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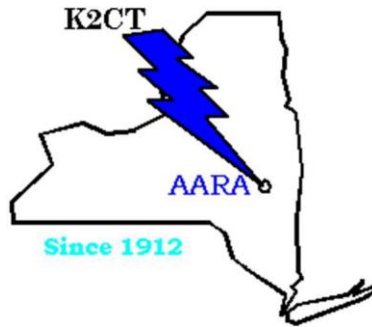
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Albany Amateur Radio Association



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B-PLUS Editor

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B-PLUS Dec 2022

AARA Meeting
Friday, Dec. 9, 2022

7:30 PM

Via ZOOM

[Click Here for ZOOM Link](#)

Program

- TBA
- Elections
- By-laws Change

Please PAY your Dues.

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted;

Dues are \$20.

Checks can be sent to:

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

AARA By-Laws Change

MEETINGS

The following are the proposed changes to the AARA By-Laws which will be voted on at the December 9, 2022 Meeting. (Changes in RED and underlined)

Regular meetings shall be held each month from September through June on a date and time set by the Board of Directors. Meetings may be in-person or virtual. The meeting date may be changed due to a conflict of the normal meeting date with holidays or due to emergencies. Effort will be made by the Officers to contact all members and notify them of meeting date or format changes by the most expeditious method.

Special meetings of the AARA may be called by the Board of Directors, by the President, or upon request of 25 members sent by written notice to the Secretary. All members must be notified, at least one week before the date of the special meeting.

AARA Elections -- December AARA Meeting

The following are the nominations for AARA 2023:

John K2QY - President
Gerry WA2IWW - VP
Bruce WA3AFS - Secretary
Saul K2XA - Treasurer
Don KB2SCO - 3-year Director
Ernie K2EP - 1-year Director

Further nominations can be made from the floor (or ZOOM session).

Prez Sez (John, K2QY)

It's hard to believe that we are on the cusp of another New Year. Where does the time go?

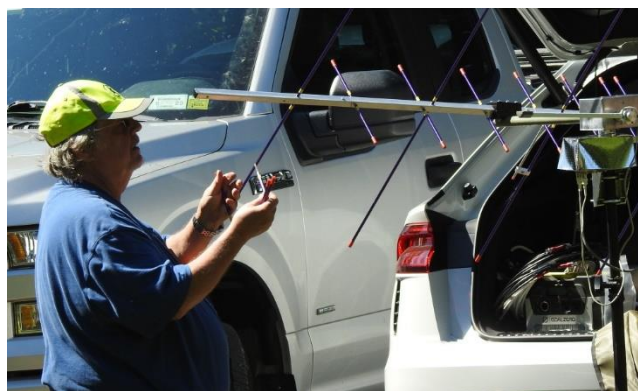


I am sure we can all agree it's been a strange few years mostly as a result of the Covid virus. We have not been able to meet in our regular location for the past several years. We have been forced to meet via ZOOM for too many meetings (did anyone even know what ZOOM was four years ago)? Field Day and Winter Field Day have both been a struggle to say the least. There has been no annual dinner or Holiday party. Summer picnics have been sparsely attended. Meeting attendance is way down. Communications for public service events is way down. And most discouraging is the loss of many friends and family.

All this reminds me of a quote attributed to the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche who said it so eloquently: **“That which does not kill us, makes us stronger.”** So, as the Albany Amateur Radio Association enters our 111th year of existence, which is quite an accomplishment, we should be looking forward to rebuilding what we have lost. **Let's become stronger!**

Contacting friends and inviting them to meetings. Even non hams might find some of our programs interesting. Promote Amateur Radio to the public.

Show our children and grandchildren some of the excitement of making contacts around the world without using a cell phone, Internet, or any commercial means. It doesn't take hardly any effort to listen to an ISS pass. Get off the couch, go to a park, put up a wire and people who are naturally curious will wander by and ask what you are up to. Those are all simple ideas to build excitement!



My plans for the club for 2023? I would like to investigate having a club dinner again. Those were always enjoyable times. It's also an opportunity to invite non ham friends. How about once the warm weather returns, we have Mt. Greylock “field trip” where those of us who have portable gear set up to make a SOTA/POTA event? We could stay and have dinner at the Bascom Lodge and talk or brag about

the day's events. This could be an opportunity to Elmer some of our members who may be interested in seeing how easy and fun this type of event can be. I would also like to investigate a day trip to the ARRL. I could arrange a lunch with some of the league staff. If there is enough interest, perhaps even arrange for bus transportation. How many of you would like to sit down behind a key or mic at W1AW and call CQ? As many of you know, we will be trying having meetings on a night other than Friday to see how that goes. I am open to hearing any ideas you as members may have to encourage participation in our club.

In closing, let me just repeat: **Let's get stronger!** Let's make 2023 a new beginning for our club!

Very 73 de
K2QY

What is Winter Field Day? (Dave, KM2O)

Is it, (A) an emergency communications exercise or, (B) a contest?
The answer is BOTH. It is a contest wrapped in an emergency communications exercise as well as an emergency communications exercise disguised as a contest.

In any event it is a great excuse to get out in the wintertime to try out our favorite hobby under less-than-ideal conditions. For the last several years members of the AARA have joined the Albany County ACES (ARES/RACES) for winter operation.



When looking to participate in this national event, ACES approached the Albany County Sherriff's Department Critical Incident Unit with which it serves under RACES. The result was our first operation in 2019 at Lawson Lake County Park in Clarksville. This former summer camp is now operated jointly by county agencies including the Sherriff's Office.

Taking small steps, members operated from Waldman Lodge at the park. This

building was winterized, heated by a furnace as well as a great stone fireplace. Besides space to set up, the building included a full kitchen. Of course, there was no running water and toilets were porta-potties about a hundred yards away. So, operating under these conditions, we had a lot of fun.

We decided to come back next year with upgraded antennas, more radios and a bigger generator. The result was a bigger score and of course, more fun. January 2020 was notable. Using ACES call K2ALB we scored 21,419 points putting our 3-transmitter indoor operation #1 in both Eastern New York and the 2nd Call District, #5 North America and #9 overall in the Indoor category. It was also notable as just a couple of weeks after finishing, the world closed down due to COVID-19. For the next two years, operating under special COVID-19 rules allowing club scoring, we did relatively well as members operated individually and amalgamating their scores as "Albany ARA." Scores were well over 20,000 points both years.



For 2023, it's time to head back out to Lawson Lake! On the weekend of January 28-29 AARA, in cooperation with ACES and having invited members of TARA, will once again activate together for Winter Field Day. UPDATE: Real toilets and running water have now been installed at Waldman Lodge! We have secured the facility for Friday afternoon January 27 as well as all day Saturday and Sunday the 28th. We are working out details but will ask those interested to pre-register so we can get a handle on food and operating positions. If you would like to assist in the planning process, please contact Dave KM2O at km2o@arrl.net.

B+ Editor Needed

Pardon the roughness of this edition of B+. AARA needs a real editor (and lots of contributors). Contact any officer of AARA if you are interested.

For Sale:

Uniden BCD536HP. One owner.

AC Power cord, USB programming cable, Telescoping antenna, Manual



Non- Smoking pet-free home.

\$250

If interested, contact Bruce, WA3AFS (wa3afs@arrl.net, 518 894-2168)

Editor's Pick

[25 Minute video](#)



This Space Available

- Product Review...
- Experience Review
- Ham radio related poetry
- Celebrating a Ham radio related milestone (1st QSO, ham radio license anniversary, etc.)

Contact the editor at least 2 weeks prior to the monthly AARA meeting

Winter SKYWARN Training

Live and virtual classes are available. See [schedule and registration link](#):

AARA Weekly On-the-Air Net

Tuesdays, 7:00 PM on the K2CT repeater (145.19 tone 103.5)

edited by Bruce Goldstein, WA3AF, 260 New Salem South Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186 518 894-2168. Articles and B-PLUS Swap Shop items accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail to wa3afs@nycap.rr.com
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