

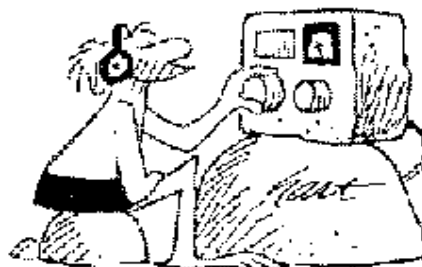
BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 853

Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



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W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/>

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

AND BRING A FRIEND

Sometimes the only contact that our friends, co-workers, and neighbors have with Ham Radio is noticing the antennas in our backyards or Donald Duck on the telephone when we work ten meters. But sometimes those same people might be interested in trying out this Great Hobby of Ours if they only had a chance. One of the nice things about Ham Radio is the willingness to share time, information, and even equipment that most of us have experienced at one time or another and it's good to try to "pay back" the help that we have been given by offering this same generosity to others.

The next two meetings should be fun ones. This month we have our Mini-Hamfest and Picnic up at the shack and besides bringing along a lawn chair and a dish to pass, I'd like to encourage everyone to bring along a friend. It's a nice time to introduce someone to our hobby and our club. There's no real business to transact, just time to wheel and deal around the tailgates, a chance to fill up on food, and an opportunity to spin dials and hang around the shack.

The September meeting, as noted before, will be "Kid's Night", but it's not for kids only. "Kid" can cover a wide range of ages, and I'd like everyone to think about bringing someone along. The formal part of the meeting will be short and the rest of the evening will be devoted to socializing and demonstrations. I remember how much fun it was to listen to my neighbor's shortwave set and I'm sure that each of us has some memory of the "magic" that got us into this hobby. Let's share that magic!

Please support both of these events and please help to "spread the word" about them. We've got a great club and a great membership, so let's let the world know who we are.

73 DE ED, KB2SCF

HAMMING IN THE KITCHEN

Want to 'save' a tube with a loose base? Read on.

With a soft toothbrush, clean the dust out of the glass/base joint unless you don't mind gluing the dust in place like the flies in amber. Set kitchen oven to 200 F (lowest setting) and warm up tubes.

Spread a soft shag rug betwixt oven and kitchen table. Now mix up enough two part epoxy glue, the extra time kind, not the 5 minute stuff.

Grab a hot tube with a rag and apply a little glue with a pointed device like an awl or scribe to about six places on the circumference of joint. The glue will be greedily sucked in. Twist tube base gently back and forward to spread glue and wipe excess glue away with fresh tissue. Let set 24 hours.

The craft will be advanced if your wife does not know about this novel application of her oven.

John Gibson, Berkeley, Calif.

Detailed instructions. Contributed by John Dilks K2TQN

Dealing with the XYL in the above procedure:

1. Make an excuse that you can't accompany her to church (or some other 2-hour event). That should allow enough time.
2. Don't do it in front of the kids, they will not keep the secret.
3. Make sure you remove the evidence before she returns.
4. Cool down the oven and blow out the stinky air. (You'd be amazed at how good her sniffer works.)
5. Make a mess somewhere else in the house as a cover.

6. In case you're caught, lie, lie, lie.

Editor's addition. There are many useful hamming tools in the kitchen and around the house! K2TQN's tips are valuable here too.

- Dishwashers do a wonderful job of cleaning 40 or 50 years of 'stuff' from chassis and electronic parts.
- Microwave oven – it's just another transmitter – but can be used to warm / heat / explode many things other than TV dinners.
- Your kids will never miss their toothbrushes. These are great for careful cleaning of antique parts.
- Vacuum cleaners. Not enough 'uumph' to evacuate the air from those cracked tubes, but if you use it backwards it can cool a BIG amplifier tube.
- Another oven idea: Great for baking newly painted parts. Modify the detailed instructions above from 2 hours to maybe 2 days – really stinks!

HAM EXAM DOCUMENTATION

A couple months back the BARA FACTS contained some material that was not really intended for general publication. The article inferred a technically improper exam identification procedure. Here's the real poop.

The rules require two forms of ID from the examinee. One should be a picture ID. This is to prevent a 'ringer' from taking the exam for a second person... So what do we need of the examinee is 8 years old? No driver's license, no Sheriff's card.

In this case, the examinee should be represented by a parent or guardian who can present a birth certificate for the examinee and a couple forms of ID (including picture ID) of him or herself.

It's doubtful an 8 year old will be a 'ringer' for another person. But it is still necessary to satisfactorily prove the applicant's identification to the Volunteer Examiner team.

While I'm babbling about exams, let's talk about other typical documentation difficulties:

- Examinee currently holds a license – this one routinely causes administrative problems! You must bring your ORIGINAL, SIGNED license as proof you hold a license. AND you must bring a copy of that license to send off with the exam material. Please do not assume the VE team has access to a copier. This is YOUR responsibility! The VE team can at their discretion accept your original license – but you will not get it back... and, the VEs are human too (really!) – sometimes things get mishandled and

you get to wait while YOU get a lost license re-issued!

- CSCE – or Certificate of Successful something or other... This is the 'receipt' a VE issues to show you passed an element previously. These are valid for one year –ONE YEAR, repeat, ONE YEAR! Check the date, repeat, CHECK THE DATE. Bring the original AND a copy. If you lose your CSCE, they are next to impossible to replace and your only recourse is to retake those passed elements.

There's a common thread to the above hints and tips. MAKE A COPY or two or three of your license and CSCEs. Keep the original and copies in a safe place.

- FCC forms the FCC is changing to the new Universal Licensing System (ULS) forms. In any event, your examiner will usually have a stock of valid forms. Don't get your nose in a snit if the examiner asks you to prepare a new application to replace the 5 year old one you clipped out of a license manual. These things are frequently changed and old format ones will BOUNCE!

OK, so why put all this stuff in the club newsletter? YOU are going to upgrade this year – right? YOU are going to help another guy or gal get into the hobby, right? OK, I was correcting a wrong from a previous newsletter, but each of us should be looking to improve our skills and explore other areas of the hobby. Most importantly, we should all be helping others discover ham radio.

73, Bill N2BC

BARA WEBPAGE

If you are asking "what's a webpage" then chances are good this won't interest you. But... you are missing out on a nifty source of tons of information on just about any topic – from out there in Cyber Space.

<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/>

That's the BARA home page address – checked it out lately? Don Kunkel, N2NON is our 'host' and he is always looking for goodies to post there. Last month I asked all club web-heads to Email me so I can collect addresses. If you didn't, then do it today. Send to n2bc@stny.rr.com

Don and I (mostly Don) will be adding the BARA FACTS to the web pages in the near future. I certainly do not see the web pages replacing the mailed newsletter. But, there is the possibility of adding some additional content – like spiffy color pictures. Things that just don't do well in a black and white, paper copied (read cheap) media like a standard newsletter.

Like always, the limiting factor is material to publish. This is where you come in. Email me ideas, drop them in a mail box (513 Ridge Road, Vestal, 13850), call me on the phone (748-5232).

OK, I'll stop whining. Drop by the website and check it out – frequently! de N2BC

PICNIC AND MINI-FEST

The August meeting is the annual club picnic / mini-fest up on the Milks Road shack site. Rain or Shine! A great opportunity to check out the shack and equipment, sift through other folks cra---- oops, treasures, and EAT!!

The club will provide the dogs, burgers, and soft drinks. Everybody should bring some goodies to pass (salads, desserts, etc). Also bring some lawn chairs and we always need tables. Figure 4PM for the 'fest, 5:30PM for food

Directions to the hilltop:

From Binghamton or north and east of Binghamton – head for the Binghamton General Hospital area (you are on your own for the specifics up to this point). Head south on either Pennsylvania Ave or Park Ave. About ½ mile after Pennsylvania / Park merge there is a Town of Binghamton garage on the north (right) side of the road, turn left / south on Milks Road opposite the town garage.

From Vestal or west of Binghamton – head south on Route 26. Turn left onto State Line Road (if you see "Welcome to Pennsylvania," you went too far!). Continue east on State Line (quick, wave to KG2FY), thru the stop sign where State Line merges with Hawleyton Road – continue east. A few miles on the left you will spot the Town of Binghamton garage, turn right on Milks Road just opposite the garage. Take it easy, this is a nasty turn especially if you are whipping along at 55!

OK, now everybody is heading up the hill on Milks Road. It curves to the left, then climbs a bit steeper. At the crest of the hill, Milks Road curves to the right and off to the left is our 'driveway.' Head left up the driveway, I recommend taking it easy so you don't collide with the couple of mufflers I have lost here (hint hint). You will quickly crest another hill and from here it's obvious. 90 foot tower, palatial shack building, hundreds of cars with their trunks open (OK, a small exaggeration.)

See you all there!

K2ZRO/KOPERNIK SATELLITE NEWS

The K2ZRO call is still in the Work In Progress file but that could change any day now. So far approximately 40 hams worldwide have sent their QSL cards to be included

on the Wall of Honor in Kaz's memory. If you have not sent yours now is the time.

The station is up and running on all UHF and VHF birds with both voice and packet capabilities. Improvements in the near future include:

Automatic antenna tracking software so we don't have to move the antenna rotors by hand.

The installation of a digital system to work the digital birds.

The installation of a digipeater to once again get our valley out into the rest of the world. For several years now packet activity has been virtually dead in our area. Two of the top priorities in this regard is to get a reliable link for DX packet and APRS packet.

So far the number of hams actively involved in this endeavor can be counted on a single hand. The same is true of local hams that have visited the site and actually tried to make contacts via satellite. If you say you don't know how then come up to observatory and learn. It is a great deal of fun and an education in a different aspect of ham radio as well. It is the only facility of this type within hundreds of miles of the Triple Cities and it is a shame it is not used more. The station is manned most evenings of the week and definitely every Friday evening. So come on up and join in the fun.

This fall we hope to start some classes geared to the youth in our area. We could use some helping hands in this training. This is another good reason to stop by and learn to use the system so that you could help in future classes. Since a lot of our young people seem only interested in computers and the Internet, satellite amateur radio could be the hook they need to pursue the hobby. Also, APRS (Automated Positioning Reporting System) is something that many of our young folks would be interested in.

Recently, I completed my second one week trip on a tall ship this time the ERNESTINA operating out of the Boston area. I had my 2-meter rig along and made a lot of contacts, plus I got three inactive hams (for more than ten years) back in the hobby. They are permanent crew members aboard the ERNESTINA. The ERNESTINA has it's own web page and looking through it I discovered that one of the things they would like to do is get some sort of automated positioning capability. They were completely unaware that this is exactly what APRS in our hobby provides. The ERNESTINA's primary mission is to educate students in the state of MA in marine and maritime subjects. So one of the things I hope to be able to do is at least point these three revitalized hams in the APRS direction. 73 de KA2CNG

USEFUL METRIC CONVERSIONS...

Much of the technical information related to our hobby are measurements of electrical properties, most all of these are in metric units. I thought these new conversion factors would be usefull. I understand they may even appear on some new license tests in the future...

1 million microphones = 1 megaphone
1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
365.25 days = 1 Unicycle
500 millinaries = 1 seminary
2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
10 cards = 1 decacards
1/2 lavatory = 1 demijohn
2.71828 grams of turd = 1 natural log
1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
1000 grams of wet socks = 1 Liter Hossen
1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
1 trillion grams of brown marijuana = 1 Terracotta pot
1 million billion picolos = 1 gigolo
10 rations = 1 decoration
100 rations = 1 C-ration
10 millipedes = 1 centipede
3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent
10 monologs = 5 dialogues
5 dialogues = 1 decalogue
2 monograms = 1 diagram
8 nickles = 2 paradigms
2 wharves = 1 paradox
100 Senators = not 1 decision

SCOUTS ON THE AIR

Pete Kofira, KB2JZG, and the Square Deal Sportsman are hosting a couple of scout troops October 15, 16, and 17. The weekend of Jamoree On The Air (JOTA). Pete is looking for some helpers to tame the wild, errr, show the scouts some of the magic of our hobby. People, equipment, all are welcome. Contact Pete at 785-0666 or via Email mrpetek@aol.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

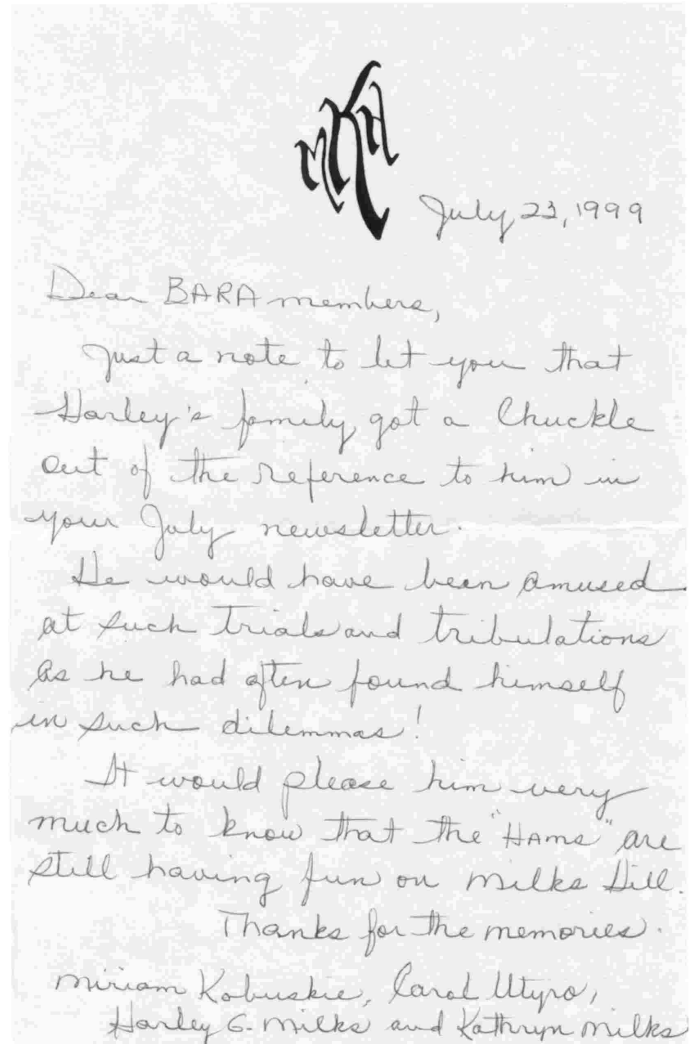
AUGUST: Mini-Hamfest and Picnic at the BARA Shack! More information in upcoming Newsletters, but the fun will start with

- FREE Tailgate Session (about 4:00 PM) in our spacious parking lot up off of Milks Road followed by Food, Food, and
- Fellowship in the Glade (about 5:30 PM).

SEPTEMBER: Kid's Night! Bring a kid of any age and let us know if you have something neat that you would like to demonstrate. Who knows, maybe you will help to hook someone into this great hobby! Make sure you come and bring along someone (little kid, big kid, old, or young) to meet the gang.

OCTOBER: Show and Tell Night. No formal program, just a chance to swap tales, tell lies, and show off the masterpieces and treasures you have accumulated over the last year (or so).

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The above note was received from the Milks family after reading WB2GHH's tale of Field Day Lost. Remember, we are the guests of the Milks up on the hilltop – let's keep the hilltop and shack picked up!!

HAM RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

You're getting this because I need to fill another page – or I suppose I could put a

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sticker on here, nah...

Here's some great places to visit on the internet. You won't need to turn off Net-Nanny or have to lock the computer room door either!

<http://www.exit109.com/~jimh/ham.shtml> Jim Hawkins website. Jim has hundreds of pictures of commercial broadcast sites, including a complete story on the 500KW WLW station of the 1930s. I stumbled across Jim's website a couple years ago and noticed we both grew up in the same little town in NJ years ago. Turns out Jim was a couple of years ahead of me in school, and we both had a serious crush on our 4th grade teacher!

<http://www.antiquewireless.org> The Antique Wireless Association, great pix of antique radios. Even better, climb in your car and go visit the museum, it's up near Rochester, full directions on the website. While I'm clicking about the AWA, their annual conference is September 1 – 4 up in Rochester. Tons of great old radios, books and accessories!

<http://web.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.html> The website of W4RNL. Pages and pages of antenna theory, construction ideas, programs. LB is one of the premier antenna designers in the world and his 'stuff' is available for all to see and use. Great site!

<http://web2.cnam.fr/vms/equipe/bmabboux/track.html> Satellie tracking, real time – from Paris France! But you can get the info for Main Street Binghamton too if you know your latitude and longitude.

<http://www.dxbands.com> If you're a Dxer and can do the internet, bookmark this place! Tons of up to the minute DX info, contest rules, online lookups, neat stuff.

<http://www.arrrl.org> THE place to go for the latest news on every aspect of our hobby.

I'm running out of nifty websites – well, actually there are hundreds more to look through but one of the kids wants to use the fast link to the web. There is a lot of great information out there. Enjoy de N2BC

WANTED - EXECUTIVES

We are better than halfway through the year. All too soon the leaves will start to turn, then fall. This is followed by.... Elections! HAH, you thought I was going to say the s-word!

Every December the club holds elections for officers, President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, and four Directors. Sadly, every December this has turned into a chore.

It's true, the pay stinks, there's no medical coverage, no golden parachutes – just work.

Does this sound like a job for you?

Seriously, for the past few years it has been tough fielding a complete slate of people for the available offices.

A key factor in any organization is the leadership team which guides the organization. If you can spare a couple hours a month, have some ideas for energizing the club, or want to see the club move into new areas of our hobby, why not run for office?

If you would like to participate, contact any club officer – see the contact list on the last page of the newsletter.

SHACK "TRAINING"

Come to the club picnic and mini-fest August 18th at the club site. Folks will be on hand to show you around the shack and our radio equipment. There are some basic safety and security rules we all have to observe and these will be pointed out.

Once you're 'trained', you get the combination to the locks!

The shack and the equipment is YOURS to use. If you have any questions, contact a club officer.

Also, please note – the combination to the shack is not to be passed along to non-members or broadcast over the radio at any time. The only way to obtain the combination is from another member after being 'checked out' on the safety and security requirements of the shack.

Thanks and see y'all on the hilltop.

WANTED VGA MONITOR

Mel WE2K generously donated a computer for the hilltop. But we need a VGA monitor for it. Got one – cheap? Oh, Cheap = really cheap, as in free maybe. Contact N2BC, free pickup!