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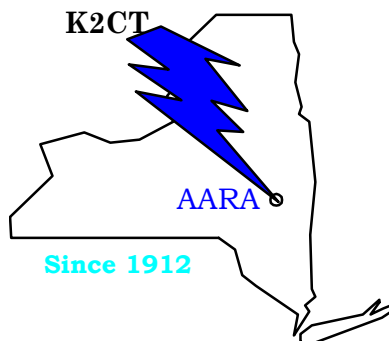
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League  
An ARRL Special Services Club

## AARA

Meets at the  
Colonie Community Center  
1653 Central Ave. Colonie  
Friday Sept. 12

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

## SEPT. Meeting

Rich Otis, N2ZKX, will discuss  
emergency communications and public  
service.

As a volunteer on the recovery of  
STS-107 this year, he will also tell us  
a few tales including some interesting  
photos of the recovery efforts.

**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](http://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

## BPL PLACES FCC AT REGULATORY CROSSROAD, AMRAD SUGGESTS

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 34 August 29, 2003

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<<http://www.amrad.org>>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference complaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house HomePlug

standard BPL local network could seriously impair the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, KOBRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas, Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

Although the reply comment window closed August 20, the number of comments in response to the FCC's BPL NOI was 4553 as of August 29 and counting, with some 100 comments filed since the deadline. Many comments in the BPL proceeding have come from the Amateur Radio community.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site <<[http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=514683575](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=514683575)>>



Radio controlled ECHOLINK node is up and running. It's on 147.550 simplex using the standard DTMF control codes for ECHOLINK. The coverage area is approximately a 10 mile radius centered on Delmar. For further info contact John, K2QY at [jgalt54@aol.com](mailto:jgalt54@aol.com)

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

### **Youth Page at ARRL!!**

#### **COME MEET THE HAM-STERS!!**

The ham-sters are ARRL's latest additions. They are indeed hamsters (get it, "ham"-sters) and they are on our newest web page, designed especially for youth. The "**Harmonics**" page made its debut yesterday, July 16. This page was designed by Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS and we're sure it's going to delight the target audience of children between the ages of 6-16! The page is chock full of fun and games of progressive difficulty levels, and stories from hams under age 16. There are also links there for those who decide they'd like to learn more about becoming a ham. Harmonics is still growing so if you have anything you'd like to share, contact Jean at [jwolfgang@arrl.org](mailto:jwolfgang@arrl.org)  
<<mailto:jwolfgang@arrl.org>>

We can't guarantee we'll post it, but we're always looking for new ideas!

## **JOHN, W2JLN SK:**

John has had a rough few years. He had a very tough week. (He kept his spirit; he wanted his handheld while he was in ICU!) John passed away in August

W2JLN previously held the callsigns N2CQA and WB2YHJ

John was an engineer and taught at Hudson Valley Community College for many years. He will be missed.

### **No-code Tech licensing course**

The Schenectady and Albany Amateur Radio Associations will be offering a no-code Tech licensing course on Wednesday evenings this fall at Niskayuna High School.

The dates are September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and November 5, 12, and 19. There are 9 meetings: 8 for lessons and 1 for the exam (November 19).

Registration must be done through Niskayuna's office of continuing education in early September.

Potential students should contact me for details before the end of August (my address and telephone number may be made public).

We require a minimum of 12 students for the course to run, and class size is definitely limited to 18. I suspect that we will reach the maximum number.

All instructors are well qualified and experienced.

Bob Raffaele, W2XM,  
w2xm@arrl.net 459-8435





## Public Service:

### M.S. Bike ride

report August 3, 2003

Amateur Radio operators from around the Capital District, and beyond, provided communications for the July 19 – 20, 2003 150 mile bike ride. It started and ended both days at the Whispering Pines campground in the Town of Wilton. We had a total of 15 operators, four of which worked both days.

Those who participated were: Henry KB2STR, Bob KB2TBB, Ernie KC7DYB, Don W2CJO, Ken AA2CW, Jim K2ZP, Pete, W1NXB, Jack K2LOO, Jim KB2CJX, Ed KB2UKT, Walt AA2FT, Karen N2WDL, Craig, N2UID, Jim KG2H, and Jack WA2YBM.

Jim KG2H was net control on the Saturday ride. Craig N2UID was NCS on Sunday.

All told, the individuals provided over 130 hours of volunteer service.

Dedication – dedication and more dedication. Don W2CJO had just obtained permission from his doctor only the Wednesday before that he could participate as long as he didn't have to walk any distance. He had a hip replacement two months earlier and has to walk using a cane. So he rode in his usual vehicle – the Down Tube repair vehicle from which he performed his invaluable service.

He just didn't want to break his long string of yearly participation from previous years. About 14 years long. submitted by Jack, WA2YBM

**Volunteer CONTACT John, WE2F at 283-4304**

**AARA WE Need YOU to Volunteer AARA**

## ATVET 2003

**ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams**  
[wb2sbo@aol.com](mailto:wb2sbo@aol.com) or 518-439-7357

**ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray,**  
[atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700

October 11, 2003 (Sat.) 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
(doors open 9:20 AM)

November 8, 2003 (Sat.) 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
(doors open 9:20 AM)

Each candidate should bring:

- Social Security Number (required for CORES registration, ULS registration, and FCC Form 605 (application))
- 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)

## Upcoming Events

### September

13 – 15 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

20 – 21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

### October

18 – 19 ARRL International EME Competition

### November

1 – 3 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)

15 – 16 ARRL International EME Competition

15 – 17 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

## SWAP SHOP

Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at [wd2ajs@arrl.net](mailto:wd2ajs@arrl.net) or call 489-3110

**AARA Homepage**  
[www.qsl.net/k2ct](http://www.qsl.net/k2ct)



B-PLUS OCT. deadline is Sat. Sept.27th

**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](mailto:k2bx@arrl.net)

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