

BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

January 2012



2012 BARA'S Board of Directors

Back row & left to right: Director Tom Vroman [N2BGM], Treasurer Paul Slocum [N2NCB], Vice President John Rudy [WB2FQZ], Director Warren Marks [KC2NGR],

Front row & left to right: Secretary & Editor of BARA FACTS Vinnie Griggs [N1JPM], Andrew Rudy [KC2QYA] Missing from the photo is President Brian

BARA's 2011 Holiday/Regular meeting at "THE SPOT DINER"

The December's Regular meeting was held at The Spot Diner Restaurant for our Holiday Part event as usual. We had a nice turn out of about 38 people present, of new and old members with family and friends included. The Holiday party began around 5:00pm with an hour for cocktails and visiting, with orders for dinner starting a little after 6:00pm.

Then around 7:10pm when people were finishing up with dinner and desert & coffee being served, Vice President John Rudy (WB2FQZ) called for a quick meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. regular meeting.

Continued to page 2

December's Holiday/Regular Meeting

January Newsletter Articles

**December's
Holiday/Regular Meeting**
Page 1-2

Board of Director's Meeting
Page 2 - 3

**Snow Report,
Get ready to measure**
Page 4

Omar, the HAM Hermit
Page 5

Update: The longest telegram
Page 6

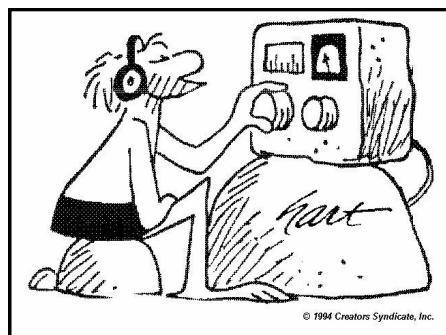
Dues Reminder from the Treasure
Page 6

Local Radio Nets
Page 6

Up Coming Events
Page 7

BARA Officer's
Page 7

BARA's Web Site Address:
www.w2ow.org



Continued from Page 1

December's Holiday/ Regular Meeting

He started by informing the group that the minutes of November's regular meeting were in the BARA FACT newsletter. He asked if anyone had any corrections or errors to point out. Not hearing any George Kilpatrick (N2GSS) made the motion to accept the secretary's minutes & Paul Slocum (N2NCB) seconded the motion. Not hearing any discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

Then Paul (N2NCB) gave the following treasurer's report. Paul (N2NCB) stood up and said, BARA is still in the Black. End of the report. That brought some laughs from the group.

John asked if there was any old business that needed to be brought up. Ford Drake (AB2HS) stood and gave a description of the possible new 2012 HAMFEST site. He talked about how Tom Vroman (N2BGM) and Vinnie (N1JPM) and himself, have met with Jack (WB2GHH) who is also a member of the

Knights of Columbia and have looked over the Knights of Columbus Hall #206 and planned on proposing it to the Board of Directors for a consideration for the 2012 BARA HAMFEST.

John (WB2FQZ) asked for any other old business, and no one stood up. So he inquired if there was any new business. Vinnie (N1JPM) stood up and took a few minutes and thanked the members who as aided him with articles, photos and support while being the editor of the Newsletter of the last part of the year. He also received an applause from the members for this hard work and time that he has put forth doing so.

John then asked if there was any other new business, not seeing any. Paul (N2NCB) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. George (N2GSS) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM

Board of Directors Meeting

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. board of directors met at the Broome County Emergency Service Center on Lt Vanwinkle Drive on January 4th. President Brian Adee (K2DLB) opened the meeting at 7:08 PM. He asked if anyone noticed anything that needed to be changed in the Secretary's Report. Not hearing any, there was a motion to accept. It was voted on and passed. Paul Slocum gave his Treasurer's Report and that too was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) asked that we should cover 2012 budget, first. Paul (N2NCB) then proposed the

2012 BARA's budget to the board. He went over the last year's budget and showed that we spent more than we brought in. There was an increase of money budgeted, due to increase in membership in 2011 and some donations that came through the members, returning what they won on the 50/50 raffles. There were some savings with the newsletter but (Paul) realized that postage will be increasing this year. He also noted that there was a larger expense with the purchase of the new Yaesu radio.

Continued to page 2

Board of Directors Meeting

Continued from Page 1

December's Holiday/ Regular Meeting

Otherwise we were close to staying on budget last year. After some discussion, Vinnie (N1JPM) made the motion to accept the budget as proposed by Paul (N2NCB) for the 2012 year. Andy Rudy – KC2QYA seconded the motion, and the motion was voted on and passed.

HAMFEST – Brian (K2DLB) said that a member has brought up the possibility of having the 2012 HAMFEST at the Knights of Columbia Hall on Park Avenue in Binghamton, NY. So he contacted Tom (N2BGM) and asked him if he could go look at the Hall with a couple of other people and see if the Knights of Columbus would be a place that would be adequate to host the HAMFEST this coming year. So on the 20th of December, he, Ford (AB2HS) and Vinnie (N1JPM) met with Jack (WB2GHH), a representative for the Knights of Columbus & BARA member, and toured the facilities. Afterwards, the group thought that the building would serve the needs for the HAMFEST and decided to book the building and hold the date until the next board meeting. Ford (AB2HS) showed pictures of the hall to the board and talked about what he thought about the building. Jack (WB2GHH) answered some questions that the board came up with about scheduling when we could get in to set up and the possibility of food being available. After talking it over we decided to not allow outside tailgating due to the tight parking lot but there is plenty of room inside for flea market. All those questions will have to be answered later, when Jack (WB2GHH) can talk with others in the Knights of Columbus. The cost of hosting it there would be a lot less than having it at Port Crane Fire station. Furthermore, there is a paved parking lot and street parking which will make it easier to maintain parking, and if there was snow still around, there will be no dirt parking to have to be concerned about. Brian (K2DLB) said he

will not be able to be on the committee this year for the HAMFEST and that the board needed to find a replacement for him. Ford (AB2HS) said that he did not want to be chairman of the HAMFEST committee but would stay on the committee if someone else filled that spot. John (WB2FQZ) (spoke up and--not needed) volunteered to take Brian's (K2DLB) spot. Ford expressed that more people need to step up and help out with different duties to make it a success. After some more items were discussed, Tom (N2BGM) made a motion to have the 2012 HAMFEST at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Park Avenue in Binghamton for April 15, 2012. Paul (N2NCB) seconded his motions, and it was voted on and passed.

With no Old Business, under News Business Tom (N2BGM) was looking over the calendar, for the upcoming year and asked what the Board wanted to do about July's board of Directors Meeting, falling on July 4th. After discussing it for a few minutes, it was decided to have the board of director's meeting just before the regular meeting scheduled for July 18th unless something pressing should come up before then.

Brian (K2DLB) asked the board who wanted to do refreshments for the following. It was decided to stay the same as last year: January- John (WB2FQZ), February- Andy (KC2QYA), March- Tom (N2BGM), April- Paul (N2NCB), May- Brian (K2DLB), June- Warren (KC2NGR), July- John (WB2SGS), August- None (Picnic), September-Vinnie (N1JPM), October-?, November-?, December- None (Holiday Dinner).

Other Business: Vinnie (N1JPM) brought up that he made up a new membership list form with some changes. After passing a copy around of the form, everyone said it looked fine to replace the old one. With no other business to come forward at this time, Paul (N2NCB) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Rudy – KC2QYA seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m. Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie



Snow Report

GET READY TO MEASURE



My name is Erik Heden and I am a meteorologist with the weather service office in Binghamton. I may have met some of you over the past year during our spotter training classes. Some of you may be new to our spotter program while others may not have measured snow in awhile with such a mild start to the winter! With lake effect snow warnings and advisories now up for our area, we wanted to encourage you to send in snowfall reports to us. Your report is a crucial element in our warning decision process and we rely on them heavily. Here are some tips to refresh your memory on how to accurately measure and report snowfall to us. Happy measuring!- Remember to let us know that you are a trained spotter and tell us where you live. Nothing specific like a street, but Cities or Villages work fine. Please avoid using townships. For example, I am from Scranton. I live 2 miles north of Conklin. I live right in Remsen. I live 2 miles south of Liverpool. Etc. If you happen to know your elevation, please include that.

- We want you to report specific snow measurements, ie not 1", 2", 3", but 3.2", 4.7", etc. Measure in tenths and do not round off. Measure on a hard surface such as a picnic table, deck, etc. If you have a snow board (any piece of cardboard or plywood would work), that is best. You can also measure on the grass; just don't stick the ruler into the ground itself.

- When measuring the snow, pick a location away from buildings, trees, streets. Try to take a few measurements and pick the average amount. We are not interested in the biggest drift you can find but rather a representative average for your yard.

- We are most interested in the total snowfall, which you can report at the end of the snow event. Make sure to measure the maximum snow that fell, IE before it melts or compacts!

- If you want to report to us throughout the event, just let us know what you have and what time you measured, but note that the snow is still falling. We don't mind hourly snowfall rates, but do -not- clear your board or location off any more frequently than every 6 hours.

Here is a video that may also help explain how to measure snow better: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzWFhbO_NNg

Some Ways to report to us:

Toll Free: [1-800-759-2992](tel:1-800-759-2992).

Email: bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Binghamton.gov)

US.NationalWeatherService.Binghamton.gov

Sincerely,

Erik Heden



Stories of Omar, the Ham Hermit

Carrying into a New Year the exceptional adventures told by Omar Doradius, W2UWU, the Ham Hermit whose contact with his fellow fellows and gals is primarily via his beloved amateur radio.

I'm back up the mountain from a trip to Lampert's store, just as it's starting to get dark enough that I can't see the keyhole when I try to unlock the door to my shack. Could the door key be bent out of shape? That would be bad, for it's almost Straight Key Night.

Whenever it happens, so-called Straight Key Night falls on the final night of one year into the first day of the next one. That requires an extra entry in the logbook but otherwise it's a simple celebration. There are no rules and the ARRL says, "There are no points scored and all who participate are winners." I like that. No competition but one hitch: it's all CW and you've got to use an old manually-mashed straight telegraph key. No paddles, no Vibroplex bugs (Vibroplices?), keyboards or devices that iambically sing di-dah di-dahh di-dahhh. Pump handle okay.

I tear through boxes of junk looking for my old flat key model J-38, that sleek piece of steel and brass that won the Second World War. It's somewhere down there indestructibly wrapped in zip cord and newsprint from 1944. "Allies Enter Paris!" "Dah-di-dit-dah dit-dah di-dat-dit di-dit di-di-dit." I hum the headline as I insert the hoary 1/4" plug into my modern Swan 700CX. The J-38 reports for duty. Will my wrist muscles be up to the challenge?

CQ SKN CQ SKN CQ SKN (we all have some SKN in this game) de W2UWU.

Pound. Pound. Pound. Morse and Marconi have done their work. I think I hear a call.

W2UUUU... W2U W2U2W WU2 de KK?MOOO.... K??OOOMOO....

Maybe this guy is really in the 7th call zone, the one that runs from the Bronx down the Wabash River into the Mojave Desert. W2W2 de KK?UU K?OOO K.

I think he turned it over to me. I limber my wrist muscles and reach for the J-38.

KK?? de W2UWU TNX FR CALL ES HPPY S K N. NAME HR OMAR OMAR.....

Hand-made radio feels nice, crackling clear as a finger snapping. My fist spars lightly with the straight key. UR SIGS 599 599 (I'll give him a good report - it's a holiday) RIG HR SWAN7... but suddenly something slips beneath my fist, dits and dahs spill onto the table and some fly into the air. The nuts on the J-38 go nuts, the little spring springs out of place and the formerly straight key shatters into pieces. My classic J-38 has fallen apart!

I pick up the fractured arm - the one on the key, not my aching right arm - and look for the contacts. Carefully (for there must be some current running through the metal) I touch the contacts together.

K? de W2UWU. QSD? I know my keying is defective. Given the present situation Morse the Magnificent is actually coming through again. But I feel like a prisoner banging on a water pipe. 73 EH GVV GN N K.

Straight Key Night is over for me for this year, straight back into the junk box.

UPDATE:

Was the Nevada Constitution the longest telegram?

The question comes up every year: Was the Nevada Constitution the longest telegram ever sent? Was it the longest until 1864?

Pages 8 & 9 of the publication, Nevada, the Centennial of Statehood: An Exhibition in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., June 23, 1965, to October 31, 1965, (Washington: Library of Congress, 1965) reproduce the first and last pages of the telegram of the Nevada Constitution. The source is cited as the Nevada Territorial Papers in the National Archives. The last sheet contains a note with the total word count (16,543) and the cost of transmission (\$4,303.27).

For more than twenty years Nevada Archives staff followed leads of longer telegrams, but did not find proof of any until now. Newspaper articles made claims that something was the longest and now web sites are doing it, but few stood up to the 16,000 word telegram.

BUT, according to David McKittrick's, History of Cambridge University Press (New York, 2004) and Maurice Price's, An Ancestry of Our English Bible... (New York, 1921), on May 21, 1881, the English Standard Version of the New Testament, the first revision since the 1611 King James Bible, was published in England, transmitted across the Trans-Atlantic cable, telegraphed from New York to Chicago and published in the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Times on May 22, 1881. It was **118,000**

words making it the longest telegram ever sent.

It was the biggest scoop of the year for a United States' newspaper according to the History of the Chicago Tribune, (1922). The publishers explained that 92 compositors typeset the work in twelve hours. The Chicago Times printed it because it did not want to "scoop" by the Tribune, whose editors criticized the Times' version as full of errors. They did not think that the telegram was the feat, but the typesetting.

That makes Nevada's Constitution the second longest telegram in history and the longest up until 1881, until someone finds one longer.

BARA Dues Reminder

It is that time of year when BARA dues are due. The vast majority of our members, that pay yearly, have switched to this time of year (January or February). I am asking that that you submit your dues as soon as possible either by sending to the post office box or come to the January meeting and keep me busy. The mailing address is :

BARA
P.O. Box 853
Binghamton, New York 13902-0853

Thanks

73, Paul N2NCB
BARA Treasurer



LOCAL RADIO NETS

146.73/146.895 (PL146.2) 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





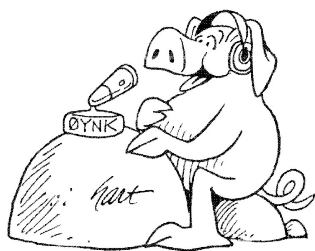
UNICORN ELECTRONICS

Valley Plaza Drive
Johnson City, NY

"For all there support over the years"



Binghamton
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
(BARA)
is an ARRL affiliated Club



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Officers:

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Secretary:	Vinnie Griggs	N1JPM	(607) 651-8884 vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	(607) 687-2057 n2ncb@stny.rr.com

Directors:

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Warren Marks	KC2NGR	(607) 372-0290 wabami@aol.com
Tom Vroman	N2BGM	(607) 669-4874 tvroman@ix.netcom.com
Andy Rudy	KC2QYA	(607) 669-4308 arudy@stny.rr.com

Up Coming Event

January 11, 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

January 14, 2012 at 7:00am to 12:00pm Skyline Winter HAMFEST

Talk in is on 147.180(+) PL Tone 71.9

Marathon Civic Center
Peck Street
Marathon, NY 13803

January 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Regular Meeting

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

January 30, 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

February 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm BARA Board of Directors Meeting

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