

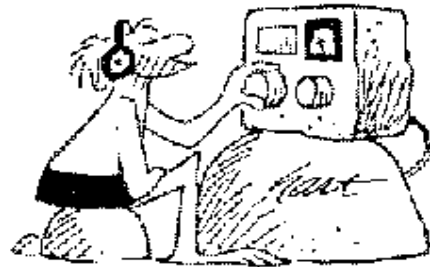
# **BARA** FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 853

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W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

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

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Well, it looks as if this month is going to be "odds and ends" since there are a number of items that aren't big enough to deserve an "article" of their own and there is enough variety to make "Mulligan Stew".

First off, there is a change of Editor with this Newsletter. John Kray, KA2CNG, who had taken over as Editor when Gay, KB2OXA, became president has stepped down and Bill Coleman, N2BC, has offered to take his place. John held the somewhat thankless and often under-appreciated position of Editor for about two-and-a-half years (if my reckoning is correct) and his willingness to do the job was greatly appreciated. I know that the job of Editor sometimes means finding material at the last minute and often means putting up with criticism from one person or another, so it's not exactly a glamorous and appreciated job. But John did it and we owe him our thanks and appreciation for his willingness to undertake the job and his commitment to carry it through. Many thanks, John!

Second, a reminder that the September Meeting will be "Kids Night". Please remember this and make an extra effort to come to the meeting and to bring along someone who might be interested in Amateur Radio. Our definition of "kid" is fairly generous and we would welcome young and old with equal warmth. Also, please drop me a note, give me a call, or fire off an e-mail if you have something you would like to bring to the meeting and demonstrate or display. The more variety the better.

Next, a reminder that we are just a few meetings away from the yearly Election of Officers. There will be a few open seats (as usual), so if you would like to run or if you would like to suggest to someone that he or she might want to be an Officer or Board Member now is the time to start "encouraging". If you would like to come to a Board Meeting to see "how it goes", please come (first Wednesday of every month, 7:00 PM sharp, Office of Emergency Services).

Finally, I have to apologize for an article that accidentally got into the Newsletter last month. An e-mail note to the Technician Class that ended in May was inadvertently picked up as an article. Some of the information was useful to the students, but useless to the general membership and one of the comments on "vouching" for students bothered several of the local VE Team Members. I would like to stress that the intent of that particular passage was to reassure one of the students who was too young to have any kind of photo ID and who had had a "bad experience" with an examiner in another area who demanded photo ID. Unfortunately, by appearing in the Newsletter that passage appeared to give the impression that our local VE teams are slipshod in checking Identification. They are not and I apologize if that impression was given.

And that, I think, is enough for this month. 73s, see you at the meeting in July and the picnic in August!

DE ED, KB2SCF

## **Picnic - August**

## **Kids Nite - September**

## **FROM K2MFB**

Dear member of BARA

Our sincerest thanks to you all for your contribution to the Church in Esther's name. She enjoyed going to the meetings

and meeting people. There won't be any more noise coming from the back row.

Again thanks,

Bill K2MFB, Diane, Jim & family

Editor's comment – Bill, that wasn't noise coming from the back row! We all hope you're doing well.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**JULY:** Antennas, TransMatches, Truth, and Lies. Steve, KA2CDJ has owned and built a number of Antennas and will share some observations based on his experiments and operating experiences.

**AUGUST:** Mini-Hamfest and Picnic at the BARA Shack! More information in upcoming Newsletters, but the fun will start with a FREE Tailgate Session in our spacious parking lot up off of Milks Road followed by Food, Food, and Fellowship in the Glade.

**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).

## FIELD DAY A SUCCESS

The generators have stopped - had a hell of a time getting it started. Still don't know weather (pun) the right type of gas was used. The can was marked diesel. Is that a new brand?

The tent is down. Used the bumper as a tie point. Forgot when I went for a pizza. On my return I found the tent at the bottom - middle and top of Milks Road. Spooky, I could swear

I heard Harley laughing.

Two days of operating had significant results. I was tied and smelly. A visitor compared the smell to some area behind the PRESS.

Log sheets are crumpled. A couple are missing. Dup sheets weren't big enough. Heard that complaint from someone returning from the woods.

Saw the Blue Nun, again, next to the oil can. She said something like "no one leaves until the quarter floats". I just

don't understand (hic).

The tabletop stopped working - when its leg broke and every thing was dumped.

Forgot to put a few holes in the can when the beans were put on the camp stove. The beans subsequently made more contacts than I did.

Feeling strange. I'm looking down on the site. Is this an out of body experience? How did I get up here? Am I working 1290? No I'm looking at 1290. The site looks so very clean from up here. Doesn't even look like anyone was here.

Yawnnnnnnn. -= Stretch.... Oh! Was I dreaming or watt?

GHH

## FINAL COMMERCIAL CW TRANSMISSION

SAN FRANCISCO - It's finally taps for U.S. ship-to-shore telegraph, drowned out by the high-speed chattering of satellite communications, high frequency radios and e-mail.

Globe Wireless, an 89-year-old California communications company, on Monday sent out what it billed as the last commercial maritime Morse Code message from North America, a terse sign-off that repeated the first words transmitted by the telegraph's inventor, Samuel F.B. Morse, 155 years ago: "What hath God wrought?"

The message, sent from Globe Wireless' KFS Marine station at Half Moon Bay south of San Francisco, marked a muffled end to the U.S. tradition of commercial radio telegraphy, famous for the dots and dashes of Morse Code, company official Tim Gorman said Tuesday.

"The satellite started coming in in the early 1980s, and there were great advances in voice radio and radio telex," Gorman told Reuters. "But there was nothing over all those years that could replace Morse Code for its simplicity and reliability."

Globe Wireless gathered several old-time telegraph operators for a small ceremony marking the event, the gleaming telegraph key now surrounded by banks of computers and video screens used for more modern forms of communications.

"It's a sad event for me, but I know it's for the best," said Dalton Bergstedt, 92, a one-time manager of the Half Moon Bay facility. "It will improve maritime communications (to be) much better than they ever were."

After Morse invented the telegraph, he devised Morse code for use with his new invention. In 1844, testing the new sys-

tem, he telegraphed the words "What hath God wrought?" from Washington D.C. to an assistant in Baltimore.

The telegraph and Morse Code quickly became the backbone of long-distance communications around the globe.

Perhaps the most famous single Morse Code message was the distress call sent by the foundering Titanic in 1912 "Come at once. We have struck an iceberg."

As maritime traffic rose and through two World Wars, the simple telegraph, known as "continuous wave" or "CW" transmission to the experts, remained a spare, cheap and effective means of communicating across vast distances.

"If there's static and you get only half the letters in a Morse Code message you can still make it out, but if you only hear half a conversation, that's no good," said Gorman, who began working at KFS Marine in the late 1970s.

Nevertheless, the last three decades have seen a major shift in maritime communication, and the radio telegraph's fate was sealed when the International Marine Organization, a U.N. agency, ordered commercial ships to replace the telegraph with new technology dubbed the Global Marine Distress and Safety System by February 1, 2000.

Instead of typing out the dots and dashes of the famous "SOS" signal, communications officers on modern ships can simply push a button indicating a specific problem: sinking, capsizing, dead in the water. Morse Code and the radio telegraph are currently used only by smaller ships from developing countries, as well as certain Russian and Chinese vessels, Gorman said.

The Globe Wireless station at Half Moon Bay, as well as other former commercial radio telegraph facilities already taken off line, will now be used for the company's new communications product "GlobeEmail, company officials said.

Gorman said that before the final sign-off, KFS Marine did relay one last telegram from the National Liberty Ship Memorial, the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, in San Francisco Bay to President Clinton in the White House.

"The message was 95 words, and it took me six or eight minutes to copy it," said Gorman, who took down the Morse Code message from the ship. "Then I just transmitted it to the White House via e-mail."

THX to WB2GHH for the Email relay on this.

## RILEY RULES...

For me, the highlight of the Dayton Hamvention was a presentation by Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH from the FCC. Riley is responsible for breathing new life into the FCC's enforcement actions for amateur radio.

Riley described his work to get rules enforcement restarted, some recent enforcement activities, and the technology

available to the FCC. Now, lest you think this is a "Big Brother is watching" kind of story, it is not. In case you haven't noticed, there is a lot of illegal operation on the HF bands and there have been some nasty cases of jamming and interference on VHF. Riley's examples of recent FCC actions received a standing ovation from the packed room.

But Riley also delivered a sobering message. Our bands are sought after by commercial and political interests alike. One example Riley related was how it might be cheaper to use the 80M band as a telephone backbone than to string wires or build microwave relays - something very attractive to 3rd world nations.

We occupy - no, we are privileged to use a resource that is literally valued at many BILLIONS of dollars.

What does this have to do with amateur rules enforcement? Riley related more than one embarrassing moment where a commercial interest played a recording of illegal ham activity in order to make their case that the spectrum is being misused.

Another sobering point - the total number of hams licensed with HF privileges has been declining. Riley described his entry into ham radio as a teenager and the guidance he received from his 'Elmers'. He challenged each of us to be an 'Elmer.' He challenged each of us to upgrade our licenses, help another ham upgrade, and get someone new into the hobby.

Riley Hollinsworth, K4ZDH, keep an ear open for him on the bands. He's out there as K4ZDH just like you and I enjoying ham radio, a true gentleman with a passion for our hobby and a belief that we can and do provide a valuable service. de N2BC