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# B-Plus

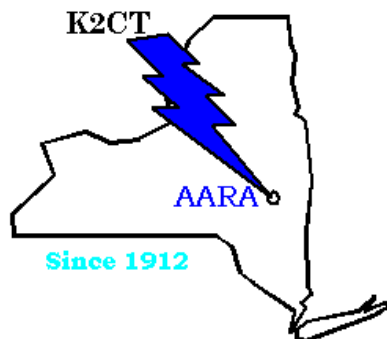
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay  
League  
An ARRL Special Services Club

## AARA

AARA Meets at the  
**Osterhout Community  
Center in off RT 85 on  
7 Old-New Salem Rd,  
Voorheesville**

**Friday FEB 10**

Social Hour 6:55 PM

Meeting begins 7:47 PM

refreshments  
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

## FEB. MEETING

Program is the CD about the  
Last Great Field Day,  
Contesting, ARES, Public Service

**AARA Dinner will be on  
Fri April 20, 2012  
100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**

**NOTE:** Feb and March meetings will be held  
in the Osterhout Community Center in off RT 85  
on 7 Old-New Salem Rd, Voorheesville.

### K2CT Repeater

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

### **AARA Dues**

Dues are \$15 with B-PLUS available at the  
K2CT Web page in .pdf format [www.k2ct.net](http://www.k2ct.net)  
OR

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

**50/50 Raffle** at the meeting

\$1.00 for 1 ticket OR  
3 tickets for \$2.00

**AARA Dinner will be on**

**Fri April 20, 2012**

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

**2011 ARRL 160-METER CONTEST RESULTS**

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	MULTS	CLAIMED SCORE
N1EU	M/S	679	91	132,041
K2ONP	SO(H)	529	56	60,088
K2EP	SO(H)	193	49	19,355
K2BX	M/S	120	45	11,610
WA3AFS	M/S	64	44	8,533
W2GDJ	SO(L)	80	39	6,520
N1CC	SO(L)	60	28	3,444

**\*\*\* 2011 ARRL 10-METER CONTEST RESULTS \*\*\***

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	MULTS	CLAIMED SCORE
N1CC	SO(L)MX	1001	166	496,008
W2EG	SO(L)CW	852	124	422,592
W2GDJ	SO(H)MX	405	66	152,500
KM2O	SO(L)PH	446	108	96,336
WB2KLD	SO(L)PH	162	71	23,004
WA3AFS	M/S	86	86	18,748
KC2VUE	SO(L)PH	106	43	9,116
WF2B	?	27	?	1,134

Don't forget to get on for the ARRL International DX Contest (February 18-19 for CW, March 3-4 for Phone) and send us your scores!

73, Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

**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).

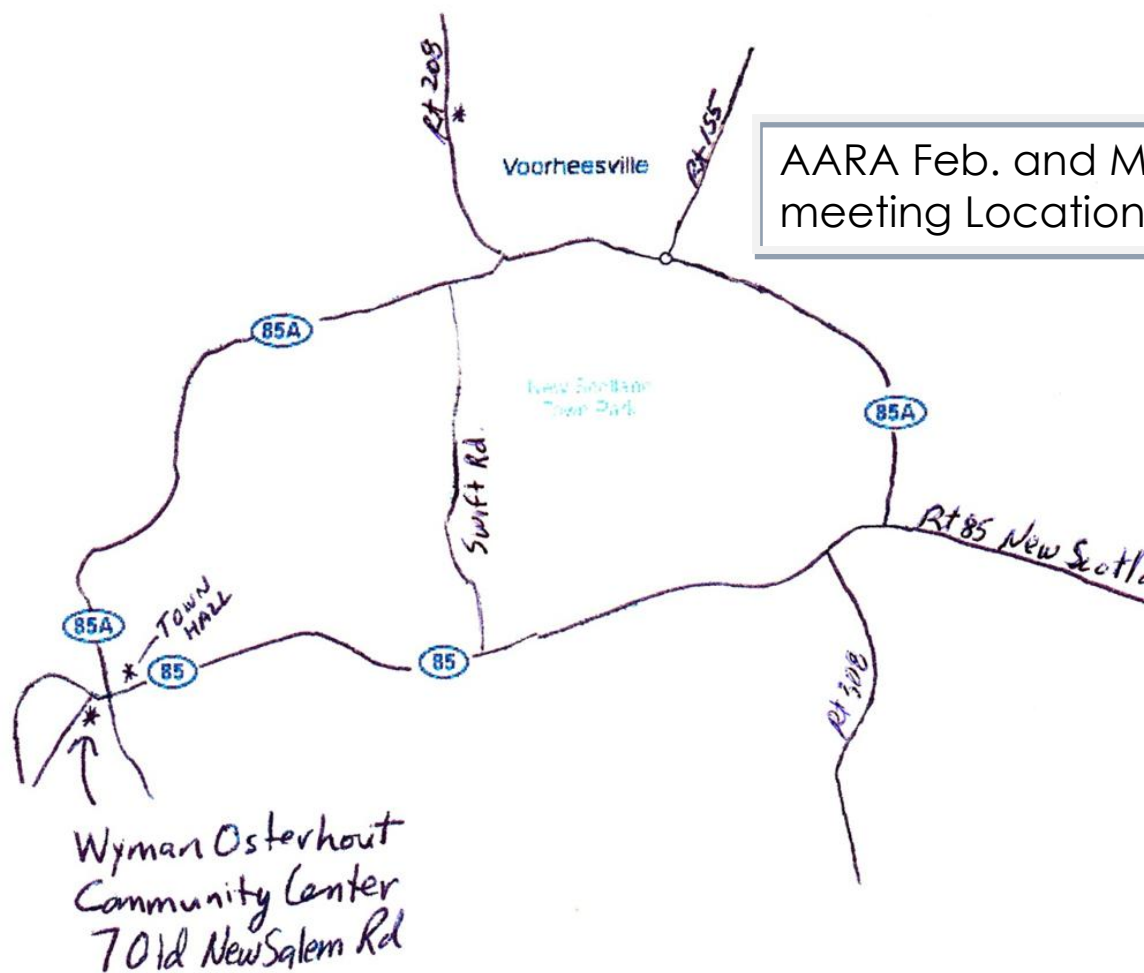
**If you like to help out next season contact: ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray, WA2IWW [atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700**

**Contests**  
**FEB 13 - 17** ARRL School Club Roundup  
**18 - 19** ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW  
**24 - 26** CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB  
**25 - 26** North American QSO Party, RTTY

**Mar 3 - 4** ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB  
**11** North American Sprint, RTTY

Yahoo Groups JOIN US  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K2CT-AARA/>

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
February 11, 2012	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
March 10, 2012	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
April 28, 2012	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
May 5, 2012	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
July 25, 2012 (Tentative)	Wednesday	6:20 PM	7:00 PM
October 13, 2012 (Tentative)	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM



**FCC Denies ARRL Petition on Vanity, Club Call Signs** 01/11/2012

On January 11, the [FCC issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order](#), denying an [ARRL Petition for Reconsideration](#) concerning vanity and club call signs. Filed with the Commission in January 2011, the ARRL's *Petition* was in response to the FCC's *Report and Order (R&O)* that detailed rules changes to the vanity call sign system and call signs for Amateur Radio clubs. These new rules went into effect on February 14, 2011.

The ARRL found that most changes made by the *R&O* were "reasonable codifications and clarifications of existing policies." But it asserted that several amended Sections of Part 97 -- including Sections 97.5 and 97.19 -- were unclear. In its *Petition*, the ARRL urged the FCC to reconsider and modify these portions "in order to reflect the intent of the *Report and Order*."

In the *R&O*, the FCC pointed out that it had "amended and clarified its rules with respect to vanity call signs and club station licenses to promote processes that are more to limit club stations to holding only one vanity call sign and to limit an individual to being the trustee for only one club station license." It said that the purpose of the rules change was "to prevent club stations from obtaining an unfair share of desirable call signs, given that individuals are limited to holding one operator/primary station license (and, therefore, one call sign), while there was no limit on the number of licenses a club could hold."

The FCC said that it had heard from radio amateurs who urged the FCC to limit the number of club stations for which an individual could serve as trustee, "pointing out that limiting the number of vanity call signs that a club can obtain would accomplish nothing if an individual could bypass the rule by creating multiple clubs."

The FCC noted that the ARRL supports its efforts to prevent club stations from obtaining an unfair share of desirable call signs, but expresses concern that the specific rule language adopted by the Commission “does not preclude the abuses that the *Report and Order* intended to preclude.” In its Petition, the ARRL stated that if a club has multiple station trustees, each of these trustees could obtain a vanity call sign for the club, thereby allowing the club to obtain multiple vanity call signs. The ARRL also argued that a club could “‘gam[e]’ the club station vanity call sign system” by obtaining multiple FCC Registration Numbers (FRNs) and applying for a vanity call sign under each FRN. “We do not believe that the vanity call sign system is subject to the abuses identified by the ARRL,” the FCC said, “or that its suggested rule changes are necessary.”

In denying the ARRL’s *Petition for Reconsideration*, the FCC maintained that a club may have only one license trustee at a time: “[Section 97.5\(b\)\(2\)](#) of our Rules states, in part, ‘A club station license grant may be held only by the person who is the license trustee designated by an officer of the club.’ Consequently, we believe that [Section 97.19\(a\)](#), which provides that ‘the person named in a club station license grant that shows on the license a call sign that was selected by a trustee is not eligible for an additional vanity call sign,’ effectively implements the Commission’s decision to limit club stations to holding only one vanity call sign. Any application from a club for an additional vanity call sign when the club already is assigned a vanity call sign will be dismissed because the trustee is not eligible for an additional vanity call sign. Accordingly, we decline to revise Section 97.19(a) as ARRL requests.”

With regard to the ARRL’s concern that a club could obtain multiple FRNs and thereby obtain multiple vanity call signs, the FCC asserted that vanity call sign applications from club stations are checked not only with respect to whether the FRN on the application matches the FRN on the grant of a vanity call sign to any club station, but also with respect to whether the club name on the application matches the club name on the grant of a vanity call sign to any club station: “Therefore, even if a club obtains or holds multiple FRNs, if an application is received from a club and the database shows that a club with the same name already has a vanity call sign, the application will not be granted, absent

further review. We accordingly conclude that the change that ARRL requests to Section 97.5(b)(2) is not necessary.”

The FCC maintained that the ARRL’s *Petition for Reconsideration* “does not provide any grounds for reconsidering the Commission’s decision in the *Report and Order*. The concerns expressed by the ARRL about licensees attempting to evade the rules adopted in the *Report and Order* are already addressed by our licensing rules and processes. We therefore deny the *Petition for Reconsideration*.” The FCC also noted that while ARRL suggests that it take the matter up again in a future proceeding, “we have no plans to revisit the issue at this time.”

Commenting on the *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed: “We believe the FCC has been too hasty in denying the ARRL’s *Petition for Reconsideration*. In footnote 6, the FCC assures amateurs that ‘Club stations may continue to obtain multiple sequential call signs.’ However, this is inconsistent with the Commission’s interpretation of 97.5(b)(2), as preventing a club from having more than one trustee, because 97.5(b)(2) applies to all club station licenses and not simply to those with vanity call signs. Coupled with 97.17(d), this appears to make it impossible for clubs to obtain more than one sequential call sign, contrary to the Commission’s intent as stated in footnote 6.”

**Are You Changing Your Address:** Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail [sue.walt@verizon.net](mailto:sue.walt@verizon.net) 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](mailto:wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com)

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