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B-Plus

DAVE GALLETTY, KM2O
PRESIDENT
767-9103
km2o@arrl.net

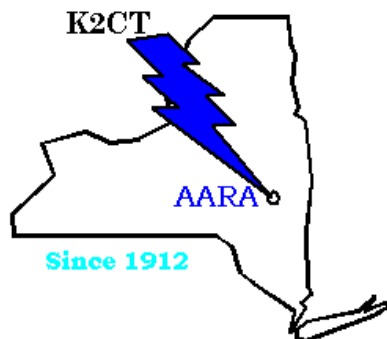
RANDY WOESSNER, KC1NN
VICE-PRESIDENT
374-0597
kc1nn@arrl.net

SAUL ABRAMS, K2XA
TREASURER
439-5700
k2xa@arrl.net

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

BUD HOVEY, WF2B
283-2337
DIRECTOR

JOHN FRITZE, K2QY
PAST PRESIDENT
439-4240
k2qy@arrl.net



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

MIKE BERGMAN, WD2AJS
489-3110
B-PLUS EDITOR
wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com

GEORGE WILNER, K2ONP
279-4025
TRUSTEE of K2CT
k2onp@arrl.net

www.k2ct.net

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League
An ARRL Special Services Club
103rd Year

AARA

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

Friday Feb. 12th

Social Hour 6:55 PM

refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

FEB. MEETING

Osterhout Community Center

it's off RT 85 at
7 Old New Salem Rd,
Voorheesville

"Amateur Radio and the Served
Community" a Power Point
presentation

More Contests, get in to have fun!

DX, it's out there
Who can you contact?

K2CT Repeater

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

AARA Dues

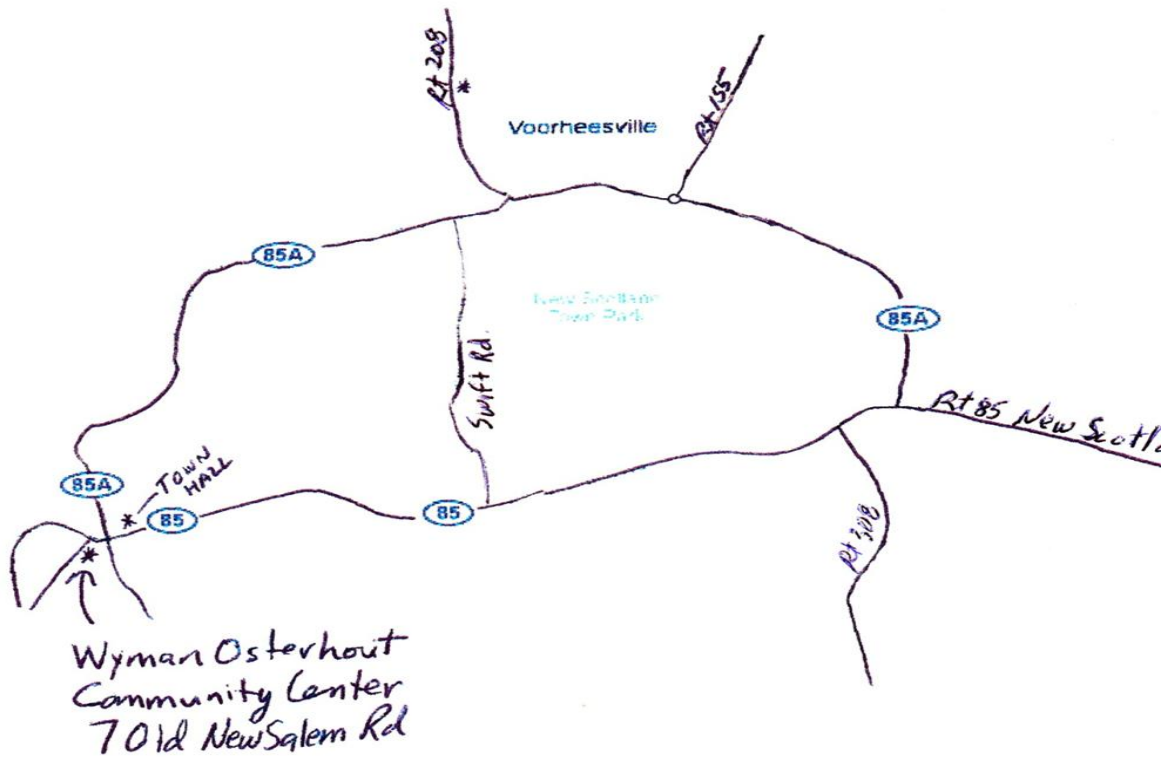
Dues cheerfully accepted,
Dues are \$15.

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 on future dates : call Gerry, WA2IWW

| Exam Date | Day | Doors Open | Exam Time (Doors will Close) |
|-------------------|------|------------|---------------------------------|
| April 4th, 2015 | Sat. | 9:20 AM | 10:00 AM |
| May 9th, 2015 | Sat. | 9:20 AM | 10:00 AM |
| More dates coming | | | |

Contact ATVET LIAISON: *Gerald Murray*, WA2IWW atvet@n2ty.org or 518-482-8700

Capital Region Amateur Radio Events Calendar.

A collaborative Google Calendar with other Capital Region ham groups to showcase ham radio public service events, meetings, hamfests, VE sessions and things ham radio. Import events directly into your personal calendar. Visit directly

at: <http://k2ct.org/events.html>

“Ham Radio Jeopardy”-The W2XM Game

ARRL has just published another PowerPoint *Jeopardy*-type game for instructors to use in exam-prep classes for the General-class test. The game was produced by our own Bob, W2XM. The new game, and several old ones, can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/instruction-exam-practice-and-review>.

Amateur Radio Payloads Share Ride into Space with Soil Moisture

Monitoring Satellite The ARRL Letter February 5, 2015

Four NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites ([ELaNA-X](#)) CubeSats carrying Amateur Radio payloads launched successfully January 31 from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base. The primary payload for the Delta II launcher was the Soil Moisture Active Passive ([SMAP](#)) satellite. The SMAP on-board radar will share Amateur Radio spectrum at 1.26 GHz. Amateur Radio is secondary on the 23 centimeter band, which covers 1240 to 1300 MHz.

"This is a good example of a compatible sharing partner," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed. "Any interference to amateur communication in the band will be brief as the satellite passes overhead."

SMAP and the four CubeSats all deployed successfully. The research CubeSats, launched on behalf of universities, will downlink their telemetry on the 70 centimeter band. The CubeSats and their downlink frequencies (modes) are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Firebird II FU3 | 437.405 MHz (19k2 FSK) |
| Firebird I FU4 | 437.230 MHz (19k2 FSK) |
| GRIFEX | 437.485 MHz (9k6 FSK) |
| ExoCube (CP-10) | 437.270 MHz (9k6 FSK) |

The GRIFEX satellite is a University of Michigan project, in cooperation with JPL, while ExoCube (CP-10) is a space weather satellite developed by the California Polytechnic State University-San Luis

Obispo and the University of Wisconsin in partnership with NASA, and sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The [FIREBIRD](#) program is a collaborative CubeSat space weather mission of two CubeSats designed and developed by Montana State University, the University of New Hampshire, The Aerospace Corporation, and Los Alamos National Laboratories -- the FIREBIRD consortium. The FIREBIRD mission is also funded by the NSF.

SMAP carries a "synthetic aperture radar." The L band (1.26 GHz) radar is designed to measure backscatter off the Earth's surface. The amount of backscatter returned to the radar changes with the amount of moisture in the soil. RF pulses at this frequency are less affected by weather or by a moderate vegetation cover. The satellite is approximately 425 miles up in a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit. SMAP also includes a radiometer operating at 1.41 GHz to measure naturally occurring RF energy given off by Earth's surface.



A Delta 2 launcher lifts off on January 31 from Vandenberg AFB carrying the SMAP satellite and four CubeSats with Amateur Radio payloads into space. [NASA photo by Bob Ingalls]

ARRL Field Day 2015 Field Day Packet Now Online

ARRL 02/10/2015

The complete 2015 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is now online. There are no rule changes for 2015. Field Day 2015 takes place June 27-28.

"Following a successful Centennial QSO Party with on-the-air activity at an all-time high, we are very excited for this year's event and hope that individuals and clubs will carry their enthusiasm over to Field Day," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



If you have questions about Field Day, [e-mail](mailto:), or call 860-594-0232.

TONY'S WORLD FAMOUS 2015 HAMFEST LIST

Tony, W2BEJ

go to: <http://www.gsl.net/n2sqq/hamfests.htm>

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

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Field Day 2015 June 27-28