

B-PLUS

Albany Amateur Radio Association – AARA

July/August 2025

Ernie Popp K2EP
PRESIDENT
k2ep@arrl.net

Gerald Murray WA2IWW
VICE PRESIDENT
518 482-8700
wa2iww@arrl.net

Saul Abrams K2XA
TREASURER
518 439-5700
k2xa@arrl.net

Bruce Goldstein WA3AFS
SECRETARY/WEBMASTER
518 765-2893
wa3afs@arrl.net

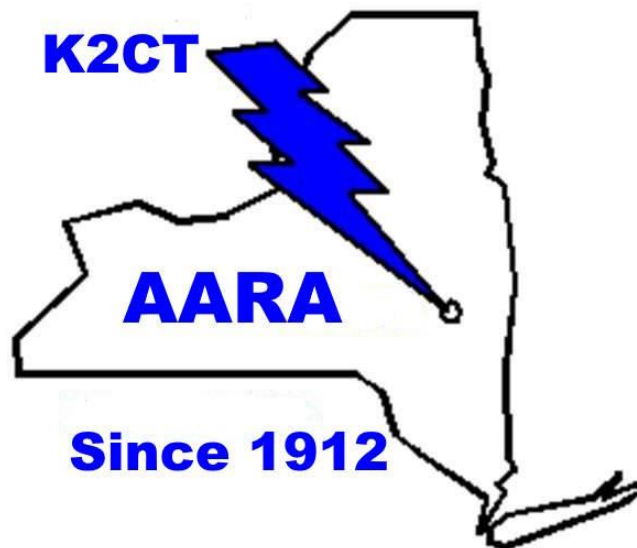
Don Herring KB2SCO
DIRECTOR – B Plus Editor
518 281-9986
dgherring@hotmail.com

Nathaniel Greenman KB2HPX
DIRECTOR
518 439-5008
ngreenman@verizon.net

Peter Hines N2SKI
DIRECTOR

Mike Brodeur N2NSL
DIRECTOR

John Fritze K2QY
TRUSTEE of K2CT
PAST PRESIDENT
k2qy@arrl.org



AARA Next Meeting:
Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025
@ 7:30 PM
Slingerlands Fire Dept.

Topic:
To Be Announced

PLEASE Pay Your Dues
Dues are \$20
Checks can be sent to:

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

AARA Field Day: June 28 & 29, 2025

Thanks to all who helped and attended AARA's 2025 Field Day! Events like this are never successful without a team effort.

My greatest fear going into the weekend was that the weather would be hot and humid but it turned out to be rather pleasant.

A special thanks goes to Ernie and Nathaniel for doing an outstanding job on purchasing and preparing the food and to those who brought items! Also, Mike Bergman stores and provides a number of the hard items e.g. tables and chairs. Thanks Mike.

Our Preliminary Total Score is 3,922

Bonus point scoring is broken down as follows:

100% emergency power	400	Thanks Nathaniel!
Public location	100	Thanks Nathaniel!
Public information table	100	
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100	Thanks Kate!
Formal messages handled (10 x 10, max of 100)	100	Thanks Kate!
Natural power QSOs completed	100	Thanks Fred!
Site visit by invited served agency	100	
Youth participation (2 x 20, max of 100)	40	
Safety officer	100	Thanks Don!
Social media	100	
GOTA Station	70	
GOTA Coach	100	
Entry submitted via web	50	
Total bonus points	1,460	

Score Summary -

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
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Total 303 117 391
QSOs

Total 606 234 391 **1231**
Points

Claimed Score = (QSO points x power multiplier) = **2,462**

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
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W2EG	303	38
K2TR	185	23
WY2Q	85	11
KE2CVF	47	6
WA3AFS	44	6
KM2O	27	3
N2SQW	23	3
N2SKI	22	3
WC2L	20	3
KC2EBA	19	2
KE1IH	19	2
N2SQW,L	3	0

Total = 12 Operators

Some Highlights:

1. 797 contacts
2. 74 sections
3. The top three "contact getters" were Rich (WE2G), Fred (K2TR) and Kate (WY2Q) who combined account for over 70% of the contact.

Rich is the standout since his CW contacts were worth two points each.

Some of us will be discussing a de-brief in the very near future.

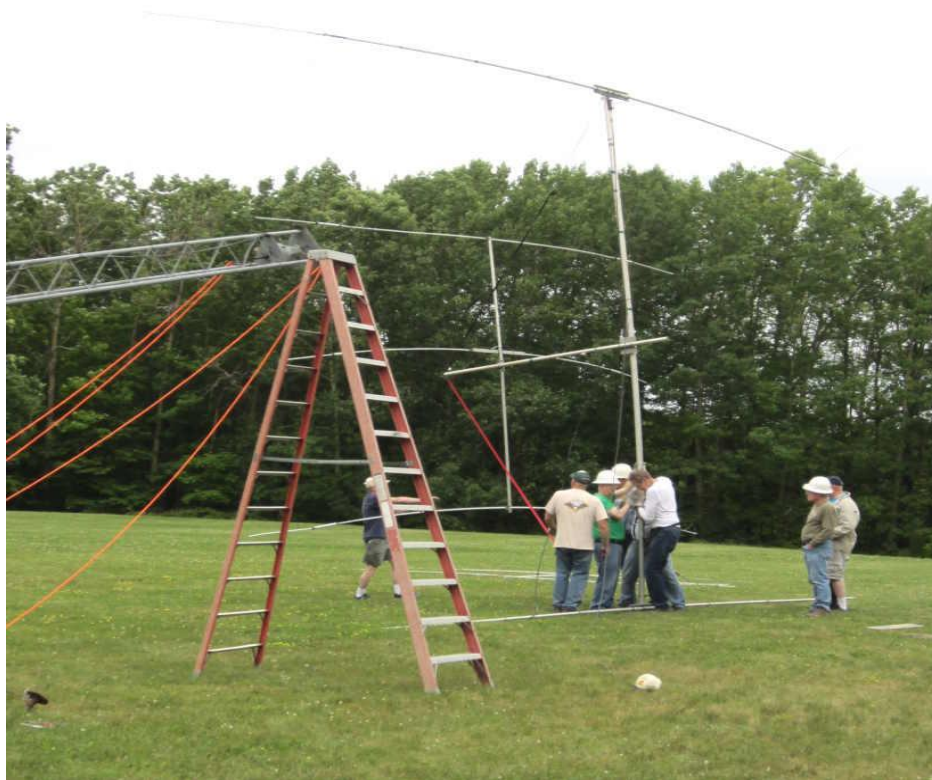
If you have thoughts on what went well and what we can improve on, please let me know.

Thanks again for making AARA's 2025 Field Day a success!

Peter Hines, N2SKI



Readying Antennas and the Tower



Beams Ready for Raising



Preparations Underway



Operating Stations Set Up



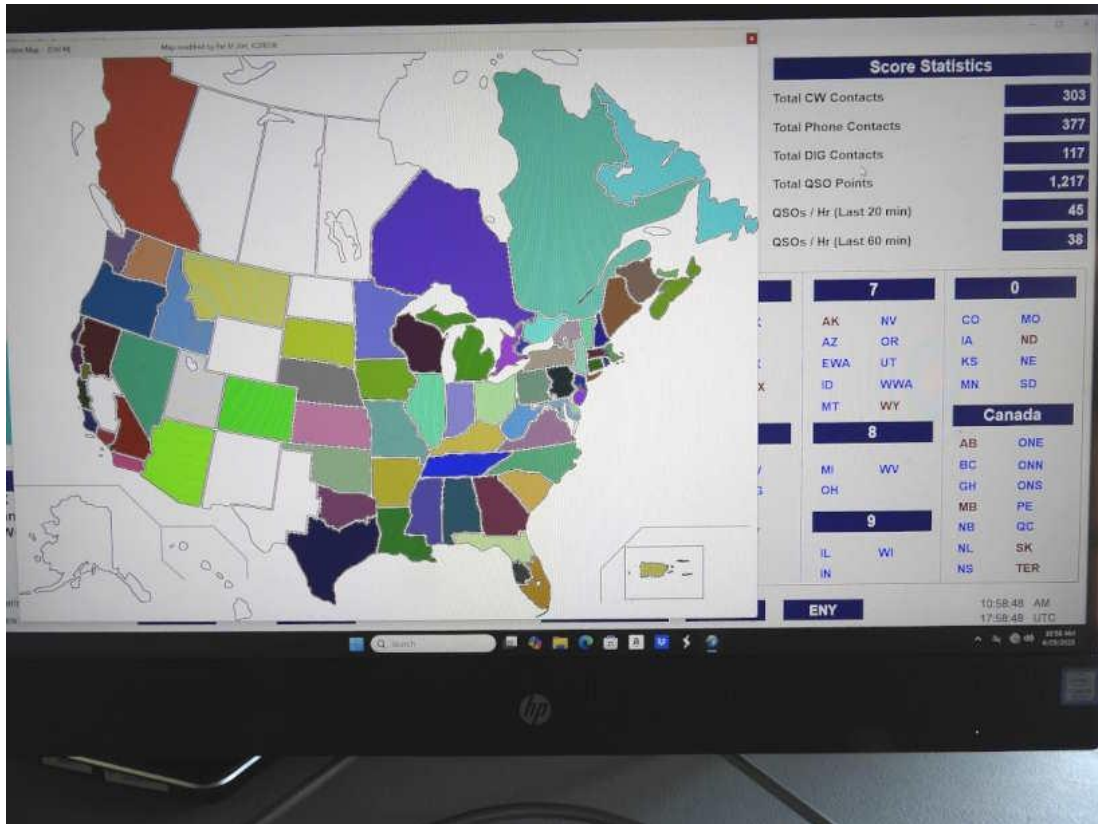
Feeding the Crew



Fred K2TR Uses a Slingshot to Set a Wire Antenna



Zach Operating



Filling in the Map As Stations Are Worked.



Patch Panel and Filters



Isolated Remote Island Ham Radio

With a title like that, I'd bet you were expecting to read about the harrowing arrival on the rocky coast of a speck of land in the middle of the ocean, with a small boat filled to the brim with radio gear?

Going to have to disappoint. Although a ham, who now lives near Silicon Valley, both of us friends back then in the same JHS classes, does do stuff like that, going on DXpeditions around the world at least once a year... he can afford that, not sure I can. I haven't so far.

DXpeditions are amongst the many features and aspects of our hobby, ham radio. Everyone has theirs. Besides operating HF, for me it's I guess you might call it a DIY angle that I enjoy quite a lot.

First licensed in 1963, as a young novice I (ambitiously, without any reason

to believe it would work) built my novice rig out of the 1964 ARRL handbook. It did work. Still have it. My mentor was my neighbor in the Bronx, Bob, W2UO. He answered all of my questions, and handed me a few key parts... great guy.

So, why the title of "Isolated Remote Island Ham Radio" if there is no remote island out in the middle of an ocean? Good question! I was thinking that myself!! What I was really trying to figure out is how to *explain* what I have to say somehow that might make sense.

What I'm talking about is a *virtual* isolated remote island. Stuck on an actual isolated remote island one would probably do things to maybe attract attention and get rescued. You know, fires, smoke, logs or stones on the beach saying "SOS"... stuff like that.



no, not me...

It probably would be good to not be *alone* on that isolated remote island - probably. Someone call the Skipper and Gilligan?

MY virtual isolated remote island of ham radio, it's right here. In Albany.

Explained simply, although retired, I do stuff. I always do stuff. Can't stop myself. Over the years, to *do* stuff, I have managed to end up having a fairly complete and broad capability. It runs the gamut from machinist tools through radio and electronic test gear... lathes, milling machines, metal shears, bending brake, drill presses, saws, etc. Trying to figure out CNC, but so far I am a dunderhead on that. The electronic side too. Parts, a lot of parts/components, scopes, meters, RF generators, etc. Not everything, but a good bit.

I think it's cool stuff. Cool to build, modify and repair things. DIY and repair. Do you like to do *stuff too*?

What sorts of *stuff* is that?

To much to list, a few random examples might give some idea:

- rebuilt a number of R-390a/R-390 receivers
- restored a number of R-388 receivers
- repaired/modded a range of boatanchor AM transmitters
- built circuits to do a variety of things
- machined parts to rebuild and restore different "bugs" (semi automatic keys)
- hoping to burn eproms for a WJ8711 receiver
- tying to prepare and install a fairly substantial tower at my "country" QTH...

... and yes, a long list of other projects, as well as projects incomplete or yet to get underway.

No big deal. That's just a taste of the sort of stuff I do on this virtual remote island!



Figure 1. DEMOUSE YOUR SP-600 (yes, you can do that!)

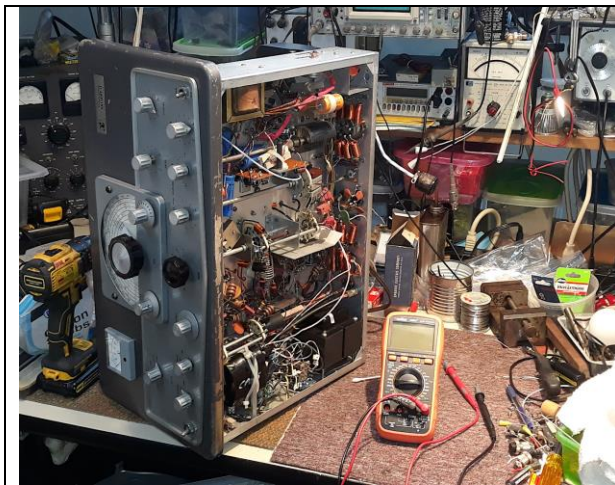
When I was about 19 or 20, I remember a bunch of us going over to a friend's house and a group of us pulling the engine out of his MG car. Maybe you did stuff like that, or knew or know people who did or still get together over a project or job. I like that working together sort of thing, and it sure helps to have an extra hand or two... and/or hang out at the shop and shoot the breeze, talk ideas, dreams and plans... good fun, good times!

See where I'm going with this?

I was thinking, if I wanted to get something done, and I didn't have either the expertise, or gear, I sure would like it if I somehow ran into someone or some people who did! And, maybe they'd be friendly and might help, and let me get access to their gear, get the right info. Well, right here, maybe is such a place.

And, then I was thinking, I am sitting here alone on my virtual isolated remote ham radio island, and have all this *potential*. What to do? Let's offer it up, and see... that's the idea.

Have you ever wanted to find out about, explore, get "hands on"? Help out? Break stuff, blow stuff up? Drop parts and screws on the floor? Lose them? Let out the "*magic smoke*"? See how it is done?



Viking Valiant II repair



Ultimate Transmitter Company, 1930s mini bug rebuild. Cracked pot metal parts replaced by new machined brass...

FYI, I also have unusually extensive expertise in hifi audio... and over time have mentored a number of people in that realm... I also hack around in music/guitar...

There ya go!

Now you know a little about my sunny virtual isolated remote island. You could put a toe in the water, maybe just come by for a visit... see what happens. All sorts of possibilities, angles, potential.

If you ever wanted know how to get started with these other aspects of the hobby - or just to have some holes drilled neatly? ...no prob, c'mon over... Or perhaps you're out there on your own virtual island, like me?

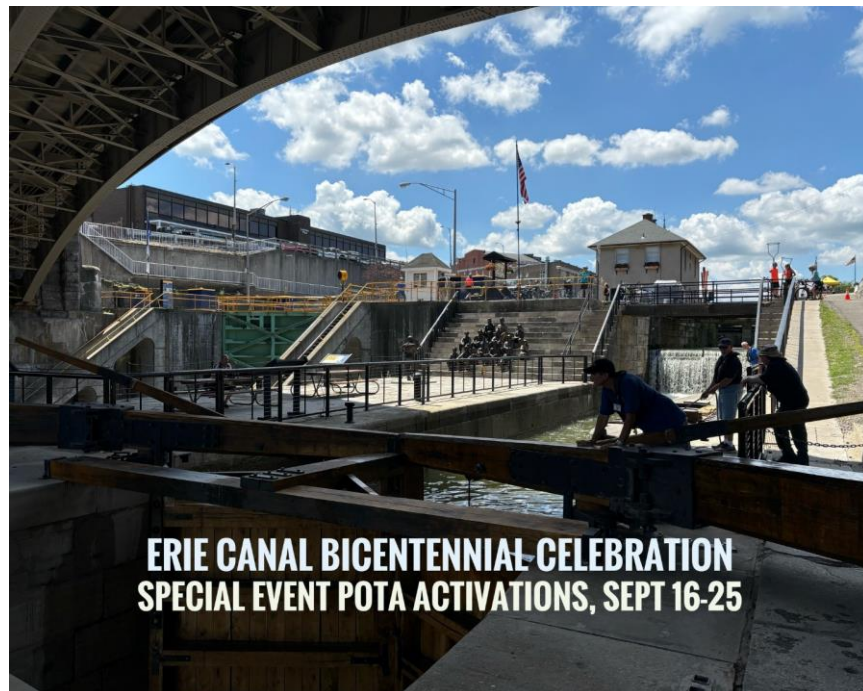
Did I make any sense, or just blabber and froth about?

I'll be here trying to find the top surface of my bench, clean up, and put things away...

That's me, "good on QRZ" - de WB2GCR, aka "bear" WBear2Giant Chocolate Resistor.

Fwiw, I have a *private* WB2GCR Facebook group as well, contact me and you can join... I post pix of ongoing adventures and other things... you can post too - mostly hams in the group)

- **bear@bearlabsusa.com**



Parks on the Air - Erie Canal Bicentennial Celebration

September 16 at 12 AM · Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Your club is invited to join us for a special Parks on the Air (POTA) activation of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (POTA US-6532) in September. The event will take place during the World Canal Conference which is being hosted this year in Buffalo, New York, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal! More information is in the Facebook event below. 73, K2EAG

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18HUXFYRp7/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

T Shirts are available here:

[Erie Canal Event Shirt – HamStuffOnline](#)

Swap Shop

Have radio gear you want to buy, sell, trade, or give away?

Please send your item descriptions to wa3afs@arrl.net or dgherring@hotmail.com

Important Links:

Find a license class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin:

<http://www.eidxa.org/EIDXBulletin.html>