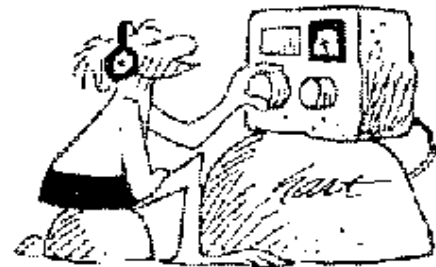


BARA FACTS



Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PO Box 853
Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



© 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

Check out BARA on the web!

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

WINDING UP

In just a few weeks 1999 will be history. We'll be getting used to writing "00" for the year and forgetting ourselves with "19" instead of "20". We'll also know just how big the "Y2K" bug really was. Whatever the future holds the twentieth century has been an exciting time. Our favorite technology grew from a curiosity and a toy of the tinkerer to a booming industry by the 20's. It's death was predicted as television came to the forefront, but radio is by no means dead yet and it's probably going to grow even more in the next hundred years. But it's funny how technology loops around and returns to its roots: We've seen the crystal detector fall before the vacuum tube and the hollow state yield to the solid state crystal. The urgent pulse of dits and dahs became voice in the "golden years" of radio and now digital signals split the ether with their staccato pulses. It seems the more things change, the more they remain the same.

With the new year comes a new crew of Officers and Directors. With the change in leadership I'll return to the benches and I'd like to let you all know that it has been a privilege to serve you. This Club of ours is a fine one and BARA has more to offer than most of us realize. Through my two terms the Officers and Board have shared the work and the burdens and you -- the members -- the real BARA -- are among the finest Hams I could ever hope to meet. I thank you.

While we aren't perfect we aren't a bad bunch either. Somehow we endure and the jobs get done. The shack is kept up, the contests run. The Hamfest happens as does the Dine-a-Mate sale. Dues trickle in and the treasurer doesn't have to worry too much about making ends meet. We -- all of us -- are a team and a pretty good one at that.

The "Annual Report"

It has been one of those years where we take the good with the bad. Some names have changed on the Membership Roster and for our Club and in the Ham Community some keys have gone silent. We don't have as many new Hams coming into our Hobby and old Hams are not upgrading as much as in the past and that's reason for some concern. Perhaps it's a sign of a larger shift in our society from understanding our technologies and enjoying that understanding to using technology and confusing that ability with understanding. I'm not sure what the cause is, but we need to keep the flame alive. We need to find ways of approaching children, teens, and adults and letting them know why this Hobby matters. If we can't make that effort then I wonder what we find in the Hobby ourselves.

Participation in meetings seems to be up although the turnout for contesting and special events is down and disappointingly so. Since the Club and its meetings are for the members we need to understand what you want. I believe that we have begun to do this through the programs at our meetings, but we need to do it in our other activities as well.

One area of real concern is our pool of volunteers for "jobs". Although we could always use a few more volunteers, we really need some "new faces". Many of the "old standbys" have moved on or are no longer able to help out as much as in the past. We have tried to make general appeals as well as to extend personal invitations, but the results are often disappointing. Please think about what you might be able to do to help our club.

I'd like to personally thank each person who has contributed to the operation of this club, but I realize that I would probably miss more than one. And in a way that's good -- it does remind me that there are many more active members than any of us realize. But some thanks are needed.

First: To those who run the Club (Officers and Board) and to those who make up the Club (all Members).

Second: To the people who keep the Hamfest going and who make the Dine-a-Mate sale happen. Besides dues the Hamfest and Dine-a-Mate are our two main income sources. Thanks also to those several members who have donated money or material to our Club. This happens in the background more often than most of us realize.

Third: To the organizers of our parties, picnics, contests, and meetings. Our social activities keep us together and they are the glue that makes us a club.

Fourth: To the people who keep the Newsletter going (editors, printers, folders, stampers, writers) and to the people who keep our Web Page up and running. You keep us informed and in the "public eye".

Fifth: To the Elmers and VEs who bring new blood in to the Hobby and keep the old blood circulating. You never receive the thanks you so richly deserve.

Sixth: To everyone who has offered me advice, opinions, and suggestions. I appreciate your willingness to approach me and the thought you put into your ideas. Your encouragement has been much appreciated.

And that, I think, is enough. Merry Christmas to all, a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and Thank you all for the rare privilege of serving as your President. See you in 1900!

73, DE ED, KB2SCF

CHRISTMAS PARTY REMINDER

The BARA Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 1999, at the Russell's Steak and Seafood House, 1001 W. Main Street Endicott, NY. This is across from EN JOIE golf course. Social hour will start at 6 PM and dinner will be served about 7PM.

HAM OPS – HELP OUT NASA !

(They need it!)

In another example of NASA's "faster, better, cheaper" policy, the agency is asking amateur radio operators to help it record data in an experiment.

Next month, NASA plans to launch a satellite that will serve as the transportation for the Plasma Experiment Satellite Test. The experiment involves an instrument that measures the behavior of ion streams in space.

Once the experiment reaches orbit, the satellite will broadcast streams of data back to Earth on frequencies in the amateur radio band. The data will be accessible by ham radio operators who have a G3RUH or a GMSK modem. Data will be broadcast on 437.175 MHz or 2403.2 MHz. For more information on the project, go to <http://science.nasa.gov>.

WHO IS THIS?

The fellow on the left is the late Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. Who is the rascal on the right?



NEW LOOK IN QST FOR 2000

Check out your next QST – new columns !

"QRP Power"--a monthly column by Rich Arland, K7SZ--will track developments in low power hamming, one of the fastest-growing areas of Amateur Radio.

"Old Radio" by John Dilks, K2TQN, will focus each month on vintage radio collecting and restoration.

"Radios to Go" by Roger Burch, WF4N, will be a bimonthly column highlighting mobile, maritime, aeronautical mobile and portable operating.

2000 CLUB OFFICER CANDIDATES

Here's the slate of officer candidates for 2000:

President:	Jack Connors WB2GHH
Vice President	Rick Melton N3VKM
Secretary	Elmer Shafer N2PQX
Treasurer	Paul Slocum N2NCB
Directors:	Hedy Clothier AA2MU
	Bill Coleman N2BC
	Ron Reagan N2RWK
	Tom Tefft W2TRT

What's wrong with this picture? One person for each office.... THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG !

Elections will happen after the Holiday dinner – see earlier blurb for details about the dinner. You do NOT need to attend the dinner to vote. Elections will occur no earlier than 8PM – so if you want to just come for the elections, come on over at 8PM!

We will be taking last minute 'nominations' for all available officer slots. So if you want to help out the club, come to the elections, volunteer!

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU

Two Hams were trying to measure a flag-pole they wanted to use for an antenna after they had made guesses, that differed considerably, a bystander asked "Wouldn't it be better to pull out the pole, lay it on the ground, and measure how long it is.?"

No! one of the hams said, as he starred in disbelief. We're trying to figure how tall it is, not how long it is?

A HAM'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore's classic Christmas tale, this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, December 2, 1996.)

Twas the night before Christmas, And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up From the tower, quite high, To catch
the weak signals That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses, Took their HT's to bed, And
dreamed of the day They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, And we
tuned 40 meters For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged by a signal with power. It
smoked a small diode, and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones, And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window And peered up at the sky, To see
what could generate RF that high.

It was way in the distance, But the moon made it gleam - A
flying sleigh, with an Eight element beam,

And a little old driver who looked slightly mean. So I thought
for a moment, That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa, The Santa of Hams. On a mission, this
Christmas To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower, Then stopped in his track, And he slid
down the coax Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid Behind stacks of CQ, This Santa of
hamming Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk Of paper and parts, And filled
out all my late QSLs For a start.

He ran copper braid, Took a steel rod and pounded It into the
earth, till The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings, Resoldered connections, Cranked
down modulation, Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes In my linear amp... (Never worked right
before -- Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter Cleaned up the TV. He corrected the
settings In my TNC.

He repaired the computer That would not compute, And he
backed up the hard drive And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep In the bag that he brought, And
he pulled out a big box. "A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?!" (If he
thought I'd been bad it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station! How could I deserve this? Could it
be all those hours that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up And in record time, quickly Worked 100
countries, All down on 160.

I should have been happy, It was my call he sent. But the
cards and the postage Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments, And left a card by the key: "To
Gary, from Santa Claus. Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT, Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad, And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station, And the pile-up was big, But a card
from St. Nick Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final came over the air. It was copied all
over. It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed What a ham might expect, "Merry
Christmas to all, And to all, good DX."