

# BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

March/April 2012



Our own Past-President Bill Coleman-N2BC speaking to the club during his presentation on "History of CW Keys" at February's meeting  
Photo By Jerry Heller—WB2SGS

## February's BARA Regular Meeting

The February's meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. was on Jan. 18th at 7:08 pm. Our President Brian Adee (K2DLB) started off asking everyone to introduce themselves. There were 27 people there (not everyone signed in). He then informed the group that the minutes of January's regular meeting were in the BARA FACT newsletter, and some copies were on the table up front. He asked if anyone had any corrections or errors to point out. Not hearing any George (N2GSS) made the motion to accept the secretary's minutes & Lou Alfonsetti (AC2HL) seconded the motion. Not hearing any discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

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**February's Regular Meeting**

**BARA's Web Site Address:**  
**[www.w2ow.org](http://www.w2ow.org)**

## BARA is looking for a new editor

I hope everyone enjoyed the BARA Facts will I tried to keep it going. However, do to personal commitments, I gave my resignation as Editor of our newsletter, back in February. Hoping that there would be someone to take over and continue informing the members of BARA events to those who are unable to attend the meeting. I really tried to make it informational and enjoyable to read. Please contact any of the Board of Directors, if your interested. Thanks - Vinnie Griggs N1JPM

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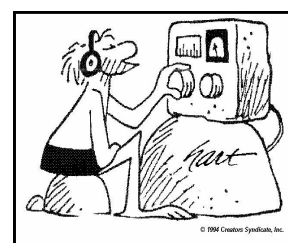
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**February's Regular Meeting**

Paul Slocum (N2NCB) gave his Treasurer's report. With no question, Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. It was seconded by Jerry Heller (KA2WQR) then it was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) asked for committee reports. The first one was the Shack committee, John Rudy (WB2FQZ) reported that the road was in bad shape, but everything was fine with the shack.

With that Brian (K2DLB) asked for a report from the HAMfest committee, John Rudy (WB2FQZ) Chairman, spoke that volunteers are needed for setup and for parking. He said that he has the signs from last year and will see if he can tough them up and put what we do not need up to the shack. He asked if ARRL had been contacted and information given for their QST magazine? Vinnie (N1JPM) said that he had taken care of all that. John (WB2FQZ) asked Ford (AB2HS) if he had thought about setting up a talk-in frequency, and his reply was that it will be on the 146.865-PL146.2 repeater. John (WB2FQZ) asked Brian (K2DLB) about prizes, and he said that he would take care of that at the HAMfest with the vendors present. Also he asked if people can be available for clean-up after the HAMfest. Ford (AB2HS) spoke about how set up was going to take place with the vendors when he knows more when they know of the time the hall will be available.

Brian (K2DLB) asked if anyone had any old business. Not hearing any he called for new business, Vinnie (N1JPM) read through the application for membership for Tom Jenkins-K2EYO & Steve Martel-KB3VHB. Vinnie (N1JPM) made the motion to accept both applications for membership and Jerry Heller (KA2WQR) seconded the motion. The vote was called and

was passed.

Brian (K2DLB) informed the group that due to personal reasons Warren Marks (KC2NGR) has submitted his resignation as director of the club, and that we are looking for a member to fulfill his vacancy until the end of the year. After some discussion, Lou (AC2HL) spoke up and said that he would like to be considered for that position.

Vinnie (N1JPM) informed the group that he has told the Board of Directors that he needs to step down from doing the newsletter, but will continue until April 2012. It is just that he am too busy at this point and the stress of continuing doing it every month is too much for him. So if anyone would like to give it a try, please let your board member know that you're interested.

With no other new business, under Public Service, Ford (AB2HS) said that on May 5 – 6, 2012, there is a MS Walk on Saturday, and on Sunday, there is a Bridge Marathon Run. So he will be looking for people to help with communication for those two events.

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**February's Regular Meeting**



**Mark you calendar  
for the weekend  
of June 23-24, 2012  
for ARRL Field Day event.  
"W2OW will be on the air"**

*Continued from Page 2*  
*February's Regular Meeting*

Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke that he had received from Lee Savidge-W3EFE about having the local scouts attending the 2012 Field Day event. It was said that it would have to be brought up later during a Board meeting.

Jerry (KA2WQR) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom (WA2LTD) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

Bill Coleman (N2BC) presented a great presentation on the history of CW keys & Bugs that he put together, with a power point and a few keys that he owned himself. Afterward, he took questions and answers session, plus encouraged people to come up and look them over. His presentation was pleasantly received by all.



**Steve Martel-KB3VHB**

**&**

**Tom Jenkins-K2EYO**

If you see anyone of these new members...  
Please take the time to introduce yourself & welcome them to the club.

## **MARCH'S** **BARA Board of Director's Meeting**

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Board of Directors meeting was held on March 7th at the Broome County Emergency Service building at 7:00 pm. President Brian Adee (K2DLB) called the meeting together at 7:05 and asked if anyone had any corrections or comments of the Secretary's report as published in the BARA Fact. Not hearing any Paul Slocum (N2NCB) made the motion to accept the January 4, 2011 Secretary's report as printed. Brian (K2DLB) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Paul (N2NCB) then gave the Treasurer's report and explained the different items in his report. Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. John Carrington (WB2SGS) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) asked if anyone had been up to the W2OW shack, and no one had. Brian (K2DLB) said that we could go onto the HAMfest business. He started off by telling the group that he had checked with a local vendor about producing signs for the HAMfest. The dimensions for these signs are 2 foot high by 3 foot wide all weather cardboard signs. These are the same type of signs that we see political or sometime real estate signs on lawns with the wire supports to stick into the ground. After some discussions of how many were needed/ could afford it was voted on to purchase (5) at \$20.00 a piece for a total of \$100.00. There was some discussion about making them out of plywood, but the next problem would be trying to paint them and letter them during the winter months.

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*March's Board Meeting*

*Continued from Page 3*  
**March's Board Meeting**

Ford Drake (AB2HS) talked about what other HAMfest committees are paying for putting on their HAMfest compared to ours. He also spoke of an incident that developed from the Elmira's HAMfest this year and how would we handle it, if someone who is not a licensed HAM operator wins a radio from our door prize. It was agreed upon that we need to make up a sign that can be displayed where the door prize tickets are collected, stating only licensed amateur radio operators can receive the door prizes. He also talked about the layout at this time for the vendors and tailgaters. He also informed the board that there was a wedding reception going on the Saturday before the HAMfest until 7pm so setting up will have to take place later in the evening. He also talked about how we could lay out parking in the front with some designated for handicap parking with the majority for unloading and loading available during the event. He told what vendors were contacted and he is still waiting to hear back from a couple of others. Ford (AB2HS) asked Brian (K2DLB) if he thought he could man the radios during the HAMfest and guide people to the event. He said he probably could. There were a few other questions that were brought up by others but mainly everything was going well.

Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke about the menu items that

the Knight of Columbus had informed him that they were planning to serve at the HAMfest. He had some concerns that they were going to serve only soup and hot dogs for lunch and asked if they would consider doing Hamburg's as well. They said that they were concerned about having a lot of left-over hamburgers because they were not sure if they could use them for some other event. So Vinnie (N1JPM) made a motion that the club buys any left-over hamburgers the Knights of Columbus were not able to sell, and the motion was seconded by Paul (N2NCB). Vinnie (N1JPM) said we could use them for field day or work party at the shack. If not we can even sell them to the membership at the next meeting, that way there would be more than just hot dogs available during the HAMfest. He also handed Ford (AB2HS) an envelope containing 250 tickets that he made up for the HAMfest.

Paul (N2NCB) said that he would contact our insurance company, so we can get a copy of our insurance and will forward a copy of our rider to include the Knights of Columbus on it.

Brian (K2DLB) asked if Ford (AB2HS) had anything to report on public service, Ford (AB2HS) said that on May 5 -6, 2012, there is a MS Walk and a Bridge Marathon Run that weekend. So he will be looking for people to help with communication for those two events.

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**March's Board Meeting**



## LOCAL RADIO NETS

### 146.73 (PL 100) MHz Early Bird Net

Monday thru Friday at 5:25-5:55 AM Local Time

### 146.865 (PL 146.2) MHz BRAT Net (Informal BARA)

Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time

### 146.73 (PL-100) MHz STAR Net (NTS Feeder)

Every Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time

**All are encouraged to join in to ALL the nets**





*Continued from Page 1*  
**February's Regular Meeting**

Brian (K2DLB) asked if there was any Old Business that needs to be brought up tonight. Not hearing any, he moved to New Business. Vinnie (N1JPM) inquired if everyone on the board, had received the resignation from Warren Marks (KC2NGR). He continued that Lou Alfonsetti (AC2HL) made it known at the last regular meeting that he would be interested in fulfilling the rest of Warren's term as a director for BARA. Vinnie (N1JPM) asked Lou (AC2HL) if he was still interested, and he told the group that he would be. Vinnie (N1JPM) made the motion to have Lou (AC2HL) replaced Warren (KC2NGR) for the rest of his term of 2012. John (WB2SGS) seconded the motion, and a vote was taken, and it passed.

Ford (AB2HS) brought up that Stan Progy (W2EWM) asked before he passed that the club needed to go up to the W2OW Ham Shack and pick some rock out of the area before he would have his equipment mow again up there. It was asked if he had made arrangements to have it

mowed, since he has passed away, the board need to find out somehow.

Vinnie (N1JPM) reminded that the April BARA FACTS will be the last one he plans on doing and asked if the Board came up with a solution or a member to continue with it. No plans or volunteers have come forward. He also asked if there was any presentation planned for this coming month meeting. The group thought John Rudy (WB2FQZ) said he had someone whom he knew that could talk about satellite reception for free TV. Plus it was asked if there was going to be a Skywarn refresher possibly in April. Ford (AB2HS) said that it would be an advance Skywarn refresher.

Brian asked if there was any think else need for the Board to talk about, not hearing any John (WB2SGS) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul (N2NCB) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m. Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

## **March's Regular Meeting**

The following minutes were taken by Treasure Paul N2NCB in the absents of the secretary. Brian K2DLB (President) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Brian started the introductions

Brian waved the reading of the last general meeting minutes since the secretary was not in attendance.

Paul N2NCB read the treasure report. Motion made to approve as read and this motion was seconded and passed

Brian asked John Rudy-WB2FQZ about the shack. John stated that all was ok at the shack.

HAMfest - Ford AB2HS talked about the up coming Hamfest on April 15th. Ford stated that he had the sign up sheets and need helpers to help the vendor pack up. John WB2FQZ stated that the gift certificated from the ARRL had arrived for the Hamfest.

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**March's Regular Meeting**



BARA's own Radio Shack were W2OW call is  
used during the fall of 2011  
Photo by Vinnie Griggs N1JPM

# Let look back to last year's HAMfest....



ALL Photo's by: Bill Jaker-WB8RAE

# 2011

# Stories of Omar, the Ham Hermit

Let The Sunspot In

Where is everybody?

The bands are all silent. There's no path to my friend Jean-Louis in Madagascar and nothing happens when I try to call Renée in Cayenne. She's probably out firing French rockets into space again. So scrap the DX. But where's Max from across town?

The radio crackles and cackles. Up and down 10, 15, 20, 30, 40... I feel like a quarterback calling signals for a team that hears no signals.

I step out of the shack into the darkness in advance of dawn. A fly buzzes, a finch sings in the woods, and all else is silence. A woodpecker taps now, his beak keying the wood in unintended Morse code: GM OM EAT A BUG...

The first rays of daylight gleam through the eastern woods, more a gray wash than a golden beam. A few leaves and a thin branch start to quiver with the light and I suddenly understand why nobody

answered me on the radio. Somewhere up there is the sun, shooting out blobs of light across space and generating raw radio waves in the process. But now

Ol' Sol is having a fit, a flare affair with flair, a mighty coronal mass ejection. The sun is burning up, and taking my QSOs with it.

Times like this, propagation becomes unpredictable so maybe I can be ready for one of those moments when the ionosphere becomes like a mirror in the sky. I head back to the shack and swing the beam around to the east. Nothing. No beacons, no WWV (you'd think they'd run a special show for us, a rocking tick-tock or just some time sometime). The high point on the sunspot cycle becomes the low point of my day, and the day is just beginning.

I'll wait out the blackout in the shack. I'd like to file a complaint with someone, but I don't think there's anyone keeping an eye on the ions.

© 2012 Bill Jaker, WB8RAE

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## **March's Regular Meeting**

Brian asked Ford about Public Service. Ford stated that the next event would be on May 5 and 6. May 5 would be the MS walk and the 6 would be the bridge walk. He is looking for helpers for both days and if you don't have a radio he can supply one.

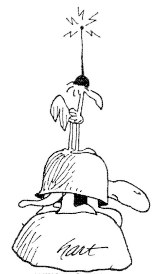
Brian stated that he had inquiries from the Boy Scouts about Field Day at the shack in June. He stated that now was the time to start getting organized and need a committee chairperson. After the meeting Louis Alfonsetti AC2HL and David Pagnani AC2GA informed Brian that they would head up doing Field Day at the shack.

Brian announced that the board approved Louis Alfonsetti AC2HL to serve out the remaining term of Warren Marks KC2NGR who recently resigned.

Brian asked if there was any Old Business or New Business and there was not response to either.

Program – Tom Larson KB2EMI gave a talk on satellite TV and equipment required.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.





## April Board of Directors Meeting

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Board of Directors meeting was held on February 1st at the Broome County Emergency Service building at 7:00 pm. President Brian Adee (K2DLB) called the meeting together at 7:05 and asked if anyone had any corrections or comments of the Secretary's report as published in the BARA Fact. Not hearing any Paul Slocum (N2NCB) made the motion to accept the April 4, 2011 Secretary's report as printed. Tom (N2BGM) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Paul (N2NCB) then gave the Treasurer's report and explained the different items in his report. Vinnie (N1JPM) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Tom (N2BGM) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) started off asking John (WB2FQZ) if he had anything to report about the W2OW shack. John (WB2FQZ) asked if there was anything in the supply room up at the shack that we could sell at the HAMfest for the club. After some discussion, it was decided that we take a serious look at the stuff during the year and possibly considered it at a later time. Otherwise everything looked

fine up there.

That is when Brian (K2DLB) asked if Ford (AB2HS) had anything to report for Public Service? Ford (AB2HS) said that on May 5-6, 2012, there is a MS Walk and a Bridge Marathon Run that weekend. So he will be looking for people to help with communication for those two events.

Under old business, Brian asked if anyone had heard from any members that would like to take over doing the newsletter. No one came forward at this time. Vinnie (N1JPM) said that the newsletter should be out to the membership before the HAMfest, and that it's the last one, that he agreed to do for the club.

Under new business, the next event for the club coming up in June is Field Day. Brian (K2DLB) said that Lou (AC2HL) and David Pagnani (AC2GA) asked him that they would like to be on the committee to help with set up for this year's event with the other member interested. John (WB2SGS) asked if there were going to be any Boy Scouts troop camping out this year. Brian (K2DLB) said that Lee Savidge (W3EFE) had mentioned about the Boy Scout camping out again this year, but those plans fell apart. He received an email from another troop in Endicott, who has someone who can teach the Amateur Radio Merit Badge for the group. Lou (AC2HL) said that he would try to make contact with the Scout leader and

see what can happen for this year. We talked about a few things that came up last year and possible ways to improve on making it a smoother event. Furthermore, we are considering possibly having the June regular meeting at the shack, but will have to explore that further.

On a different note, Vinnie (N1JPM) asked if the board would permit a representative from Liberty Mutual to attend one of our regular meetings to talk to the membership about an insurance program that they can offer for members of this association to help with the cost of their personal insurance need and to answer any questions that people have about flood insurance, as well.

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***Board of Director's Meeting***



### Just wondering...

Since the flooding of last September and some possible other activities I found out that I needed a up to date list of Hams in the area that would like to help out for communications in some capacity be it at home, a shelter or some other assignment. Many I have found do not care to be a member of any particular club or group but still would like to help if needed as a Ham Radio Operator. For those that haven't filled out one of these survey forms one is included on the very last page of the newsletter and please mail back to;  
Ford Drake AB2HS,  
2237 FARM TO MARKET RD  
JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790



## Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

March/April 2012

### *Continued from Page 8* **Board of Director's Meeting**

Tom (WB2SGS) asked if anyone could explain what the advantage was to belong to this club. There were comments from others but the cost of having the W2OW shack was in question by a member present. Nevertheless, camaraderie and a common interest in Amateur Radio are also very important. But finding a more reliable and profitable way to raise money is in dire need because the HAMfest is not fulfilling the need of the club.

The program for April's Meeting, is from the Weather Service will be giving an annual "SKYWARN ADVANCE TRAINING."

With no other business needing to come in front of the board, Andy (KC2QYA) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul (N2NCB) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m., minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.



### UNICORN ELECTRONICS

Valley Plaza Drive  
Johnson City, NY

"Go see them & support our local Electronic Store"

#### **Officers:**

President:	<b>Brian Adee</b>	K2DLB	(607) 206-4800 k2dlb@stny.rr.com
Vice-President:	<b>John Rudy</b>	WB2FQZ	(607) 669-4308 jrudy4380@stny.rr.com
Secretary:	<b>Vinnie Griggs</b>	N1JPM	(607) 651-8884 vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	<b>Paul Slocum</b>	N2NCB	(607) 687-2057 n2ncb@stny.rr.com

#### **Directors:**

<b>Lou Alfonsetti</b>	AC2HL	(607) 754-3529 ealfonse@stny.rr.com
<b>John Carrington</b>	WB2SGS	(607) 648-8364 wb2sgs@stny.rr.com
<b>Andy Rudy</b>	KC2QYA	(607) 669-4380 arudy@stny.rr.com
<b>Tom Vroman</b>	N2BGM	(607) 669-4874 tvroman@ix.netcom.com

### **Up Coming Event**

**April 11th, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

#### **SVARA Repeater Group Meeting**

*This is the local group that owns and maintains the local repeaters.*

Broome County Emergency Service Building  
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive,  
Binghamton, NY 13902

**April 15, 2012 at 8 am to 1 pm**

#### **BARA HAMfest**

#### **Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

Knights of Columbus Hall # 206  
136 Park Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903  
Talk-In: 146.865-, PL 146.2

**April 18th, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

#### **Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

#### **Regular Meeting**

Town of Binghamton Town Clerks Office  
279 Park Street  
Binghamton, NY 13905

**April 30th, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

#### **Volunteer Examiners (VE) Testing**

If you have studied to obtain your Amateur Radio license or would like to upgrade. There is a testing session on the last Mondays of the month at:

Vestal Public Library  
320 Vestal Parkway  
Vestal, NY 13850

Contact: Bob Soltis - WA2VCS  
wa2vcs@gmail.com or (607)754-7940

**May 2nd, 2012 at 7:00 pm**

#### **BARA Board of Directors Meeting**

Broome County Emergency Service Bldg.  
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive  
Binghamton, NY 13902

# Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

## HAMFEST

Talk in on 146.865 - PL 146.2

**Sunday, April 15, 2012**



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Door open at:  
**8:00a.m for the public**

**8:00am to 1:00pm**

**Admission \$6.00**

**Grand Prize Drawing  
at 1:00pm**

**New  
Location**

**Knights of Columbus Hall #206**

**136 Park Avenue**

**Binghamton, NY 13903**

**New  
Location**

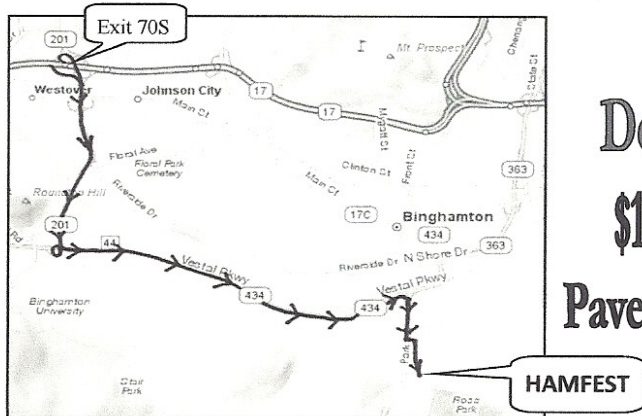
# The complete HAMFEST is all indoors !!!

(No outside tailgaters... Please)



**ARRL SANCTIONED  
HAMFEST**

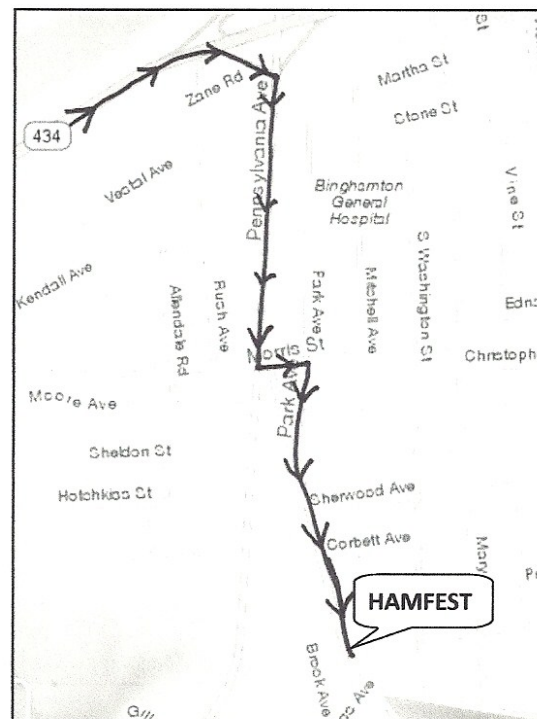
Follow the signs to "ROSS PARK ZOO"  
Approx. 1000 feet **before** the entrance to zoo



**Door Prizes  
\$10.00 a table  
Paved Parking Lot**

### Suggested Route to HAMFEST

Route 17/ I-86 take Exit 70S to Route 201 South travel approx. 1 1/2 miles, get into the left lane and it will merge you onto Route 434 East/Vestal Parkway East. Travel approx. 3.2 miles and take the Pennsylvania Avenue ramp. At traffic light, go straight through it (still on Pennsylvania Avenue) and travel approx. 1/2 mile to stop sign. Turn left onto Morris Street travel a short distance and at traffic light, turn right onto Park Avenue. Travel a little less than a 1/2 mile and HAMFEST is on the right (look for Knights of Columbus Hall sign & building) (Note: it's about 1/4 mile **before** the Ross Park Zoo)



Contact: **Ford Drake-AB2HS** 607-754-1214

ab2hs@stny.rr.com

**John Rudy-WB2FQZ** 607-669-4380

jrudy4380@stny.rr.com

Door open for set-up **only**  
at approx. 6:00 am

# HAM RADIO OPERATOR SURVEY

02/2012 AB2HS

This survey is based on things learned before during and after the September 2011 Flood

It will allow us to update our response listings

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Are You A Member Of RACES? \_\_\_\_\_ ARES? \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN Spotter? \_\_\_\_\_

Public Service Communicator For Runs, Walks, Bike Rides? \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If You Are Not Would You Like to Be? \_\_\_\_\_

IF AND WHEN THE NEED AROSE Would You Be Willing To Be Called For :

Field Deployment? \_\_\_\_\_ In A Shelter Or Other Inside Duty? \_\_\_\_\_

From Home Only? \_\_\_\_\_ Not Interested? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Do You Want To Be Called For Only A Certain Group? Example: RACES Only Not ARES? \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE HANDLING In The Case Of An Emergency Or Other, The Need May Arise For Hams That Have A Good Command Of Message Handling Through Experience In MARS, NTS, Or Other Branches. Could We Call On You For Handling Formal Messages If Needed? \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT: Do You Have Base Station for HF? \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Meters? \_\_\_\_\_ UHF? \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Power? \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: HF? \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Meters? \_\_\_\_\_ UHF? \_\_\_\_\_

HT with extra Batteries and Charger? \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Meters? \_\_\_\_\_ UHF? \_\_\_\_\_

For Shelter: 2 Meter Radio ? \_\_\_\_\_ UHF? \_\_\_\_\_ Power Supply? \_\_\_\_\_ Battery Power? \_\_\_\_\_

Portable Antenna Such As Magnetic Mount Or Ground plane, Dipole or Similar? \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Lengths Of Coax And Adapters, If Located A Distance From The Antenna? \_\_\_\_\_

Is Your Station Set Up With Anderson Power Poles On The DC Power Cables? \_\_\_\_\_