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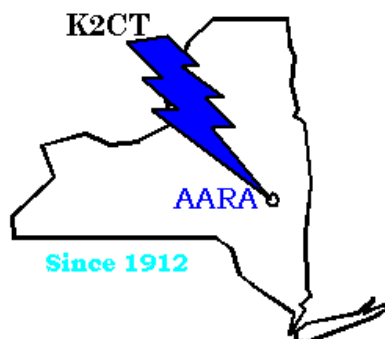
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League

An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA DINNER

Western Turnpike Golf Course

2354 Western Ave.
Guilderland, NY 12084

Friday April 8

Open Bar 6:00-7:00
Dinner begins 7:00 PM

APRIL AARA DINNER

AARA Dinner Fri. April 8th

Western Turnpike Golf Course
2354 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

This year as our speaker is Charlie Muller.
Hear the story of how one man's deep passion
for helping others continues to make Albany a
better place for so many. SEE PAGE 2

K2CT Repeater

Talk-in repeater 145.19 (-) MHz
pl tone 103.5Hz

or

444.30 (+) w/pl tone 100.0Hz

AARA Dues

Dues are \$15 with B-PLUS available at the
K2CT Web page in .pdf format www.k2ct.net
OR

\$20 for first class mailing of the newsletter
Checks should be made out to AARA and sent
to: Saul Abrams, K2XA,
307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

AARA DINNER

Western Turnpike Golf Course
2354 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

Fri April 8th 2010

Price is \$35.00 per person
6:00PM Open Bar 7:00PM Dinner

**AARA MAY
Meeting MAY 13th
It's the Second
Friday of the
month at the
Bethlehem Town
Hall**

Appetizer: Penne Pasta w/ Tomato Sauce

Cash Bar

Entree Choices: Stuffed Filet of Sole
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Sliced Sirloin of Beef

Dessert: Italian Pastry Platter

Be sure to join us again this year for a delicious meal and great socialization at the Western Turnpike Golf Course. We are pleased to have with us this year as our speaker, Charlie Muller. Charlie is somewhat of a household name around Albany as he is a former semi-pro boxer who now fights for the disadvantaged youth in the city of Albany. Charlie is the pastor of Victory Christian Church in downtown and is probably best known for his popular gun buyback program. Charlie has many other programs he has started as part of his work to help the less fortunate such as summer meal programs, housing projects and a project called "what's my identity" that teaches kids to make a difference in the their lives and the lives of those around them. Come and join us to hear the story of how one man's deep passion for helping others continues to make Albany a better place for so many.

Payment can be sent to Stephen Hans KC2VUE, 38 Parker School Rd, Johnsonville, NY 12094.
OR see him at the Dinner

ATVET 2011 EXAM SCHEDULE

ATVET Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

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).

CII Building - Room **3045**, RPI Campus, Troy, NY <http://www.n2ty.org/arvet.htm>

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
April 23, 2011	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
May 7, 2011	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM

ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray, WA2IWW atvet@n2ty.org or 518-482-8700

2011 CQ 160-METER PHONE CONTEST RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	MULTS	CLAIMED SCORE
K2XA	SO (L)	356	69	67,620
KM2O	SO (H)	266	42	28,098
WA3AFS	SO (H)	101	53	18,126
N1CC	SO (L)	34	19	1,496

2011 ARRL DX CONTEST -- PHONE RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
KM2O	SO (H)	1251	305	1,144,665
WC2L	SO (H) A	913	309	846,351
K2TR	SO (H) 20M	2120	124	788,640
K2ONP	SO (H) A	808	311	753,864
N2LBR	M/S	795	279	665,415
(+WA1KKM)				
K2EP	SO (H) A	653	313	612,228
N1JP	SO (H) A	778	239	557,826
W2GDJ	SO (H) A	650	283	551,850
K2BX	SO (H) A	501	204	306,612
N1CC	SO (L) A	424	230	292,560
WA3AFS	SO (H) A	305	304	278,160
K2XF	SO (H) A	327	242	237,402
K2XA	SO (H) 80M	494	83	123,006
WB2KLD	SO (L) 20M	229	73	50,151
WF2B	SO (H) A	85	58	14,790
K2DL	SO (L)	14	14	588

Please send your contest scores to us at: sue.walt@verizon.net

73, Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

www.k2ct.net

Peter Hines, N2KAD, webmaster. E-mail
hines@nycap.rr.com with any suggestions.

SWAP SHOP Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com
or call 489-3110

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
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**Product Review – ICOM IC-7600 HF Transceiver
Bruce, WA3AFS**

The ICOM IC-7600 is a 160M – 6M 100 watt transceiver which I bought to replace my ‘aging’ ICOM IC- 756 Pro II (hereafter referred to as: Pro II) transceiver since I noticed that the Pro II’s ‘ears’ were not as good as they had been and the automatic antenna tuner was now tuning for ‘the highest SWR possible’ which I could disable to continue operating.

My requirements for a newer radio were fairly simple and straight forward:

- I preferred to stay with ICOM so that much of my present cabling and software would be ‘plug and play’ with the present Pro II
- I liked the LCD screen on the Pro II and wanted something similar
- I wanted the basic control layout and functionality of ICOM with which I was familiar.
- I required the capability to use a ‘receive’ only antenna (for my reversible beverage).
- I wanted a radio that would be primarily great for chasing DX and for some contesting.
- I liked the concept of being able to update the firmware.

Seeing HRO drop the price of the radio by \$100 in addition to having a \$200 certificate for other merchandise from HRO cemented my decision.

Ordering from HRO was easy as usual. Although they were out of stock, several units were expected to arrive shortly. Of course the snow storms at end of January messed up the deliveries to HRO on the East Coast. When the store received the radios, another snow storm further delayed the delivery to me.

The radio arrived on February 3rd (a week after my order was placed), which took no longer than if I had the radio shipped immediately from stores in the West.



Since the radio was delivered on one of those days that was quite cold, I felt that waiting a couple of hours after opening the box was a good idea to let the radio warm to room temperature. This gave me time to start looking at the manual which was about 3 times thicker than the manual for the Pro II.

Once warmed up, I removed the Pro II and started installing the IC-7600. Not quite plug and play as I wished:

- The 12 volt power plug was different so I had to ‘tin’ the new cable and connect to the existing Astron power supply
- The existing computer cable (serial) did not seem to be recognized by N1MM. The other radio control tools that I had previously used did not have support for the IC 7600. Since the IC 7600 has USB connectivity, I substituted a USB cable and found that the USB hub did not have enough power to drive the IC 7600. Switching the USB cable to go directly to the PC eliminated that problem and N1MM was now happy to talk to the IC 7600.

The other interface cable (SignalLink USB) worked without any hitches. The ALC cable to the Heathkit SB 1000 worked without any change.

Initially, the on the air report was that my audio sounded ‘tinny’. Using the setup menu on the IC 7600, I was able to increase the ‘base’ component of the audio and from then on, all reports were that the audio sounded good.

Pleasant surprises:

- The rear connectors are each labeled. The Pro II only had a small ‘connector map’ on the rear.
- The radio is much quieter than the Pro II! Due to the large amount of snow, my 700 foot reversible beverage does not seem to be working very well, but the IC-7600 seems to be much more sensitive. I have been able to work many

160M, 80M, and 40M DX stations without having to strain my ears or getting prematurely tired due to the amount of background noise.

- There is a built-in screen saver (3 options) which is neat although I am not quite sure why this is needed for the LCD screen. Strangely, the internal fan seems to run constantly when the screen saver has activated.

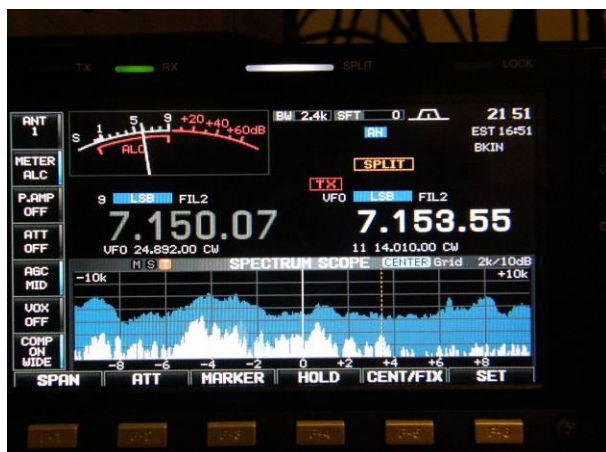


- The display on the IC-7600 is extremely nice and flexible. Below are several pictures showing some of the various



displays that can be used:

- Easy to see if one is operating 'split'. Notice the large white 'bar' at the top of the radio which also indicates 'split'.





- Note the many choices for the meter display which looks and operates like a mechanical meter.



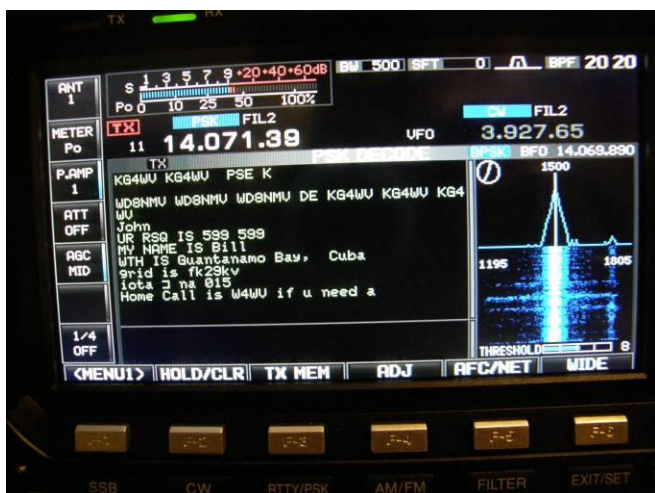
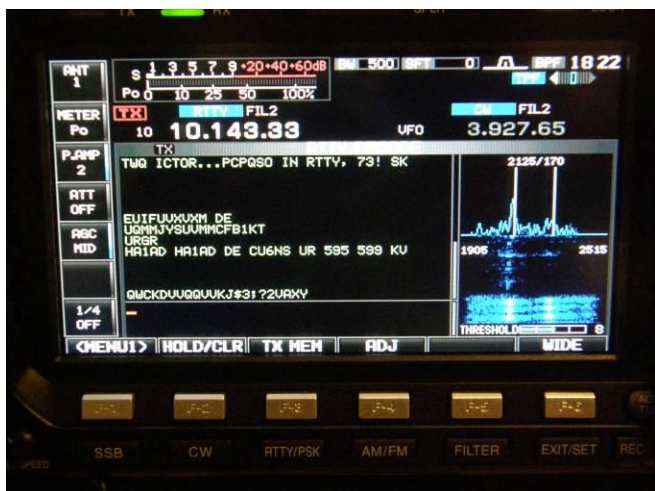


- Another pleasant surprise is that some of the ‘lesser’ used controls are ‘pop out’ allowing them to be adjusted and then pushed in so that they can not be inadvertently changed. This was a constant problem for me on the Pro II as I would change the microphone gain or compressor when I wanted to really adjust the RF power. See picture below:



- Also note in the above picture that there is a USB port on the front of the radio. It can be used for a thumb drive to save or restore the radio functions, update the firmware from a thumb drive, or attach a keyboard which can be used for RTTY. There is also an USB port on the rear which I use to connect to the PC.
- The DSP functions significantly better than the Pro II which I felt was quite good. There were several times that I turned off the DSP on the Pro II and used my JPS NIR-12 Noise and Interference Reducer instead. So far I have not found any situations where I felt that the NIR-12 would help.

RTTY and PSK support is built-in. I have not tried much in this area yet, but will explore further. Tuning in RTTY and PSK signals was a piece of cake. I think this would be a nice introduction to these modes without having to deal with an interface to a PC for someone new to these modes.



There are 8 RTTY and 8 PSK transmit memories which can be easily edited using an USB keyboard. Transmitting from these memory locations can be performed with or without an attached USB keyboard.



There are also 4 CW keyer memories, one of which can be used to include a contest serial number that is incremented each time it is sent (There is a decrement function available). Updating of these memories can be performed using an USB keyboard if one is available.

I have not yet updated the firmware; but will do so as soon as I become 'braver'. There are warnings about update failures that can occur if the IC-7600 is turned off during a firmware update that can only be corrected by returning the radio to a service center.

I started with ham radio in 1964. The following is my station over the years:

- Heathkit DX 60B, Hammarlund HQ 129X (shared with my father, W3RKJ)
- Heathkit DX 60B, matching HG-10 VFO, Hallicrafters S-40
- Hammarlund HX 50A, Hallicrafters S-40
- Hammarlund HX 50A, Drake R4B
- Drake fraternal twins, T4XC, R4B
- Kenwood TS-440S
- ICOM 756 Pro
- ICOM756 Pro II

All served me well.

My only complaint with the IC-7600 is that there seems to be no function for 'finding' the DX listening frequency when they are listening over a large portion of the band!

In summary, I am quite pleased with this radio and I am still experimenting and finding new (or improved) functions and capabilities.

Product Review – ICOM IC-7600 HF Transceiver
Bruce, WA3AFS

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail sue.walt@verizon.net with your address corrections

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**AARA MAY Meeting
MAY 13th It's the
Second Friday of the
month at the
Bethlehem Town Hall**