

B-PLUS

Albany Amateur Radio Association – AARA

January, 2025

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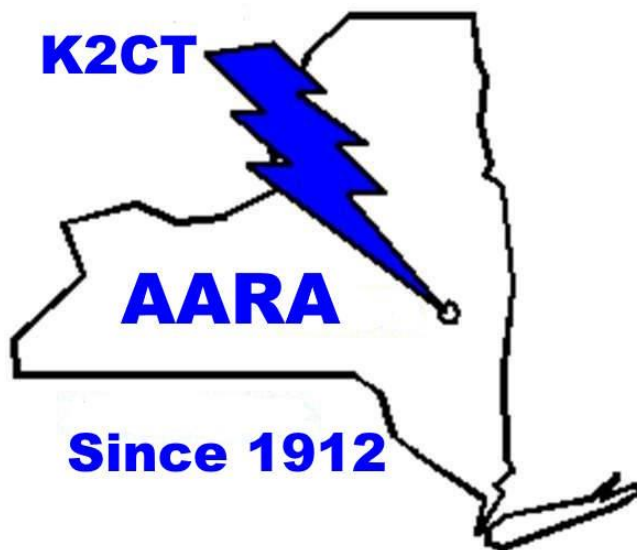
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AARA Next Meeting:
Thursday, January 2, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Slingerlands Fire Dept.

Topic:
Winter Field Day

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

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

December Meeting

2025 AARA Officer Elections

The December meeting was held via Zoom.

The following are the AARA 2025 officers:

President: Ernie K2EP

Vice President: Jerry WA3IWW

Secretary: Bruce WA3AFS

Treasurer: Saul K2XA

3 Year Director: Mike N2NSL

ARRL Straight Key Night 2024

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) Straight Key Night (SKN) is held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the highlights of their operating year.

Operators participate using Morse code (CW). All you need is your favorite straight key or bug. Many participants dust off vintage radios and keys and put them back into service each year just for this event.

SKN is not a contest, so there's no need for quick exchanges. However, all hand keys, regardless of age, are welcome. The number of contacts you make is not important. The reward is meeting new friends as you get together on the air.

Send a list of stations contacted, SKN stories and photos, and your votes for Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO to straightkey@arrl.org by January 31, 2024.

More information is available at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night
(From ARRL.org)

Fred's Sandbox Winter Field Day 2025

The Rules for Winter Field Day have been updated to simply make contacts on at least 6 bands. Last year's goal was to make contacts on as many bands and modes as possible. For our group that could be the 5 major ham bands plus either 160, 6 meters, or 2 meters. The value for SSB QSOs continues to be one point per QSO while CW or digital QSO's are two points. It is possible to achieve as many as five points when we work a station on all three modes on any one band. The satellite category has also changed where there is one credit for an FM contact plus a second multiplier for an SSB or CW contact.

The exchange for satellite QSOs is modified from class and section to signal report and grid square. There are also changes to the time period of the contest where the setup time starts 11 AM Friday while the operating time begins at 11 AM Saturday, January 25. The official operating time period lasts until 5 PM on Sunday, January 26th, but we plan to remove our antennas and clear the site long before that time.

This fundamental change reduces the complexity of an optimum antenna setup as there is little need to operate any of the UHF bands. We also know now that we can operate the Elecraft K3 and Yaesu FTDX10 radios with less antenna separation while still managing interstation interference. We also have an EFHW that works well from 80-10 meters, the triplexor and filters for 20, 15, and 10, an off-center fed dipole for 40, plus a trap dipole for 160, 80, and 75. That is a total of 4 low band antennas capable of operation on 6 different HF bands, but with only 5 transmitters simultaneously.

The band by band options look like this:

160 trap dipole

80 EFHW

80 trap dipole

75 trap dipole

40 EFHW

40 off center fed dipole

20 EFHW

20 tribander on triplexor

15 EFHW

15 tribander on triplexor

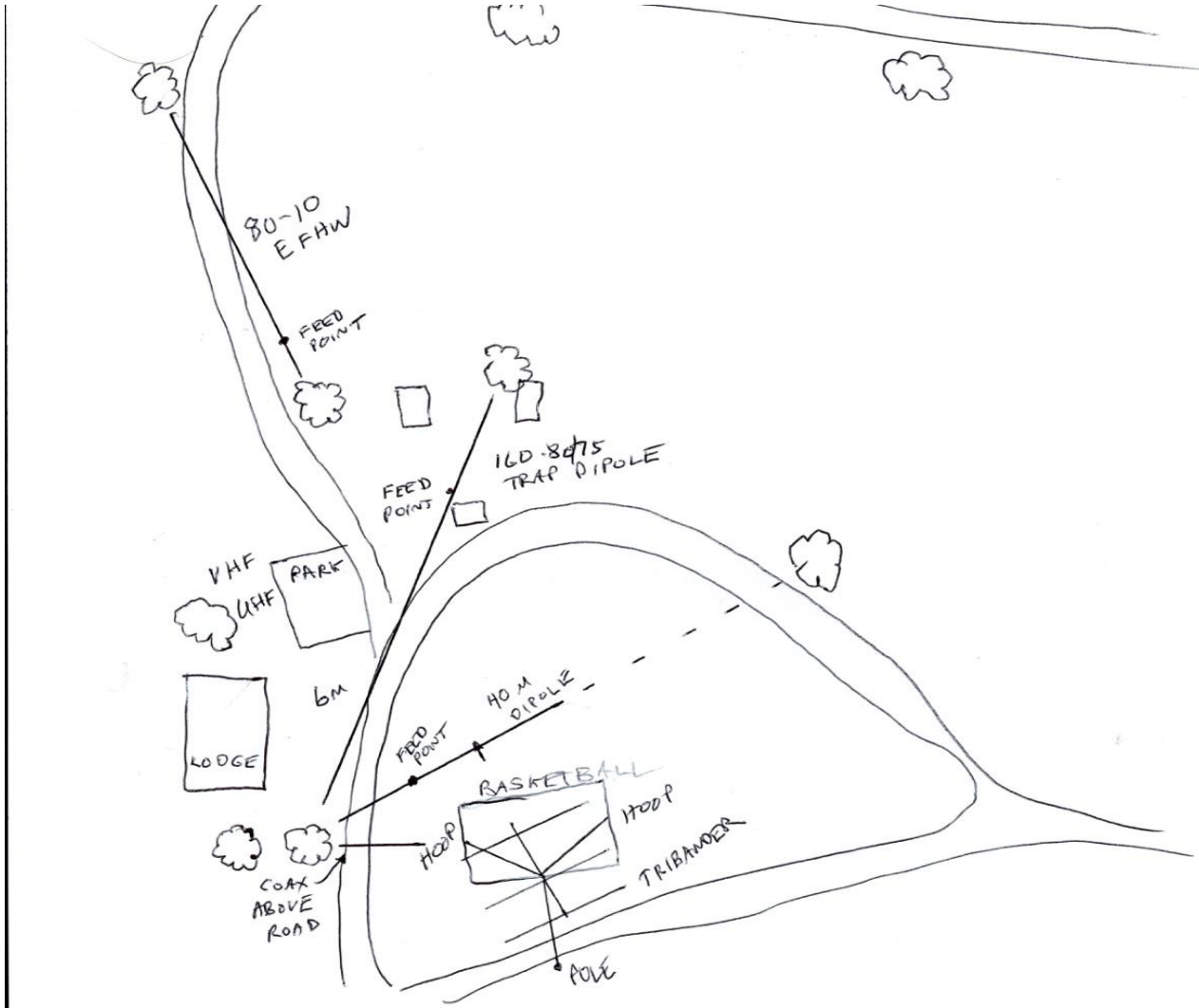
10 EFHW

10 tribander on triplexor

All of the wire antennas are fed so that it is easy to route the coax to the usual entry point.

At the time of this writing the number of transmitters has not yet been determined by the board.

Here's a picture of this year's layout:



I am hoping for nice weather while keeping the antenna setup as easy as possible should there be a storm during the weekend.

I always enjoy Winter Field Day, and the antenna setup in January makes it a fun challenge. I look forward to seeing you there!

Winter Field Day

An Amateur Radio Field Exercise

January 25th & 26th 2025

Open to the public!

CQ, CQ, CQ... visitors welcome

Come watch amateur radio operators

- ❄️ Set up a field station & antennas
- ❄️ Contact people around the world
- ❄️ Operate voice, digital and morse code
- ❄️ Test their equipment and abilities
- ❄️ Practice emergency skills

Visitors are welcome to stop by, ask questions, and learn about the exciting hobby of amateur radio.

You may even have the opportunity to pick up a microphone and get on the air!



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>