

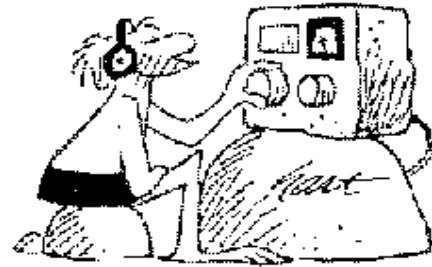


Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 853

Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



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W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

PRESIDENTS CORNER

You know you haven't been a Ham for long enough when someone quizzes you about your favorite BAND and you answer 'The Beatles' instead of 20 meters. OK, I answered "The WHO". Same point. Or maybe you've been a Ham for too long?

I know just the answer to the problem.

An upgrade class!

You say your a jaded Extra. Fine, sign up to help teach. Trust me - it'll burn out all the old cobwebs (or are those CATS WHISKERS).

It was mentioned at the board meeting that we might be able to get a slot on the program at BCC and actually teach a class there. That would be a great way to reach out. If anyone is interested in teaching or taking an upgrade class please contact one of the officers. It doesn't matter code or theory.

Along those lines I would like to pass my thanks to Bill, K2MFB for driving a code class. Its the only one I am aware of around here.

Now on to an update on the shack.... Our planned work weekend got rained out. Our backup planned weekend was rained out. It was the 3rd wettest October on record! It looks like we will have to play it by ear for some good WX and people availability. In the middle of this month is the November Sweepstakes contest the weekend of November 18 (no Hedy. its NOT in December). There will be a signup sheet at the next general meeting. This is going to be a real effort to be competitive and is driven by Bob WS2U & Frank N2HR. The program at the next meeting is a contest warmup. It promises to be a fun filled blast. Come to the meeting and see how its done!

My thanks on fundraising to all the people selling Dine-a-mates and to Ed NE2W for driving the event. It is on

track to make us a couple of hundred dollars we wouldn't otherwise have.

Elections - the slate is PRETTY LEAN! As of the board meeting there were no candidates for President or Vice President. Paul N2NCB is on the ballot for Treasurer, Ed NE2W is up for Secretary, Dick KB2LDY, John N2SOY, Dave KB2HUZ and Blair N2YOW are up for Board of Directors slots.

Every position is unopposed at this time. Prez and VP are empty!

Come on folks - its fun! the current officers are even taking a crack at a proposed budget for '96 at the December board meeting so the next team doesn't have to start cold (in January!).

Elections will be held at the regular December meeting which is at MOREY'S restaurant. The business meeting will start at 8:00 PM. All nominations will be closed by 8:30 PM and then voting will occur. There will be a sign up sheet at November's general meeting for dinner. Please bring your spouse. Its a family time of year.

There is NO CHARGE for just coming to the business meeting portion of the evening! For all of you whose schedule or funding situation does not allow dinner attendance - PLEASE - come to the general meeting starting at 8:00 PM and vote!

My last bit of info to pass along is my thanks to Bill WF2A for the great job as Newsletter Editor. Bill has announced that he has to give it up - soon! Hedy AA2MU will still COPY, FOLD, STAMP and MAIL the newsletter (aka she is the PUBLISHER) but Bill is onto other challenges. Anyone interested in being the Newsletter Editor give Bill a call.

de AA2EQ

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS...

Reserve the evening of December 20 for the annual BARA Holiday celebration at Morey's Restaurant, just North of BCC. The business meeting times are:

- 8:00 PM Business meeting start
- 8:30 PM 1996 officer nominations close followed by election of 1996 club officers.

We are working on some different entertainment (kudos to N2HR for the idea, see him if it doesn't work out too!)

An important note: you do NOT need to attend the dinner in order to participate in the business meeting. We are planning to hold tightly to the 8:00 PM and 8:30 PM times.

More details will follow in the December BARA FACTS. see you all at the party!!

NOVEMBER ARRL SWEEPSTAKES.

Another reminder... Bob WS2U and Frank N2HR are putting together a team to compete in the November Sweepstakes. The contest runs from 4PM Saturday November 18 through 10PM Sunday November 19. Sweepstakes is a 30 hour contest and we would like to involve as many people as possible. The hardest time slots to fill are the overnight times. If you've never contested up on the hill (W2OW site) you could be in for a big treat.

Mark it on your calender and sign up for a time slot. At the November meeting we will have a demonstration of the computer program that we will be using during the contest.

In addition, N2HR is going to pass along some of his deepest contesting secrets. SO BE THERE!!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

Well, this is the second time i've announced my retirement... But only one more newsletter, then I really am going to retire. If anybody out there is interested in taking on the editing and preparation chores for BARA FACTS, please give me a call - 748-5232 or drop a packet-gram to WF2A @ WF2A BBS (145.070 / 145.570 mHz).

Copying, labels, folding and stamp licking are all set for 1996 - many thanks to Hedy AA2MU and Paul N2NCB. But the club needs someone to prepare the monthly news! THX & 73, Bill WF2A

HAMS ON TV !

Mark your calendar. Amateur Radio is expected to be part of the cable television Sci-Fi Channel's "Inside Space" program the weekend of November 17.

Tentative plans are for airings on Friday evening the 17th at 9 PM Eastern Time and later in the weekend. The show is expected to include scenes from the AMSAT Phase 3-D satellite lab in Orlando, as well as perhaps ARRL Field Day and other Amateur Radio scenes, says AMSAT Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF.

The Sci-Fi Channel also has recently been filming amateurs in conjunction with yet another episode of Inside Space, to air in December or January.

Also...

A film about the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) and Amateur Radio is tentatively scheduled for next spring on the Discovery Channel Network.

The program, set for around March 15, 1996, will be called "Eyes in the Sky," and is planned to be a two-hour evening special. A crew of six spent two days filming during the recent AMSAT Annual Meeting and Space Symposium in Orlando, exposing more than four thousand feet of 16-mm film during some 86 takes, said AMSAT Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF. Baker appeared on camera, as did Dick Jansson WD4FAB, Stan Wood WA4NFY, and a number of other Phase 3-D satellite volunteer workers.

Filming was done in three parts: In the first, Baker, Jansson and Wood troll an Orlando surplus house, Skycraft, looking for parts for the spacecraft. In the next, Jansson roams the aisles of a local Kmart store, looking for P3-D "antenna" parts, complete with a "blue light special" announcement giving a price reduction on the "hardware" Dick is pulling off the shelf.

The crew finished with shots at the P3-D Lab.

Baker said the theme the producers were looking for was "High Tech doesn't need to be High Cost." Other themes touched on AMSAT's "Keep it Simple, Stupid" approach to spacecraft design and the idea that the paperwork needed to document a spacecraft need not necessarily weigh more than the spacecraft itself.

Some time also was spent discussing Amateur Radio in general: who hams are, and why it's important that their continued access to spectrum be preserved. The three also discussed the spirit of adventure and commitment that's part of the "glue" that holds AMSAT people, and hams in general, together, Baker said.

From ARRL HQ packet bulletins

COMPUTER DICTIONARY

Copy Protection: (n.) a means of circumventing various rights granted by the Constitution so as to artificially inflate profits.

Crash: (v.) to terminate a program in the usual fashion, i.e. by locking up the computer or setting a fire at the printer. (n.) the process of such termination.

Data: (n.) raw information, esp. that supplied to the central purging unit for transformation and disposal.

Data Base Manager: (n.) any fast filing system which gives misleading answers. Also see: menu, bug.

Diagnostic: (n.) a test foolishly but often believed to determine the reason for a particular failure. Competent professionals prefer the I Ching or phrenology.

Documentation: (n.) a novel sold with software, designed to entertain the operator during episodes of bugs or glitches.

Format: (v.) to erase irrevocably and unintentionally. (n.) The process of such erasure.

Hard Disk: (n.) a rapidly spinning platter divided into sectors. See: Sector, Glitch, Bug.

Hardware: (n.) anything prone to physical failure.

Head: (n.) the part of a disk drive which detects sectors and decides which of the two possible values to return: 'lose a turn' or 'bankrupt.'

Icon: (n.) a complex, blurry, and easily-misinterpreted pictorial representation of a single unambiguous word. Preferred by illiterates and semi-literates for these reasons, and by others because it slows most computers down so even a cretin with an IQ of 53 may justly feel superior.

Joystick: (n.) a device essential for performing business tasks and training exercises esp. favored by pilots, tank commanders, riverboat gamblers, and medieval warlords.

K (n., adj.) a binary thousand, which isn't a decimal thousand or even really a binary thousand (which is eight), but is the binary number closest to a decimal thousand. This has proven so completely confusing that it has become a standard.

License: (n.) a covenant which tells the buyer that nothing has been purchased and that no refund, support, advice, or instruction may be anticipated and that no resale is permitted. A modern way of saying "Thanks for all your money and goodbye," far less crude than "Stick 'em up" but even more effective since the purchaser will often borrow the funds requested.

Megabyte: (n.) more than you can comprehend and less than you'll need. See: UNIX.

Megahertz: (n.) a way of measuring how well your computer matches the frequency of your local television channels. Most computers perform exceptionally well on this test, especially the higher quality foreign made ones.

Micro- (prefix) anything both very small and very expensive.

Monitor: (n.) a sort of television with exceptionally poor picture quality and limited to a single very local station.

Mouse: (n.) an input device used by management to force computer users to keep at least a part of their desks clean.

Nano- (prefix) a thousandth of a thousandth, but not a binary thousandth in either case. Decimal is used for all very small measurements since no further confusion is necessary.

Printer: (n.) a small box attached to a computer and used to start fires in cold weather.

Software: (n.) anything other than hardware. That which hardware manufacturers can blame can blame for physical failures.

Source Code: (n.) a record of a programmer's thought for a period of time. A stream-of-consciousness novel or short story.

TSR: (n.) acronym for Terminate and Stay Resident. A way of turning a useless computer with plenty of memory into a computer with no memory at all.

Turbo- (prefix) computer software which uses air under pressure (supplied by a special fan) to achieve high performance.

User-friendly: (adj.) trivialized, slow, incapable, and boring. See: Icon, Mouse.

Warranty: (n.) a list of vendor's promises with carefully worded exceptions which cancel each of the promises in turn. See: License.

Windowing: (n., adj.) a way of making a large and easily-read display into many small, cluttered, and confusing ones.

Word Processor: (n.) A program which makes a \$5,000 computer into a \$250 typewriter. A computer game for beginning operators.