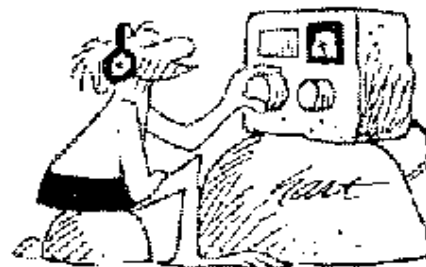


# **BARA** FACTS



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**

Well it has come and gone. If you missed it, you really missed a good one. No, I'm wrong. You missed an EXCELLENT one. To what do I refer? The BARA Y2K HamFest of course. This year chaired by Hedy AA2MU, and as always, counseled by the all accounting Paul N2NCB.

What a beautiful day. What a beautiful crowd. What a truly social event. Surprises this year? Of course. The illnesses resulting from tainted water at the Washington County fair last year resulted in a state health department directive that required shut down of drinking water wells within 200 feet of a barn. Guess what, the fair grounds site met the requirement. Hedy had planned to have bottled drinking water available and appropriate signs posted. We thought we would have well water for the big flush, etc. No way, hose A. It also meant no water for flushing operations. Thus no 'in house johns'. Hedy acquired the three 'phone booths' (as a very young N2KIW once called a similar facility at the W2OW site). Two of the 'booths' had running water (bottled) for post event wash ups. By next year, the governmental entity (town /village) will have a municipal water line brought into the site.

I made it a point to greet the vendors upon their arrival. I also made the rounds on Saturday afternoon as they prepared for their exit. All vendors spoke very favorable as to the arrangements and accommodations and the results they achieved. The food vendor basically sold out. He couldn't get over the fact that people at 8 AM wanted hamburgs and speedies. I told him that 8 AM was noon time for those persons who started their adventure at 4 AM.

This fun day was made possible by the efforts of a number of BARA club members as well as non members. For me to try and list all who participated would assuredly get me in trouble by me missing a name or call

or two. Who made arrangements? For what? How bout the town and or village permits, use of the 4 H building, the school, the VE team, the water, the 'johns', the food, the insurance certificates, the table guy, the dumpster guy, the sound guy, the tickets, the vendors, the flyers, the e-mail 'mailing', the Binghamton Press ad, the TV ad, the Syracuse Press story, the highway directional signs, the talk in station, the set up, the tear down, the clean up, the ticket takers and on and on? It was 'them.'

Unfortunately relatively few in number but those few had the determination to "pull it off one more time." To all of 'them' I truly want to thank you for your dedication, knowledge and energies that made the day happen.

So when you see 'them' inclusive of Hedy and especially Paul and Bob, Bill, Ron, Ed, Tom, Jerry, Victor, Don and others - tell them thanks - they deserve it.

Jack WB2GHH

## **THEM**

I hope you are reading the newsletter in sequence, if you skipped Jack's opener, go there now!

Welcome back... The following list of folks was collected by N2NCB as the folks came and went helping out on the hamfest, and most importantly as Paul kept his finger on the pulse of the hamfest activities.

Everybody should say thanks to the key THEMs, Hedy AA2MU for being the official Chair of the hamfest this year (and for bringing back Hawaii-style weather for our Saturday), and to Paul N2NCB for keeping tabs on just about everything leading up to, during, and after the hamfest. THANKS!!!

Other guilty parties include: N2RWK, W2TRT, WB2GHH, WS2U, N2YZI, KG2FY, KB2SCF, N3VKM, N2MGM, N2LZM, AA2EQ, KB2YEN, NK2H, WE2K, N2NON, N2HR, K2FU, KC2LCA, KE2OG, K2MFB, K2DLT.

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## NEW YORK STATE EMPIRE STATE GAMES NEED YOU

The NYS ESG volunteer registration forms are anticipated to be available any day now. Remember that you must be registered in order to acquire the necessary credentials and communicator green "T" shirt for the events. Listen up to the Early Bird and STAR nets for date and time for registration of communicators. The task is to provide communications from the venue manager to other ESG officials over a four day period in late July.

Jack GHH

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## FIELD DAY, AN EMERGENCY TRAINING EXERCISE

The last full weekend in June will see the Mess farm-land in Oakland, PA come alive with BARA communicators, and others, to sharpen their emergency communicator skills while having a grand ol camp out fun for all time of it.

As Bob, W2SU says bring the kids, the lids, the spouse, the mouse, the dogs (hot, cold and or alive) , the balls, the bats, the kites whatever. And as always in the country atmosphere, something to pass (besides the balls). A fun time to be had by all. And oh ya, we do intend to make a log full of contacts under emergency conditions.

Let Bob know if you're planning to attend all or any of the field day activities by dropping him a note at [rmess@binghamton.edu](mailto:rmess@binghamton.edu).

Jack GHH

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## MAY MEETING PROGRAM

The May program will be ... Dick Farman K2QR presenting the why and hows on RF Exposure-Station Evaluation.

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## HAM RADIO PSALM

For the old equipment enthusiast, from Dec. 1928 QST  
- with a little editing

Radios that glow is my hobby; I shall want no other.

It maketh me to stay home at night,

but it leadeth me into much trouble.

It draweth on my purse -- I go into paths of debt for its name's sake.

Yea, though I understand it perfectly, sometimes it will not oscillate.

The different kinds of tubes -- they comfort me;

Yet it will not work in the presence of ss devices.

Though I anoint the coils with shellac, the tube may spilloth over.

Surely the radio bug won't follow me all the days of my life.

For if it does I will dwell in the House of Poverty forever!

Mike Warren-W5MAZ

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## WHERE'S MY UPGRADE?

NEWINGTON, CT, May 12, 2000—

Despite an infusion of temporary help, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators continue struggling to process the huge influx of exam session paperwork resulting from Amateur Radio "restructuring" that went into effect April 15.

"How do y'all spell 'busy'?" asks ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, who, along with his staff, has been putting in a lot of overtime and weekend hours lately.

Fred Maia, W5YI, cites a similar situation for applications filed via his W5YI-VEC, where he's added a couple of temporary employees. "We've got mail buckets everywhere," he said today from his Arlington, Texas, headquarters. Maia said the W5YI-VEC is busier than it's ever been.

Jahnke and Maia urge amateur applicants to refrain from calling or e-mailing either their respective VECs or the FCC to inquire as to the progress on an individual application. "If we respond to the phone calls and e-

mails," Maia said, "we can't handle the processing. We're going as fast as we possibly can."

Maia believes that a lot of the impatience in the amateur community has come from those wanting to either file a vanity call sign application or to upgrade their Volunteer Examiner status. Neither can be accomplished without a license grant from the FCC reflecting the applicant's upgraded class. In a few cases, applicants are awaiting first-time amateur licenses and do not even have interim operating authority.

With help from three temporary workers "who will be with us for the duration," Jahnke says, the ARRL-VEC now has caught up with the paperwork backlog from pre-April 15 test sessions. The ARRL-VEC served nearly 35,800 applicants between January 1 and April 14. That compares with slightly fewer than 11,400 applicants for the same period in 1999. Jahnke says a large portion of the roughly 24,400 difference represent applicants submitting paperwork for processing on or after April 15, when the new rules went into effect.

The ARRL-VEC continues to deal with the nearly 16,000 applications logged in from April 15 through April 25, most of them from April 15 test sessions.

Jahnke points out that while VE teams have 10 days to ship session paperwork to ARRL-VEC, the transit time can be as long as a week. Boxes of applications continue arriving to be logged in.

"At this point, Jahnke says, we're just wrapping up the April 18 receipts and moving on to April 19 and 20.

Arriving paperwork is scrutinized carefully, session results are recorded, and individual applications keyed in and sent on electronically to the FCC. Most applications are granted overnight, although it can take another day or so--assuming there are no additional problems. Jahnke says the care ARRL-VEC takes in checking VE session paperwork and applications for "completeness, accuracy and integrity" pays off in avoiding potential problems or questions from the FCC down the road.

"We're still saying at least 3-1/2 weeks from exam to FCC grant," Jahnke says, "including transit time from the VEs to us."

Maia cites a similar number. He said it's taking about three weeks "from receipt to filing" and says that license grants applied for via W5YI-VEC are taking up to a month from the exam date. "Right now, we're filing sessions received at W5YI-VEC April 25," he said.

Applications logged in at ARRL-VEC for processing since January 1 indicate that nearly 8600 new Generals and more than 6700 new Extras will be hitting the air-

waves as a result of upgrades processed via ARRL-VEC alone. Factoring in applications handled by other VECs suggests a total of more than 13,000 new Generals and more than 10,000 new Extra class hams--and those numbers undoubtedly will continue to increase.

Maia says he doesn't expect to see the end of the tunnel until July.

As ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recently put it: "Amateur Radio is on a roll!"

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## BARA NEWSLETTER

Input from the general membership has been a little light for the past few months... Do you have an idea for an article? Better yet, something you've written?

Send input to the newsletter to [n2bc@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com), or give me a call on 748-5232

THX, Bill N2BC

(now I'll go looking for something to fill the rest of the page!)

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## DR. SEUSS' TECHNICAL WRITING

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, and the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel on another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall, and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, to your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk, then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM. Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your mom.