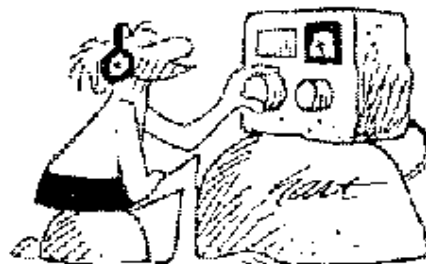


# **BARA** FACTS



Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
PO Box 853  
Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



© 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

**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**

I find it hard to believe that the year 2000 is already two-thirds behind us. Are you ready for the millennium change at the end of this year? The Simulated Emergency Test is behind us (Oct 7), the CHOW CROP WALK is next (Oct 15) followed by Jamboree On The Air JOTA (Oct 21). A trip to the Pumpkin Farm has to be scheduled before the CQWW at the end of October.

I know that in a short time the temperature will drop and the snow will fly. Just think antenna repair work season is almost upon us.

Some 'new' blood exercised their brain cells in preparation for this year's SET. The SET was conducted by some of the 'old' guard, a couple of new faces (calls), the Broome County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services and a representative from the American Red Cross.

All in all the SET allowed local emergency response communication game plans to be dusted off and updated and a number of western county emergency shelter locations to be 'tested' for effective communications. Unfortunately the number of communicators who responded by accepting assignments to shelter locations or responding to roll calls was disappointing. Our preparedness response demonstrated to observing agency personnel was embarrassing.

I thank those few who attended the SET planning sessions and participated in the SET. Of the hundreds of HAMS in the coverage area of Broome County repeaters on which the "SET in process" was announced I find it hard to believe that all HAMS were out of repeater shout between 8:50 and 12:15 on Saturday.

The simulated BARA aircraft crash, a section of the SET, resulted in simulated ELT transmissions (coded radio transmissions from a downed aircraft locator beacon) from a not simulated cold and sleety knob in the Town of Binghamton. I congratulate Hedy, AA2MU with tracking down the 'fox' in approximately 1.5 hours followed shortly

thereafter by Marv, N2ZMN and LASTly by Paul, N2NCB with Lee KC2FWT (who unfortunately road with Paul).

The New York State RACES net on Sunday mornings at 9 AM on 3993.5 is also lacking in attendance from the Broome County area (Region IV). This net, open to general class and higher licenses, may sound a bit intimidating but it really isn't. A number on new HAMS from other areas have recently joined the net. So don't be shy, listen up and when the NCS calls for check ins from Region IV (four) the proper response is your call sign (Phonetically) followed by "no traffic" and "over."

How important is emergency communications preparations and planning? Well, a speeding pellet missed the Binghamton area (again) during the early morning hours of October 8, 2000. Heavy snows in Chautauqua County resulted in power and some communication loss in five townships for a time yet to be determined.

Gee, I wonder if THEY were prepared -- as well as YOU and I are to make an EFFECTIVE and TIMELY communication response to aid our families and our neighbors? CU on the radio.

de [wb2ghh@arri.net](mailto:wb2ghh@arri.net)

Picture below, Foxhunt crew at Jackson Park. Left to right: Hedy AA2MU, Bill N2BC, Jack WB2GHH, Marv N2ZMN, Lee KC2FWT. Hiding in shame behind the cam-



era is Paul N2NCB.



Above, the crew at SET HQ. Left to right: Hedy AA2MU, Jerry WA2QEL, Jack KB2YEN, Marv N2ZMN, Ford AB2HS, again hiding behind camera Paul N2NCB.

---

## FROM THE EC

I would like to thank those that participated in or just checked in the annual SET on Saturday 7 October, including the Broome County Sheriff's Department and the Office of Emergency Services. Special thanks are due to the following for their assistance in the planning and organization of the event: AB2HS, N2NCB, WA2QEL, WB2GHH. And a great big thanks to N2BC for loaning the equipment for and setting up the "fox hunt".

73 Jack Smith KB2YEN

---

## HEARD IN THE SET...

The following folks participated in the SET – where were YOU?

AA2MU, N2ZMN, AB2HS, WA2QEL, KB2YEN, WB2GHH, KC2FWT, N2BC, N2NCB, AA2EQ, KG2FY

---

## TWO HAMS ABOARD AS *DISCOVERY* LIFTS OFF ON 100TH SHUTTLE MISSION

CAPE CANAVERAL, FL, Oct 12, 2000--After delays due to bad weather, a possibly problematic retracting bolt, a sluggish valve and a halted countdown to remove a stray tool, the shuttle *Discovery* lifted off from Cape Canaveral Wednesday evening. The launch was the 100th of the space shuttle program.

Two Amateur Radio operators are aboard *Discovery*. They include Mission Commander Brian Duffy, N5WQW, and Mission Specialist Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, who will represent NASDA, the Japanese Space Agency. No Amateur Radio activity is scheduled for this mission, however. Others aboard *Discovery* will include Pilot Pam Melroy, and mission specialists Leroy Chiao, Bill McArthur, Jeff Wisoff, and Mike Lopez-Alegria.



STS-92 Mission Commander Brian Duffy, N5WQW, wearing a training version of the shuttle full-pressure ascent and entry garment during training. [NASA Photo]

*Discovery* is on the fifth shuttle construction mission to the International Space Station and the last before the arrival of the ISS Expedition 1 crew in early November. Two new segments of the ISS are in the shuttle's cargo bay--a new docking port for use by future shuttle missions and a nine-ton exterior framework.

Shuttle mission STS-92 had been scheduled to launch on October 5, but inclement weather, concerns over a retracting bolt assembly, and a faulty engine valve delayed the launch until this week. Then, with the crew aboard and the countdown running Wednesday, NASA personnel spotted a stray metal pin apparently left behind by worker. The pin was on a support strut between the orbiter and the giant fuel tank it carries.

Earlier inspections had failed to spot the pin--believed to be part of a work platform or a handrail and attached to a foot-long wire. Launch managers decided to halt the countdown at T-minus 20 minutes and roll the launch tower back into place to retrieve the pin. An investigation is under way to determine how it was left behind and not accounted for.

The ISS exterior framework--called the Z1 truss--will be attached to the expanding station. The Z1 will house gyroscopes and communications equipment that will provide future "balance" for the outpost as well as enhanced voice and television capability. A conical mating adapter called

Pressurized Mating Adapter 3 will be attached, providing an additional shuttle docking port.



Mission Specialist Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, will represent the Japanese Space Agency on STS-92. He'll use the shuttle's robotic arm to attach the Z1 framework and mating adapter to the station's *Unity* module. [NASA Photo]

During the 11-day mission, Wakata will use the shuttle's robotic arm to attach the framework and mating adapter to the station's *Unity* module. The other mission specialists will be divided into two space walking teams to conduct four planned space walks to provide electrical and data connectivity between the new components and the existing station modules.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station initial station gear was delivered last month by the shuttle *Atlantis*. The equipment has been stowed aboard the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko come aboard for a four-month stay. The Expedition 1 crew launch currently is targeted for October 30 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.--from NASA news releases and press reports

---

## CONTEST SEASON

The leaves are changing... nights are crisp (errr... cold?). Must be getting close to contest season! Here's a list of the big ones:

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 great contesting capability up on the club shack hilltop. No experience required! See Hedy or any of the club officers to sign up – NOW!

---

## ELECTION TIME

Have you seen the TV ads? Heard the radio spots? Checked out the debates? Yep, it's that time again. Every year at this time BARA starts the search for the next year's set of officers. From Chief Executive through Coffee Cabinet, all positions need to be filled.

Rick Melton, N3VKM is looking for a few good members.

Elections are held at the December General Meeting (December 20, 2000).