

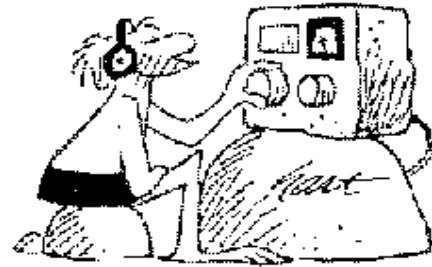


Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 853

Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



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W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Its vacation time in the Great Northeast. Hedy (AA2MU) and I just got back from a two week stay at Kring Point State Park on the St. Lawrence river in Jefferson county, NY. The WX was great, 90 F and sun during the day, clear and star lit at night. The days were great for swimming and fishing and the nights were great for....you guessed it....**RADIO BY CAMPFIRE LIGHT!**

Going on a vacation? Take your radio gear. Make your vacation a "mini DXpedition". Dipoles pack light and are easy to string up almost anywhere. No trees around? Try a base loaded vertical on your car's bumper. Not an HFer? Take a portable 2 element quad and small power amp to work VHF/UHF from your car. Just don't go without! No room for your full size HF rig or VHF rig? Take a QRP rig. With a little hunting and pecking you can work more than your share of contacts.

In our particular case we strung up a 40 mtr and 20 mtr dipole. The 40 mtr dipole was also used for 15 mtrs with a little help from a tuner. The first week DX was kind of slow. After a few nights of a downhill slide on the number of contacts I found myself switching over to 10 mtrs while still on the 40 mtr dipole just to see if I could hear any local activity. To my surprise 10 mtrs was open for single and double skip propagation - at midnight! I heard South America stations working stateside. Too bad I didn't have my 10 mtr dipole strung up; but 10 mtrs is dead right now - it'll probably be dead again by tomorrow.

After the next day's fishing I checked 10 mtrs again and found it still WIDE OPEN - the band was jammed. I grabbed by dipole - the one I SHOULD have put up the first day with my 40 and 20 mtr dipoles - and stayed busy for 4 hours straight. I literally ran out of ink in my pen trying to write down all the contacts I had been working (plus got a sore set of fingers from so much writing). The best part was that this was repeated 4 days in a row staying

HOT (the 10 mtr band that is!) from about lunch time to about midnight or 1:00 AM in the morning! A real chance of pace for me was that it was all on PHONE - no 30 wpm CW thru heavy QRN.

Hedy seemed to be more interested in S'MORES on the campfire until some stateside started calling for 10-10 #s (Hedy is a 10-10 member). To all you OM out there...NEVER give your mic up to a YL under these conditions while expecting to get your mic back!!

All we have to do now to make next summer's vacation even better is figure out how to keep Hedy on the air while she is sliding around on water skis at 30 MPH!

Remember - vacation means radio FUN!

A quick note on this year's ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC - Instead of a "normal meeting" August' meeting is our Annual Picnic. It's held at the normal meeting date and time but the PICNIC IS HELD AT THE CLUB SHACK. Rain site is St. Paul's Lutheran Church where we normally hold our club meetings. Hedy has a Pinjata for the kiddies (Hamsters?) and is driving the event. Please bring goodies to munch, a chair to sit in and an appetite! Also, please note, this is a FAMILY event - bring your spouse and the kids. We always have a great turn out and a good time. I hope to CU all there.

de AA2EQ

## SOME BARA FACTS (TRIVIA REALLY....)

I recently pulled the license data from the FCC and extracted the info for the club members. After a little munching on the computer, here's some trivia:

License class: Novice - 0%; Technician - 30%; Technician Plus - 19%; General - 12%; Advanced - 14%; Extra - 25%.

Most frequent birth month - January; least frequent - June. Most popular birthday is July 13 with THREE club members - and two of the three were born on THE SAME July 13!

Starting this month, I'll be listing the club members with birthdays in the following month.

### **PICNIC TIME AUGUST 16, 7:30 PM**

The August general meeting is our traditional Picnic Meeting. Bring a goodie to pass, bring some chairs, bring the better half, bring the kids! Where? Here's some directions:

From Binghamton: Head South on either Pennsylvania Ave or Park Ave. Continue South past the intersection of Park onto Pennsylvania. Keep an eye open for the Town of Binghamton equipment garage on the right. Turn onto Milks Road opposite the equipment garage.

From Vestal / Route 26: Head East on State Line Road (this is appx a mile North of the NY/PA border on Rt. 26). Continue East at the stop sign. You're now on Hawleyton Rd, and it will magically change to Pennsylvania Ave - just continue East. Watch for the Town of Binghamton equipment garage on the left. Turn onto Milks Road opposite the equipment garage.

Milks Road: Proceed up the hill. At the top of the hill, Milks Road bears to the right - just opposite is the entrance to the clubsite. Please drive carefully, the road is a bit bumpy! Park in the shade of your favorite antenna!

We'll have 'helpers' hanging out on W2OW (147.390 - 600) and other local repeaters.

### **KOPERNIK SPECIAL EVENT**

On Saturday October 21 the club station at Kopernik Space Education Center will operate SOLAR POWER on all HF, UHF and VHF ham bands in conjunction with ASTROFEST '95.

Any BARA member who would like to set up a station for this event should fill in the sign up sheet at the BARA meeting July thru October. Each participating station should bring its own equipment (an AC power supply is a must so we can all operate solar power for this event). (Editors note: Kopernik generates its own AC power from their large solar array!)

All stations will operate using the Kopernik club call of KB2UYF.

For information, see John Kray KA2CNG

### **FIX-UP FUND**

Bob Mess WS2U is leading a shack fix-up fund - this is a traditional 'pass-the-hat' effort. Last year we managed to get enough donated material to put on a new roof. Plus we have been donated enough siding material to re-do the East and West ends of the building, and we have a brand new steel door.

We're hoping to scrounge enough \$\$'s, material and commitments of time/sweat to completely re-side the building and replace all the windows. As of press time we have collected a couple hundred \$\$'s - enough for at least a couple new windows for the East end of the building.

The grand plan is to also refurbish the inside of the building, adding insulation and updating the wiring.

For those of you that have not attended a meeting recently: Mrs. Milks has renewed our welcome up on the hill since Harley's passing earlier this year.

If you would like to help out, see Bob, or any club officer.

### **WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR TALENTS?**

We've started planning for BARA's Elmer Month. Last year we simply 'parked' someone up on the hill various evenings. This year we're looking to set up specific activity evenings. Say, things like VHF operating, HF, digital modes, CW, contesting.

If you would like to help out, see Ron AA2EQ or come to the September Board Meeting!

### **WELCOME ABOARD!**

Let's all welcome the newest BARA members:

- **Steve Frost KB2VCM**, Vestal, NY
- **Dick Melton N3VKM**, Brackney PA
- **Joyce Pickens KB2RUK**, Windsor, NY (Better half of N2UFU)

Welcome to BARA! If you have any questions, ideas, gripes... grab one of the club officers (gripes go to AA2EQ only). The last page of every BARA FACTS lists the upcoming meetings. All club members are invited to the Board Meetings too

## LAST CALL FOR THE BARA HAMFEST

**August 19** - that's the date!

Your hamfest committee is still looking for helpers in lots of areas - parking, tickets, tours, security.

The word on the street is that there will be at least FOUR new equipment vendors. And combined with our shift to August, 1995's hamfest should be a great success.

Last year, over 80 club members picked in to keep things running smoothly - don't miss out this year!

Setup begins Friday evening at 5PM - need lots of muscle power to set up tables and chairs. Saturday brings the hamfest - with cleanup immediately following.

We'll have a last minute report from the hamfest committee crew at the club picnic Wednesday August 16.

Hope to see LOTS of folks up at the Airport!

## NEW PHONE NUMS FOR ARRL

Some telephone numbers have changed at HQ (although the previous numbers also will work for some time). The important changes are: main number, 203-594-0200; main facsimile, 203-594- 0259; circulation department facsimile, 203-594-0303; comptroller facsimile, 203-594-0298. All "800" numbers remain the same.

## LICENSE INFO UPDATE

Do you know someone who is anxiously awaiting a brand new (first) call sign? Recent FCC rule changes allow new hams to start operating as soon as the license is granted, and the Commission is now making licensing transactions available on a daily basis (see June 1995 QST's Exam Info column on page 115).

Unfortunately, the FCC's phone lines are often busy, so tell that eager new ham to call ARRL at 1-800-326-3942, between 8 AM and 4 PM Eastern Time, to easily and quickly find out their new call sign.

If the VEC is, like the ARRL/VEC, using electronic filing, licensing information will likely be available 7 to 10 days after the exam.

## HAM RADIO SHOW ON THE RADIO!

\* The syndicated AM radio show "The Ham Radio & More," now in its fifth year, has gone "worldwide" via short-wave broadcast station WWCR.

The show on WWCR is tape delayed, and aired twice per week, Mondays at 0700 UTC on 7435 kHz, and Saturdays at 2100 UTC on 12,160 kHz.

The show is also available on satellite Spacenet 3, transponder 9, 6.8 audio, and on 41 local AM radio affiliates of the Talk America Radio Network. More information can be had by calling the originating station, KFNN, in Phoenix (602-241-1510).

Also, the Ham Radio & More Show has a home page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of the Boston Amateur Radio Club at:

<http://www.acs.oakland.edu/barc/ham-more.html>.

## CONTEST PLANNING STARTING SOON

One of the top fun contests each year is ARRL Sweepstakes held in November. Many club members have participated individually in the past - this year we're going to work on a coordinated club-wide effort!

A few ideas have been kicked around: 1) A contest within the contest - where we all participate individually and chase each other's score. 2) Entering in the club category - where we operate from home and collect the logs into a single club entry. 3) #1 and #2 combined. 4) An all-out, club shack overnighter running multiple stations and using the club callsign W2OW.

What would you like to do?? Drop me a note, give a call or see me at any of the club meetings.

de Bill WF2A@WF2A, 748-5232

## NYS SUMMER BIATHLON - JULY '95

Thanks again to the amateur radio communicators that volunteered and provided race-day course monitoring for this 3rd annual event. The race organizers and participants greatly appreciate their presence along the rough terrain and somewhat isolated portions of this challenging course.

Ron N2RWK (start/finish), Carl N2NFU (at the split), Ron N2XLE (lower loop), Norm WB2SYQ (traffic), and Pete KB2JZG (upper loop and overall coordinator).

Service such as this is great experience to improve skills that would be required when amateur radio operators are called upon to assist in a natural disaster. Try volunteering for one of these events and when one of the participants says, "thanks for being there," you'll realize that you have performed a worthwhile service

Thanks again, Pete KB2JZG