

B-Plus

AARA

AARA Meets at the
Bethlehem Town Hall
445 Delaware Ave
Delmar, NY 12054

Friday JAN 8th
Social Hour 6:55 PM

refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

www.k2ct.net

**Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League**

An ARRL Special Services Club
104th Year

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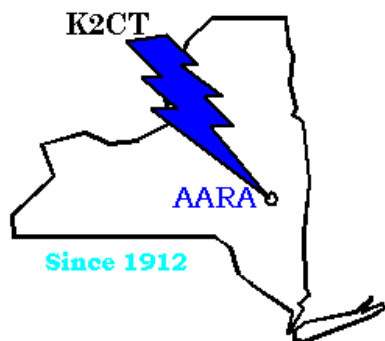
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JAN. MEETING

Happy New Year Everyone.

I hope everyone had a great Holiday and that you are looking forward to a new year.

As your new President I want to express my appreciation to be chosen as the your new leader of this excellent club.

There are many things we should accomplish this year.

1. Install the new Digital repeater.
2. Get more involved in public service events. Yes, that includes me too. I can personally vouch for the Thatcher Park, "Love Your Park Day." It's a lot of fun at a great park.
3. Promote the club as "Elmer Friendly". Reach out to new hams and help them along in their learning and activities.

4. I am also looking forward to hearing what "YOU" want to see for the coming year. YOU ARE THE CLUB!

Our first meeting is this Friday, January 8th at 7:30 PM and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Thanks and Again, Happy New Year.

Randy Woessner, KC1NN
President
AARA

K2CT Repeater Talk-in

145.19 (-) MHz
pl tone 103.5Hz

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted,

Dues are \$20.

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

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

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). We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984.

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

2015 ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES -- PHONE RESULTS

| STATION | PREC | QSOs | SECTIONS | CLAIMED SCORE |
|--------------|------|-------|----------|---------------|
| W2XL (+W2EG) | M | 1,111 | 83 | 184,426 |
| KM2O | B | 580 | 80 | 92,800 |
| WC2L | U(L) | 363 | 83 | 60,258 |
| K2QY | B | 313 | 80 | 50,080 |
| K2XA | A | 278 | 77 | 42,812 |
| WA3AFS | | | | |
| (+KD2ERU) | M | 119 | 83 | 19,754 |
| WB2KLD | A | 50 | 21 | 2,100 |

2015 CQWW DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS

| STATION | CATEGORY | QSOs | COUNTRIES | ZONES | CLAIMED SCORE |
|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|---------------|
| NX2X | SO(H) | 2,060 | - | 550 - | 3,247,200 |
| N2LBR | M/2 | 1,711 | 403 | - 119 | 2,558,322 |
| (+WA1KKM) | | | | | |
| N1CC | SO(L) | 686 | 259 | - 109 | 684,480 |
| K2EP | SO(H)A | 454 | - | 395 - | 511,920 |
| W2EG | SO(L)40M | 576 | - | 122 - | 200,080 |
| WA3AFS | SO(H)A | 118 | - | 179 - | 58,712 |
| K2XF | SO(H)A | 144 | 86 | - 35 | 50,215 |

73,

Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR
send scores to: sue.walt@dososaur.com

Palmyra, South Sandwich/South Georgia Will Help Kick Off 2016 DXpedition Calendar

ARRL.ORG News 01/02/2016

Let the 2016 pileups begin! Two major January DXpeditions will be among other smaller efforts, with all aimed at providing a new one to the madding crowd. Look for the Palmyra Island and South Georgia Island/South Sandwich Islands activations, starting around mid-month.

The Pacific Islands DX Group's **K5P** DXpedition to **Palmyra** hopes to be on the air on January 12 and will continue until January 25. Palmyra ranks among the Top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities. Initially a 12-member team was set to depart and activate K5P. Due to a change of aircraft that will transport the team to the island, the team has been trimmed to nine operators. The team is planning to leave Hawaii for Palmyra on January 11. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been awarded permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll.

The Group notes that another Palmyra Atoll activation may not take place for many years, since access is severely restricted, and permission is difficult to obtain. The team said that without the cooperation and support of the Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the DXpedition would not be possible. The DXpedition's co-leaders are Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Lou Dietrich, N2TU.

Meanwhile, the 14-member Intrepid-DX Group **VP8 DXpedition** team to the **South Sandwich** Islands and South Georgia will set out on January 9 from the Falkland Islands on the R/V (research vessel) Braveheart for a 37 day voyage. Both entities are rare. The team will use VP8STI from South Sandwich and VP8SGI from South Georgia.

"Our plans have us activating South Sandwich Island first, as it is the #3 most-wanted DXCC [entity] in ClubLog," the group said on its website. "We will be active on South Sandwich for 8 full days, weather and sea conditions permitting. We expect to start our activation of VP8STI on January 17." South Georgia is the 8th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the ClubLog **Most Wanted DXCC List**.

The DXpedition's website describes the South Sandwich Islands as "a cold and inhospitable placem" and Southern Thule Island, where the group will operate, as "one of the most remote places on Earth."

Following the South Sandwich operation, the team will voyage to **South Georgia** and activate it for 8 days starting on or about February 1. Altogether, the VP8STI/VP8SGI team plans to spend 10 days on each island, including setup and teardown.

"Our goals are to operate fast and efficiently and to provide as many all-time new contacts with these rare entities," team co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said on December 31. "We will make the extra effort to work the most remote and difficult regions." Upon returning to Stanley in the Falklands, the team will operate as VP8IDX for 5 days with an emphasis on 160 meters, he added.

Individual team members are covering much of the DXpedition's \$425,000 estimated cost, with the rest coming from club, foundation, and individual donations.

ARRL Again Complains to FCC about Illegal Marketing of Electronic Lighting Ballasts ARRL.org 12/29/2015

The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out this week to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by Lowe's and by Walmart stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting. In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in the US.

"ARRL purports to show that the [retailer] is...marketing and selling to consumers (by retail sale) non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices which are *not* intended for residential deployment, to consumers who have specifically noted their intention to deploy the devices in residential applications," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in similar complaint letters to the Commission on December 28 and December 29 (attached below). Part 18 emissions limits for consumer devices are far lower than those allowed for non-consumer devices.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," Imlay continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communications (and, as well, AM broadcast station reception) throughout entire communities."

Supporting both complaints are extensive and detailed reports by ARRL Laboratory EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The reports recount incidents of actual purchases of Part 18 RF lighting devices intended for commercial use to consumers who made clear to store personnel that they intended to use the devices at home. Gruber's report includes multiple photographs that depict in-store displays of the products in question and showing signage that does not adequately explain which devices may be sold to whom.

The ARRL has asked that all non-consumer devices be removed from retail sale and marketing at the stores and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers.

In his report, Gruber concluded that retailers should require purchasers of non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices to provide a valid contractor's number. He also advised that the stores improve display signage to make it clear that non-consumer Part 18 devices may not be used in residential settings.

Earlier this year, the ARRL sent similar complaint letters to the FCC regarding the marketing of Part 18 RF lighting devices by The Home Depot. The League also has complained about specific RF lighting "grow light" devices that it has alleged exceed Part 18 emission limits.

Contests

Jan 2016

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SARTG New Year RTTY Contest | 0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1 |
| AGCW Happy New Year Contest | 0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1 |
| WW PMC Contest | 1200Z, Jan 2 to 1200Z, Jan 3 |
| ARRL RTTY Roundup | 1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3 |
| EUCW 160m Contest | 2000Z, Jan 2 to 0700Z, Jan 3 |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | 1200Z, Jan 9 to 2359Z, Jan 10 |
| North American QSO Party, CW | 1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10 |
| NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW | 0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10 |
| NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB | 0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10 |
| DARC 10-Meter Contest | 0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10 |
| Midwinter Contest | 1000Z-1400Z, Jan 10 |
| LZ Open Contest | 0000Z-0400Z, Jan 16 |
| Hungarian DX Contest | 1200Z, Jan 16 to 1200Z, Jan 17 |
| North American QSO Party, SSB | 1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | 0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18 |
| BARTG RTTY Sprint | 1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24 |
| SKCC Sprint | 0000Z-0200Z, Jan 27 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW | 2200Z, Jan 29 to 2159Z, Jan 31 |
| REF Contest, CW | 0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31 |
| UBA DX Contest, SSB | 1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31 |

FEB 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Vermont QSO Party | 0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7 |
| 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB | 0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7 |
| Black Sea Cup International | 1200Z, Feb 6 to 1159Z, Feb 7 |
| Minnesota QSO Party | 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6 |
| AGCW Straight Key Party | 1600Z-1900Z, Feb 6 |
| British Columbia QSO Party | 1600Z, Feb 6 to 0400Z, Feb 7 |
| Mexico RTTY International Contest | 1800Z, Feb 6 to 1759Z, Feb 7 |
| North American Sprint, CW | 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7 |
| CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest | 0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14 |

We need your help! TODAY!

For the past year, ARRL has been working in both houses of Congress to promote the Amateur Radio Parity Act. This is legislation that would provide some relief on antenna restrictions for Amateurs living in deed-restricted communities. The bills are H.R. 1301 in the House of Representatives and S 1685 in the Senate. Complete information on the legislation is available **here** www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act

We believe that H.R. 1301 will be scheduled for a hearing before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the near future. Your Congressional representative is a member of that committee.

We need you to contact them and ask for their support of this legislation of vital importance to the future of Amateur Radio.

ARRL has set up a website that makes contacting your Representative an easy task. Please follow the link to <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-congress-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

When you visit that page, enter your Zip code and your information (name, address, etc.). An editable draft letter will be created. Once you make any desired edits, click the "send" button and your letter will be on its way. If you prefer to contact your Representative by phone, the site provides that information for you as well.

We are now at a crucial stage in our effort to get the Amateur Radio Parity Act successfully through Congress. The bill cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on November 18th. We need your help NOW to insure that the bill successfully moves through the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

WE CAN ONLY SUCCEED WITH YOUR HELP! Please take a few minutes to let your Representative know this legislation is important to you and all the other Amateurs in your District.

Thank you for your help at this critical juncture. Let's get this done!

Kay Craigie, N3KN, President

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail sue.walt@dososaur.com with your address corrections

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AARA Dues

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Dues are \$20.

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