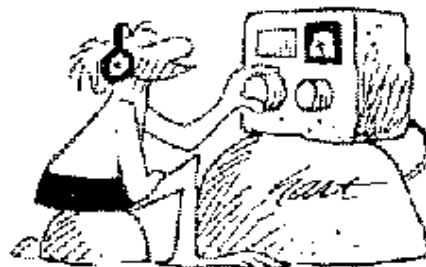


BARA FACTS



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/>

MAKING A CONNECTION

The other day I was leafing through two reprints of QST articles and "catching up" on old technology. One article was from the August 1928 issue, "Overhauling the Transmitter for 1929" by Ross A. Hull; the other was from October 1937, "A Versatile Emergency Transmitter" by Walter J. Stiles. They made interesting reading and provided a nice comparison of how our technology had progressed in less than a decade, but something was tugging at my memory.

Then it hit me: I had come across those names before. I did a little digging and I found out that Ross Hull had written a number of articles on leading edge radio topics until his life was cut short in a tragic accident involving the power supply of an experimental television receiver. Walter Stiles made passing reference to the "flood emergency" of 1936 in the introduction to his article and then described his design. In fact he was a key communications link for Pennsylvania during the emergency and his work earned him a letter of commendation from President Franklin Roosevelt as well as the honor of being the first recipient of the Paley Trophy.

Now in itself there's nothing exceptional about coming across a familiar name or two and certainly Mr. Hull and Mr. Stiles had made names for themselves in Amateur Radio and one might be expected to remember them. But I started thinking about the many other familiar names that I had run across in my reading: The names of Amateurs who had distinguished themselves for technical innovation, for heroic action, for public service, or the force of their personality in promoting Amateur Radio and fostering good will. It's a pretty long list and the Ranks of Our Hobby include many remarkable members. It's an honored company and I have to say for myself that I like being a member of a fraternity whose roll includes so many distinguished names: They give a gentle reminder that besides the fun and excitement and magic of Amateur Radio there is also a tradition that makes it something more than "just" a hobby.

That's something to think about. And maybe it's that something that fuels our passionate discussions of licensing requirements and standards and what it takes to be a "Real" Ham. But let's not forget ourselves in the equation and let's keep the connection alive and uphold the traditions of this Hobby of Ours.

In mentioning service, I'd be remiss if I didn't note that our ARRL Section Manager, Bill Thompson, W2MTA has announced his intention to step down at the end of December. Bill has held the position of Section Manager for Western New York for twenty years and has been a presence on the air, at meetings, and at Hamfests. His service has been appreciated and we thank him and wish him well for the future -- as he has pointed out, he is stepping down as Section Manager, not stepping out of sight. Best wishes, too, to his wife Betty who has been there at his side.

73 FOR NOW, DE ED, KB2SCF

CQ CONTEST

Contest season is rapidly approaching. CQ World Wide will be from 7 PM Friday, October 29 until 8 PM Sunday, October 31, 1999. The bands have been improving over the last few contest seasons. During one of spring contests, we had one of the best scores I remember. We had over 1.2 million points. Here is an opportunity for us to get together and have some fun at the club shack. Some people come to contest, others come to socialize and some come to learn and ask questions. So if you have never contested or have never been on the HF bands here is a great opportunity to see what it is all about. There is something for every level of experience. If you know what you are doing you can teach a newcomer or work stations like crazy. If you are new you can sit and listen for a while, you can type the calls in to the computer program and when you're ready you can take over the mic and work the stations yourself. At this time, we hope to have someone up at the shack most of the contest time. If you are new to contesting or aren't famil-

iar with the equipment at the shack give me a call (748-4387) and let me know what time you are planning to come up and I will try to make sure someone is up there to show you the ropes.

I sure miss seeing some of the faces that got me into contesting to begin with and hope that maybe during this contest some of them will come up to the hill top. You are never to old to contest and don't worry that there isn't room for everyone. I have heard some people say that it is time for the young folks to have some fun. Well believe it or not, the young folks really enjoy having the older folks around!!! Some of you old folks can really pick out those tough to hear calls. Even though my ability to pick up call has improved in the past 5 years it amazes how quickly the people with experience can pick out call signs. The people with years of experience all seem to have tricks up their sleeve for breaking pile ups.

We plan on having two stations running during the contest. So hope to see lots of faces.

PS since it is over Halloween weekend feel free to come dressed up in your costume or to bring the kids in theirs.

73's de AA2MU Hedy

DINE-A-MATE

Dine-a-mate's are for sale. If you buy one before Thanksgiving they are \$15. After Thanksgiving \$18. See Ed NE2W or Hedy AA2MU at the meeting.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

I know it seems early to be talking about the Christmas Party but it is only two meetings away. The plans are in place to have it at the Russell's Steak and Seafood, 1001 W. Main Street, Endicott. This is across from the En-Joi golf course. This is run by the former Surf and Turf owners and the evening will be run in a similar fashion to the past few years. So mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of December.

We are always in need of some door prizes so if you have anything you would like to donate give me a call (748-4387). But remember, you may win it back, so donate something that you like.

73's de AA2MU Hedy

KIDS NIGHT - RECAP

The program for September was "Kid's Night" and although the turnout wasn't as great as we might have liked, the kids who came had lots of fun and there was plenty of pizza, drinks, and snacks for everyone. Our guests watched an ARRL video on the "New World of Amateur Radio" while we had a short meeting and then we broke for refreshments and displays. Bob, WS2U; Ed, KB2SCF; and Jack, WB2GHH helped with the displays. There was CW and Morse Code equipment, a Spark Transmitter, Receivers, Tubes, Microphones, and other "stuff". The club provided a Crystal Radio kit and an introductory book on electronics as prizes and Wlad, N2ZOK, donated a "200 in 1" Project Kit as an extra special prize. Everyone went home happy and thanks to Bob, WS2U for pulling this event together.

PROGRAMS – CHECK IT OUT, LIVE!

Don't forget that the October Meeting Program is a chance to show off your latest treasures and tell your favorite stories. There is nothing specific on the agenda, so if you have something you would like to show off, just bring it along. Maybe we will even have the "Professor" stop by to answer our deep and penetrating questions and set us on the straight and true path to Real Hamdom!

NOVEMBER: Short Circuits. Paul, N2NCB will present electricity from the other side -- circuits that carry a bit more juice than even our legal limit amplifiers.

DECEMBER: The Annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers!

TERM LIMITS & CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME

Well, only kidding, but if you are like me, you're already sick of Hillary, Rudy, Al, George W. (gotta pick on an equal & balanced number ya know).

Well, it's almost "THAT" time for our club too. Exercise your Constitutional rights and run for office! There are two basic requirements:

1. Full member of the club for more than 6 months
2. Willing to have a couple more hours of radio fun each month.

YOUR club is run by YOU. Every year we seem to struggle to fill the 8 elected positions. Let's make this year an exception. Imagine, campaign speeches, soft-money, horrible TV ads, intrigue.

I understand that one fellow considering a run actually made off color remarks on a local repeater. Word is that it's all on tape. FIGHT CORRUPTION! RUN FOR OFFICE!

UPGRADE?

Word on the street is that the VE team is getting lonely. It's up to all of us to continuously improve our skills. Our hobby is designed to foster this – the more you learn, the more 'stuff' you get to do!

Need some help? Easy, give me a call or grab me at a club meeting. I would like nothing better to put together a class – General, Advanced, Extra. GO FOR IT!

Bill N2BC 748-5232 n2bc@stny.rr.com

WHAT'S THIS?



Next time you bump into Bill NK2H or Mel WE2K, ask them what this little sticker doo-dad is all about. Find out what they have been doing for BARA !!!

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR – NOW!

KB2JZG, Pete has finalized plans to have a JOTA event at the Square Deal Sportsmen's club grounds.

JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is an annual event co-sponsored by the BSA and ARRL to promote amateur radio thru Scouting. Amateur radio operators across the USA will assist Scouts to talk to other Scouts and exchange information about themselves and their troops.

The date is Saturday Oct.16, 1999 from 9 am to 4 pm and station operations will be from the Square Deal Sportsmen clubhouse located on RT # 26, 2 miles north of the village of Maine, NY.

Pete needs help providing operators and equipment. He will be providing a Cushcraft R5, 40/80M Dipole and a ICOM 730 TX but would like to have a least three stations running for the days activities. If you can help with equipment or be an operator to assist the Scouts please contact Pete at 785-0666 or mrpetek@aol.com for more information.

HAM RADIO HALLOWEEN:

