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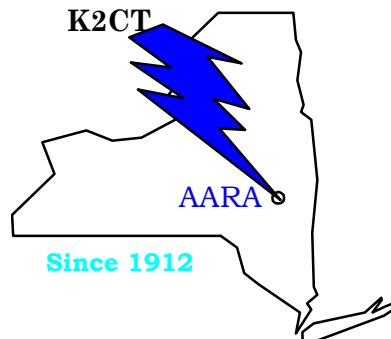
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center
1653 Central Ave. Colonie

Friday Oct 8

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

OCT. Meeting

The speaker for October is Fred Lass, K2TR Director of Engineering, WRGB Channel 6 TV. He will be discussing the implementation of HDTV at channel 6

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

SWAP SHOP

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

ATTENTION HF CONTESTERS

ATTENTION AARA CONTESTERS

The 2004 CQ World Wide DX Contest is coming soon! The phone weekend is October 30-31 and the CW weekend is November 27-28. If you get on the air for either weekend, big score or small, send us your scores! All scores received will be published in B-Plus. **Send** your information (plain text) to us by e-mail at:

See you in the pile-ups!

73,

Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

sue.walt@verizon.net

MORE THAN JUST BPL!" LEAGUE KICKS OFF 2005 SPECTRUM DEFENSE CAMPAIGN

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 37 Sept. 17, 2004

The ARRL this week kicked off its 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund campaign with the slogan "more than just BPL!" ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says that while interference from BPL--broadband over power line--technology is the most prominent and immediate threat to amateur spectrum, generous donations from ARRL members and supporters make it possible for the League to face it and other spectrum challenges. Haynie says that not all of ARRL's advocacy efforts necessarily involve taking defensive measures, such as with BPL, but all of them are essential.

"Forty meters, Little LEOs some years back, the work that the League's Technical Relations Office in Washington does--all this makes the spectrum available to us," Haynie said. "And without spectrum, the license that we have in our pocket or hanging up on the wall is pretty much useless."

Haynie says that, as he sees it, the League's job is to look out for the best interests of Amateur Radio and make sure that we have spectrum to operate on. "And that's a big job, it's a huge job that we've undertaken. It becomes very important because spectrum is so precious."

It's also a job whose cost and complexity have risen considerably in the past decade, as new technology-driven demand for spectrum has put increasing pressure on Amateur Radio frequencies. World Radio Communication Conferences, at which ARRL and International Amateur Radio Union personnel represent Amateur Radio's interests, now occur every two or three years instead of once a decade. As ARRL CEO David Sumner pointed out in a fundraising letter

<<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>> to League members, in such an environment, the League no longer can cover the cost of its operations and advocacy efforts with dues revenue and the sale of publications and QST advertising.

"The whole philosophy of spectrum management is being rethought, with the objective of easing access for new products for consumers and industry," Sumner wrote. "But as the rules for their introduction and use are developed, we in the Amateur Radio Service need an advocate to ensure that our interests are safeguarded. With your help, the ARRL will continue to be that advocate, for ourselves and for future generations of radio amateurs."

In 1985, the League spent perhaps \$200,000 on advocacy and spectrum defense. The League's Washington office at the time consisted of one staff member. As 2005 looms, it's a much different picture.

"Today we spend close to \$900,000, and I know it's something that hams can't see, touch or feel, but it's just as important as those things that they can--like QST and the Handbook," Haynie said, "because we would not have all those things if it were not for the fact that we have a place to operate."

The 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund depends on membership support and is essential to the League's continued success. Radio amateurs may contribute online via the ARRL's secure donor Web site

<<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html>>. Those contributing at or above the \$50 level may request a gift as a token of the League's appreciation.

For more information about the 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund or to discuss other ways you can support the ARRL's continuing work on behalf of Amateur Radio, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. <k1mmh@arrl.org>; 860-594-0397.

Public Service:

Volunteer CONTACT John, WE2F at 283-4304

AARA *WE Need YOU to Volunteer* **AARA**

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

AARA Home Page
<http://www.qsl.net/k2ct>

ARRL HAS ROLE IN MARYLAND AMATEUR TOWER CASE VICTORY

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 37 Sept. 17, 2004

ARRL member John Evans, N3HBX, says he'll go forward with plans to erect four 192-foot towers on a 44-acre farmland tract he owns near Poolesville, Maryland. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, testified as an expert witness on Evans' behalf September 9 when a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge denied a request for a preliminary injunction brought by Evans' neighbors in an effort to have his building permits for the structures rescinded.

"Thank you for your sterling support today!" Evans e-mailed Imlay after the ruling by Circuit Court Judge DeLawrence Beard. "I am sure it made a difference." While another court proceeding to deal with the interpretation of Montgomery County's zoning ordinance lies ahead, Evans' attorney, Steve Van Grack--a former Rockville mayor--has told him he's free to put up his towers--even at the risk that they might have to come down later if the courts ultimately rule against him. "And that is what I plan to do," Evans said.

Imlay says Judge Beard was not convinced by the assertions of Evans' neighbors that installing the four antenna support structures would result in irreparable harm, and he declined to grant an injunction to stop the project until its legality could be established in court. "The issue was whether or not a special exception--like a conditional use permit--is required or just the building permits that were issued by the County," Imlay explained.

A conditional use permit would have required a public hearing. "Evans is not out of the woods yet, but this allows him to put up the towers," he said.

Judge Beard ruled only on the preliminary injunction request, however. The neighbors earlier had attempted to get a temporary restraining order, but that was denied by the Circuit Court August 30. In turning down the injunction request, Judge Beard said the towers could come down just as they went up--if that was his final decision--so any harm to the neighbors would not be irreparable.

The county granted Evans a building permit to construct the towers as accessory use structures on June 23. Evans reportedly paid just over \$1 million for the property in March on the condition that a building permit for the towers be approved. He's also built a house on the property, which is within Montgomery County's agricultural reserve.

Evans' neighbors have strenuously opposed the DXCC Honor Roller's plans to put up the towers for his new contest station, and they told reporters the latest setback will not halt their efforts. Contending the tower project will destroy the "rural character of the area," more than 200 area residents signed a petition requesting a public hearing.

According to The Gazette newspaper, Evans has met with delegations of neighbors in an effort to accommodate their complaints--including an offer to plant trees to obscure the view of the towers. He also offered to remove the towers in 15 years when he'll be in his mid-80s and "probably no longer interested in pursuing the hobby," the news report said.

The Washington Post this week reported that neighbors didn't learn of Evans' plans until construction trucks began showing up at the site. Several neighbors have ceded their own development rights to the county to keep the area as agricultural open space. They suggest that Evans' tower project makes a mockery of the agricultural easements.

ARRL ANNOUNCES NEW RADIO FREQUENCY PROPAGATION COURSE

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 37 Sept. 17, 2004

A new course, "Radio Frequency Propagation" (EC-011), is the latest in the League's catalog of Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) courses. Registration for the propagation course will remain open through Sunday, September 26, and the first class will begin Friday, October 15.

The course curriculum was written by Ian Poole, G3YWX, and edited by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, and Terry Dettmann, WX7S. A noted DXer, Luetzelschwab writes the "Propagation" column for WorldRadio magazine and occasionally fills in for Tad Cook, K7RA, to write the weekly ARRL propagation report. Dettmann is the CCE program's mentor coordinator and also a propagation expert.

Those signing up for EC-011 will study the science of RF propagation, including the properties of electromagnetic waves, the atmosphere and the ionosphere, the sun and sunspots, ground waves and sky waves, and various propagation modes--including aurora and meteor scatter.

Over the course of 15 learning units they'll also engage in various listening and logging activities and visit several Web sites that deal with solar phenomena related to radio wave propagation. The course runs 12 weeks and students can earn 2 Continuing Education Units. Tuition for the course is \$65 for ARRL members and \$95 for nonmembers.

RF Propagation students will need to have an HF receiver to complete the various course-related activities. All on-line CCE courses also require access to a computer with an Internet connection as well as e-mail and Web navigational skills.

Poole's text, Radio Propagation--Principles & Practice, is the optional reference manual for the course. Published by the Radio Society of Great Britain, the 112-page book offers a practical understanding of radio propagation and serves as a guide to choosing the right band at the right time for the desired communication path.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> or contact the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Department <cce@arrl.org>.

Field Day 2004 Results

CW	QSO's
80 meters	109
40 meters	221
20 meters	<u>198</u>
total CW QSO's	528

Phone	QSO's
80 meters	3
40 meters	353
20 meters	178
15 meters	11
6 meters	<u>30</u>
total phone QSO's	575

Photos go to <http://www.qsl.net/k2ct>

Directions to meetings: Go to the website above then click on [meetings page](#)



Field Day 2004

More photos go to <http://www.qsl.net/k2ct>

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:

- a. Social Security Number (required for FCC CORES/ULS registration)
- b. A picture ID and non-picture ID
- c. Original and photocopy of any amateur licenses
- d. Original and photocopy of any CSCE documents
- e. Pens and Pencils
- f. Calculator
- g. \$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>
Sat.	October 9	9:20AM	?	?
Sat.	November 13	9:20AM	?	?

FCC STILL ENFORCING PART 15 RULES IN SOME AMATEUR INTERFERENCE CASES

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 35 9/3/04

While the ARRL has accused the FCC of sweeping under the rug several Amateur Radio complaints of interference from unlicensed broadband over power line (BPL) devices, the Commission apparently is not ignoring other Part 15-related interference complaints from hams. With the assistance of the ARRL Laboratory, the FCC continues to dog complaints--some now longstanding--of power-line noise interference to amateur communication. Other cases of Part 15 device interference to radio amateurs have been a bit more exotic. For example, two recent citations issued by the Portland, Oregon, FCC field office involved interference from wireless microphones operating in the 70-cm band.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the neighbor that under Part 15, operation of a consumer product "such as a battery charger" must not result in harmful interference to a licensed radio service. He emphasized that it's the neighbor's responsibility to correct the interference--whether or not the neighbor accepts Cooper's help. In July, the FCC contacted Illinois Power Company to report receiving complaints that the

utility's equipment may be causing harmful interference to the amateur operations of Earl Shaffer, WB9UWA, of Normal.

"The complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to work through your usual complaint resolution process, and, as a result, the matter has been referred to our office," Bowers said in a form letter to the utility's CEO. In both cases she handled, Bowers provided the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the ARRL's Radio Frequency Interference Desk as a source of "help and guidance about radio interference that involves Amateur Radio operators." More than five dozen power line interference cases have been referred to the League this year.

Upcoming Events

Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 9 - 0500Z, Oct 10

North American RTTY Sprint 0000Z-0400Z Oct 10

Illinois QSO Party 1800Z, Oct 17 - 0200Z, Oct 18

CQ World Wide DX Contest Phone 0000Z, Oct 30 - 2400Z, Oct 31

Oct 30 and Oct 31 Pumpkin Patrol

B-PLUS Nov deadline is Sat. Oct 30th

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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