

Published by the **Albany Amateur
Radio Association**

APRIL 2016

B-Plus

AARA

AARA Meets at the

Romano's Macaroni Grill

1 Metro Park Rd

Just off Wolf Rd

Colonie, NY 12205

518-446-9190

Friday April 8th

6:30PM Order off the menu

www.k2ct.net

**Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League**

**An ARRL Special Services Club
104th Year**

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

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

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

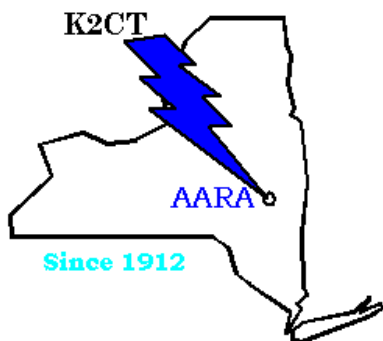
WALT LEGOWSKI, WA1KKM
SECRETARY
456-3637
sue.walt@dososaur.com

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

APRIL MEETING

Rich Guthrie is our dinner speaker he is also a ham. His call is KA2JKA.

Fri. April 8th Dinner
Romano's Macaroni Grill
On Wolf Rd, Colonie 6:30PM
Order off the menu

He's back from Cuba and has a visual program on birds of the Caribbean Islands and other places.

The 10 days spent there was with "Birds Caribbean", www.birdscaribbean.org, a conservation organization focused on preserving what's left to the natural environment on the various Caribbean islands, including Cuba. .

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

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
====	===	=====	=====
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 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.

The Rookie Roundup is a **contest** aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while *Old Timers* make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read

Exchange: Call sign of station worked, your call sign, your first name, two-digit number of the year first licensed (“check”) and state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or “DX”.

The third Sunday of April, August and December from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.
2016: **17 April** (SSB), **21 August** (RTTY), **18 December** (CW)

Boxboro 2016! September 9, 10 & 11 Tickets Now On Sale

The Boxboro convention committee announces that tickets for the 2016 convention are now on sale. You can purchase general admission tickets (\$15) in-store at:

Ham Radio Outlet, 224 N. Broadway D12, Salem, NH, (off of I-93 between exits 2 or 3)

Electronics Plus, 480 King St, Littleton, MA. (off of I-495 exit 30)

Ticket also available online at <http://www.boxboro.org>:

General Admission \$15 (good for the entire convention)

Flea Spaces \$10 (good for the entire convention)

Friday DX/Contest Dinner \$40 ea or 8/\$280

Saturday Grand Banquet \$40 ea or 8/\$280

Special Convention package: General Admission + Friday Dinner + Saturday Banquet \$9

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

2016 ARRL DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
N2LBR (+WA1KKM)	M/2	1598	372	1,783,368
WC2L	SO (H) A	429	269	346,203
K2EP	SO (H) A	416	236	294,528
WK2H	SO (H) A	438	219	287,766
K2BX	SO (H) A	418	215	269,610
N1JP	SO (H)	370	220	244,200
W2EG	SO (H) 40M	145	55	23,925
K2XF	SO (H) A	80	48	11,520

2016 ARRL DX CONTEST -- PHONE RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
NX2X	SO (H)	1756	377	1,983,774
K2BX	SO (H) A	1152	367	1,267,251
N2LBR (+WA1KKM)	M/S	987	343	1,015,623
KM2O	SO (H) A	959	349	1,004,073
N1JP	SO (H)	909	334	910,818
K2QY	SO (H) A	514	233	359,286
K2XA	SO (H)	513	217	333,963
WK2H	SO (H) A	437	249	326,439
K2EP	SO (H) A	295	137	121,245
WF2B	SO (H) A	229	146	100,302

2016 CQ WPX CONTEST -- RTTY RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	MULTS	CLAIMED SCORE
K2QY	SO	126	106	26,500

73,
Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

Washington National Guard
Communications Exercise Involves
Use of 60 Meters *ARRL.org 03/30/2016*

A Washington National Guard communications drill — “Exercise Vital Connection 2016” — that continues until April 3 is making use of the Amateur Radio 60 meter channels. The exercise includes participation by civil authorities.

“As part of our ramp-up to ‘Cascadia Rising 2016’ occurring in June, we have identified 60 meters as the most appropriate place for civil authorities to interface with our federal

July 30th John Fritze has secured the ELM Avenue Park Pavilion for the AARA PICNIC on **July 30th** at 10 AM.

Delmar Duathalon for April 24th
"I Love My Park Day" for **May 7th**

partners,” said Western Washington Section Manager Monte Simpson, AF7PQ, who is also Washington’s State RACES Officer. “Through discussion it was determined that because the federal government has the primary use of the 60 meter frequencies and Amateur Radio has secondary use, this is the perfect place for city, county, state, tribal, and federal entities to have interoperability.” Simpson said the five channels identified in the FCC Part 97 Amateur Service rules would serve as the primary frequencies for interoperability.

Simpson said that MARS, FEMA, and National Guard stations were likely to be communicating with local and state ARES/RACES stations during the exercise. “Scott Douglas, W7XC, our Official Observer Coordinator, received a call from an OO who was questioning the activity,” he told ARRL. “We were able to clarify for the OO that what was happening is legal.”

“Amateur Radio Service stations will continue to follow the guidance provided in §97.119 for station identification,” he added. “The participating MARS stations will follow their service’s rules for identification, and Washington National Guard stations will be using plain-English unit names for identification.”

Simpson added that he has been involved with the National Guard and helping the service to get radio amateurs for their communication units. “I couldn’t be more pleased with our Guard, which is truly trying to work with local and state agencies,” he said. “The Washington National Guard, J6, Communications Officer is very receptive to working with hams and making things happen.” He also said the FEMA Region X communicator has worked to incorporate ham radio into the interoperability picture and “has gone to bat for us.”

Simpson said he anticipates that the use of 60 meters for interoperability will become more common following this summer’s Cascadia Rising exercise

ARRL Asks FCC to Restore Balance of Modes on 80 and 75 Meters

ARRL Letter 3/31/16

In [comments](#) filed on March 23 on its *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM 11759](#)) seeking changes to 80 and 75 meters, the ARRL has told the FCC that its primary objective is to "rebalance" the bands by correcting a 10-year-old FCC error.

"ARRL's proposal is not fairly viewed as a proposal to take anything away from anyone," the League's comments assured. "It is more properly viewed as the effectuation of a fair, equitable, and efficient 'band plan' looking forward for the foreseeable future that balances everyone's needs, and which remedies a plainly unfair plan, imprudently created in the 2006 [Report and Order](#) in WT Docket 04-140."

Prompting the League's assurances were comments filed on the ARRL's *Petition* by a number of Amateur Extra class licensees, who felt that refarming 3600 to 3650 kHz for data modes could prove to be a disincentive to General licensees to upgrade. Others commenters saw it as an unfair spectrum grab. The ARRL noted that prior to 2006, the band was evenly divided between RTTY/data and phone/image subbands, with the RTTY/data subband extending from 3500 to 3750 kHz, and the phone/image subband extending from 3750 to 4000 kHz. The 2006 FCC *Report and Order* "substantially altered" what the League called "this even division of emission types."

In outlining the history of the proceeding, the ARRL pointed out that the FCC's *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in Docket 01-140 would have shifted the line between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3750 kHz to 3725 kHz, pursuant to a 2002 ARRL *Petition for Rule Making*, RM-10413. This would change the ratio of spectrum between phone/image and RTTY/data segments on 75/80 meters from 50/50 to 55/45, and it is what the FCC proposed in its *NPRM*.

In its *Report and Order* in Docket 04-140, however, the FCC made "a *very* substantial and unjustifiable departure" from what it had proposed in its *NPRM*, the ARRL recounted.

The Commission expanded the phone/image subband at 75 meters to 3600-4000 kHz, and it reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 3500-3600 kHz, eliminating RTTY operation above 3600 kHz and changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

The FCC had said in its proposal that no licensees would lose operating privileges. Nonetheless, the FCC's phone band expansion reduced by 100 kHz the spectrum between 3500 and 4000 kHz that was previously available to General class licensees, while Advanced licensees lost 75 kHz. In an apparent FCC

oversight, the *Report and Order* completely eliminated access by automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) to 3620 to 3635 kHz. A subsequent FCC *Report and order and Order on*

Reconsideration only made the situation worse by replacing the deleted ACDS segment with 3585-3600 kHz. That resulted in "a shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum on 80 meters," the ARRL said, adding that its current *Petition* "simply restores that which was disrupted in 2006 in error." Read [more](#).

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail 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

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 www.k2ct.org

AARA is on Facebook

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

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted,
Dues are \$20.

B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the
K2CT Web page in .pdf format
www.k2ct.org

Checks should be made out to
AARA and sent to:

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

FIELD DAY
June 24, 25, 26

www.k2ct.com

July 30th John Fritze has secured the
ELM Avenue Park Pavilion for the AARA
PICNIC on July 30th at 10 AM.

Delmar Duathalon for April 24th
"I Love My Park Day" for May 7th