

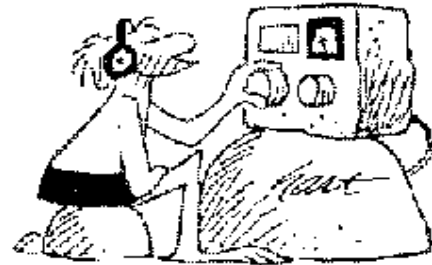


Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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 March already and contest season for HF has been in full swing. The latest "formal" club effort was the ARRL contest the weekend of March 4th and 5th. If you didn't get a chance to try your hand at this - you missed out! We had a blast. There was even a little bit of last minute tower climbing to snug up the mast grips on the 90 foot tower! Details are elsewhere in the newsletter - my point is participation may be some work - but its always FUN.

Another effort the club is sponsoring is the Novice Class hosted by K2QR at the Holy Nativity Church in Endicott - Thursday at 7:00 PM. Spread the word - see if you can graduate into the highest Amateur Class of ALL - ELMER. We all know of a few people who are "on the edge" or who may be showing some interest in all the funny antennas swinging from the roof of your car - let 'em know about the Novice class! Offer to go with them for a class. The payback is terrific.

Another effort the club executed was the Voice Announcement Capability on the W2OW repeater - it works great. Many thanks to AA2RE - Joe - and his gang. Now I'll never miss an important club event - I just have to tune in to W2OW for all the latest!

Some of the other great stuff on tap are the programs for the upcoming club meetings - they are so hot that the PROGRAMS ARE FIRST!! That's right - the programs will start first and the formal club business will occur after intermission - so NO DAWDLING AROUND - BE PROMPT!

March program is SKYWARN - and there is a good chance the MEDIA will be present. This is a good opportunity for us to show some of the service we provide the community. The Skywarn program is always interesting to see so make a point to come to the meeting (and show up on TV??).

IMPORTANT NOTE+++++March's meeting is  
**THURSDAY** the 16th at St. Paul's.

April program is the Shoemaker-Levy COMET CRASH at Kopernic Observatory! Jay Edwards has graciously consented to razzle dazzle us with this cosmic event! Again -the program will start the meeting so don't be late! We always have a great time at Kopernic so bring your spouse, friends, etc. and introduce them to the "science part" of Ham radio! Young kids get hooked on this stuff quickly!!

If you have a topic you think might make a good club meeting program, talk to N2MSB - Steve, so he can work out the details and schedule you in.

Now, a quick status on the BARA 95' Hamfest.

No one has beat down my door demanding to be Hamfest Chairman. I even went on the offensive and started twisting arms of several people who I feel could do a bang up job for us. But the common trait among them seems to be what happened to KB2LDY - work - (as in employment!!). All seemed willing to take "a piece" and execute - so maybe that's a good solution. The club certainly showed its intent at the last meeting when it voted to commit up to \$600 to reserve the airport location!

My pitch is this - I have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00PM at the Vestal Public Library for all Hamfest committee members (read as people who are willing to help out). I suggest an Executive Committee (leadership team) be elected from the committee members present - or that a single person be "elected" by the group (a little peer pressure might produce results my arm twisting couldn't!)

Unless we want to be shoveling snow at our Hamfest, we need to move like lightning to manage to keep it in the late summer season which I think the bulk of the club wants to do. If you want to see us have a 1995 BARA

Hamfest - come to the meeting and sign up for a piece of work (FUN!).

de AA2EQ

## VHF CONTEST

The BARA Club shack was a flurry of activity Saturday afternoon, on January 21st, as BARA's VHF contesters put together the three band setup for the January ARRL VHF Contest. Complementing the Club's equipment already at the site was WA2VCS's 222 MHz transverter-amplifier chain driven by WB3IOU's ICOM IC-751A on 10-meters, WB3IOU's 50 MHz Drake TR-6, and audio support equipment (headphones, etc.) from WB2SYQ. All of the club's antenna farm on VHF performed well with no high SWR or Rotor problems encountered.

While NK2H and WE2K provided moral support from the HF DX-operating position in the shack, WA2VCS, WB2SYQ, and N2YZJ got a late start on the air. Everything worked fine after a broken solder joint on the 12-volt line inside the 222 MHz 120-watt amp was repaired.

Activity was not as strong as the 1994 June and September efforts and a snow storm forced the crew out early Sunday evening around 8:00 PM. At least 15 contacts were made on 222 MHz with the most notable made by Mario, AA2VJ (ex-KA2WEF), to Northeastern West Virginia. Most contacts were on 2-meters (about 2.5 log sheets worth) with a sheet and a half on 6-meters (a sheet being around 25 contacts). A notably absent club station was K3YTL west of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. No 6-meter E-skip openings were experienced (no surprise there).

Many of the participants were just happy to socialize and talk about our June efforts to come! WA2VCS has a 432 transverter (from 10-meters) and all we'd need is an amp and antenna and we could expand to UHF. Let him or WB3IOU know if you have a 432 Linear and antenna. If you want to donate the antenna to the club, we'll work with the tower crew to get it placed (probably above the 222 MHz beam).

Here's the list of operators and participants. Hope we didn't miss anyone and apologies if we did.

Operators: WB3IOU WA2VCS N2YZJ AA2VJ WB2SYQ KB2LDY

Participants and moral support: N2UTS AA2EQ WE2K NK2H

Thanks to WB2GHH and KE2YY for giving us local contacts on all three bands and to Dave, KE2DN, for his contact on 2-meters SSB. Also special thanks to the BRAT net folks on Sunday night who kept us company while we moved non-Club equipment back to our car in the snow storm.

Bob, WA2VCS

A humble note from your Editor... This article was requested by me and received by me in time for the January newsletter. My thanks to Bob, and my apology for managing to lose it last month! de WF2A

## REPEATER NEWS

Having been out of town for the last few months, I have missed the elections and budget discussions. Congratulations to the new officers and Board of Directors. My thanks to Blair (N2YOW) for handling the Repeater Committee activities. I was pleased to hear that the repeater has continued to operate well.

Welcome to the new Autopatch members.

As mentioned in some of the BARA meetings in the fall, the Repeater Committee was hoping to benefit from the survey of club members prior to the January meeting; however, I understand the survey was small and no usable information was available for Repeater Committee planning. Even so, we are anxious for your input so please feel free to pass on your comments and ideas.

Work on the enhanced announcement capability (mentioned in the December Newsletter) has continued, and as of mid February it was made operational. My thanks to Rob (WB3IOU) for the loan of this card, to Bob (WA2VCS) for his technical help in installation, and to John (N2SOY) for his willingness to administer the recording capability. This 20 second digital recording capability is a big improvement over the 9 characters allowed in the base repeater; however with initial testing it appears we will not have too much! The intent is to provide information about activities of interest to the local amateur community (BARA and other organizations). It will take some experimenting to determine the best ways to use this capability. The announcement is currently set to play on the hour. If there is a conversation in progress on the repeater when it is scheduled, the announcement will be delayed until there is a break in the conversation. We will be trying this new announcement capability over the coming months and if it is felt the function is worthwhile, we will allocate funds to make it permanent. Your comments and feedback will help with the decision.

The Repeater Committee is considering other ideas that could enhance the interest of local amateurs and the excitement of amateur radio, and we would like to pursue these ideas, if possible, in the same manner as the announce capability.... borrowing equipment to test the application, and then addressing funding with permanent equipment if it proves worthwhile. I know some of us tend to be "savers" and sometimes we have equipment that was once used but now in storage... In this light, we are

very interested in borrowing 2 meter, 220 and 440 equipment that someone may have collecting dust!! It would be treated with kindness, consideration, and sensitivity!

For the Autopatch users, thanks to Bob (WA2VCS), two additional exchanges have been installed. The dialing codes for the autopatch are consecutive following the last code currently in use and are for:

- 799 Binghamton (pager)
- 717-663 Brackney, Pa.

I have referenced in the above paragraphs the Repeater Committee's interest in knowing your feelings as to how things are going and recommendations for improvement. I would very much like to talk with you personally; however expect to continue to be out of town at times. Three of the Repeater Committee members are mentioned here (and are on the air far more than I am) .....Blair, Bob, and John and they will help to forward any responses you may have. In addition, I can be contacted directly as indicated below.

Look forward to your feedback on the new announcement capability!

Joe Marckx (AA2RE) 754-0013

E-mail: JoeMar1307@aol.com

## SKYWARN TRAINING

This month's meeting program is SKYWARN training. We always have a great time with interesting discussion, videos of Mother Nature's awesome power, and top-notch training. SKYWARN is a key public service activity, we can all assist NOAA with our observations.



Remember, Binghamton is now the hub of a 25 county observation network that covers much of New York and Pennsylvania. It's important for us all to be up-to-

speed on SKYWARN observation and reporting techniques.

## ARRL DX CONTEST

Early March each year, thousands of hams around the world warm up the ether in one of the key contests of the year, the ARRL DX Contest. This contest is special because the objective for the DX stations is to work as many US stations as possible - WE draw the pileups!

I've often thought that the ARRL DX Contest was second only to Punkxatawny Phil (sp?) as a precursor to Spring. The contest probably has a direct effect here in the Northern Hemisphere by heating the jetstream.

Thanks to Hedy AA2MU for organizing this year's fun. Thanks again to Hedy for dragging her computer to the hilltop, and to Ed NE2W for his TS-940 transceiver (this is the rig that was 'bounced' a couple Field Days ago, and Ed has it back in tip-top shape.

While the sunspot cycle is bottoming out, we did manage to work over 700 DX stations. Here's a peek at the club's stats:

Band	Contacts	Countries
160	6	6
80	47	32
40	63	35
20	264	91
15	241	87
10	113	44

The folks that participated: AA2MU, AA2EQ, WF2A, N2WSQ, N2XYR, NE2W, N2YZI & son Bill (currently studying!), WB2GHH (lots of gabbing, no QSOs), WA2VCS (same comment as GHH!), K2MFB, AA2AP, KF1L, N2NCB, AA2VJ, WE2K, N2MSB (your hat is hanging on the wall!). Apologies to any I missed.

## NEWSLETTER FODDER NEEDED

Last month I used a couple pounds of filler I found in the INTERNET. This month I almost stuck in a THIS PART INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK notice.

If you have an idea for an article, want a permanent by-line, find an interesting piece of info, get in touch. I'm at 748-5232, or WF2A@WF2A. If you have a picture or schematic, I have a small scanner...

Well, I've typed enough, it's getting late, just have to fill this final inch... I know!! 73, Bill WF2A

# THE END