

B-PLUS

Albany Amateur Radio Association – AARA

June 2023

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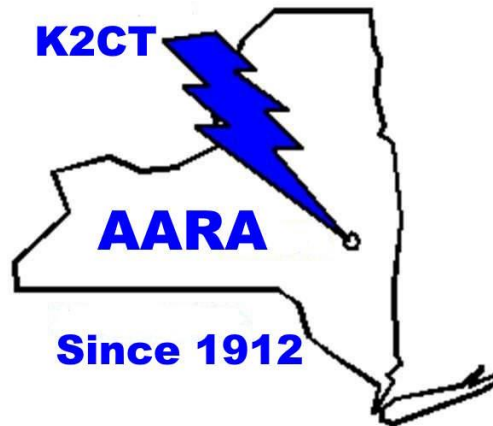
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AARA June Meeting
June 7th, 2023 7:30 PM
Slingerlands Fire Dept.

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

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

AARA “2023 I Love My Park Day” Project

A group of AARA members and friends assembled at the Thompson Lake State Campsite on Sunday, May 14 to do a major project as part of the annual “I Love My Park Day” activities. The goal of the special Mother’s Day session was to put a new corrugated metal roof on the entrance booth of the park. This was the second part of the project begun last May which put new siding and windows into the booth.

Nathaniel KB2HPX, Fred K2TR, Dave KM2O, Bob ex-WN2WZK and Nathaniel’s brother Kent all assisted in the project. The project was done under virtually perfect weather conditions. Thanks to all who participated.



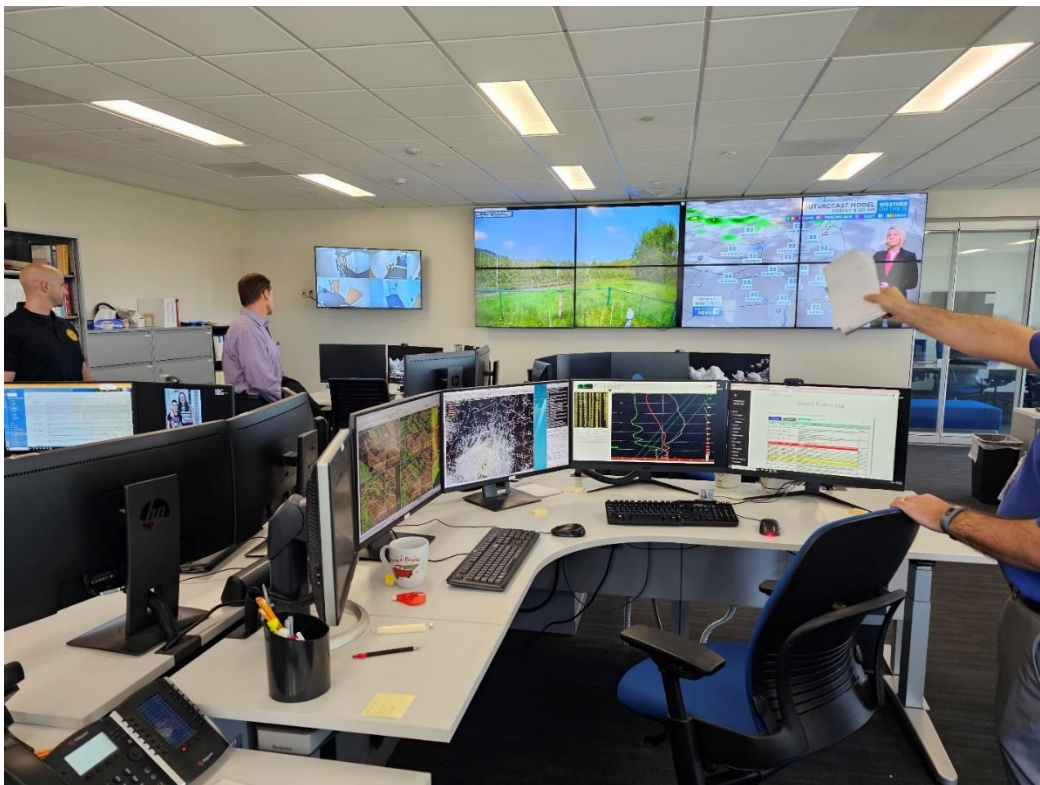
SKYWARN

Bruce, WA3AFS

Dave, KM2O and I, WA3AFS attended the meeting for emergency managers at the NWS Albany offices on May 10, 2023. The meeting was at the 180-million-dollar ETEC building just off the SUNY Albany campus. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate improvements to the NWS forecasting tools and to clarify how the NWS verifies their predictions.

The role of the spotters and other reporting mechanisms was highlighted several times in presentations.

At the end of the meeting, we had a chance to tour the NWS offices which are state of the art. The picture shows one of the workstations along with the monitors in the operations room. The large monitors can be set up to show up to 8 different views and/or data.



Unfortunately, ham radio has not been set up yet and space has not been identified to where the radio(s) will be installed. The roof mount for the antennas (6m, 2m, 70cm) is not ready. (Key roof infrastructure for NWS use is also not yet ready).

In addition, we met with the SKYWARN EC for Western Massachusetts Chuck, WS1L.

SKYWARN Spotters are highly regarded by the NWS and we encourage all to be trained by the NWS (online training, live classes, and virtual classes at least every two years). Please participate when severe weather is imminent or occurring. In our area, the primary SKYWARN repeater is KA2QYE (147.375, tone 100). Backup is the Western Massachusetts SKYWARN Mt Greylock repeater (146.91, tone 162.5) and there is the option for HF (3.944 MHZ which is the inter-section coordination frequency between the Eastern NY, Northern NY, Western MA and Eastern MA sections)

Field Day 2023

[Sign up for AARA/TARA Field Day](#)



Field Day 2023 is June 24-25 with set up on Friday, June 23.

AARA will be at Thacher Park (Hailes Cave) jointly with the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). Dinner arrangements are being finalized; cost will be around \$10 per person.

Fred's sandbox; the 2023 Field Day antenna system

Field Day 2023 will be very different than recent exercises. Covid is over, sunspots are soaring, and we are hosting the Troy club at our traditional Thatcher Park Hailes Cave QTH. To accommodate all these changes, we will be running the 5A category; plus, the GOTA (**Get On The Air**) and VHF stations. To take advantage of the high sunspots we will have two tribanders, one with a triplexor for 20/15/10 operation simultaneously, and a second tribander that can share simultaneous CW/SSB or SSB/digital on one band at a time.

Here's a rundown of the antenna system, with a few notes about improvements.

80 meters; The usual dipole, but at 65' high between two trees in the rest room area. An antenna that high has a characteristic impedance of 75 ohms, but our system is all 50 ohms, so I will be bringing a .08 wavelength 75 to 50 ohm transformer to get the SWR down.

75 meters; Two dipoles, the one we usually use, and a second that I'll bring. I will set them up as colinear dipoles, each fed with $\frac{3}{4}$ wavelength of RG-6. When combined, the colinear will have 3 db of gain NE/SW and tuned to a good match at 3810 KHz. The nulls off the ends of the antenna will be toward unpopulated areas near Bermuda and Hudson Bay. One end of each antenna will be supported by the center mast of the 40 meter tower, which will be moved toward the middle of the field. The other ends

will be as high as possible in a tree. The colinear could be used on CW simply by inserting an antenna tuner.

40 meters; The usual Cushcraft 40-2CD will be at 50'. It works well on either phone or CW. There will be a dipole above the shelter that will also work anywhere in the band. It will be a bit higher than the beam, so it won't be the best daytime antenna, but should do very well after dark.

20/15/10; The first tribander will be the Spider beam. It will be on a push-up mast in the usual location. The second tribander will be a Butternut HF5B on the tower trailer and located next to the back of the bathroom. These locations mean that the two antennas will be aimed away from each other when each antenna is aimed at 240 degrees, allowing simultaneous operation of both antennas, even if on the same band. We hope to compare these two antennas to see which one stands out, and the best antenna will be connected to the triplexor.

6 meters; This will be the small beam owned by the club, or perhaps a larger antenna that is in the Troy Field day trailer. It will be on a 30' tower located toward the NE of the shelter. Our location favors aiming the antenna East unless the band opens with sporadic E, and then SW or West.

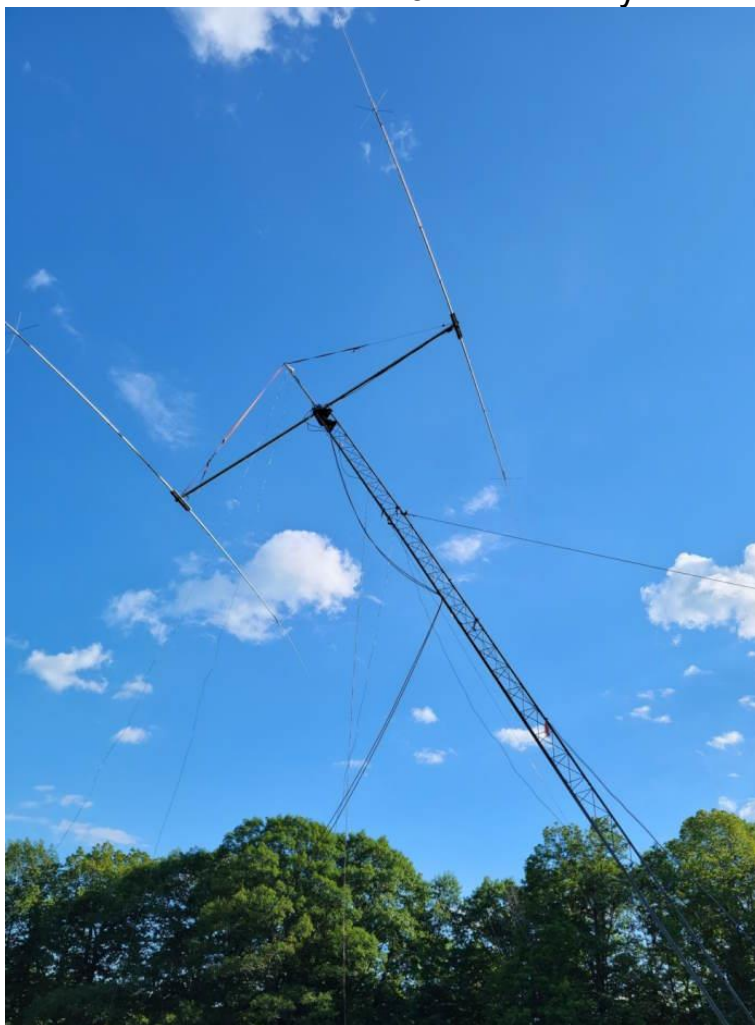
2 meters; A J-pole hung from a tree just east of the shelter.

Satellite: John Fritze will be bringing his portable set-up.

[Sign up for AARA/TARA Field Day](#)



The Pavilion at 2022 Field Day



Antenna Raising 2022



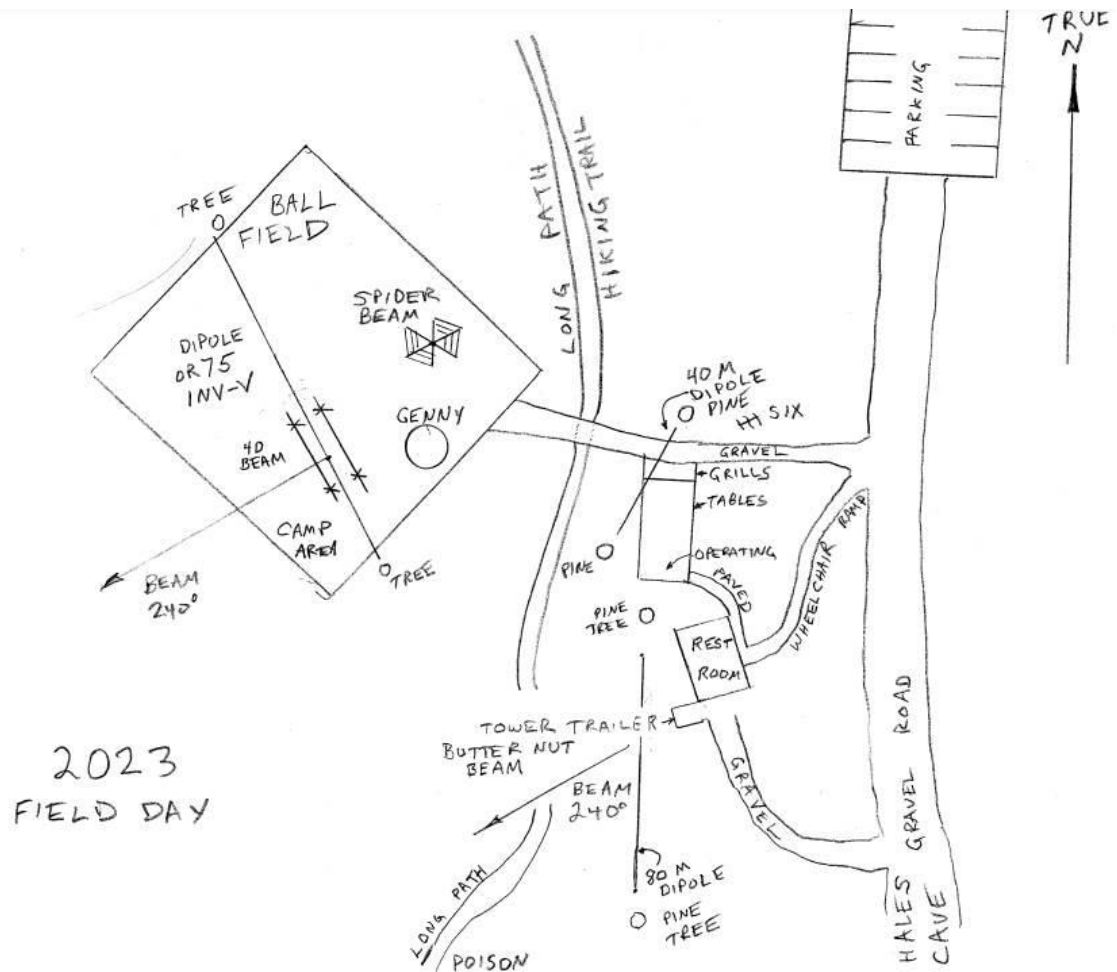
John K2QY's Satellite Setup



Dave KM2O Operating



Mike WD2AJS Operating



Proposed Antenna Setup for Field Day

EGARA Hamfest 2023

Just a quick reminder that the Annual Hamfest of the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association is set for JUNE 10th. Once again, it will be held at the beautiful East Greenbush Town Park and run from 8 am to 1 pm. (PLEASE NOTE: QST magazine has the WRONG date listed!). Full details and directions are at this link: <https://www.egara.club/events>.

We have again lined up lots of great prizes, including a GRAND Prize of \$500.

In addition, we have radios, gift certificates, shack accessories and more for our many giveaways. Sponsors include ARRL, KJI Electronics, Heil Sound, DX Engineering, Radio Oddity, N3FJP Software, MFJ, The Original Wireman, R&L Electronics, and BTECH. Vendors will also be on hand with a wide arrange of radios, antenna, shack accessories, and more. Of course, as always, we'll also be serving up lots of great-tasting food. There's even a playground for the kids.

Admission is just \$8.00 and includes FREE tailgating. Tables inside our climate-controlled building are just \$10 each and include an admission ticket. Each admission ticket includes an entry for our prize drawings. To reserve tables, please email W2RBJ@outlook.com. Tables are first come, first serve.

East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

www.EGARA.club

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>