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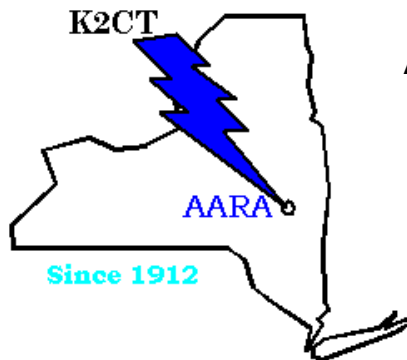
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League  
An ARRL Special Services Club

## AARA

Meets at the  
Colonie Community Center  
[1653 Central Ave. Colonie](http://1653 Central Ave. Colonie)

### Friday JAN 12

Social Hour 6:55 PM  
Meeting begins 7:47 PM

refreshments  
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

## JAN Meeting

Its January

There will be a program  
The threat of snow is making it difficult  
for speakers to commit.  
again

There Will be a Program  
FRED, WA2MMX

refreshments will be available including  
soda, diet soda, coffee, cookies, etc.

### K2CT Repeater

**Talk-in repeater**

**145.19 (-) MHz**

**pl tone 103.5Hz**

**or**

**444.30 (+) w/pl tone 100.0Hz**

### 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 first class mailing of the  
newsletter Checks should be made out to  
AARA and sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA,  
307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

2006 CQ WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST  
- CW RESULTS -

STATION	CATEGORY ↓	COUNTRIES QSOs ↓	ZONES	CLAIMED SCORE
N1EU	SO (H) A	1413	(647)	2,597,705
N2LBR				
(+WA1KKM)	M/S	890	349 108	1,126,048
W2GDJ	SO (H) A	901	(435)	1,105,696
K2ONP	SO (H) A	840	(440)	1,047,200
K2EP	SO (H) A	698	369 109	901,508
K2XF	SO (H) A	573	307 99	640,262
K2BX	SO (H) A	480	257 86	460,306
WK2H	SO (H) A	427	206 60	325,584
NJ1F	SO (H) A	308	198 75	220,311

2006 ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES  
-- CW RESULTS --

STATION	PREC	QSOs	SECTIONS	CLAIMED SCORE
N1EU	B	632	80	101,120
W2XM	A	285	71	40,470
K2ONP	U	251	63	32,630
W2GDJ	A	215	70	30,100

2006 ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES  
-- PHONE RESULTS --

STATION	PREC	QSOs	SECTIONS	CLAIMED SCORE
W2GDJ	U	815	80	130,400
NJ1F	M	533	80	85,280
(@K1TTT)				
K2ONP	U	564	75	84,600
KM2O	A	261	71	37,062
K2XA	A	138	64	17,664
WA3AFS	B	117	72	16,848

73, and thanks for all the scores!  
Sue, N2LBR and Walt, WA1KKM

**FOR SALE: Cushcraft A627013S 6 Meter/2 Meter/70 CM Triband Antenna. 5 elements on 2M, 5 elements on 70 CM, 3 elements on 6M, and 0 elements on 160M. Requires 2 feedlines. Worked great in Iowa (was used for two years (in the clean clear air of the Midwest). Mostly assembled (the 3 6M elements are not attached.) Includes manual. Retail for \$299. \$75.00. you pick-up Local pickup in the thriving megopolis of New Salem, NY. (Suburb of Voorheesville) Contact, Bruce, WA3AFS 518 765-2893**

A "Hints and Kinks" item, "Using a Coaxial Stub to Shift Antenna-system Resonance." by Bob, W2XM, will appear in the February issue of QST.

**Public Service:  
Volunteer CONTACT  
Frank, N4ZHG 473-9256**

[www.k2ct.net](http://www.k2ct.net)

**WE** are looking for pictures of your Ham Shack

Send pictures to Peter, N2KAD

**Please** try the site and let me know what you think. If you have any feedback please let me know.

73, Peter Hines, N2KAD, webmaster  
[hines@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hines@nycap.rr.com) with any suggestions.

**2006 AARA 10-METER SPRINT RESULTS**

CALL	QSOs	SCORE	"TIME TO NINE"
WA3AFS	9	18	18
K2EP	9	18	29
KM2O	9	18	29
WA1KKM	9	18	41
N2LBR	9	18	42
W2GDJ	9	18	??
WD2AJS	8	17	--
K2CT			
(K2XA, op.)	9	9	23

Also heard on the air for the sprint were the following stations:  
K2BX, NA2NA

**WA3AFS** is officially declared the winner, on the basis of fastest "time to nine". Congratulations!

73, Sue, N2LBR and Walt, WA1KKM

### **3 Element SteppIR Product Review** Bruce, WA3AFS

PART 2 for mailed copy    online [www.k2ct.net](http://www.k2ct.net) get full copy plus more pictures

The antenna weighs in at a feather weight of about 42 pounds (almost all of the weight is the boom since the element tubes are fiberglass) and was easily installed by the team of K2BX, K2EP, W2UV, and K2XF. Took approximately 1.5 hours which involved lowering the rotator shelf so that the antenna would be mounted immediately above the tower and then the rotator shelf remounted.



View of the tower and antenna looking SW towards the Helderberg Escarpment. It appears that my signals will have to drill through the escarpment. The land starts up towards the escarpment across the street from my QTH.

I deliberately did not mount the last PL-259 on the antenna coax where it would go through the remote antenna switch so make sure that any RFI complaints would not be justified. I managed to wait (really difficult!) 5 days before mounting the connector (I did not receive any comments or complaints in those 5 days). No RFI complaints have been received from outside the house to this date (15M at 600 watts does set off the wireless doorbells in the house!). Telephones in the house are now a problem, which I will have to work on. My other 13 HF antennas (verticals) are in the woods well behind the house and away from the power, telephone, and cable lines and have not caused any RFI problems.

Of course the big question is does this antenna work? Comparison to my former beam (Force-12 C4) is difficult since that antenna was used 1100 miles to the west of my present QTH and I have not had any beam antenna for a little over a year. Being a 3 element beam antenna I was expecting good performance, but not quite as good as the Force-12 (had more elements) which I found was a very good antenna. The Force-12 was mounted at about the same height and manner above the roof as this SteppIR. I have been surprised. My signal reports have been very good and what I consider to be a true measure is what I call "first call". Several times I have broke DX pile-ups (some the first day of a DX operation) with only 1 call! The Force-12 seldom broke the DX pile-ups in the first couple of days of any DX operation). I am extremely pleased and recommend the SteppIR antennas.

It takes about 40 seconds to extend the elements from the 'retracted' position to the lower end of 20M. Reversing the direction of the antenna 180 degrees (electronically) takes only a couple of seconds. Moving the elements 50 KHZ (up or down) takes about a second. The antenna controller comes with pre-sets for each ham band. At this point, I have not felt the need to set up my own pre-sets. Going to the band and depressing the 'up' or 'down' buttons a couple of times is sufficient for me.

Another advantage of this antenna is the elements are enclosed in fiberglass tubes, I no longer experience rain static, which was always noted with exposed metal elements in my previous beams (Wilson SY-36, Force-12C4)! (which was very noticeable in the Midwest since many of the rain/snow storms seemed to be 'charged' (and some also had funny shaped clouds!). Also the fiberglass tubes are supposed to be relatively inexpensive (about \$20.00) to replace (If one retracts the elements when not being used which is highly recommended). My fingers are well crossed waiting for the first ice storm of the season. The antenna does not show any noticeable movement in the wind (40 mph has been the strongest breeze since the antenna was installed).

I also compared the SteppIR to my 4-square ground mounted verticals on 20M and the BigSteppIR vertical. The 3 element beam easily outperforms those antennas with signal strengths several DB stronger. *end*

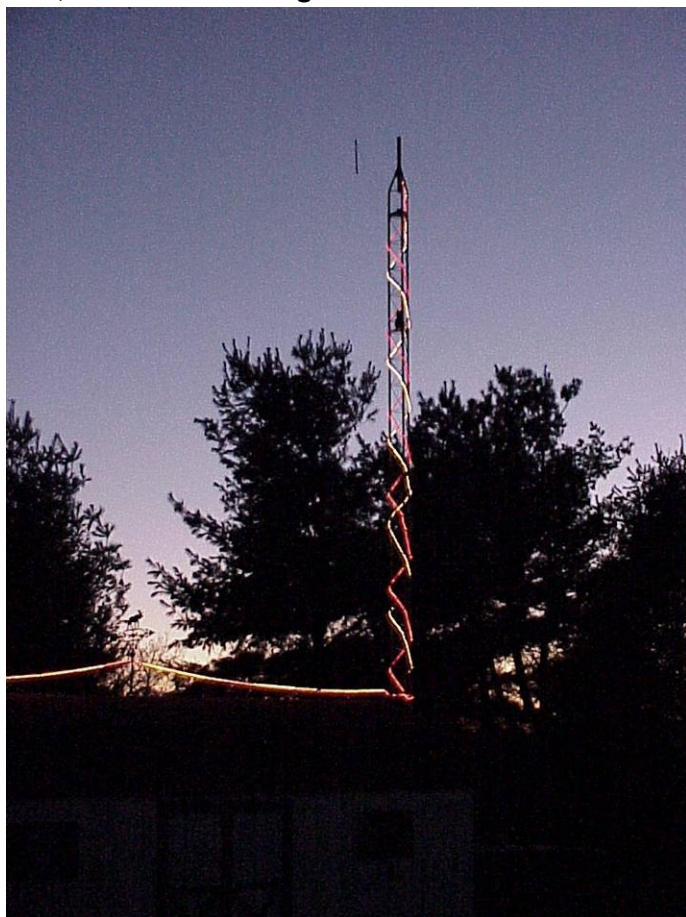




The December 2006 Gang names to follow

photo by Aaron Dinkin

### **Fred, WA2MMX Zoning Battle**



After a long zoning battle in the Town of Kinderhook that took 9 months to obtain approval to construct an amateur radio tower that resulted in numerous requirements, he decided to ensure that migrating birds did not

collide with his tower. **How did he do that?**

WA2MMX erected a second tower and made sure it had the appropriate anti-collision lighting. Coincidentally it was installed just before the Christmas Holiday and resembles a candy cane.

### **A New Years' resolution:**

Since code is no longer a barrier, every Technician might want to resolve to earn a General-class license (and HF 'phone privileges)!

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future -- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees.

"In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

Bob, K2XM

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@arrl.net](mailto:wd2ajs@arrl.net)

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