

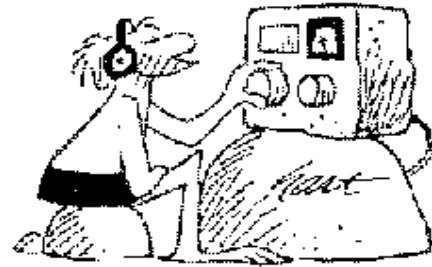
BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 853

Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



© 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

PRESIDENTS CORNER

I have lots of good news to report this month.

The first bit of news is that we have an active hamfest committee leadership in place and a mailing requesting support (buy shares like last year) has been sent out to the membership. This will be a key topic of discussion at the April 19th general club meeting. This is a great opportunity for the club to strut its stuff. I urge you to support this effort. This committee will be "making a pitch" and seeking your approval on its efforts.

Please come to the meeting to participate in the discussion and be a part of what's going on.

However, I urge a bit of caution in this matter. Until the club takes a formal vote on a specific date/site and actual solid commitments have been confirmed through the club's officers, DO NOT relate any specific date/place to other hams/groups!

My thanks to KB2OXA, N2NCB, N2MGM, N2SOY and WA2VCS for picking up the leadership role of the BARA '95 Hamfest committee.

Also in the THANKS category are AA2MU and WF2A for teaming up to produce the newsletter we so easily take for granted. Bill is doing the typing and editing and Hedy is doing the copying, stamp licking and mailing.

Another nice piece of news is that this month's club meeting is at the Kopernic Observatory. I will take 10 minutes at the start of the meeting to mention a few key items and then turn it over to Jay Edwards. Jay's presentation will be on the Shoemaker-Levy comet impacts. Its going to be a dynamite show of cosmic proportions so don't come late!

The formal club business will be conducted AFTER Jay's presentation.

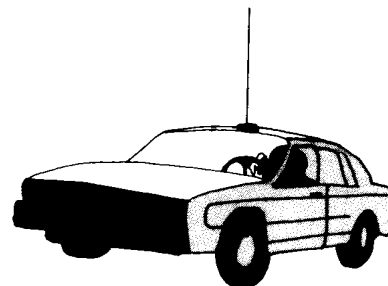
On a more solemn note I regret to inform the club of the passing of Harley Milks. Harley was our benefactor at the club shack which has been ours to use through his generosity for many years. Flowers were sent in the name of the club as well as a \$200 donation to the Fire department Harley supported. We will miss Harley. Our condolences to his family in this loss. I also want to pass along that the family made it clear we are still welcomed as that was what Harley wanted. Please keep in mind that this is a real privilege and should be treated as such.

I think those are the big ticket items to pass along for this month. I look forward to seeing you all at the Kopernic Observatory.

de AA2EQ

REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER

I returned from being out of town for about 3 weeks to find the remains of the current issue of the BARA Newsletter "shredded" by the Postal Service. As I was interested in what was going on with BARA club activities, I listened on the .39 repeater for the announcement and heard about the Hamfest planning meeting that was scheduled for the next evening. I hope that others have also had occasion to use it. There have been some changes made on the repeater and the announcement can now be played at any time by keying 508.



Some of you may have heard the 10 meter testing done from the repeater site over the last few weeks. Bob (WA2VCS) has loaned his 10 meter rig for a few months to allow us to gain some experience using a remote base. The intent of the 10 meter operation is to investigate more about repeater capabilities as well as expose some to other portions of the radio hobby. If there were more consistent 10 meter openings it would be more exciting; however, possibly we will have some good opportunities. It may be up and running by the time you read this article; however if not, stay tuned to the announcement. It will provide information as to when it will be operational and how it can be accessed. We have not yet decided how long to leave this capability on the air. All amateurs are encouraged to try it and, of course, be sensitive to other possible users of the repeater.

The BARA Board of Directors has been a big help to me since I have been in this position as committee chairman. In discussions with the Board over the last few months they have provided background as to how the club obtained the equipment, history about past operation and guidance for the future.

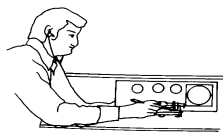
In the last Board meeting I reviewed the current status of the repeater operation and some alternatives for changing the way it services BARA and the amateur community. It was a very good meeting with lots of discussion and a variety of views presented. The discussion will continue in next month's Board meeting and I would expect a proposal to be presented to the general membership in a couple of months. Will keep you updated as we progress. If anyone has any ideas or comments, please feel free to pass them on.

Joe Marckx (AA2RE) 754-0013

e-mail..JoeMar1307@aol.com

FOR SALE! KENWOOD TS-520SE

Mike Roseboom, KB2IDR has a Kenwood TS-520SE HF transceiver for sale. Contact Mike at 607-771-0227.



- Kenwood TS-520SE, 8-10 years young, Analog dial, solid state with 6146B finals, 100W, speech processor, calibrator built-in.

- Matching External VFO
- Asking \$410

SKYWARN

I had the pleasure of attending 'advanced' SKYWARN training along with a dozen other hams this past Saturday. Mike Carr KF2MH and Nancy Kirch KF1L are doing a great job preparing for the upcoming season of Thunder Boomers and more.



The crowd at the National Weather Service are looking forward to all hams participating in our spotting network.

73 de WF2A

WE WANT YOUR JUNK!

Brett N2YZJ and Marv N2ZMN are heading up a fund raiser... They're looking for copper, brass, lead, aluminum, nickel, zinc, pewter, stainless steel, auto batteries, auto radiators, electric motors, old coax cable, wire, circuit boards - just about anything that's re-cycleable!

Starting with the May meeting you can bring your goodies to the meeting. If you have more than you can carry, or questions about what is or is not re-cycleable, give Brett a call at 754-3136, or call Marv at 797-4407.

This is a great opportunity to clear away some of those boat anchors!

PACKET RACKET

Ed NE2W reports that he has gotten his hands on a 286 class machine that will find it's way up to the hilltop and form the beginning of a packet station. Ed is looking for a 2M radio and a TNC to round out the installation.



HAMFEST UPDATE

You all should have received a mailing from the hamfest committee. Again in 1995, the committee is seeking your financial and physical support!

The cutoff for a go / no-go decision on the hamfest is the April 1995 general meeting. The committee has gotten off to a great start, but they need your support to pull off a top quality hamfest.

The SHAREs approach was outlined in the mailing - without sufficient funding to support the hamfest, it simply cannot be held. Contact Paul N2NCB to arrange for your SHARE purchase.

We'll have an update on the hamfest at the April general meeting.

VANITY CALL UPDATE

The Federal Communications Commission form necessary for applying for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign--Form 610-V--will not be available until after May 1.

Amateurs who call the FCC to request the form before then will not have their names recorded and it will be necessary for them to request the form again, when it is available.

Applications for amateur vanity call signs will not be accepted until after the forms are available, i.e., until sometime after May 1. The FCC will make a public announcement of the date of opening of the first "gate" for vanity call sign applications.

Beginning May 1, 1995, FCC Form 610-V may be requested by calling the FCC Forms Distribution Center at 800-418-3636. Or, send an SASE anytime to ARRL-VEC, for a form 610-V by return mail as soon as they are available after May 1. Write "Form 610-V request" on the outer envelope.

A NEW FCC SERVICE

The FCC has instituted a toll-free phone line at its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania licensing division for customer service inquiries. Amateurs may call 800-322-1117 weekdays between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Eastern Time to access an automated information system with recorded messages on interference complaints, form requests, records, and Amateur Radio call sign assignments.

Other messages regard fee information and processing times. A touch-tone telephone is required.

The FCC said the new service was part of its response to a presidential order that the federal government be

"customer driven." The FCC said it used a series of focus groups with external customers to identify the desire for an 800 number at its licensing division.

"Within the next 18 months," the FCC said, "customer service standards will be developed for other areas of Commission operations to ensure that FCC customers receive the highest quality of service possible. As these new standards become available, the FCC will inform its customers."

LOOK AT THAT LICENSE

Amateurs receiving new or modified FCC licenses after June 8, 1994, should carefully note their expiration date. Only new, first licenses or specific renewals have a full 10-year term.

Amateur license upgrades, changes of address, call sign, or name, are processed with the original expiration date intact. That is, they are not automatically extended for 10 years.

The FCC, using new computer software recently installed, is processing amateur licenses in this manner to conform with to the way in which it processes all other Private Radio Service licenses.

The FCC currently recommends that amateurs submit license renewal applications 60 to 90 days before their expiration date. The Commission said it intends eventually to mail license expiration notices to amateurs. In the meantime, the ARRL is sending license expiration notices to ARRL members, along with an FCC Form 610 and a return envelope to the FCC's licensing division in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

YOUR NEWS HERE!!

I was tempted to make a "This space intentionally left blank" sign and stick it here.

The newsletter is YOUR publication, meant for YOUR news. My thanks to those regular contributors, and thanks to my XYL for putting up with me tying up the phone as I browse the information highway looking for news.

If you have something that needs publicity, a story you want to tell, something you want to sell, anything...

Give me a call at 748-5232, packet me @ WF2A BBS, INTERNET me at colemanw@gdlvm7.vnet.ibm.com.

73, Bill WF2A