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B-PLUS

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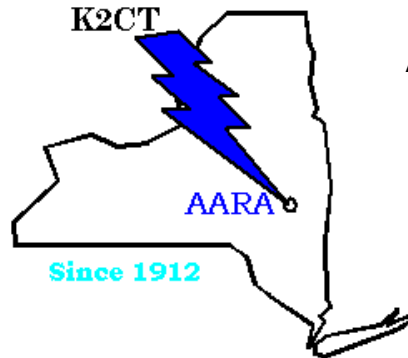
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center

1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday Nov. 9

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

refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

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

NOV. Meeting

Contest Season is here
More on participating

What does WAC, WAZ, DXCC etc. mean?

Public Service , Pumpkin Patrol

Emergency Services how can we Help?

What's a GOTO Box?

FCC'S RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO RETIRE IN JANUARY 2008

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 43 Oct. 26, 2007

Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, announced his retirement this week, effective Friday, January 3, 2008. While his successor has not been named, Hollingsworth was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL: "After about a year of thinking about the 'if not now, when?' question, I decided to retire January 3. I love working for the FCC and I've always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. For nine years I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

Speaking at the New England Division Convention in August 2000, Hollingsworth offered his 10 personal suggestions to secure a sound future for Amateur Radio <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/00/0901/rileys10.html>>, encouraging amateurs to "seize the moment" to ensure a bright future for Amateur Radio. "Look beyond enforcement," he urged, "because if I do my job right, in five years you won't even remember my name." Hollingsworth said that while no one can predict the future, amateurs must invent theirs in an era of converging digital and RF technology. "There is no reason why our Amateur Radio Service can't be the envy of the rest of the world," he said. Getting there, he suggested, comes with each amateur's taking responsibility for his or her behavior on the air. Amateurs should encourage arrogant, negative operators to "take their anger and hate to the Internet," he said. "Every minute they are on the Internet is a minute they aren't on Amateur Radio."

Upon learning of Hollingsworth's retirement, ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said, "Riley Hollingsworth has been a tremendous supporter of and asset to the Amateur Radio Service. He will be remembered as being the force behind the re-introduction of Amateur Radio enforcement in 1998 and continuing those efforts through today. His contribution in cleaning up the amateur bands has been substantial and effective. We are very sorry to see him go, and we wish him every continued success."

NEW ARISS ANTENNAS INSTALLED ON COLUMBUS

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 43 Oct. 26, 2007

Two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas have been installed on the nadir side of the new International Space Station's Columbus module, set to launch later this year. On October 12, the antennas successfully passed electrical and SWR tests, with one of the two antennas, Antenna 42, going through a final test -- a thermal test under vacuum. Based on modeling, engineers have no fear the antenna will pass with flying colors. Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation. Video from the installation and inspection is available at the Columbus Web site <<http://www.ariss-eu.org/columbus.htm>>.

At the ARISS International conference last year in San Francisco, Graham Shirville, G3VZV, speaking on behalf of ARISS-Europe, outlined plans for a mode L/S ham radio transponder as well as a DATV downlink on S1 band (2.4 GHz). "So, future ARISS contacts could have pictures as well as sound," Shirville told the delegates. ARISS-Europe is looking at a 10 W transmitter and a signal bandwidth of from 4 to 8 MHz. Since the Columbus module will be some distance from the other two ARISS stations, parallel operation will be possible.

Funding to finish and install ham radio antennas on the European Space Agency (ESA)-built laboratory module has been uncertain, however. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, says donations from various sources covered a payment of 9000 Euros (approximately \$12,000) in March. A second payment is due this fall. Donations already have come in from the ARRL Foundation, AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-UK, among other organizations, as well as from many individual donors. According to Bertels, there is still a funding shortfall of 15,000 Euros (approximately \$21,000 USD). To help out, PayPal donations are being accepted (access the PayPal site via the Columbus Web page).

FOR SALE: Cushcraft Antenna
Model 15-4CD Monoband
Very Good Condition Price \$125 or best offer.
All hardware replaced in 1997. Pickup Only.
Contact Seymour, K2XF at 286-1328

FOR SALE: Cushcraft Antenna
Model 10-4CD Monoband
Very Good Condition Price \$100 or best offer.
All hardware replaced in 1997. Pickup Only.
Contact Seymour, K2XF at 286-1328

**AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE NAMED
VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR BY
MARINE CORPS MARATHON**

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 43 Oct. 26, 2007

On October 19, the Marine Corps Marathon announced that the Amateur Radio Service is its Volunteer Group of the Year in light of the 30 years of service and support hams have provided for the annual event. Amateur Radio volunteers began assisting with the Marine Corps Marathon in 1978 and have provided essential, mission critical communications to the medical staff on race day. The Volunteer Group of the Year Award will be presented today, October 26, as part of a special ceremony.

"The ham radio operators play a vital role in medical operations of the race. The knowledge and expertise of their dedicated volunteers enables the Marine Corps Marathon to

provide all participants the highest level of emergency care and I am deeply appreciative of the hams' continued support," said Rick Nealis, Director of the Marine Corps Marathon.

Initially, ham radio served as a simple means of communications at both aid stations and mile markers. In the early 1990s, this support expanded to include digital communications with the aid stations and tracking of the pace car. Eventually, the aid station support evolved to automated digital communications that includes 115 ham operations located at mile markers, water points, aid stations, two finish area medical locations and as shadows to the division commanders. More than 100 Amateur Radio operators volunteer for the Marine Corps Marathon.

The award also recognizes two specific individuals, Rick Bunn, N4ASX, and Tom Azlin, N4ZPT, for their contribution to Amateur Radio participation at the Marine Corps Marathon. Bunn was first licensed in 1971 while in high school. He began volunteering for the Marine Corps Marathon in 1983 and served as the Marine Corps Marathon Amateur Radio liaison from 1997-2001. From 2001-2005, he served as the lead Amateur Radio operator, coordinating all aspects of ham radio support to the marathon. Azlin has been licensed since 1990. He first volunteered with the Marine Corps Marathon in 2001 and, since 2004, has been the Amateur Radio operator responsible for coordinating all aspects of aid station ham radio support.

Voted "Best Marathon for Families," the Marine Corps Marathon continues a combined tradition of dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism. Runners from all walks of life have participated in the world's largest marathon to not offer prize money, deservingly earning the nickname "The People's Marathon." The 32nd Marine Corps Marathon will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia and Washington, DC.

www.k2ct.net

WE are looking for pictures of your Ham Shack Send pictures to Peter, N2KAD

Please try the 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.

**Public Service:
Volunteer CONTACT
Frank, N4ZHG 473-9256**

A.T.V.E.T.

**Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner
Team**

ATVET will again be holding their exam sessions in the C.I.I. Building (Low Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I.. Examination room doors will open 40 minutes prior to the exam time, with exams starting at the times indicated above. NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the starting time. ATVET never requires any pre-registration for any of their exams.

The fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio examination sessions will be \$14.00 either cash, or check (payable to [ARRL-VEC](#)). This fee is required from all candidates taking any of the exam elements offered by this team.

Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture ID. Also bring all of your original documentation (current license, CSCEs...etc.), along with photocopies, calculators, pens and pencils to the exam session. Candidates should bring their Social Security numbers to place on the application form (FCC Form 605).

The Social Security Number is required to register in ULS and CORES.

Anyone needing special handicap arrangements is asked to call in advance. The CII Building is handicapped accessible.

**Exam Date Day Doors Open Exam Time
(Doors will Close)**

Nov. 10, 2007 Sat. 9:20 AM 10:00 AM

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

ARLP044 Propagation Forecast

ARLP044 by: Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA October 26, 2007

Zero, zero, zero sunspots for 18 straight days now. A single sunspot appeared briefly October 6-7, no sunspots for four days prior, one sunspot for the final few days of September, and none for the three whole weeks prior to that.

Until recently, many of us thought the solar cycle minimum occurred in March of this year. You can see a table of projected smoothed numbers with a minimum in March 2007 at, <http://tinyurl.com/27j2fs>.

This year we began looking at a table of 3-month sunspot number averages, and for a while the data seemed to support a March minimum. But then we hit this longer period of no sunspots, and the 3-month average dropped again. You can see the most recent table in Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP041 at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/2007-arlp041.html>. Note the 10.2 average assigned to August (which is the middle of the July through September period the 3-month average is based on) is lower than March, which was 11.2.

With such a long period of so few sunspots, at the beginning of November we might see a much lower 3-month average. This is because the sum of all the daily sunspot numbers from August 1 until now is only 492, and if we still see no sunspots through next Wednesday, that total divided by the number of days for August-September-October (92) is only 5.4.

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

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