlington Amateur Radio Club.

Once STMSat-1 is deployed from the ISS into a low-Earth orbit with other CubeSats, a timer will start for the programmed deployment of antennas, solar array, and the Earth-observation camera. STMSat-1 has an estimated lifetime of at least 9 months.

## ARISS reaches 1000contacts 03/05/2016 from ARRL.org

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) program is celebrating a milestone — its 1000th school radio contact. The first ARISS contact with students on Earth took place a little more than 15 years ago. On March 10, Astronaut Tim Kopra, KE5UDN, on the International Space Station (ISS) did the honors for number 1000 — a contact with students gathered at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, organized by the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium (**NDSGC**). The ARISS contact was the first to be hosted in North Dakota. Some 500 students and visitors were on hand for the big event. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, congratulated the ARISS team on what he called “this phenomenal accomplishment.”

“With the outstanding support of NASA and the international space agencies participating in ISS, the ISS on-orbit crew members encompassing all 48 expeditions and the hundreds of ARISS volunteers world-wide, the ARISS team has reached a tremendous milestone: 1000 ARISS contacts between schools on the ground and the ISS crews on orbit,” he said. “Since our first contact in December 2000 to today’s contact in North Dakota, hundreds of thousands of students have participated in hands-on STEM learning that ARISS affords and many millions from the general public have witnessed human spaceflight in action through an ARISS contact.”>

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**\*\*\*\*\* AARA CONTESTERS ON THE AIR \*\*\*\*\***

### 2015 ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES -- PHONE RESULTS

STATION	PREC	QSOs	SECTIONS	CLAIMED SCORE
W2XL (+W2EG)	M	1,111	83	184,426
KM2O	B	580	80	92,800
WC2L	U (L)	363	83	60,258
K2QY	B	313	80	50,080
K2XA	A	278	77	42,812
WA3AFS (+KD2ERU)	M	119	83	19,754
WB2KLD	A	50	21	2,100

### 2015 CQWW DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	ZONES	CLAIMED SCORE
NX2X	SO (H)	2,060	-	550 -	3,247,200
N2LBR (+WA1KKM)	M/2	1,711	403	- 119	2,558,322
N1CC	SO (L)	686	259	- 109	684,480
K2EP	SO (H) A	454	-	395 -	511,920
W2EG	SO (L) 40M	576	-	122 -	200,080
WA3AFS	SO (H) A	118	-	179 -	58,712
K2XF	SO (H) A	144	86	- 35	50,215

73, Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

**Are You Changing Your Address:** Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail [sue.walt@dososaur.com](mailto:sue.walt@dososaur.com) with your address corrections

**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@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com)

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