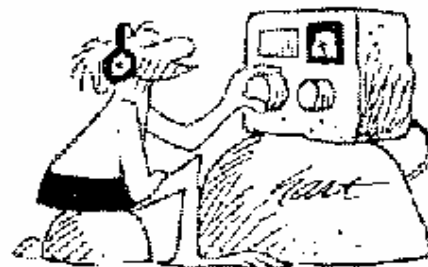


BARA FACTS



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

Well another month has been logged with some interesting contacts – some not on the airwaves. Field day was the major event for the month. A couple beautiful days with some great comradeship, exciting discussion and oh yes some radio contacts. As always field day was full of surprises.

The field day actions afforded me the opportunity to visit a section of the universe (Oakland, Pa) for the first time. Hmmmm. Also met a couple of HAMS for the first time. A number of odd looking antennas were constructed by an equal number of odd looking HAMS. By coincidence both came in odd sizes and shapes. Victor (N2LZM) was technical director. Bob (WS2U) was protector of the property. Malcolm (KC2EOV) and WB2GHH were placed in service as anchors, I wonder why. Antennas went up, except for Bill's (WB8RAE) 160 meter folded dipole that he misplaced in his glove compartment a few years back. Malcolm cranked up his generator and trail contacts were made on 40 meters with 30 minutes to spare.

GHH had trouble loading his "80 meter dipole", marked as such for many years. It was actually a 40 meter dipole. That keen observation was provided by WB2SGS (John Carrington) whose years of delineator spacing experience proved beneficial. Remember my recent story about almost frying a horse during one BARA field day operation. That event was held at the SGS estate. Heck, he may have been the guy who marked the antenna a few decades ago. GHH's expandable 20 foot aluminum mast, whose base was anchored by the front wheel of the car, proved almost unbearable. The weight of the center fed antenna resulted in a rather nice mast curvature. But hey, it stayed up for 22.523 hours.

The crew had some trouble operating on 15 meters. Keen troubleshooting started immediately and resulted in the determination that the transmitter gain control knob was at zero - 15 hours into the operation. There were at

least four stations operating. Everyone who visited the operation had ample chance to make some contacts. Most took advantage of the opportunity. One visitor, Al Pierce (N4VC), a BARA member who vacated the North for Nashville, TN in 1975, dropped by in the late afternoon and accepted the offer to operate 40 meters. When I rolled over at 3 AM I heard him still working the West coast.

You had to see it to believe it. An old dog teaching an even older HAM new tricks. Sammy, the Irish setter would exhaust himself by chasing the ball all over the lot and then go jump in the babbling brook to cool off. Not to miss the opportunity the old ham Frank Scoblick (N2HR), after chasing some contacts retreated, stripped off his boots and cooled his dogs in the babbling brook. Note: Captured on film.

The chow was good. Stromboli, burgers, dogs (not Sammy), spiedies, pizza, salads, coffee, soda and decaf for GHH. Fraternity was great. Side conversations were electrifying. All in all another terrific amateur radio field day activity for the BARA history book. Tired, dirty, blown to the wind but happy to have been able to participate in ONE MORE. I hope I have many more chances.

EMPIRE STATE GAMES, LAST CALL

There still is a need for additional communicators. Any help you can give would be appreciated. Contact Nancy KF1L (723-7656) or Jack Smith KB2YEN (729-7070)

BARA CLUB APPAREL

Found the source, found the artwork, now all we have to do is get an order together for another club jacket and cap buy.

The jackets are black with a lining and gold silk screening of the club logo on the back. Embroidered over the left breast, your first name and call sign. Price \$40.

Black cap with silk screen club logo. Price \$5. What a deal. Sign up at the next meeting.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JUNE

June has come and gone and was a busy month for BARA.

Kids Night

Kids night, which was held on our regular meeting at the Church, was a lot of fun for those who participated. While we could have accommodated a few more kids, the adult turnout was much better than the last couple of Kid's nights. Everyone seemed to enjoy talking with the youngsters and telling them about Ham radio.

Field Day

On June 24 and 25 we held Field Day at my PA. QTH and we were blessed with an ideal weekend. The weather was just about perfect. The only annoyance was a high noise level which was later found to be generated by the coffee pot! We had 29 attendees altogether.

Bill	WB8RAE
Don	N2NON
Kathleen	Harmonic
Bob	WS2U
Rick	N3VKM
Jack	WB2GHH
Paul	K2ABX
Frank	N2HR
Malcolm	KC2EOV
John	KB2SGS
Charley	KC2LCA
Victor	N2LZM
Rob	WB3IOU
Kevin	KC2AMW
Mary	KC2BNY
Allie	Friend
Jerry	KA2WQR
Phyllis	Better Half
Joan	Harmonic
Snuggles	W0OF
Jerry Benson	Visitor
Sandy Benson	Visitor
William Mess	Site Owner
Al	N4VC
Karen	She Who Must Be Obeyed
Gail	Friend
Cathy	Friend
Sammy	W0OF

Some of the highlights were the way everyone worked so well together during setup, a marshmallow roast after

dark, some kids and dogs to make it a real family event, Jack's (WB2GHH) culinary skills exposed, and Malcolm's (KC2EOV) monster generator.

The contacts tallied up this way

40 meters	145
20 meters	13
15 meters	40
10 meters	22
6 meters	1

TOTAL	221
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I want to thank everyone involved for making this a great weekend. Bob WS2U

JULY PROGRAM

We've rounded up a great video from the ARRL, "The Last Voice From Kuwait", this is the story of the last active station in Kuwait just before the invasion by Iraq.

July 19 – be there!

ARISS HOME IN ORBIT!

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 12, 2000

The just-launched International Space Station Zvezda Service Module eventually will become home to the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space. Until the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS--antennas can be installed on the Service Module, however, the initial ham station gear will be installed aboard the Zarya Functional Cargo Block, already in space.

The Zvezda launch paves the way for the first crew to inhabit the ISS. The ISS Expedition 1 crew, headed by US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, is scheduled to be launched in October from Kazakhstan. Accompanying Shepherd will be Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gaidzenko.

If all goes as planned, the initial amateur station hardware will be sent up to the ISS aboard shuttle mission STS-106 in August, and Shepherd and his crewmates will be on the air on 2 meters (FM voice and packet) from the Functional Cargo Block this fall. The initial station will use the existing Sirius antenna on the Functional Cargo

Block. The system is being adapted to support Amateur Radio operation on 2 meters but not on 70 cm.

Current plans call for amateur antennas 2-meter and 70-cm antennas to be installed on the Service Module during a space walk next year. The initial station gear will be reinstalled in the Service Module once the antennas have been fitted.

A Russian Proton-K rocket carried the long-delayed Service Module into orbit today (at 0458 UTC) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Pizza Hut helped defray some of the launch costs, and a large Pizza Hut logo was placed about halfway up the Proton launcher. Zvezda ("star") will be at the heart of the ISS project. It will contain flight controls, waste-disposal facilities, and crew sleeping quarters.

Once in orbit, the unmanned Zvezda will be docked July 26 by computer with Zarya ("dawn") and the US Unity modules launched in 1998. When completed, the International Space Station will comprise dozens of additional modules yet to be built. The completion date is expected to be 2005 at the earliest. The finished seven-story complex will be visible at night to the naked eye.

A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, has been issued for the ISS ham radio station. A German call sign, DL0ISS, also has been issued, and a US call sign has been applied for. An international call sign may eventually be assigned if a call sign block is established for international space stations. ARISS would like to see a common call sign so that all crew members, regardless of nationality, could operate Amateur Radio gear in any part of the ISS without third-party traffic restrictions.

The ARISS team continues to pursue licenses in each of the member countries. A German call sign, DL0ISS, already has been issued, and a US call sign has been applied for.

A primary goal of ARISS is to establish and maintain a schedule of Amateur Radio contacts with schools. In that regard, ARISS will inherit the long legacy of the successful Space Amateur Radio EXperiment. SAREX, a cooperative education effort involving NASA and the ARRL, has allowed students to speak directly to shuttle astronauts and US astronauts aboard the Russian Mir space station via Amateur Radio.

As ISS construction progresses, it's expected that slow-scan TV, various types of amateur TV, and experimental projects eventually will be added. Phase 2 of the ARISS initial station calls for incorporating a German-built digi-talker/speaker-mike, SSTV, and possibly an RF notch filter. Subsequent stages of the ARISS effort call for a transportable station and, ultimately, a permanent station that will include HF through microwave capabilities on

several modes. Details of the permanent station still are being worked out.

For more information visit NASA's ISS web site:

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/assembly/index.html>

PSK31 – GIVE IT A TRY!

Based on an idea by SP9VRC and developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX a new Amateur Mode called PSK31 is emerging. Instead of keying using Frequency Shift, FSK, this mode uses Phase Shift Keying, PSK. It uses an alphabet similar to Morse which gives a text speed of about 50 wpm.

Experience to date shows that even without an error correcting algorithm, copy is as good as any and better than most at low signal levels. It is a particularly attractive mode since it requires no lock condition or handshaking with a second radio station, and roundtable QSO's with more than two stations can be enjoyed.

Since the bandwidth is equal to the baudrate and the chosen baudrate is 31.25 we can now use a bandwidth of 31Hz and narrow CW filters can be employed. This is good news because it can work at much lower signal levels in the crowded digital bands. The normal bandwidth of other modes is in the order of 300-500Hz.

It uses the Sound card of the computer instead of a TNC and the software can be downloaded from:

<ftp://det.bi.ehu.es/pub/ham/psk31/>

<http://www.aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html>

<http://www.kender.es/~edu/psk31.html>

<http://www.n2ty.org>

The calling frequencies that have been decided upon for the time being are:

1838.15kHz, 3580.15kHz, 7070.15kHz, 7035.15kHz

14070.15kHz, 21080.15kHz, 28070.15kHz and 28120.15kHz. and

10137.15kHz, 18100.15kHz and 24925kHz suggested for the WARC Bands.

For more information, get in the internet, fire up your favorite search engine and search on PSK31 – you will get over 3000 hits! There's tons of free software out there. There are even small utilities to send digital pictures!

Give this a try.

July 2000

EMPIRE STATE GAMES, LAST CALL

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