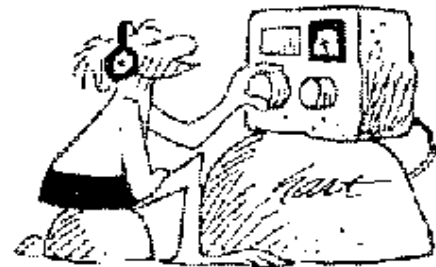


BARA FACTS



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/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Do any of you believe that all things that happen do so for a purpose? Each happenstance is part of a master plan. Well, here is a series of happenstance that I certainly believe had some extra guidance.

Most recently my mother in law, became a resident in one of the near dozen local nursing homes. The unexpected residency caused family concern.

The kids and grand kids paid a visit to the QTH to check on "Grandma O's" welfare. The crowd at the QTH made a shambles of our usual weekend church schedule. The XYL would usually catch the Saturday 5:15 PM Mass while I would roll out and be at the Sunday 7:30 Mass. That way I have enough time to return to the QTH grab a cup of coffee and just make the NYS RACES net (3993.5 kHz) at 9 AM. This particular weekend, with all the commotion, we figured on catching the "last chance Mass" at 5 PM on Sunday.

Early Sunday afternoon, the XYL and daughter (KE4LIH) were at the nursing home. The XYL called at 2 PM to inform me that there was going to be a Mass at the nursing home at 2:30 PM. What a deal, I'll be able to have a visit with Mom and meet my church obligations at the same time.

I arrived at 2:35 PM went directly to the large meeting room. The service was already in progress. Immediately I knew things weren't as they should be. In front of the congregation of chairs and wheel chairs was the reverend. A female reverend. OOPS, I knew I was in the wrong place. Well, not exactly. I spotted Mom, the XYL and daughter seated to one side. They motioned that they were saving me a seat. I sat down and was given a hymnal and entered into song. We shared a few chuckles and comments. The "Mass" turned out to be a Protestant service, Methodist I think.

As the service was concluding (yes we stayed) I got a nudge from the XYL. She called my attention to a per-

son we both know. There on the opposite side of the room was Mrs. Harley Milks (senior). I made my way over to her after the service.

Mrs. Milks it turns out is a resident in the senior living apartments associated with the nursing home. She seemed in very good health. When she informed me of her relatively poor eyesight I attempted to convince her that I was still the 150 pound young man with a full head of red hair that Harley used to call "The Irishman." Guess what. Mrs. Milks eyesight wasn't that bad.

We reminisced about her visits to the hill top with cake or cookies during field days. She recalled how she and Harley and their children would go to the hilltop to watch television. I recall Harley telling me about how he would string out the zip cord from his house (1000 feet+/-) to the hilltop. The TV operated even though the measured voltage was only 85 vac.

Reception was so good, Harley decided to build "the shack" for watching TV. Playing "radio" from the shack came much later.

Have you ever taken notice to the shack flooring? Its rather thin. Why? Because it's the salvaged bowling lanes from the old - old State Street Bowling alley. Mrs. Milk's was curious if "the boys" were still using the hill top. I indicated most assuredly that "the boys" and now "the girls" were making fine use of the location. She seemed very pleased to hear that. She said we would always be welcome.

We had a very nice visit. I certain both of us truly enjoyed this chance meeting. (continued Page 2)

AA2VX, SK

Mike Pritchett, AA2VX, recently passed away. Mike was a BARA member – often joined us under the tree for BS sessions during the donut break at club meetings. Mike was also a regular on the Early Birds. 73 Mike.

So back to my original premise. Do you believe all things happen for a purpose. I do. Who controlled our random selection of that nursing home? Who controlled my presence at that church service? Who controlled the presence of Mrs. Milk's at the same facility and at that particular church service? Was it HE? And if it were HE might HE have been nudged by a soul named Harley. Who else would have set the stage for "The Irishman" to

participate at both a Protestant and Catholic church service on the same Sunday. Yes, I made it to the "last chance Mass." Do you hear that giggle?

WB2GHH

FIELD DAY PLANS!

Here it is almost June and time for Field Day. This year we are going back to Susquehanna (Oakland actually). About 10 years ago we had Field Day at my family's farm and had a great time. There are 85 acres, a pond, a stream (unless it dries up), woods, and plenty of room for camping.

Bring the kids, the dog, your in-laws and we will put them on the radio, go for some hikes, and generally have a good outdoor family weekend.....

Bob WS2U

Editor's note: Field Day is always the last full weekend (of rain) in June – that's June 24/25 by my Y2K calendar.

NY GUARD LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

WB2GHH has received a letter from Maj. Bennett C. Gardiner of the NY Guard in Binghamton. The Guard is part of the Army and Air National Guard. If you're under 55, healthy, and interested, see Jack (he's at least healthy & interested).

FCC ENACTS INTERNET MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet, especially after the Communications Decency Act provisions regarding Internet content regulation were stricken as violating the U.S. Constitution, has decided instead to require a Morse code requirement for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service and the general belief that its requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam and other technical requirements, has kept the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet

users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal.

Persons wishing to develop a web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language.

Persons wishing to develop web sites that have actual content, as compared to just links to other web sites, must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test, demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English.

The FCC, which lacks budgetary authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants.

Editor's note: The above information was deemed too important to wait for the April 1, 2000 issue. Any statement of fact is purely coincidental.



MARCH MEETING

The next meeting will feature our annual SKYWARN training session. I understand there is an all new program which promises to be most interesting.

Come to the meeting and get up to spec on spotting and describing some of the nifty weather events sure to be heading our way this year!

Y2K BUDGET

You know... running our club is a big business! This is the detail behind where the club's money is planned to come from & how we're going to spend it.

INCOME

50/50	\$170
DUES	\$1450
FUND RAISING	\$1554
OTHER INCOME	\$100
TOTAL	\$3274

EXPENSES

BANK CHARGE	\$25
DONATION FOR ROOM	\$100
PICNIC	\$80
INSURANCE	\$300
MAINTENANCE ON SHACK/REPEATER	\$400
P.O. BOX	\$44
NEWSLETTER AND STAMPS	\$700
SHACK LEASE	\$600
REPEATER TELEPHONE	\$315
QSL MANAGEMENT	\$60
ELECTRIC AT THE SHACK	\$250
FIELD DAY	\$100
HOLIDAY DINNER	\$250
KID'S NIGHT	\$50
TOTAL	\$3274

HAMFEST EXPENSES \$2500

Some explanation.... The **Income** and **Expenses** categories are for the day-to-day operations of the club. The **Hamfest Expenses** category represents the 'seed' money for the many expense elements associated with the running of the yearly hamfest (leasing the space, prizes, advertising and printing, etc etc). The \$1554 'Fund Raising' item in income represents the minimum planned / hoped for 'profit' from the hamfest. That means the hamfest needs to make back it's \$2500 seed money PLUS an additional \$1554 to keep the club operating in the black.

Are you helping out with the hamfest??

TALK-UP THE BARA HAMFEST !!

May 6, 2000

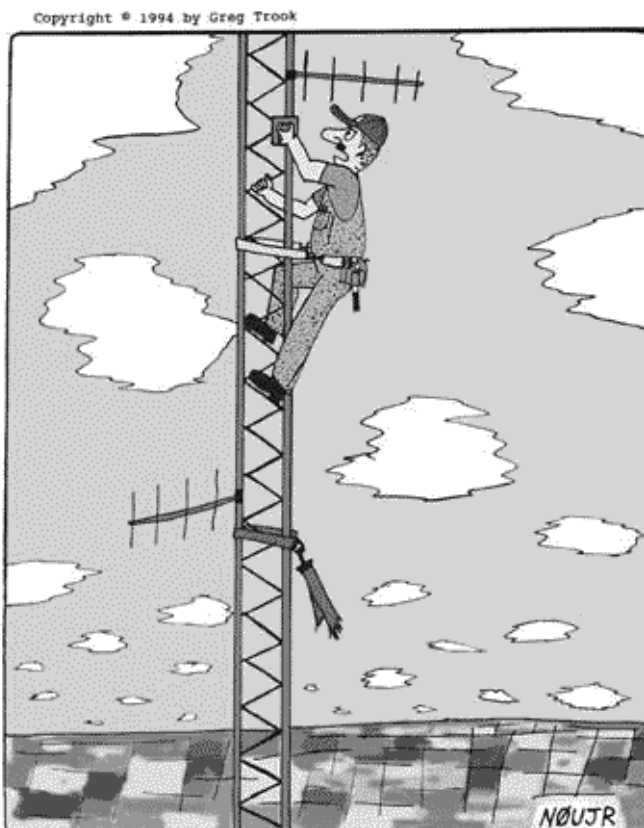
Marvin Park Owego, NY

ENFORCEMENT STEPPED UP

In recent weeks the FCC has levied some mighty hefty fines... \$20,000 in Florida and \$17,000 in Texas, both related to malicious interference. The FCC is taking inappropriate operation very seriously! Read the details online at www.arrl.org.

HANG ON TO THAT PIECE OF PAPER!

The new license structure is to be implemented on April 15. There have been some minor changes in the area of 'credit' for previously passing the 5WPM code element. If you currently hold a Novice or Tech Plus license, hang on to that license it may be your only proof of passing the 5WPM. Why? Well, with the new record-keeping structure in the FCC's database, there is no delineation between Tech and Tech Plus. What this means is that the FCC is not going to TRACK the difference, ie the 5WPM element. One sure way to prove you have passed the code element is to have a license issued prior to 4/15/2000. The ARRL is asking the FCC to track the code data, but I would not hold my breath!



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"