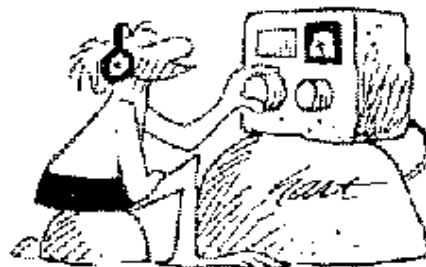


BARA FACTS



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, now that we have a number of hamfests under our bonnets, what next? Kid's night followed by Field Days. When? Kid's night at our next meeting. Field Days, as always, the last full weekend in June.

Kid's night has been and can be a wondrous event. This year's plan is to have 'the kids' and their 'bigger kid' hosts explore the wonders of the propelled electron in an ante room while the remainder of the attendees perform the necessities of a legal meeting. As always, a number of actions must be addressed in order to keep BARA moving along its historic path. Then, over an expanded refreshment selection we'll all get together to share a few stories and calories and hear insightful impressions from the kids. So plan now to round up the kids, the grand kids, the neighborhood kids and have them bring you to the meeting on June 21st.

Field Days. What are amateur radio field days? The local amateur radio uneducated might conjure up thoughts of the Apalachin, Silver Lake or Johnson City field day events. Well, not exactly, but there are similarities.

Tents? Yes, BARA has tents. One person, two person and the big, big tents - up to four person tent. Noisy equipment? Yes, the generators are noisy. Good Food? Well, we have - food. Wild animals? Yes, During the second day after an over night of operating, some "hams" have been identified as wild. High wire acts? You betcha. How else do you think those antennas get in the trees or up those poles. First Aid demonstration? No. At BARA field days first aid its always the real thing. Fireworks? Only when an attempt is made to refill the generator without first cooling it off. Entertainment? Yes we are. The current generation (pun) of hams consider field days an only another contest. It is just that. But are we all aware that all contests, and especially field days demonstrate and tests emergency communication operating skills.

Think about it. Excluding the field day contest which is specifically designed to 'test' emergency communication elements, all other contests, to varying degree, requiring planning, documentation and operating skill to make 'that' contact. Unknowingly the different rig, the new location, the tweaking, antenna alignments, "more power," the XYL voice (or imitation thereof) are all factors tried to making that contact.

The same elements are variations required to 'make that contact' in an emergency situation. Why hasn't there more participation in field days over the last few years? Is it the "I don't have the time" or "I don't want my rig blown up" or "I don't know how, when or where" or "I'm to old and can't do that anymore" or "my health now...." excuse. Any and all of the above are valid reasons - for some of us - but not all of us.

Personally, some of my fondest memories of amateur radio and family are associated with field day activities. The stories, the tales around the camp fires. The bacon, eggs, toast and hobo coffee never tasted so good - anywhere. The boys and I being wakened by a fantastic thunder and lightning storm and hunkering down in the tent. The boys enjoying beans and coke for breakfast ("don't tell Mom") on the third day at 5:30 AM. The horse entanglement in the feed line and radials of the vertical antenna. The need to build an antenna at midnight and finding enuf stuff for a windom that still survives 20 years after the fact. Running a 'for real' emergency NCS operation from a field day tent. The two meter cubicle quad operation out of the back of a pickup truck. Attempting to communicate with a station on CW on 440 subsequently to find out it was the Air Force Radar then at Red Rock, Pa. The Blue Nun sentry at the generator. The arguments as to who would operate on what bands in which of the eight transmitter locations on the hill - honestly.

Unfortunately those days and many of those people are gone forever. The memories last. You have an opportunity to generate some memories of your own the last weekend of June. You won't regret your attempt to do so.

FIELD DAY IT'S TIME !

On June 24, 2000 we will be holding Field Day at My Dad's farm in Oakland, PA. We will have the run of the whole 85 acres of which about ½ are wooded. There is a creek (if it doesn't dry up), a beaver pond, and plenty of room to put up antennas and camp out. There will be soda, coffee, hamburgers and hotdogs. Traditionally there have been a few dishes to pass that have been brought that help round out our diets a little. On Saturday evening (weather permitting), we will have a campfire on which to cook hotdogs. The most important thing to bring is yourself. All who wish to be will be put on the air. We expect to activate some newly upgraded hams and to hopefully put some youngsters on the air for the first time also. Bring the whole crowd and make a family campout weekend out of the 2 days. Dogs and cats are welcome too. If you have any questions, suggestions, equipment to bring, call Bob Mess at 777-6039 or email me at rmess@binghamton.edu

What you need to bring:

- 1 Bug repellent, we're near a pond.
- 2 Something warm to sleep in, it gets cold at night even on very warm days.
- 3 Toys, we don't have much for kids to play with.
- 4 Any medicine that you are on.
- 5 Feel free to bring any equipment, antennas, wire, connectors, etc that you think might be useful. We will have

several stations to use, but the more the merrier.

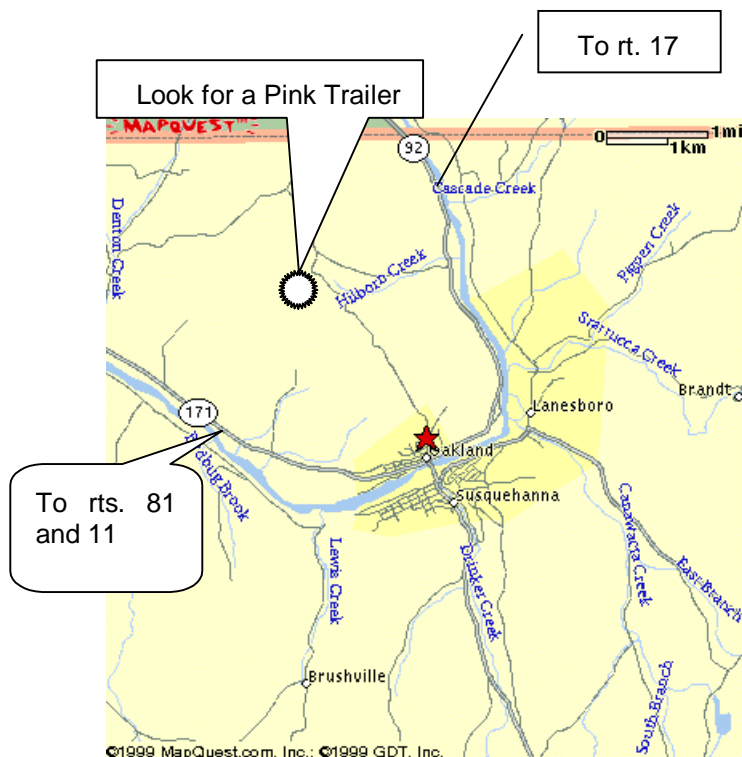
DIRECTIONS:

From Binghamton: Take either Rt. 81 or Rt 11 to Great Bend. Take Rt. 171 East for approximately 9 miles. The first stop sign that you will come to is in Oakland. Turn left, you are now on Westfall Ave. Go approximately 3 ½ miles. When the pavement ends, you are there.

From Windsor: take Rt. 79 toward Susquehanna. At the state line it becomes Rt. 92. The first stop sign you come to is in Oakland. Turn right. You are now on Westfall Ave. Go approximately 3 ½ miles. When the pavement ends, you are there.

If you get to the area and need directions, we will be monitoring 146.73. Also if you get near and need directions, ask how to get to the Canawacta rod and gun club, which is about 1 mile further up the road.

Setup starts at 10AM Sat 6/24. We go on the air at 2PM for 24 hours



BROOME COUNTY ARES NEWS

The following people have been appointed Assistant ECs:

- Ford Drake AB2HS Public Service
- Jerry Smith WA2QEL RACES Liaison
- Mike Carr KF2MH Broome County SKYWARN Co-ordinator
- Diane Carr N2SRE Broome County ARES Net (BCARES) Net Manager

For those of you that don't know about it, the BCARES net is one the 146.13/73 repeater Monday nights at 7:30 p.m.. It runs every Monday night except in the summer months (June, July, August). Diane is planning on the first Monday during these months. Net Control stations are always in need. Contact Diane on the 146.13/73 repeater.

As you can see in the above, WA2ZSC has now become AB2HS. Many more of you have recently upgraded and possibly changed call signs. If you have, please email me @ kb2yen@arri.net with the changes (new license class and/or call sign, changes to bands and modes you now have capability (equipment) to operate

May 2000

on and whether the equipment can operate without commercial power, primary ARES interest (disaster communications, public service events or both), NTS nets you monitor). If you do not have email capability, I will be at the June meeting with ARES applications. If you are not an ARES member don't forget to pick up an application.

I also am looking for a person to accept the position of AEC NTS Liaison. Also looking for a person with Packet Radio experience to be AEC Packet Radio Coordinator. If you have any interest in these positions, please email me or see me at a meeting or catch me on the 146.22/82 or 146.265/865 repeaters.

Look for information on the fall SET here soon.

PS I am still working on the Emergency Plan and Operating Procedure.

Jack Smith KB2YEN BCEC

EMPIRE STATE GAMES

As many of you know, the Empire State Games are being held in Binghamton this year. The headquarters will be at Binghamton University. Amateur radio communications between headquarters and the more than 29 venues will be used for special needs, safety, and emergencies.

Nancy Kirch, KF1L, is the Binghamton Host Chairperson for these communications.

The games will be held from July 27 thru July 30. Opening ceremonies will be held at Binghamton Municipal Stadium on the evening of July 26.

To see a list of the venues, go to www.empirestategames.org. You will also find the sports listed, of course.

All communications will be via 2 meter handhelds (no mobiles), therefore you must have a 2 m HT to participate. The net will operate from 7 am to 10:30 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and from 7 am to 3 pm on Sunday. A shift consists of from two (2) to five (5) hours and you can work from one to three shifts a day.

All working amateurs receive a special T-shirt and cap, green in color (doctors, EMTs, and hams are color coded), and an ID badge which admits you to all events to work or visit. You will also receive one Master Pass for a family member or friend (value = \$10+).

Competition hours vary greatly. For example:

Boxing is always held in the evening.

Some events are only held on certain days.

Others have split times throughout the day and evening. Therefore flexibility with the hours you sign up for is important if you desire a particular sport. If you do, please note the fact on the application below. The schedulers will make an effort to see that you get at least one scheduled shift at that location if it fits into your time structure.

It is important that you get your application in by June 24 (June 22 if you are e-mailing the info). This is because it can take more than a week to get the scheduling done and this will be accomplished the last week of June. You will receive a letter the week of July 10 stating your assignment time(s) and all instructions (frequencies, net procedures, etc.). Final instructions and ID packets will be Wednesday July 26 as explained in the above letter.

Questions should be addressed to:

Vivian E. Douglas WA2PUU

ESG Amateur Radio State Communications Coordinator, Phone: 315-469-0590 ANYTIME or via or e-mail ragsonline@hotmail.com

Or to Nancy Kirch KF1L, Phone: 607-723-7656

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To sign up via Email, provide the following information to [kb2yen@arrl.net](mailto:kb2yen@arrl.net):

- Name and call sign
- Address
- Phone home and work
- Days and hours you are available, Thurs Fri Sat Sun and either morning, afternoon, or evening and times, i.e. 7am to 11 am or 7 pm to 10:30 pm.
- Can you be scheduled for ALL times indicated ?
- Do you have any restrictions?
- Comments/explanations: (sport desired here if any)
- T-shirt size M L XL XXL

Jack Smith KB2YEN

Broome County EC