

B-PLUS

Albany Amateur Radio Association – AARA

December 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

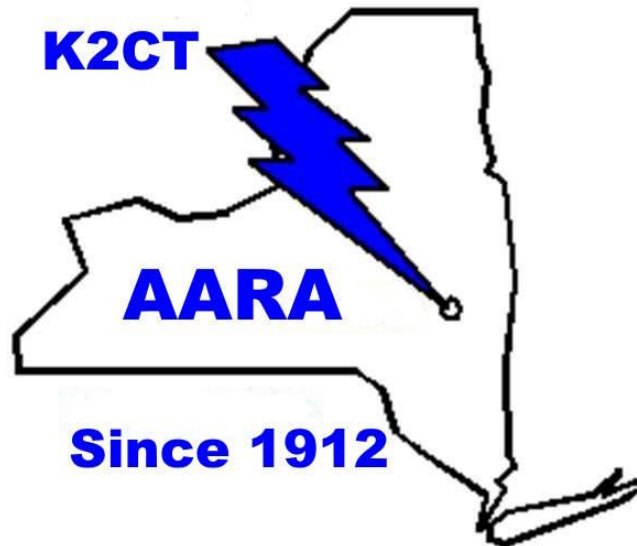
Don Herring KB2SCO
DIRECTOR – B Plus Editor
518 281-9986
dgherring@hotmail.com

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, December 3rd, 2025
@ 7:30 PM - Slingerlands Firehouse

Topics:
Tracking Bats
Election of Officers
Holiday Party

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

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

December Meeting



Ashley Meyer, NYS DEC Wildlife Biologist will discuss Tricolored Bat Spring (2025) Spring Emergence Project. DEC released approximately 20 bats with transmitters attached in Warren County and hoped to track them to their summer roosting locations.



Bring some food to share at the December meeting.

Winter Field Day 2026

Antenna Plans



Last month I did a recon of Lawson Lake. I found a number of older trees cut to the South, East, and West of the Lodge. The most significant was the tall pine tree near the road to the NE of the lodge, the one that we had always used for the longest wire antennas. Fortunately, the tree just South of it was not cut, is almost as high, and can easily replace that tree. However, I propose to run the 160-80-75 antenna across the open field to a tree on the NW side of the open field, perhaps a tree up the hill slightly on the left side of the unplowed driveway.

Traditionally, our group has always done well on 40 meters due to the use of a tall tower and a directional antenna. However, I feel that the installation of that antenna and tower is not practical during the winter. This year I propose to construct a wire quad for 40 meters and hang it from a catenary rope at about 80' high and sloping down over the top of the basketball court to the east side of the access road. That same rope can be used to hang an additional 40 meter dipole, but lower down for optimum daytime operation. This project will be easier than previous years would have been, as a small cabin behind the amphitheater has been completely removed.

The area around the fire pit has been cleared and opened up significantly. My proposed antenna plan would move the TA-33 tribander and push-up mast to that area, just West of, and adjacent to, the lodge.

My proposal includes moving the 80-10 meter EFHW to the top of the hill and feed it with my 1/2" Heliax. When used as the CW antenna, this location reduces the interstation interference from the other antennas, which further improves our ability to run CW and digital simultaneously. Late at night and the following day it can be converted to digital modes, which allows for simultaneous SSB operation with minimum interstation interference.

I am going to try a new antenna design; a CFFW. You might recognize the concept as that of a Doublet, which is normally fed with open wire line and requires a tuner. But I propose to feed it with coax using an 81:1 balun. (That's a turns ratio of 9:1). Such an antenna can also be optimized with capacitive or inductive loading just like an EFHW. You can also think of it as two EFHW antennas using a common center feedpoint. (This is an original concept, not a copy of anyone else's idea.) It should be a fun experiment.

The satellite antenna can be located to the east of the sidewalk to the lodge and just south of the road, as that area is more open than it had been previously.

This year I'd like to split the antenna installation into teams. This would streamline the installation and help deal with any cooler weather. It also makes room for new members to work as part of a group.

Team A

Tribander and push up mast
VHF antennas

Team B

EFHW and CFFW

Team C

160/80/75 dipole
40 meter Quad plus low 40 meter dipole

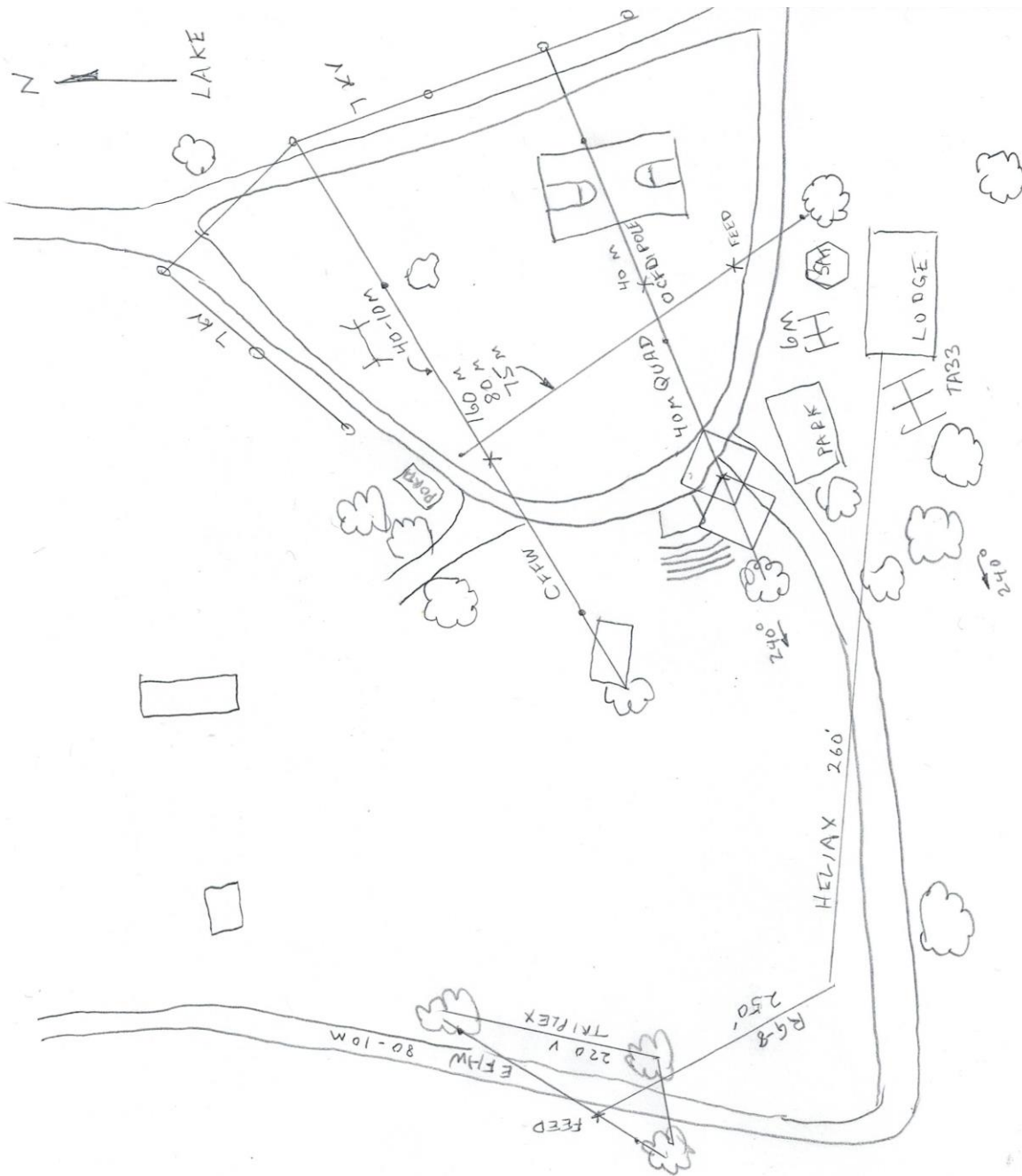
I would like to volunteer for Team C.

Should this plan be approved I can work with the membership to fill these teams through B+ and during organizing sections of our monthly meeting.

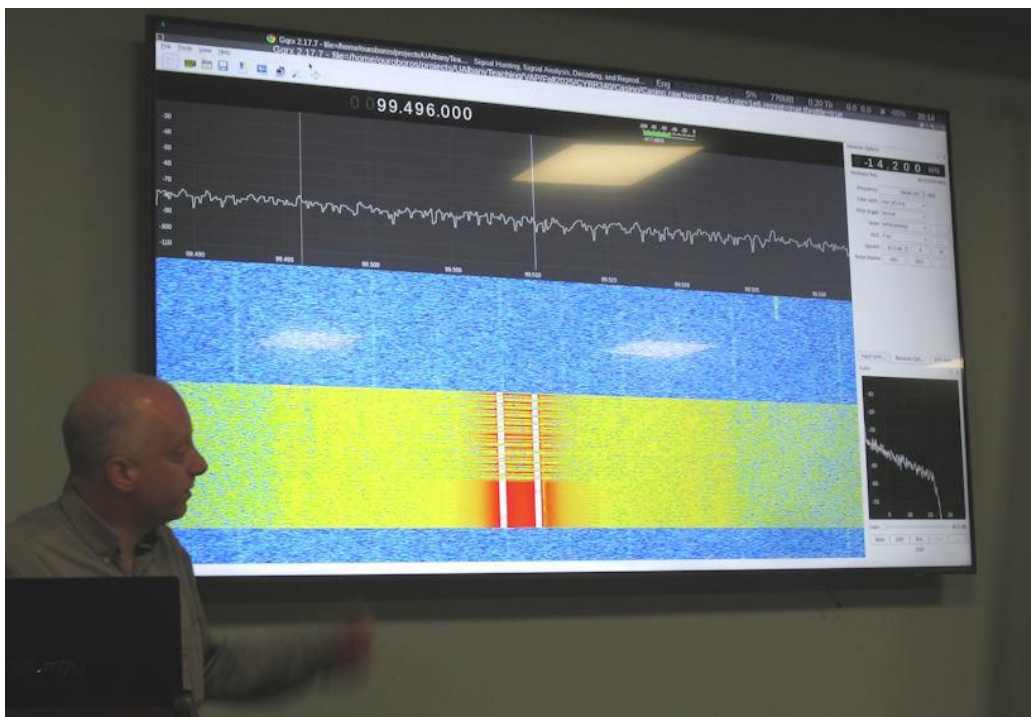
Thank you!

Fred Lass 518-491-8622

2026 WINTER FIELD DAY ANTENNA PLAN



November Meeting



November's program was "Signal Hunting, Signal Analysis, Decoding, and Reproduction" by Tim Fake, KC2CFI. Tim gave a detailed explanation of the GQRX coding system used by pagers.

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>