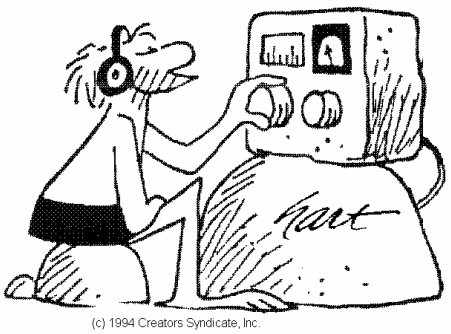

BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

December 2004

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

New BARA Officers and Directors

The election of Officers and Directors was conducted at our November BARA General Meeting. No nominations being presented from the floor, the slate as presented in the November *BARA Facts* was declared elected:

President:	*Bill Coleman, N2BC*
Vice President:	*Bob Handel, K2FU*
Secretary:	*Allen Lutins, K2KLC*
Treasurer:	*Paul Slocum, N2NCB*
Directors:	*Steve Orzelek, N2MSB*
	Mel Snitchler, WE2K
	Jack Connors, WB2GHH
	Jim Lawson, KC2JED

Our gratitude and appreciation go to these members. Their willingness to step up to a job and to do what needs to be done is greatly appreciated — especially when we note that some long-established Clubs have been forced to disband because no member was willing to stand for any of the necessary offices.

It's also appropriate to note the service of our outgoing Officers and Directors and to remember that each of them gave much more than the hour or so spent at the General Meeting. Our Club extends its thanks to Bob McCabe, KC2DSS, our outgoing President; Ron Reagan, N2RWK, our outgoing Vice President; and Malcolm Heath, KC2EOV, one of our Directors.

BARA Christmas Party

Don't forget that our General Meeting for December will be the annual BARA Christmas/Holiday Party organized by Hedy, AA2MU. We will meet at Russell's (across from the Enjoi Golf Course on Route 17C in Endicott) on Wednesday the 15th Feel free to stop by the bar for a drink and plan to start seating at 6:00 PM with orders to be taken soon after. Please see the November *BARA Facts* for additional details.

Wherever you go on the 15th, don't plan to go to the Town of Binghamton Hall. It will be cold and lonely there, but there will be warmth, friendship, and fun if you join the BARA Gang at Russell's!

Another Word

While on the subject of service to the Club it would be remiss in the extreme to forget that there are many who serve "behind the scenes". Chief among these is our Club Trustee Frank, N2HR, who puts his call on the line for our Repeater and for W2OW. There are many others who have also been instrumental in keeping BARA active. I could try to name them all, but I am sure that I would forget several. Let me try, though, to give some credit where it is due:

Paul, N2NCB; Jack, WB2GHH; Bob, KC2DSS; and Mel, WE2K, worked (with others) to push our application for non-profit status through the hoops of bureaucracy. Their efforts have brought us very close to that goal and BARA will always be marked by what they have done.

Our search for a new Shack Site continues, but it would be churlish and ungenerous to forget the leads and legwork of Ron, N2RWK; Ron, AA2EQ; Jack, WB2GHH; Mel, WE2K; Steve, N2MSB; and the several others whose names and calls I do not know. The search has been discouraging and frustrating, but you have all kept it alive and you will continue to keep it alive.

Hamfest. There were so many hands in the pot for the 2004 BARA Hamfest that I'm going to cover it with a general thanks. Paul, N2NCB, was our faithful gatekeeper and tracker of tasks, but willing hands materialized to execute whenever a job "fell due".

Meetings, Picnic, Good-Will, and other jobs too numerous to mention. We are the face of BARA and you — our Members — present and solidify the "face" of BARA to the "rest of the world". Sometimes we slip

and stumble, but by-and-large our Club is a pretty impressive one and we have some real giants in the world of "public relations", "neighborliness", and general "good will". Thanks to all of you and keep up the good works!

News on the '82

The Susquehanna Valley Amateur Repeater Association (SVARA) now has the call of the former trustee WA2QEL and is using this call on the SVARA machine(s).

SVARA has also added a remote receiver on Belden Hill to the '82 System. The remote allows mobiles to communicate through the 146.82 repeater from Bainbridge and westward to Port Crane, along Route 88, with only a bit of mobile flutter. Although the actual repeater Transmit always originates from Ingram Hill in Binghamton the remote will improve coverage by sending a clearer signal back to Ingram.

To use the remote, you must transmit a 146.2 Hz subaudible PL/CTSS tone to unlock the remote. At the repeater site a voting unit will select between Belden and Ingram and repeat whichever receiver is hearing the best.

In the near future another remote receiver will be installed at Link Field to add coverage northward and westward on RT 79 to West Slaterville.

Although the new remotes will each require a 146.2 Hz tone for access, the '82 Repeater itself is "open" and does not require any tone for local use (i.e., the Ingram receiver).

On Output, '82 does transmit the tone so you can set your receiver to decode the tone and unlock the squelch, if desired. — *Thanks to Ford, AB2HS*

In A Blink

Over on <<www.slashdot.org>> there is a constant discussion of Computer and Technical issues and a somewhat perverse pride in rasing the banner of "geekdom" and "nerdishness" — a pride that is entirely justified and which may be familiar to us Hams. Anyway, Ham Radio and slashdot sometimes intersect and a snippet from early November may be of interest:

...I was monitoring payload comms for a high-altitude research payload that we had built, and all the data comms went through a Linux box that was routing traffic to the payload. Everything was going smooth as silk in mission control and then... lost connection to the payload from the mission controller station... I go to the linux router, and its LOCKED UP... nothing... screen is frozen with my windows up, no mouse movement... CAPS and SCROLL led's are blinking in unison... some kind of code... maybe a number? I start trying to write down dots and dashes, but my autonomic response is to try to copy is as morse code... I get characters... then scrawl out... F A T A L E X C E P T I O N!!! Linux was sending me morse code via the keyboard LEDs! That's a new one on me. It didn't send any kind of diagnostic code, not that it would've helped me. But knowing that it was a fatal exception was actually the right information, because I knew it was appropriate to immediately restart the machine.

So instead of the Windows blue screen of death, it's the linux "Morse String of Death" (MSOD?)!

A Word to the Wise

Each night I hear people checking into the STAR Net and just about every night the Net Control has to ask some of them to go to a higher power or to change location. The usual reply is to "go to the base" or to "use the outside antenna." If your HT, antenna, or power level doesn't work a repeater consistently, why keep trying? HTs were designed for communications in areas where there is good repeater coverage or the communicators are near enough for simplex. They are not designed to substitute for a mobile or base station with a good antenna. Police and Fire Departments spend a lot of money for systems that will (maybe) let them communicate with their HT on their belt and a speaker microphone. That just doesn't work around here.

QSOs. With winter moving in, think of it this way: If you were to drive off the road and were injured and needed to call for help, would you prefer that we heard your call for help the first time, or would you want us to have to tell you to change power levels so you could get your message through?

And don't forget to space out your transmissions

so breakers can get in. Finally, on a linked system push the PTT button and count to three before you start talking. This will allow time for the repeaters in a linked system to get linked together. — *Ford AB2HS*

100th Anniversary of Electronics

The AVS Science & Technology Society marked the 100th anniversary of electronics during its 51st International Symposium and Exhibition (held 14-19 November in Anaheim, California). The Society considers 16 November 1904 the start of the electronic age. On that date, British scientist John Ambrose Fleming applied for a British patent for his invention of the first practical electronic device — the thermionic diode, also known as the "Fleming valve." Fleming discovered that his simple vacuum tube, containing only two electrodes — a cathode and a plate — could convert alternating current into direct current. His later research with the thermionic valve was important to the development of radio. A special AVS symposium session on 16 November celebrated Fleming's seminal invention and the subsequent evolution of electronic components based on vacuum devices. — *From a submission by William Ricker, N1VUX, in the* ARRL Letter *for 19 November*

FCC Affirms Current SSB/AM Bandwidths

The FCC has turned down a Petition for Rule Making that sought to establish specific bandwidth standards for full-carrier AM and SSB Amateur Radio emissions. Michael Lonneke, W0YR, and Melvin Ladisky, W6FDR, filed the petition, designated RM-10740, on May 27, 2003. The FCC said a majority of the approximately 160 members of the amateur community who commented on the petition opposed the concept.

"We conclude that petitioners' request for an amendment of our rules is inconsistent with the Commission's objective of encouraging the experimental aspects of the Amateur Radio service," wrote Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division Chief Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released the Order November 24. "The petition also fails to demonstrate that a deviation from the Commission's longstanding practice of allowing operating flexibility within the Amateur Service community is either warranted or necessary."

Lonneke and Ladisky had asked the FCC to "remove the ambiguity" in Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b) — and they referenced Enforcement Bureau letters sent to amateurs alleging overly wide SSB signals — sometimes called "Enhanced Single Sideband." Additionally, they said, some contesters purposely adjust their transmitters to exceed what they called "the de facto SSB signal width of approximately 3 kHz" to gain "elbow room" during contests.

On HF frequencies below 28.8 MHz, the petition recommended a maximum 2.8 kHz bandwidth SSB (J3E) emissions and a maximum 5.6 kHz bandwidth for AM (A3E) emissions.

Asserting that most radio amateurs "operate in a manner consistent with the basic purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said its existing rules are "adequate to address any noncompliant practices by amateur operators." Current FCC rules require that amateur transmissions not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice," and that emissions outside the necessary bandwidth not interfere with operations on adjacent frequencies. The FCC also said the petitioners failed to show that there is "a particular problem" with stations using AM.

The Order said the FCC's Enforcement Bureau will continue to monitor through its complaint process "nonconforming activities" of operators who fail to abide by its rules. "In instances of willful and malicious interference, the Enforcement Bureau will not hesitate to take appropriate action," Wilhelm pledged. — *From the ARRL Letter for 3 December*

Silent Keys

Jack, WB2GHH, informed us *(in Ocotber, but your editor misfiled the note)* that with regret we document the passing of the following Binghamton area Hams:

- Gary J. Murray, N2FON, on 3 October.
- Richard S. Mead, K2UNY, on 5 October.

'Tis the Season

With the Holiday Rush upon us and the many end-of-the-year details at work and home that need attention it is all too easy to get caught up in the things that "have" to be done and to forget the things that "need" attention. So it is here in the pressroom and your editor apologizes for the delay in getting this issue to press and he wishes to you and yours a Happy and Joyous Holiday Season and Only the Best in the New Year ahead! Best 73s to All and to All a Good Night!

Club Officers and Committees			
President	**Bill Coleman**	**N2BC**	
Vice President	**Bob Handel**	**K2FU**	**693-4310**
Secretary	**Allen Lutins**	**KC2KLC**	**729-4817**
Treasurer	**Paul Slocum**	**N2NCB**	**687-2057**
Directors	**Steve Orzelek**	**N2MSB**	**775-0281**
	Mel Snitchler	**WE2K**	**723-9612**
	Jack Connors	**WB2GHH**	
	Jim Lawson	**KC2JED**	**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

6:00 PM, Wednesday, December 15th Party at Russell's on Route 17C in Endicott, NOT at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall!

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 27th
Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

BARA Dues

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

DX Cluster

W2OW on 145.070 MHz with a Data Rate of 1,200 baud; questions to n2bc@stny.rr.com

W2OW Repeater

147.390 MHz, 100 Hz CTSS. BRAT Net every Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
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