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# **BARA** Facts

*Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association*

**December 2003**

Website: <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara>

## **BARA Officers & Directors, 2004**

At the November General Meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association the Election of Officers and Directors for the 2004 term was conducted by the outgoing Vice President Jack Connors, WB2GHH. There were no nominations from the floor so the slate was identical to that given in the November issue of the *BARA Facts*. The results of the Ballot are as follows:

### **BARA OFFICERS:**

President: Bob McCabe, KC2DSS  
Vice President: Ron Reagan, N2RWK  
Secretary: Allen Lutins, KC2KLC  
Treasurer: Paul Slocum, N2NCB

### **BARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (Four Positions, Five Candidates):

Steve Orzelek, N2MSB  
Mel Snitchler, WE2K  
Malcolm Heath, KC2EOV  
Bob Handel, K2FU

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers and Directors. We look forward to working with them in the year ahead. We also extend our appreciation to Bill Jaker, WB8RAE, who also stood as a candidate for Director and to our outgoing Vice President Jack Connors, WB2GHH, as well as director Ed Plesnar, KB2SCF. Ed and Jack both stand down after several years of service.

## **Christmas Party Reminder**

If you are planning to join us for the BARA Christmas Party at Russell's Surf and Turf in Endicott, please call Hedy, AA2MU, at 748-4387 immediately so that we As the year winds down it's well to pause and remember those Club Members who have been working behind the scenes to keep our meetings interesting and our Club active. Your Editor is going out on a limb now and will

have a space reserved for *you!* This annual shindig is the high point of the BARA Social Calendar and it is not to be missed!

An informal Cocktail Hour starts in the bar around 6:00. We hope to have everyone seated by 6:30 with dinner served around 7:00. Besides conversation and camaraderie that are second to none, there will be raffles, prizes, and fun for everyone. Don't miss this chance to while away an evening and relax before the Holiday Rush with your Friends from BARA and their spouses, friends, and companions!

And don't show up at the Church because we will not be there. ***Russell's is the place on December 17<sup>th</sup>!***

## **New Meeting Location**

The November General Meeting marked the end of BARA's association with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Binghamton. In January 2004 we move our meeting to the Town of Binghamton Town Hall on Park Ave just past Ross Park Zoo. We hope that you will join us there and that it will become our new and frequently-enjoyed meeting room.

In response to several queries as to why BARA is moving to a new meeting location we note that the Unitarian Universalist Church issued a new schedule of rates for the use of their facilities and we did not feel that the club wanted to incur the additional expense. The Town Hall was available and it was felt that the move was for the good of the Club. Although our new location is on the other side of the river, we trust that our friends will find us and we look forward to meeting there.

## **Note of Thanks**

put names on paper. If someone is omitted, the slight is not intentional and a gentle correction would be appreciated.

**Shack Search:** Ron, AA2EQ; Mel, WE2K;

Jack, WB2GHH; and Ron, N2RWK have been chief in beating the bushes and evaluating sites that have been brought to our attention. We thank them for slogging through the mud and pouring over maps. We also thank the unnamed multitudes who have suggested sites and offered leads.

**Social Director:** Hedy, AA2MU, gets a vote of thanks for her work organizing picnics and dinners and other get-togethers. Thanks also to Ron, N2RWK, who was Chef-In-Command at our August Picnic.

**Scholarship:** Thanks again to Hedy for acting as Chairman ex-Officio of the BARA Scholarship Committee. Thus far BARA has given out two scholarships and we keep alive the memory of Esther, AA2AP, who did so much to encourage young operators.

**Public Service:** Ford, AB2HS, deserves thanks for keeping Amateur Radio in the Triple Cities in the public eye by providing communications for various Public-Service events and for coordinating SKYWARN activities in our area. Ford as well as the BARA and SVARA Members and other local Hams who volunteer their time for these events should be recognized for their Public Service.

**Hamfest:** In 2003 Brian, K2DLB, volunteered to run our Hamfest and carried it off with the calm professionalism that is the Hallmark of the Owego Hamfest. We thank Brian for his work. We also note that for 2004 the team of S2U'nMU (Bob, WS2U, and Hedy, AA2MU) will carry the baton forward. We'd be remiss here if we didn't also recognize Paul, N2NCB, the "power behind the throne" and keeper of the list of Hamfest things-to-do.

**The BARA Reflector:** Ed, NE2W, initiated our Club Reflector some time ago. He makes sure that material is posted and communicated to subscribers in a timely fashion. Ed, we thank you for your initiative.

**The BARA Webpage:** Don, N2NON, set up and maintains BARA's presence on the World-Wide-Web as a personal project. Don, we thank you for your behind-the-scenes presence.

**Fund Raising:** At various times one or another member of BARA comes forward with an idea for raising money. We thank (in no particular order) Mel, WE2K, for organizing Boscov's Friends & Family; Ed, NE2W, for the Dine-A-Mate Sales; and Malcolm, KC2EOV, for donating raffle prizes.

**Other:** There many others who do things for BARA. We hope that our members will take the time to thank Bill, NK2H, for his QSL Services; Frank, N2HR,

At the November General Meeting we

the W2OW Trustee; and Paul, N2NCB, for running the BRAT Net.

**Elmers:** Within our club there are many members who Elmer new Hams into our ranks; who work with Hams who are trying to upgrade; and who share their knowledge, time, equipment, and skills with others. Usually this happens "behind the scenes" and without fan-fair, but it is part of the best tradition of Amateur Radio and it is our openness and generosity that makes this Hobby of ours more than just relaxation or a filling-in of extra hours.

*Thanks for all you do; BARA (and Amateur) is the sum and total of its practitioners; may we always represent the very best face of our Hobby!*

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### **BARA Packet DX Cluster**

Several months ago we reported the expenditure of funds for Software to set up a DX Cluster in our area. Bill, N2BC, has been driving this activity and he reports that the BARA packet DX Cluster is up and running and operating on 145.070 MHz as W2OW with a Data Rate of 1,200 baud. The DX Cluster is linked via the Internet to (typically) over forty other Nodes located around the world. To give you a feeling for the DX spotting activity, there have been over 95,000 DX spots in the last 30 days on HF and more than 25,000 DX spots on VHF and UHF!

The station is located in southwest Vestal. If you cannot access W2OW directly, N2MSB has his station to the east of Binghamton running as a digipeater on 145.070 MHz. All are welcome, but you must register to post messages. The "welcome" messages describe the registration process. Questions to Bill (n2bc@stny.rr.com). — *Thanks to Bill, N2BC.*

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### **BARA Organizational Notes**

For the past few months the BARA Officers and Board have been investigating non-profit status for the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association. The results of these investigations were promising and "non-profit" status offers several attractive benefits for the club, especially with regard to our attempts to locate a site for a new Club Shack. Non-profit status will also be useful when we purchase equipment for BARA or incur bills for our Hamfest.

summarized the favorable report of the attorney who is

working with us on the filing and we moved and passed a resolution to allocate the funds needed to formally file the paperwork requesting non-profit Status.

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## **National Radio Emergency Network Debut**

The National Radio Emergency Network (NREN) commenced operations on 1 December. This Net is a cooperative effort of several US CW net managers who hope that NREN will provide an alternative public service network geared to low-power, portable, and mobile stations. An announcement from Chuck Mabbott, AA8VS, notes that "Because CW provides significantly more reliability for stations operating at low power levels (QRP) or with compromise antennas, this will be a CW-based program." NREN will work on the "radio watch" principle, and member stations will maintain a watch on one or more of three selected frequencies in the 40-, 30-, and 20-meter bands. A detailed description of NREN, along standard operating procedures is available on the NREN Web page at <http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>. — *Adapted from the ARRL Letter for 22 November.*

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### **Welcome!**

Please extend a hearty welcome to our newest BARA Member John Okenica, KC2KUW. If the name is familiar, it is because John occasionally checks into the StarNET and he has also lent a hand at the Hamfest.

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### **News From Washington**

The FCC has announced a reorganization of its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB). Responsibilities of the WTB include administration of the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) and amateur licensing, but the changes are expected to be transparent to the amateur community. The Amateur Service now will be administered by the newly named Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division headed by D'wana Terry, formerly chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division.

As a result of the reorganization, which the FCC approved on November 13, the WTB expands from five to six divisions: Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure, Spectrum Management Resources and Technologies, Auctions and Spectrum Access, Spectrum and Competition Policy, Mobility, and Broadband.

In addition to the Amateur Service, the Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division will oversee Part 95, Marine, Aviation, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Public Safety Fixed Microwave, Public Safety and Private Land Mobile services and E911, as well as other areas. Responsibilities moved elsewhere include Fixed Microwave (Part 101), Instructional Television Fixed Service, the Multipoint Distribution Service, and the Multichannel Video Distribution and Data Service.

The action reduces the scope and size of the larger divisions of the WTB and eliminates separate branches below the division level, while retaining their current functions. One of those was the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch, headquartered in the FCC office at Gettysburg, PA. Among other tasks, that branch has handled the granting and issuance of Amateur Radio licenses and the vanity call sign program. Another was the Policy and Rules Branch at FCC Headquarters, which has been the home of Bill Cross, W3TN, an FCC figure well-known within the amateur community. Responsibilities for that branch included Amateur Radio rule making petitions and Part 97 rules interpretations.

A potential plus of the new arrangement is that Cross now will work under another amateur licensee, Mike Wilhelm, WS6BR, who will report to Terry.

According to the FCC eliminating branches will promote greater management flexibility in deploying resources and lead to a flatter, more flexible organization without altering the bureau's overall mission. The Commission said that it was able to carry out the reorganization by redeploying existing positions. — *From the ARRL Letter for 26 November.*

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### **Our Facts are Your Facts**

Articles and Ideas for the *BARA Facts* are always welcome. BARA is your club the *BARA Facts* should address your interests and concerns. If you are involved in some aspect of Amateur Radio and would like to share it with others please feel free to contact the editor and share your ideas. Your input will help to fill these pages with material that is timely, interesting, and relevant to the interests of our club members. It will also be a better filler-of-space than this somewhat rambling plea which — let us be frank — is designed to make this page balance!

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## **Correction**

An error crept into the November *BARA Facts*: W2IFA's name was misspelled and we note that the correct spelling is Robert *Groh*. Your editor apologizes for managing to mangle a name containing only three letters.

## **Happy Holidays!**

The Editor and Staff of the *BARA Facts* extend to you and yours the warmest of greetings in this Holiday Season with best wishes for a Joyous and Prosperous 2004!

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Club Officers and Committees			
President	Bob McCabe	KC2DSS	748-9808
Vice President	Ron Reagan	N2RWK	722-6790
Secretary	Allen Lutins	KC2KLC	
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Bob Handel	K2FU	693-4310
	Malcolm Heath	KC2EOV	
	Steve Orzelek	N2MSB	775-0281
	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
W2OW Trustee	Frank Scoblick	N2HR	729-4249
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

**BARA, The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is**



**an ARRL Affiliated Club**

### ***Next General Meeting***

7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 17th: Christmas Party at  
the Unitarian Universalist Church

Russell's Surf & Turf in Endicott, NO MEETING at

### ***Board Meeting***

7:00 PM, Wednesday January 7th  
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

### ***Exam Session***

7:00 PM Monday, December 29th  
Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal  
1:30 PM, Saturday January 10th  
Endicott Fire Station, Across from UE High School

### ***BARA Dues***

\$18/year Single Member; \$27/year Family