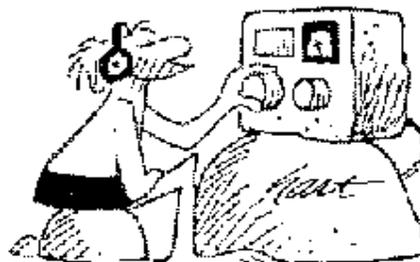


# **BARA** FACTS



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, it's hard to believe but **Y2K** has come and gone without major incident, well not exactly. More than likely each of us personally, or within our extended families, have had some experiences that we are very proud of and others that we would rather not have cataloged. But such is life. By now I have learned that you have to take the good and the bad, the hardships and the joys. Amateur radio is certainly one of my joys. At times it's a burden but I guess if it doesn't pain you haven't gained.

BARA was indeed fortunate during the year 2000. Besides the excellent presidential leadership - of course, "say yes," individual members, some by a twist of the arm leg or whatever "volunteered" resulting in the success of the many club projects. But it was tough, tougher than it should be, identifying those volunteers.

YOU had a very good year thanks to those 'volunteers' who took the lead action to: present the most successful HAMFEST (thanks AA2MU); a family picnic (AA2MU), twelve excellent newsletters (thanks N2BC), a KID's night (kudos for KB2SCF, WS2U); a FIELD Day experience in the PA hills (WS2U); Contests from the hill top (AA2MU, AA2EQ, KG2FY) and the QSLing support by NK2H.. A memorial to a former member, long overdue, but finalized by the special efforts of N2HR. A BARA member, KB2JZG, championed the local Boy Scouts Jamboree On the Air (JOTA) and received operator support from other BARA members. KB2YEN, AB2HS and KF1L made significant contribution to develop and execute the communication plan that resulted in a most successful EMPIRE STATE GAMES with significant communicator support from many BARA members. A Simulated Emergency Test (SET); the National Weather Service Special Event; SKYWARN responses to the airport all planned and supported by BARA members. AB2HS, as always, was the focal point the many for public service communication events. WB2GHH even "let the dogs out" for a FOX HUNT (N2BC, N2ZMN, KC2FWT, and the winner AA2MU.)

Absent from the above is call sign N2NCB. Why? If I were to include Paul's call in each event he had more than a passing interest in then his call would be listed 50 x 50 times. Paul has the club recipe. Officially ONLY the treasurer. But in addition, each year, he is the meeting place arranger, the HamFest 'conductor'; the bill payer; the insurance certificate go get guy; the ticket maker, ticket taker, keeper of the records, the keys, the 50/50, the coffee, the cash, and rceiver of most of the crap. A most valued officer, member and more often than not, a behind the scene doer. Thanks ever so much Paul.

Now my problem. I know I missed many many 'hands'. For example. Who did the duty on club jackets and programs? Ask Rick N3VKM. Who puts the signs up? Ask Victor N2LZM. Who installed the audio system (infant in hand)? Ask Tom, WA2IVD. Who cuts the forest? Ask W2EWM.

Please accept my loss of memory excuse. Many things in and for BARA happen that go unnoticed. But when you come down to it, it is YOU who make things happen. BARA isn't run by a clique, it's run by YOU, the active - and inactive - members. We can always use a few more hands.

Thanks ever so much for another successful BARA year.

de WB2GHH

## **ARRL MEMBERS-ONLY WEB SITE**

[www.arrl.org/members](http://www.arrl.org/members)

A part of this service is the QST on-line index that lets you search for any article in QST or QEX by title or author. The only problem is that there is no way to view the article or see any part of it prior to ordering it and paying \$3.00.

I called the ARRL and talked to their technical assistance person, AL and his explanation was that currently

they were not capable of putting all the data on-line due to staffing and current program capabilities. But, until they can..... You can call him (AL) at 1-860-594-0200 and ask for technical assistance, describe the articles you think you want and he will research them and suggest if you have found what you want. You can also e-mail him at [tis@arrl.org](mailto:tis@arrl.org) with your selections and he will respond appropriately.

Although this may not be the easiest way to do your research it is a temporary solution.

Pete KB2JZG

### K2HWG – SK

We record with sadness the passing of one our Charter members. **Stanley A. Warner, K2HWG**, died during the past week. Stan was one of the signers of the BARA Incorporation Certificate on October 16, 1957. Stan was employed for years at GE in Johnson City where his physical presence was always felt. Tall, very erect and totally rigid, the result of an early spinal injury. He was later employed as a shop teacher in the Binghamton school district. He was active in amateur radio, the Boy Scouts and various civic and church organizations.

WB2GHH

### CLUB ELECTIONS – NO RECOUNTS!

We didn't have the infamous "Butterfly Ballot", there were no chads on the floor, and the only dimples evident were on the smiling face of our re-elected President! Club officers for 2001 are:

- |                 |              |        |
|-----------------|--------------|--------|
| President:      | Jack Connors | WB2GHH |
| Vice President: | Bill Coleman | N2BC   |
| Secretary:      | Merle Rigby  | K2AOV  |
| Treasurer:      | Paul Slocum  | N2NCB  |
| Directors:      | Bob Handel   | K2FU   |
|                 | Bob Mc Cabe  | KC2DSS |
|                 | Ron Reagan   | N2RWK  |
|                 | Tom Tefft    | W2TRT  |

A big thanks goes out to the out-going officers, Elmer Shafer N2PQX, Rick Melton N3VKM, and Hedy Clothier AA2MU.

### NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Are you internet ready? The club newsletter is available online at: <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara>

If you want to reduce the paper clutter in your USPS mailbox, let me know. [n2bc@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com)

### 2001 PROPOSED CLUB BUDGET

The table below shows 2000 actual expense and the proposed 2001 budget. Note, there are a number of new items in 2001. Paul, N2NCB will review the budget and submit for approval at the January general meeting.

	2000 ACTUAL	2001 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>		
50/50	183	170
DUES	1721	1406
FUND RAISING (HAMFEST)	1800	1583
OTHER INCOME	137	100
XFER FROM GENERAL FUND	0	950
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3841</b>	<b>4209</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
BANK CHARGE	24	25
DONATION FOR MEETING ROOM	100	100
PICNIC	105	100
INSURANCE	252	300
MAINT ON SHACK & REPEATER	0	600
PO BOX	44	44
NEWSLETTER & POSTAGE	592	700
SHACK LEASE	600	600
REPEATER TELEPHONE	324	330
OSL MANAGEMENT	60	60
ELECTRIC SERVICE @ SHACK	112	200
FIELD DAY	41	100
HOLIDAY DINNER	242	250
KID'S NIGHT	44	50
MSC EXPENSE	299	0
CLUB FLYER PROMO	0	250
DISPLAY CASE @ SHACK	0	100
LIBRARY BOOK DONATION	0	200
CLUB DATABASE REWRITE	0	200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>2839</b>	<b>4209</b>
HAMFEST STARTUP	1598	2500

### ELECTRICITY 101

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity and where does it go after it leaves the toaster? Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson:

On a cool dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches one that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never

use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important lesson about electricity.

It also illustrates how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons", which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. Among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond -- almost.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the

electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Bulldozer" to "Eyeball."

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### THIS SPACE AVAILABLE

Have some gear to sell? An idea for a cool antenna? I'm always looking for newsletter articles. Email me at [n2bc@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com)

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### JANUARY PROGRAM

Bill NK2H and Mel WE2K will take us through the ins and outs of DX QSLing. Want to know when to use a green stamp or an IRC? Just what is a green stamp or an IRC?

These two guys have exchanged literally THOUSANDS of QSL cards around the world. Come to the January meeting – January 17 @ 7:30PM – and find out how!

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### HOLIDAY PARTY PIX



Not too much room left in this issue – so our Prez gets his mug shot in the newsletter first.

Thanks to N2NCB for snapping the pictures. More to come in future issues!