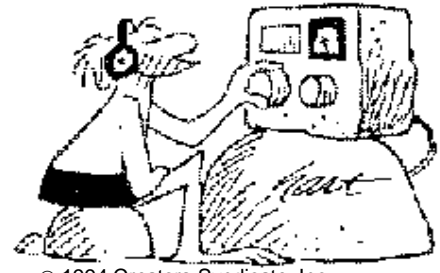


BARA FACTS



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/>

PRESIDENTS CORNER DE WB2GHH

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank all amateur radio operators who participated in the Binghamton 2000 Empire State Games. What a task. What an adventure. Just think, 1000 +/- hours volunteered by amateur radio in support of the games.

Early on, the response was such that I had fears that the ESG would not be staffed sufficiently with communicators. We gave the the New York State Communication Coordinator (Vivian Douglas, WA2PUU) more than a few moments of concern. The ham bushes were beaten for a few weeks by repeated requests on various nets and use of e-mail. Only 30 hams freely volunteered. That compared to the 110 hams estimated as necessary to staff the 30 +/- venues for the games duration. Then the laborious task of developing a telephone call up list of area hams and initiating the calls. Jack, (the other Jack) KB2YEN and Nancy, KF1L now have flattened index fingers (from rapping the telephone pad keys). Their combined asking, pleading, begging, threatening efforts ultimately paid off. Over 100 hams 'volunteered'.

Weeks prior to the games, operational checks were made from each venue into the '73' machine. Difficulties were identified and addressed at SUNY, BCC, MacArthur, Dorchester, Ithaca, Cortland and Owego venues to name a few. How do you get all the venues to operate effectively seemingly on one frequency? When you see Ford (AB2HS), Victor (N2LZM) or Andy (KB2LUV) ask them about the magic used with cross band repeaters, special antennas and the bubble gum that held their systems together. A tiring job well done, and appreciated.

Then the scheduling task started. Identifying communicators for the venues. The 'Viv'(WA2PUU) team inclusive of Jack, YEN and Nancy, KF1L accomplished this task. The schedule letters went out inclusive of instructions pertaining to when and where to pick up

the identification, cap and tee packet (oops on the directions and the needed request for 'the xtra pass'). All in all the problems that were encountered were somehow addressed and most of us were able to get to the ESG opening ceremony at Municipal stadium in the appropriate 'uniform'.

The 'radio team' (the green shirts) made their proud entry following the EMT team (the red shirts). The evening of fun was marked by an awkward 'emergency call' as the contestants and crowds were exiting the stadium. Seems the radio call was unheard by many of us and those few who heard the repeated calls were unable to find a 'red shirt' to respond to the first base line dug-out area for an injured person. A base station copied the chatter and offered to call the city fire medics. Subsequently on site medics were notified and did respond and take care of the injured persons needs. The secret of the evening was the 'volunteer party'. Anyone get to go?

From Thursday through Sunday the base station located at SUNY using the call "W2OW Empire State Games at Binghamton" and the 146.730 repeater was in near continual operation. Amateur radio, originally thought to be used as the 'insurance' backup means of communication was in fact used extensively to remedy numerous administration questions, acquire trainer supplies and yes, report a significant number of medical aid requests for both contestants and coaches.

Without a stretch, during those last days in July, amateur radio served the public needs effectively and professionally. Gratifying was the fact that so many persons were assisted and that in most all cases both those directly assisted and observers to the communications made many unsolicited positive comments on the effectiveness of the communications. You done yourselves proud.

Of course, I also see the benefit of our collective preparation and participation in the ESGs from the emergency preparedness viewpoint. The telephone calls resulted in hearing call signs I haven't heard in years on

the net. Some of us had to blow the dust of the Hts in order to find the PTT. Many of us had to relearn the functions of the Hts. I assume there was a rush to buy extra batteries, earphones and 5/8 antennas. Most everyone, after a short period of operating time, fell into the routine of the controlled net operation using a shortened message format and tactical call signs.

Some of us could have benefitted by the use of the proword "this is" prior to the venue name. This would have resulted in lessened requests from the NCS to repeat locations. Some of us get our mouths in motion before the PTT and repeater picks up. It's a good practice during any net operation to start every communication with the "this is". Also, since many site communications are infrequent and in order to keep 'legal', it is wise to conclude your communication with your licensed call sign. You start the communication with the tactical call sign and end the communication with your issued call sign.

Please don't put that HT back in the drawer. Keep it handy. Check into the 'Early Birds' or STAR or BARA or other nets. Listen up on weather event days for the SKYWARN action. Keep tuned to other Public Service events. You may have been tired after your ESG assignment but I bet you enjoyed it. Let's do it more often. Again thanks to all who directly supported the games via volunteering 1000 +/- amateur radio hours and to their families for understanding the need for the communicator's participation.

CU on the radio. De wb2ghh@arrl.net

GOODIES FOR SALE

Ford Drake, AA2HS, reports he has the following vintage equipment for sale:

- National NC-98 receiver
- Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver
- Military RBG type CHC 46140 receiver (.54 to 31 mHz)
- Roberts 770X Reel-to-reel stereo tape recorder

Contact Ford on either the 146.820 or 146.730 repeaters or give him a call at 754-1214

A 'KID' REMEMBERS BARA FIELD DAYS

(Son John KC2QJR makes a response to Dad's WB2GHH's Field Day Memories)

Dad, I liked the old stories from Field Days but don't forget the radio telescope that used glass lenses & a microphone or the mornings that winter coats in June seemed a good thing to have.

Plus, a few storms with water ponding on the canvas porch top! Not to mention floating the keg & the kids (teenagers) had to drive the parent home (I think Mike knows what I am talking about)!

How's that for a future Field Day News Letter(s)?

Also, the crystal clear view of the night sky & stars or even the B&W TV hooked up to some antennas to receive Syracuse-Scranton-Elmira -Rochester. The Pizza & Food runs!

The operator (Dad) who had an automatic dupe sheet system during the 1970's long before PCs or lap tops (the kids with the large sheets, pencils & erasers). & "The boys enjoying beans and coke for breakfast ("don't tell mom") on the third day at 5:30 AM" was the best tasting cold food from the can! ever!

ANNUAL PICNIC – AUGUST 16

Rain or Shine we're having a picnic!

Continuing the year-old tradition, there will be a mini-hamfest starting at 5PM, bring your goodies. You'll never find a cheaper hamfest – FREE plus we supply the food!

6PM the grills fire up.

Bring a dish to pass (salad / dessert / munchies / etc) We'll provide the dogs, burgers, rolls, fixin's, and the paper goods.

ANNUAL PICNIC and MIN-FEST
AUGUST 16, 2000
BARA SHACK SITE, MILKS ROAD
5PM MINI_FEST
6PM PICNIC
RAIN or SHINE

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB SHACK

From Route 26: Proceed toward the NY / PA border, turn East on State Line Road. Proceed thru the stop sign where State Line merges with Hawleyton Road (after stopping...). Watch for the Town of Binghamton Garage on the left, turn right on Milks Road opposite the garage.

From Binghamton: Proceed South on Pennsylvania Ave or Park Ave. Watch for the Town of Binghamton garage on the right just after Pennsylvania and Park meet. Turn left on Milks Road opposite the garage.

Milks Road: proceed south and UP! as the road crests the hill, there is a driveway off to the left - that's the place!

PICNIC!!! AUGUST 16 – be there!

CHANGES IN CODE TESTING COMING

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 27, 2000--The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has voted to set up revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US. The move at the NCVEC's July 21 meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, comes in the wake of the FCC's December 30, 1999, action to establish 5 WPM as the sole Amateur Radio Morse code requirement.

Under the revised standards, examinees would have to show 25 character-count solid copy on their test sheets or successfully answer seven out of 10 questions of a fill-in-the-blank quiz on the sent text. *The plan would bar the use of multiple choice tests for Morse code testing.*

Morse examinations would specify use of the Farnsworth method, where characters are sent faster than the overall speed and additional spaces added between characters, words and sentences. Farnsworth "character speed" would be in the range of 13 to 15 WPM. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed could be administered only as a special accommodation.

The revised standards also call for a Morse code audio pitch within the 700 to 1000 Hz range.

The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1, but VECs may implement them sooner.



CONTEST CALENDAR

The Y2K contesting season is sneaking up on us! Here are some of the biggies:

- Sept 9-11 VHF Sweepstakes
- October 28 – CQWW SSB DX contest
- November 4 – ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- November 18 – ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
- November 25 – CQWW CW DX Contest
- December 2 – ARRL 160M Contest
- December 9 ARRL 10M Contest
- January 6 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- January 20 VHF Sweepstakes
- January 27 CQWW CW 160M Contest

We have a terrific location, two complete HF stations, a very capable VHF/UHF station and tons of aluminum in the air. USE THE SHACK! These contest are a great way to make HUNDREDS of contacts.