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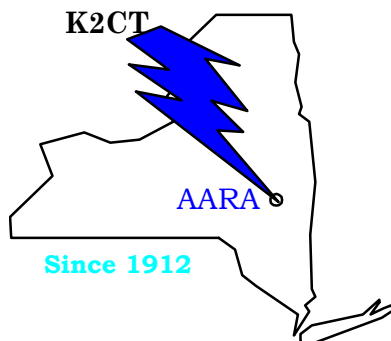
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center
1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday May 14

Social Hour 6:55 PM
Meeting 7:45 PM
Refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee

MAY Meeting

Technical Program

A bandpass filter for
Multi-transmitter environment

Walt Legowski, WA1KKM will discuss
the bandpass filter he's building
for the AARA Field Day Contest.

FIELD DAY JUNE 26-27, 2004

K2CT Repeater

Talk-in repeater
145.19 (-) MHz
pl tone 100.0hz
or

444.30 (+) w/pl tone 100.0hz

AARA Dues B-plus is Electronic

Dues are \$15 with
B-PLUS available at the K2CT Web
page in .pdf format www.qsl.net/k2ct
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

Public Service:

Volunteer CONTACT John, WE2F at 283-4304

AARA WE Need YOU to Volunteer AARA

AARA Homepage
www.ql.net/k2ct

SWAP SHOP

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

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD TO INAUGURATE DXCC CREDITS SYSTEM MAY 5

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 18 April 30, 2004

The ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) <<<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>> secure contact database debuts its DXCC credits system Wednesday, May 5. As of week's end, the credits system was undergoing some final testing. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the long-awaited LoTW component will permit users to apply contact "matches" in Logbook's 41.4 million QSO and growing database to their DXCC records. To date, Mills reports, more than 2.5 million QSO matches already exist in the system.

"It's a pretty straightforward process," Mills said of crediting LoTW QSO matches to DXCC. "What participants need to do first is go to the LoTW site and read the instructions." Information available will include a list of frequently asked questions--FAQs.

Before doing anything else, LoTW newcomers will have to obtain a Logbook of the World digital certificate and download the software. Since LoTW launched last September, it has validated nearly 10,000 digital certificates from approximately 7000 individual users. Obtaining a digital certificate, which authenticates each user under a particular call sign, is free.

The Logbook of the World database is a repository of individual contact records submitted by users in the US and abroad. When both QSO participants submit matching contact records to LoTW, the result is a "virtual QSL" that--while it bears little resemblance to a paper QSL card--is good for DXCC credit. LoTW accommodates Windows, MacOS and Linux RPM users, and several logging software developers have incorporated LoTW components into their programs.

DXCC is the first and only award for which LoTW users will be able to apply their credits. Mills says plans already are in the works to make the system available to

apply LoTW credits to other ARRL and possibly some non-ARRL awards.

Getting the DXCC credits system up and running has involved a considerable amount of programming--much of it by ARRL Web/Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z--followed by extensive testing.

LoTW users already holding digital certificates just need to click on the "Awards" menu tab to access the new system that lets them apply QSL credits to their DXCC records.

While the software and obtaining a digital certificate are free, it will cost users to apply LoTW QSL credits to DXCC. The application fee for a basic DXCC certificate remains the same, however, and users will only be charged on the Logbook side of the system. Individual credits can cost as much as 25 cents apiece, but users can save money by buying credits in bulk. Purchasing more than 500 credits will drop the per-QSL cost to just 15 cents, Mills pointed out. "The fees are much more economical than the postage and other costs associated with collecting traditional paper QSL cards," he added.

The application fee for a basic DXCC Award is \$10 and includes up to 120 card credits.

AARA Field Day

June 26-27

Location: Thatcher Park
Knolls Flat area

More details at meeting
Or contact a board member

New Area Lots of Food

Plenty of operating

Applicants pay 15 cents per each additional card applied. A similar fee structure applies for those going the LoTW route, Mills says, and you won't have to pay any additional fees on the DXCC side. The site provides for secure payment via credit card.

One first: LoTW will be able to query the DXCC system and display an individual's DXCC record. In the past, members have had to request their DXCC records via e-mail. "This was actually an unintended consequence of offering the DXCC credits system," Mills said.

For more information, contact the Logbook of The World staff <lotw-help@arrl.org>.

ATTENTION HF CONTESTERS

ATTENTION AARA CONTESTERS

If you were on the air in a contest, we want your score! Please send a plain text copy of your summary sheet to us at: sue.walt@verizon.net

Get your score published in B-Plus! See your call in print! Act now! (Limited time offer, some exclusions apply. See us for details.)

Don't be left out!

73,
Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR



AARA name tags can be ordered from The Maine Store. Our tag is on file with them. You can check them out at: <http://www.themainestore.com/>. They also have many other items that may be of interest.

DX-Cluster can be accessed on web at <telnet://na2na.net>

FIVE HAMS NOW ABOARD ISS; NEW CREW NOT WORRIED ABOUT GYRO FAILURE

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 17 April 23, 2004

There now are five ham radio operators aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Expedition 9 ISS crew members Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, accompanied by European Space Agency astronaut André Kuipers, PI9ISS, arrived at the ISS right on schedule April 21 aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle. They joined Expedition 8 crew members Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Sasha Kaleri, U8MIR, whom Padalka and Fincke will relieve.

Fincke told reporters April 23 that being aboard the ISS was "everything I've ever hoped for" and said he's "ready for the challenge" of living in space for the next six months. Both he and Foale also expressed confidence that the new crew can deal with this week's failure of a second control moment gyroscope (CMG) that leaves the ISS with the minimum two gyros. Fincke said he was prepared to do a space walk if necessary to repair the down units. "It's not a problem at all," he said. "We've trained in Houston . . . we've got spares on board . . . and we're ready to go when and if necessary."

During their six-month tour of duty, Padalka, 45, will serve as Expedition 9 commander, while Fincke, 36, will be the NASA ISS science officer and flight engineer.

The docking of the Soyuz spacecraft initiated a nine-day handover period now under way. During his visit aboard the space outpost, Kuipers will conduct a couple of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>>> school group contacts and carry out scientific experiments under a commercial agreement between the ESA and Russia. He'll return to Earth April 29 with Foale and Kaleri aboard the older Soyuz vehicle now attached to the ISS.

The Expedition 8 crew has so far spent 186 days onboard the station. NASA says Foale and Kaleri will be exercising rigorously in the days before their return to condition themselves for the effects of Earth's gravity upon their return.

ATVET 2004

Albany/Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams wb2sbo@aol.com or 518-439-7357

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

Each candidate should bring:

- Social Security Number (required for FCC CORES/ULS registration)
- A picture ID and non-picture ID
- Original and photocopy of any amateur licenses
- Original and photocopy of any CSCE documents
- Pens and Pencils
- Calculator
- \$12.00 exam fee (cash, check, or money order payable to ARRL/VEC)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Doors Open</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Room</u>
Wed.	June 30	6:20PM	CII Building	3045
Sat.	October 9	9:20AM	?	?
Sat.	November 13	9:20AM	?	?

The AARA DINNER April 2004



Mike, WD2AJS being awarded the AARA Service Award by President Ernie, K2EP

More pictures on the
meetings and location
page at
www.qsl.net/k2ct



B-PLUS June deadline is Sat. May 29th

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

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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