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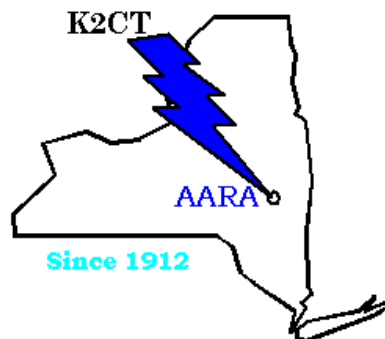
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AARA
www.k2ct.net

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

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center
1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday March 13

Social Hour 6:55 PM
Meeting begins 7:47 PM
refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

MARCH MEETING

The National Traffic System

Come to the March 13th meeting (Friday the 13th again!) and learn about the National Traffic System or NTS. You may think that amateur radio traffic handling is a thing of the past, but you will find that it is alive and well. Traditional analog modes as well as digital traffic handling will be covered. See you there!

The AARA Dinner is scheduled
for **Friday, April 3, 2009** at
Shaker Ridge Country Club

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 ATTENTION!

AARA DINNER

Join us again this year as we host our annual dinner at Shaker Ridge County Club in Colonie. This year the dinner is **Friday April 3rd, 2009** one week earlier than our regular club meeting date so it won't conflict with Good Friday. Make your plans NOW to attend this annual spring event where we will have an interesting speaker on a topic of general interest. As such, bring someone special for an evening of relaxing fellowship overlooking the greens at Shaker Ridge. Even better, this year we were able to hold the price at 35.00 per person as last year.

Dinner choices are:

Prime Rib – choice rib eye, slow roasted and served with natural au jus

Chicken Parmesan – lightly breaded boneless breast w/fresh marinara & mozzarella cheese

Salmon Filet – Atlantic Salmon, char grilled and finished with a dill buerre blanc

We must receive your check and meal choices by March 30th, 2009 to guarantee a reservation.

Please send a check made out to: AARA and indicate your meal choice, to our dinner chairman:

Nathaniel Greenman KB2HPX

PO Box 155

Voorheesville, NY 12186-0155

More reminders will follow by email and at the club meeting in March, including the speaker's information. Again, we must receive your check to reserve a space for you.

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

2009 ARRL DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
N1EU	SO (H) A	1328	352	1,402,368
K2ONP	SO (H) A	1194	270	967,140
N2LBR				
(+WA1KKM)	M/S	1016	276	841,248
K2XA	SO (H) 20M	1755	105	552,825
K2EP	SO (H) A	659	262	517,974
NJ1F	SO (H) A	551	235	388,455
N1JP	SO (H) A	460	186	256,680
W2GDJ	SO (H) A	350	229	240,450
K2BX	SO (H) A	366	130	142,740
WF2B	SO (H) A	227	151	102,831
K2XF	SO (H) A	203	133	80,997
W2EG	SO (L) 40M	331	78	77,454
WK2H	SO (H) A	260	97	75,660
WC2L	SO (H) A	162	92	44,712
WA3AFS	SO (H) A	100	100	30,000

Thanks for all the scores!

73,
Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

HAMS CAN STILL HELP WITH DIGITAL TV (DTV)

CONVERSION

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 7 Feb. 20, 2009

Even though the mandatory conversion date for television stations to switch from analog signals to digital has been delayed by four months

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-9A1.pdf>, hams are still assisting the FCC and their communities by providing technical support to those who need assistance

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/10/10499/>>. Although many TV stations won't turn off their analog signals until the new deadline, the law allows stations to apply to switch on the original date -- February 17 -- or any time before June 12.

According to the FCC, there are nearly 1800 full-power television stations in the US. Of these, the FCC said that "220 will have terminated their analog signals before Tuesday [February 17] and another 421 will terminate their analog signals on Tuesday [February 17] before 11:59 PM, for a total of 641 stations, or about 36 percent of all full-power stations nationwide." The FCC has posted a list of stations making the conversion on or before February 17 on their Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A2.pdf>.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said he has been getting e-mails and phone calls from Amateur Radio operators concerning the digital TV conversion, now set to take place on Friday, June 12. "People are asking what's happening with the DTV conversion -- especially now that it's been delayed -- and wondering what we as hams can do to help," he said. "There has been considerable confusion concerning the extension of the date, but the role of Amateur Radio is simply to be helpful to the people in our communities."

Pitts advises those hams that are helping to provide technical educational assistance

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO RECOGNIZE AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE IN DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 7 Feb. 20, 2009

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <<http://www.iaru.org/>>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1>> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes.

They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide

communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

**The AARA Dinner is scheduled for
Friday, April 3, 2009 at Shaker Ridge Country Club**

Saratoga Club

SWAPFEST

50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY

SAT., MARCH 14

8 AM-11AM

(VEC License Exams at 11:30)

Coop. Extension "Solar" Building

50 West High Street

(Route 67 , 1 block West of Rt. 50)

Ballston Spa, NY

-You could win a new Yaesu HT or the 50/50 raffle!

If you need directions, try 147.000 (- input; PL 91.5 hz) or 147.240 (+ input; no PL).
Somebody will know.

ATVET 2009 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

Day	Date	Doors Open	Exam Start
Saturday	February 21	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
Saturday	April 25	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
Wednesday	July 22	6:20 PM	7:00 PM
Saturday	October 17	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
Saturday	November 14	9:20 AM	10:00 AM

The 2009 Exam Fee will be \$15.00 (payable to ARRL-VEC)

We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984. If you have any questions, please feel free to phone Gerald Murray, WA2IWW, (evenings and weekends) at 518-482-8700, or e-mail me at atvet@n2ty.org.

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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@nycap.rr.com. Permission to reprint is granted if credit is given for article source as "Albany Amateur Radio Assoc. B-Plus"; and credit for specific bylines to the author when so identified. The contents of this publication are copyrighted in all other respects.