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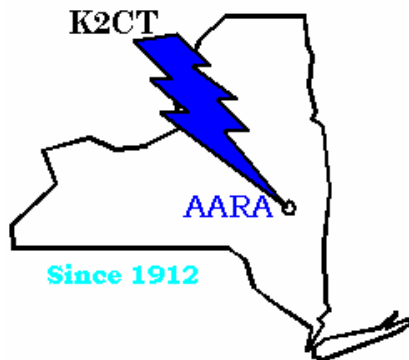
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League
An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center

1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday June 9

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

refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee

June Meeting

Field Day Preparations

Logging program written and
demonstrated by our own Sue, N2LBR and
Walt, WA2KKM

Hamfest Season Did you miss one or
when is the next one? Details at the
meeting

VHF Contest

AND MORE. . .

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 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

ATTENTION AARA CONTESTERS!

Send us your call, entry category, mode, power level, number of QSOs, number of country multipliers, and claimed score.

73, Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

Send all of the above (plain text only) to:

sue.walt@verizon.net

See you in the pileups! 73,

Public Service:

Volunteer CONTACT John, WE2F at 283-4304

AARA WE Need YOU to Volunteer AARA

SKYWARN VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE NOAA ENVIRONMENTAL HERO AWARD

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 22 June 2, 2006

South Florida SKYWARN Coordinator Don Morris, KG4JHH, of Miami, and his South Florida SKYWARN team have received a 2006 NOAA Environmental Hero Award for outstanding volunteer service during the 2005 hurricane season. Morris and his SKYWARN team volunteered more than 100 hours to staff Amateur Radio station WX4MIA, located at the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office in Miami. The volunteers gathered real-time hurricane damage and weather reports, disseminated NWS information and warnings and verified NWS warnings with on-the-spot information.

"The intent of the award is to recognize all of us who have worked on SKYWARN and/or WX4MIA," said Morris, who accepted the plaque during a May 22 presentation. "Local Amateur Radio is the main infrastructure we depend on for SKYWARN. It is way cool to be part of it." Morris also credited those who filed reports by telephone, Internet or fax or who have "just been ready if needed."

Along with other SKYWARN volunteers and even family members, Morris kept the WX4MIA severe weather net in constant operation as Hurricane Katrina moved ashore near Hallandale Beach and then southwest across Miami-Dade County. He did the same thing for Hurricane Wilma, staying all night right through landfall around 6 AM in Collier

County and through noon when Wilma finally moved off the Palm Beach County coastline near Jupiter.

Over the years, NOAA said, Morris has volunteered hundreds of hours as "the voice" of WX4MIA, soliciting storm reports and disseminating the latest warnings and statements for hurricanes and severe storms.

Established in 1995 and given annually in conjunction with Earth Day, the Environmental Hero Award is presented to individuals and organizations volunteering their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission.--NOAA; Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR

www.k2ct.net

WE are looking for pictures of your Ham Shack

Send pictures to Peter, N2KAD

Please try the new 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 with any suggestions.

AARA 2006 Field Day Foxhunt!

Last years foxhunt was a lot of fun and a good learning experience, especially for me! I homebrewed a UHF flea power transmitter, using an ISD voice recorder chip to play an endless loop for the modulated CWID. Once this thing was hidden somewhere in the park, the participants were gathered at the pavilion at 4pm.

The transmit frequency was announced and everyone was sent out to find the fox! It was interesting to observe folks going in different directions at first. But eventually they began heading in the direction of the fox. Bryan KC2NIF was the first to find it, with Nathaniel KB2HPX locating it second. Scott N2MQQ informed me that he found it third. It was then that I noticed something very strange happening; the remaining participants were migrating back to the pavilion!

The fox signal was very loud in my own radio, which was also in the pavilion. It was then that Scott informed me that he had brought the fox back with him to the pavilion! One by one the remaining participants all came back to the pavilion and found the fox. Which really worked out great since dinner was about to be served! Matt N2SQT, Dave KM2O, Rick N1BOI, and Bud WF2B also participated and were able to track the fox even when it had walked away!

This year we will have a 2m foxhunt. All you need to participate is a 2m HT with a signal strength meter. The event will start at 4pm with participants gathering at the pavilion. The transmit frequency will be announced at that time. I don't know if the fox will walk away again, but there could be some interesting twists this time!

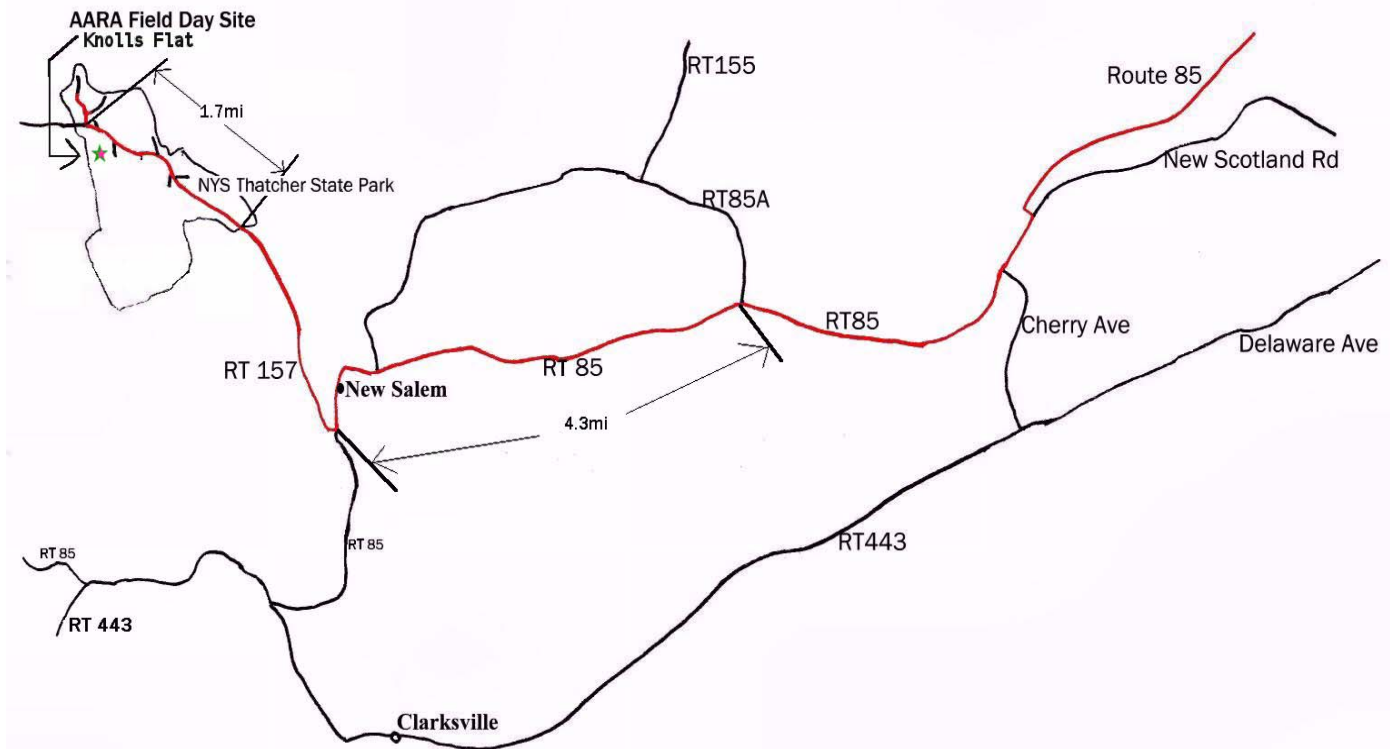
73 de Dave, KB2HPW

SWAP SHOP

Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at wd2ajs@arrl.net or call 489-3110

I have for sale one 60 foot tower, Rohn 25, steel, with tip over base. Includes the working rotor and a tri-band antenna. It has to be taken down

in June. I am moving to North Carolina around that time period. Jack WA2YBM - 869-1074



THE MAGIC OF AMATEUR RADIO IS STILL THERE, LEAGUE PRESIDENT SAYS

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 21 May 26, 2006

Amateur Radio has not lost its magic, says ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Addressing the "ARRL: Main Street USA" forum at Dayton Hamvention, Harrison said the Amateur Radio community needs to recognize and acknowledge that "Main Street USA" has changed, and with it the pool of potential radio amateurs.

"We have to keep that in mind as we're going out and recruiting people," Harrison suggested. During the ARRL forum, Harrison asserted that the "Average Joe" today has far less time to pursue a vocational interests such as ham radio than 30 or 40 years ago, when many older Amateur Radio operators got their first tickets. As workers' productivity has increased, so has the number of hours one spends on the job. Youngsters today already have heavy activity schedules, he said.

"We have a more competitive market for people's time," Harrison said. He conceded that while Amateur Radio might not possess the "gee whiz" factor it did decades ago, the "magic" is still there for today's hams. "I don't care how advanced we get, it all boils down to getting a signal from Point A to Point B magically," the League President told the audience. Even with today's plug-and-play transceivers, "people still have to put up an antenna." As an avid VHF/UHF and microwave operator, Harrison has considerable experience in that area.

Attracting young people into Amateur Radio is a harder sell, Harrison allowed. "The more we integrate computer technology into Amateur Radio, it helps to attract [younger people,]" he said. Promoting Amateur Radio contesting to the younger generation could be another route, he suggested, given the increased interest in competitive sports.

"How many times can a kid compete in an international tournament from home?" he asked rhetorically. "Every weekend," someone in the audience piped up.

Harrison also pointed out that the current Technician ticket doesn't give newcomers the means to sample the HF spectrum. At the same time, the FCC has so far turned away proposals to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license for the likely no-code environment of the future. But, Harrison maintained, giving new licensees "a little taste" of HF is important to attracting newcomers and maintaining their interest.

He also predicted that the FCC would "take the path of least resistance" and eliminate the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access.

Harrison's "Main Street USA" comments generated a lively discussion among forum participants who offered their own suggestions on how to ensure a bright future for Amateur Radio. One Virginia radio amateur suggested that public service has become a big draw for newcomers in his rural community. Val Rose, N8EXV, of Michigan said rude on-the-air behavior is a deterrent to attracting new hams.

Deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) are another issue that more and more hams--newcomers and veterans alike--are facing, another radio amateur noted. "That's a serious, serious matter affecting Amateur Radio now," Harrison agreed.

Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ, of Cincinnati, agreed with Harrison's view of Main Street USA. He suggested that one answer to piquing interest in ham radio is to piggyback on other hobby activities and interests. He also stressed the need to follow up with newcomers once they're licensed.

Harrison concurred on the importance of mentoring or "Elmering" newcomers. "We've stopped Elmering," he said. "Let's face it. We've stopped Elmering."

Harrison said the League's interest is in getting Amateur Radio promoted. "I'll take ham radio operators from any age group," he said.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of things we can do in ham radio."

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Bill, K2BX with your address corrections: Bill Nettleton, K2BX 7 Frederick Pl., Troy, NY

12180 or e-mail at k2bx@arrl.net

B B-PLUS June deadline is May 27th

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

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