

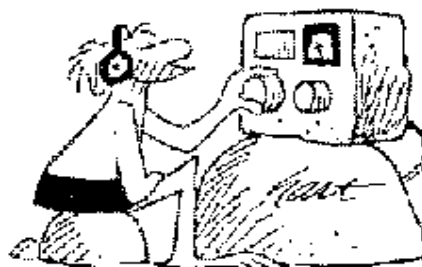


Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather and getting 'into' summer. There is lots of fun ahead. The July meeting will feature a "peel and stick party" for the Hamfest mailing instead of a normal program. Come on down and enjoy the fun. We will have cold beverages on hand as well as the usual coffee. Bring your family! The pay is great and the more sticky fingers the better!

For those of you that are NEW to BARA, the August meeting will be up at the club shack atop Milks' road in the Town of Binghamton. This is a real FAMILY event! The club provides the usual hot dogs and hamburgs but everyone is asked to bring a covered dish or treat (cakes and pies go over real well!) and it's a real fun time for all. We will have a Pinjata for the kids to bash the candy and treats from. Hedy, AA2MU, is leading this effort. Please give her a call to let her know what you are bringing. And remember to bring a chair for yourself to sit on!

A quick passing thank you to Jack WG2O for some useable windows for the club shack--Thanks Jack, and to Bob N2OIC for braving Jack's garage with us as we retrieved the goodies from the depth of Jack's "well organized" garage!

73s all - de AA2EQ

## HELPING HAMS

A big thanks to **Marv Shoemaker** N2ZMN, **Ford Drake** WA2ZSC, and **Gerry Smith** WA2QEL from Diane Carr N2SRE. Diane suffered a very serious reaction to a bee sting, that could have been fatal! Marv, Ford and Gerry teamed up to answer Diane's call for help on the .82 repeater. They helped direct an ambulance to Diane's place.

Thanks guys for a super job!!

## NK2H SEZ... DX NEWS

- 5A should be coming up any day!
- 3V8BB should be up Aug. 5th 17th
- VKØ??? Heard Island Nov. 12th DEC 1st
- Talk is that Jim Smith is trying for A5
- QSL info: YWØRCV Ives Island 1994 cards are starting to come out
  - Club awards: 10 M DXCC, Worked All States, Worked All Zones
  - W2OW DXCC stats: 295 mixed, 294 phone, 77 CW, 76 80M, 78 40M

## 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. We are looking for BARA club support for this event which will appear as a special events station in the October issue of QST. This is the weekend of the annual scouts Jamboree On The Air so local area scouts will be invited to operate the various ham stations between 1300-2100Z.

Sign up at the BARA meeting July thru October. Each participating station should bring its own equipment, including an AC power supply. (Editors note: Kopernik generates it's own AC power from their large solar array!)

Also bring your own extension cords and coax as we do not know where the stations will be set up. Also, very important you should use ONLY vertical or mobile antennas because of the lack of space and the huge crowd that this event normally draws even without ham presence in the past.

All stations will operate using the club call of KB2UYF.

For information, see John Kay KA2CNG

## W2OW REPEATER

BARA operates the W2OW repeater, 147.390 output, 147.990 input..

The W2OW repeater is open to the entire valley ham community. What does this mean? Well, any ham with the appropriate license class is free to use the repeater and it's functions.

The codes may change as new functions are added. All BARA members will automatically receive any changes and instructions through the club newsletter, BARA FACTS.

### AUTOPATCH Code Summary

<b>501</b>	Enters Autopatch mode, returns dialtone
<b>504</b>	Redial last number called (does not redial AUTODIALED numbers)
<b>#51</b>	Clear the AUTOPATCH (repeater responds with: "Phone patch clear")

See below for step-by-step Autopatch operation.

### Emergency AUTODIAL Numbers

<b>910</b>	New York State Police, Binghamton
<b>911</b>	Broome County Emergency
<b>912</b>	Tioga County Sheriff
<b>913</b>	Binghamton Police
<b>914</b>	Endicott Police
<b>915</b>	Johnson City Police
<b>916</b>	Vestal Police

### User Functions

<b>508</b>	Play information message
<b>509</b>	Time of day announcement
<b>512</b>	Repeater input power
<b>514</b>	Repeater backup battery voltage
<b>520</b>	Rig check function (see below)
<b>535</b>	Touch-tone test (see below)
<b>#50</b>	User function clear (for 520 & 535)

## Repeater Etiquette

When using any of the function available on the repeater - or any repeater - **always** identify yourself before entering codes. Just put yourself in the place of the repeater trustee. Would you want someone accessing the functions on your repeater without identification?

When you finish using a function, make sure to clear the function (**#50** or **#51** for the AUTOPATCH). Some of the functions cause extra beeps which could confuse or concern the next user of the repeater.

### AUTOPATCH Usage

The AUTOPATCH is accessed by entering **501** on your touch-tone pad. You may release the PTT after dialing **501** to check for the dialtone, but it is not required.

For example, to dial 555-1234, either of the following sequences will work:

"WA2XYZ accessing patch" (Always ID!)
Enter <b>501</b> and release PTT
You should now hear dialtone
Key your PTT and enter 5551234, release PTT
The repeater dials your number, you order a pizza, then enter <b>#51</b> to clear the AUTOPATCH

- or -

"WA2XYZ accessing patch" (Always ID!)
Enter 5015551234 and release PTT
Your call is dialed by the repeater, enter <b>#51</b> to clear the AUTOPATCH

When you have completed your call, enter **#51** to clear the phone connection. When the repeater receives **#51** it will hang up the phone line and respond with the voice message "Phone patch clear." If you do not hear the voice message, re-enter **#51**.

When you have cleared the AUTOPATCH, always ID yourself!

### AUTOPATCH Timers

The AUTOPATCH inactivity timer is set for 60 seconds. This means you must key your rig at least once each minute to keep the AUTOPATCH active.

The AUTOPATCH call timer is set for 3 minutes.

10 seconds before either timer expires, the repeater will sound a series of beeps at one second intervals. Either key your rig to restart the inactivity timer, or get your 73's out quick before the overall call timer expires!

## AUTOPATCH Etiquette

- Identify yourself before and after you use the AUTOPATCH.

- Make sure the AUTOPATCH has cleared (**#51**) after you complete your call.

- Don't interrupt someone else's AUTOPATCH unless you have an emergency..

The W2OW AUTOPATCH is open to all amateurs - so feel free to place a call for another amateur if you wish. Just keep AUTOPATCH use within the rules and the spirit of the Amateur Service.

## AUTOPATCH Emergency Calls

To call the police, enter one of the **91x** codes listed above. It's always best to take a few seconds BEFORE you place the call to collect your thoughts. **Where** is assistance required (mile marker, route numbers, direction, road names, intersections, etc.)? **What** is needed (fire, ambulance, police)?

Be sure to identify yourself - your name, and it's usually a good idea to inform the official that you are calling via Amateur Radio . It is not necessary to pass along your callsign - in fact it may just confuse the other person.

Don't expect the person at the other end to completely understand that the 'link' is one-way at a time. Speak slowly and crisply and say "Over" to let the official know your done with your transmission..

## Rig Check Function (520)

The repeater can perform some rudimentary checks on the signals it receives: deviation, signal strength, and relative frequency. The Rig Check function sequence follows:

ID yourself, enter <b>520</b>
Repeater responds with "Thank you"
Press PTT and talk normally for 10 seconds
Release PTT and listen to the repeater
The repeater responds with something like:
"CHECK 3.5 KILOHERTZ, S7, FREQUENCY 1 KILOHERTZ LOW"
Clear the function with <b>#50</b>
Identify yourself

The rig check function will stay active for EVERYBODY if you fail to clear it with **#50** .

What's this all mean? In the example above:

- The repeater measured the deviation level (modulation) to be 3.5 kilohertz (in general, 5 kHz is loud, 4kHz is recommended)

- The repeater was receiving your signal at S7 - this is a relative and uncalibrated measurement).

- The repeater measured your transmit frequency 1kHz low relative to it's receive frequency.

The Rig Check function is certainly not the final word on these parameters and does not take the place of proper bench testing and alignment of your radio. But the Rig Check function can provide a quick comparison of two radios or let you know that these parameters are at least in "the ballpark."

## Touch-tone Test (535)

The Touch-tone Test can be used to determine if the repeater is capable of decoding your transmitted DTMF tones. The repeater 'expects' one of the following 3-digit groups:

123 or 456 or 789 or #0\* or 147 or 258 or 369

If the repeater decodes one of these groups, it responds with "OK." A Touch-tone Test sequence would be like:

ID yourself, enter <b>535</b>
Repeater responds with "Thank you"
Press PTT and enter one of the above groups
You enter: 147, and release PTT
The repeater responds "OK" if a valid group was recognized
ID yourself, enter <b>#50</b> to cleat the function

You can enter the above groups, one group at a time to verify the operation of your keypad. The function stays active until you clear it with **#50**.

## Repeater Wrap-Up

If you have any questions on the operation of the repeater, contact any member of the repeater committee. Blair Dyer N2YOW heads up the committee. Stay tuned to BARA FACTS, for control code updates and new gadgets!