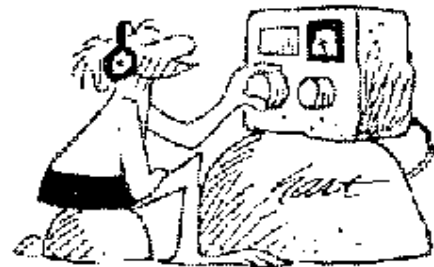


# **BARA** FACTS



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

Established 1919



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**W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station**

**W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99**

**Check out BARA on the web!**

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

## **ELECTION TIME**

Next month is the Christmas Party and during the party we will have our annual election of Officers and Board Members. We've been beating the bushes to flush out candidates and although we have had some success, we still need a few more people who are willing to serve the Club. Any office or position is fair game and anyone who has been a full member of the club for six months or more is eligible to run. Right now the slate stands as follows:

President: No candidate yet

Vice Pres: Rick, N3VKM

Secretary: Elmer, N2PQX

Treasurer: Paul, N2NCB

### Board of Directors:

Jack, WB2GHH

Ron, N2RWK

Tom, W2TRT

Norm, N3YKF

We really need at least one candidate for President and it would be good to have one or more candidates for each office. We have been looking for willing candidates since the summer and with one exception nobody has wanted to serve. Now that's understandable -- sometimes. Family and Work commitments may make service difficult and the "job" does require at least one extra meeting a month. Other clubs and service organizations are having similar problems filling their slates. However, the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is your club and it needs an active membership to continue.

Please give some thought to serving *your* club. Although we do have a core of organizers who make sure that the contests and social activities are carried off, we can't rely on "them" for everything. It's discouraging when the "same old group" is always called on to do the work and it isn't fair to assume their generosity and to impose on their willingness to "carry on".

If you don't think you are a leader or if you are not sure you can do it, think again. You won't be going it alone because the Officers, the Board, the others who carry on will work with you. There is more than enough to do, but sometimes less than enough to do it well.

If you are willing, please call me at 754-3810, contact me via e-mail (eplesnar@stny.rr.com), or give me a call on the radio.

73 DE ED, KB2SCF

## **CONTEST CORNER**

The past few weekends have signaled the start of the contest season. The CQ Worldwide contest was Halloween weekend. Propagation was terrific and the club site provided a great foundation for commanding signals all over the globe. Thanks to Hedy AA2EQ for organizing things this year. The setup team included AA2EQ, N2BC, N3YKF – hanging antennas, doing some minor repairs and lashing the radios to computers.

Thanks to WS2U & N2LZM for donating a monitor. Thanks to N3YKF for bringing his monitor up to the hill-top to get us started. Thanks to WE2K for donating most of the pieces of a new computer. We're looking for another one too.

Operators included AA2MU, AA2EQ, KG2FY ("All-night-Jerry"), K2CM, WS2U, WE2K, N2BC, K2FU, NE2W, KC2FEC. Did I miss anybody?

Some personal observations: Friday night on 10Meters was about the best I've ever heard. I was able to work all

over Asia (Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Asiatic Russia, Palau) generally on the first call – then I realized I had never turned on the amplifier. It simply was not needed!

A great time was had by all. But I observe that there was plenty of available mic time through the weekend. Where were you? Remember, anybody can operate as long as there is a control operator available.

November 6<sup>th</sup> weekend was the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Again, lots of great signals on the band. Ron AA2EQ worked all 79 sections with 800+ contacts. I only worked 64 sections. But I took a different approach... I was trying for a 'clean sweep' with only 79 QSOs – that equates to lots of listening. My 64 sections were with 64 contacts. I would have had more except for having to rescue my family and a broken down car.

There's lots more opportunities for contesting throughout the fall and winter months. Why not check it out?

73 de Bill N2BC

## CLUB SHACK – KEEP IT CLEAN

Some pointers on using the club shack. You cannot leave food or soft drinks in the shack. We have managed to keep the building mouse-free for two years, the key rule is clean up all food!

When we were setting up for the contests, we found a couple dozen cans of soft drinks, probably left over from field day or the club picnic. This is OK in the summer months, but would have made a terrific mess if they had frozen and exploded!

We invite all club members to use the shack and equipment. Just be sure to clean things up when you're done!

## BOOK REVIEW

Between Silk and Cyanide by Leo Marks

Although this might seem a strange title for a book reviewed in a Radio Club Newsletter, the subtitle "A Codemaker's War 1941-1954" adds a bit more detail and the content is fascinating. The author, Leo Marks, joined the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1942 as a "code expert" after first failing to make the cut for the famous group working at Bletchley Park. Bletchley's loss was SOE's gain and Mr. Marks weaves an exciting and sometimes humorous tale of his work in London and the agents and missions with which he was involved.

Because he had overall responsibility for codes, Marks had an overview of activities in many theaters of the war

but his relatively "low" position in the hierarchy of OSS permitted him access to the day-to-day details of activity. Although Marks was not a communications expert, he developed an acute awareness of the danger that surrounded the Morse Operators behind enemy lines and his side of the story will be quite interesting to anyone with an interest in radio.

Overall, readers will find this book a pleasant and diverting read with enough excitement to keep the pages turning and enough history and detail to challenge the mind.

Between Silk and Cyanide (ISBN 0-684-86422-3) is published by the Free Press and lists at \$27.50.

DE KB2SCF

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

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. There is a copy of the banquet menu enclosed in the newsletter. Please keep it handy until the party. If you know you are coming please give me a call, 748-4387, the answering machine is usually on and if I'm not available, leave your name, the number of people attending and what you would like for dinner. It is a busy time of year for all of the board members so if you call by the first week in December you may say us some time calling you. If you don't contact me, you should get a phone call by the second week in December from one of the board members or myself checking on your status.

Once again we are in need of some door prizes. If you have something you feel would be a good door prize please give me a call. Last year we had some great donations. I love my Tupperware travel mug! It doesn't have to be Ham related. There are lots of YL's that like non-HAM stuff. Even the YL Ham's like non-ham stuff! Just remember if you give it as a door prize you can win it back, so make it a good one!

Remember elections are after dinner. We usually give out the door prizes, while we are waiting for the election results. Elections will take place about 8 PM, no sooner. Please remember you do not need to attend dinner to come vote and socialize for awhile after dinner. The Christmas party is always a lot of fun, so I hope to see you there.

73 de Hedy, AA2MU

## JOTA (JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR)

10/16-99 Square Deal Sportsmen Inc.

The excitement of hearing voices from all over the world had 50 + Scouts that attended this event amazed at the power of Amateur radio. Thanks to the help of the following local HAMS - Joe-N2YR, Norm-WB2SYR, Bill-K2MFB, Bill-K2OH, Hedy-AA2MU, Howard-AA2CO, Bob-WS2U, Mark-WA6GHY, Ford-WA2ZSC, Paul-N2NCB, Howard-K2HK, and Pete KB2JZG –

The Scouts and their parents were treated to a day of fun contacting and talking to other Scouts around the world. Using four radio transceiver setups and multiple frequencies, the " Control Operator Hams" made it possible for everyone that attended to talk and exchange information with other scout troops using similar facilities.

An added unplanned feature of the day's event happened when Joe-N2YR and Norm-WB2SYQ decided that they needed a better antenna for the 20 meter band. With wire, parts, some long hand math and help from the scouts and parents, they were soon stringing their homemade dipole antenna between some lofty trees. And...by the way it worked just fine.

Thanks also to Square Deal Sportsmen Inc. for the use of their clubhouse and grounds. The hilltop location in the town of Maine was an excellent place to stage this event. There was plenty of room in and around the clubhouse to handle the necessary radio equipment and number of people attending.

Scout Troop #212 also took advantage of the hospitality extended by SDS Inc. and camped overnight to get an early start on the days activities. Mark-WA6GHY from Cub Scout Pack #30 Newark Valley and Pete-KB2JZG Square Deal Sportsmen Inc. and Binghamton Amateur Radio Assoc. (BARA) member were the co-coordinators of this event.

Submitted By: Pete - KB2JZG



## HALLOWEEN FOLLOW UP

A few months back I wrote about meeting Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH of the FCC at the Dayton Hamvention. Riley spoke about the future of amateur radio and some of the recent FCC enforcement activity.

If you keep tabs on the news from the ARRL you know that Riley has been especially busy on the enforcement side!. Well, Riley has a new title: Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement.

That's "S.C.A.R.E." for us acronym fixated types. Pretty appropriate I would say. Go for it Riley!

DE N2BC



## JEAN SHEPARD K2ORS SK

Thought I would take a moment to note the passing of a truly fine fellow. Jean Shepard, K2ORS, was a writer and broadcaster. A good friend of mine, N0AOM, worked with Jean in the 60's at WOR radio in NYC.

I had the pleasure to listen to Jean as the banquet speaker at the 1985 Dayton Hamvention, then to spend the evening listening to tall tales along with N0AOM.

Jean did a lot of work with the ARRL on promotional material aimed at getting kids interested in ham radio. He could captivate an audience as he related his own experiences as a teenager making his first contact on 40 meters. It was real – just like my own first contact.

73... K2ORS DE N2BC