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B-Plus

www.k2ct.net

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League

An ARRL Special Services Club

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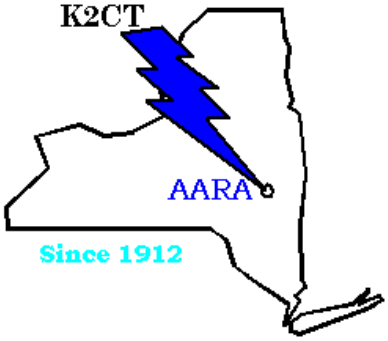

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AARA

This Month AARA Meets at the

Bethlehem Town Hall

Delaware Ave

Delmar, NY 12054

Friday June 10

Social Hour 6:55 PM

Meeting begins 7:47 PM

refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

JUNE MEETING

Contesting and Propagation

Field Day Operations
GOTO Station
Antenna setup
Operating the Radios
Logging by hand or computer?

FIELD DAY 2011 June 25-26
Thatcher Park
Hailes Cave Pavilion

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 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

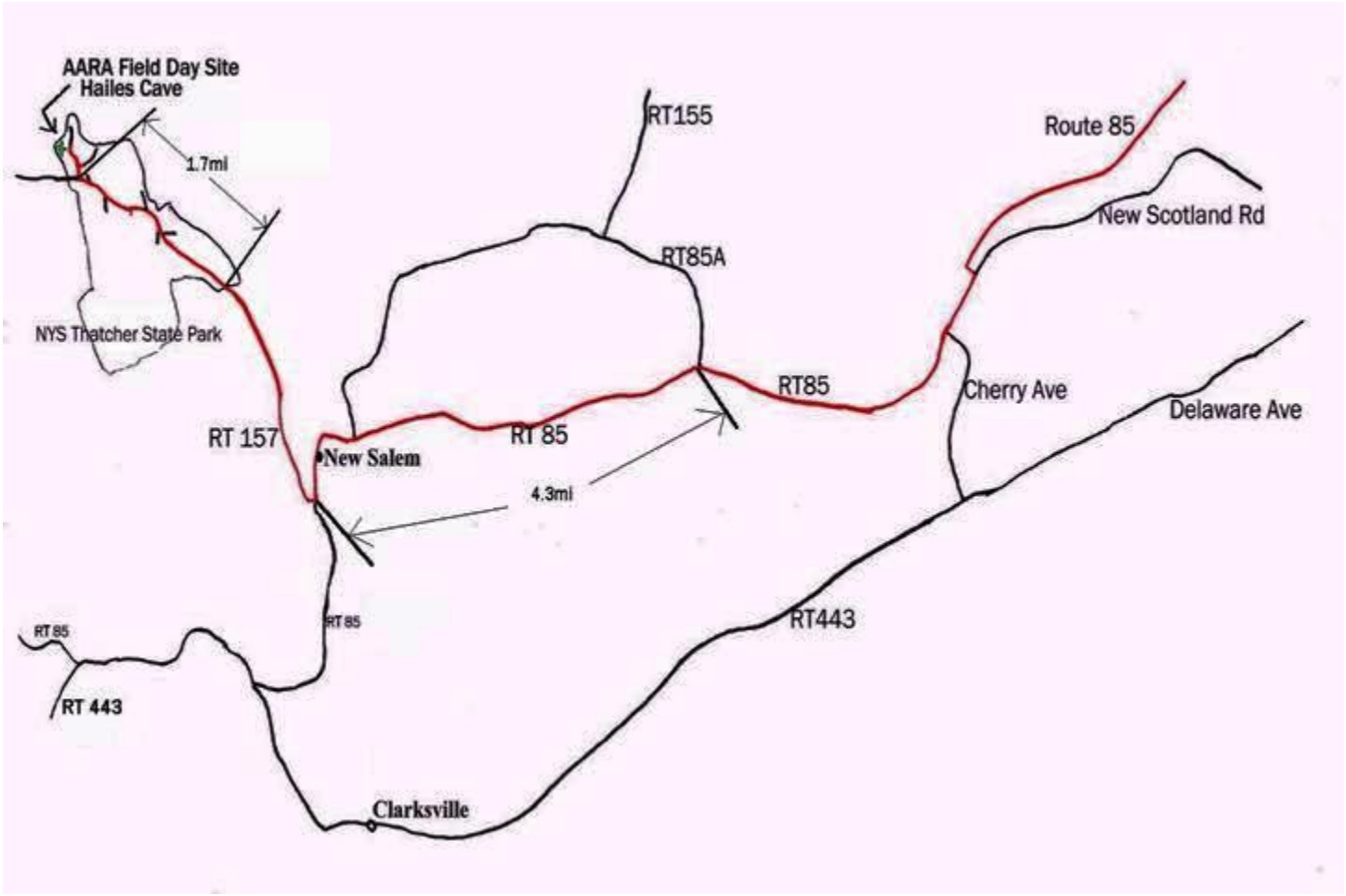
50/50 Raffle *at the meeting*

$1.00 for 1 ticket OR 3 tickets for $2.00

AARA May Meeting
Bethlehem Town Hall.

Field Day
Thatcher Park
Hailes Cave Pavilion

Friday setup June 24th 2:30PM
Operations June 25 8AM – 26 2PM



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Peter Hines, N2KAD, webmaster. E-mail hines@nycap.rr.com with any suggestions.

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Surfin': Oh! The Places You'll Go!

05/27/2011 ARRL.org
By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU Contributing ARRL Editor

The annual trek to the **Dayton Hamvention** began mid-morning last Wednesday when the LOU-mobile hit pavement in a westerly direction. Eight hours later, I decided to call it a day, after passing the **massive antenna farm** of Tim Duffy, **K3LR**, located on the east side of the Pennsylvania-Ohio border, just south of I-80.

The LOU-mobile hit the road again mid-morning Thursday and pulled into Dayton four hours later. In my youth, I used to drive to Dayton in one shot, but now that my youth is a memory, I split the trek so that I will not be too tired to enjoy Hamvention.

Now that my youth is just a memory, I find it difficult to gauge the age of the current youth -- or anyone under 50. A classic example occurred at the **AMSAT/TAPR Banquet** Friday night, when I perused the faces of the folks seated at the dais. I knew or knew of most of the faces up there, except one at the extreme right. He looked like a college kid to me, but it turned out he was astronaut Doug Wheelock, **KF5BOC**. Wow -- did I feel like a boat anchor when he was introduced! By the way, Astronaut Wheelock got up and spoke off-the-cuff for a few minutes about hamming from the International Space Station; he was very entertaining.

Speaking of my youth -- that is when I was a "**hacker**" experimenting with ham radio hardware and software (mostly software). I don't do much hacking these days, but it is still in my blood and I am always interested in seeing the latest ham radio hacks, which is one of the reasons I am very active in **TAPR**.

During Hamvention, TAPR president Steve Bible, N7HPR, alerted me about a Sierra Radio Systems ham radio hack called "**HamStack**." Their booth was right around the corner from TAPR's booth, so I moseyed on over to check it out.

Turned out that HamStack is very cool.

"The HamStack platform is designed to help ham radio operators learn how to design with microcontrollers and program them. A HamStack-based project can be used stand alone or embedded into your own project. The 'ham' part of the name refers to the desire to target the platform to the needs of the ham radio operator. The 'stack' is a play on words that refers to the physical design of the platform with its ability to stack multiple boards together. Stack also refers to the 'software stack' of libraries that are available to make programming easier."

You start with a CPU Board Kit with its Microchip PIC (18F4620) that you program in C or BASIC. Then you can add on other boards as needed to interface your creation to the world. For example, there is a General Purpose IO Board that has eight relays, one analog and four digital inputs, and an RS232/485 interface.

I have to tell you that HamStack got my hacking circulating and I almost bought some kits, but my C programming skills are non-existent and my BASIC skills are rusty.

Hamvention is a place where you meet old friends and acquaintances. Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, in his signature Cat in the Hat hat is hard to miss and I was glad to renew my friendship with him at the Hamvention. Joe mentioned that his 2011 Hamvention videos would be up on the net shortly after the convention, so visit **Joe's YouTube channel** and see what Joe saw in Dayton.

I missed W4KAZ at Hamvention because Kaz missed the Hamvention, but he put together a collection of links so that anyone who missed the event or anyone who attended the event and missed something may be able to find it on his Vicarious Dayton Hamvention 2011 **website**.

Until next time, keep on surfin'!
*Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, did not get lost in Akron! To contact Stan, send **e-mail** or add comments to the WA1LOU **blog**.*

SWAP SHOP Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at **wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com** or call 489-3110

For Sale: Brand new Hustler MO-2 mobile mast, 54in fold over 27in. Still in blister pack. List $40, sell $15 - will deliver to June meeting or Field Day. Please e-mail barry.n1eu@gmail.com or call Barry N1EU 439-6550

FEMA Administrator Calls Amateur Radio "The Last Line of Defense"

05/25/2011 ARRL.org

In an **FCC forum** on earthquake communications preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as "the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media." The forum-- held May 3 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC -- brought together officials from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**), the United States Geological Survey (**USGS**), FEMA, the FCC and the private sector. Fugate and FCC Bureau of Public Safety and Homeland Security Chief Jamie Barnett gave the opening remarks.

Later in the forum, Fugate spoke more on Amateur Radio. "During the initial communications out of Haiti, volunteers using assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, were the first ones oftentimes getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems came back up," he told the forum. "I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss that role 'When Everything Else Fails.' Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense."

Fugate said that he thinks "we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications, that we can never fathom that they'll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans. Yes, most of the time they're going be bored, because a lot of the time, there's not a lot they're going to be doing that other people aren't doing with Twitter and Facebook and everything else. But when you need Amateur Radio, you really need them."

You can watch a **video of the forum** on YouTube. Fugate's remarks begin at 18:55.

ATVET 2011 EXAM SCHEDULE

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).

CII Building - Room **3045,** RPI Campus, Troy, NY http://www.n2ty.org/arvet.htm

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
July 6, 2011 (Tentative)	Wednesday	6:20 PM	7:00 PM
October 8, 2011 (Tentative)	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
November 12, 2011 (Tentative)	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM

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