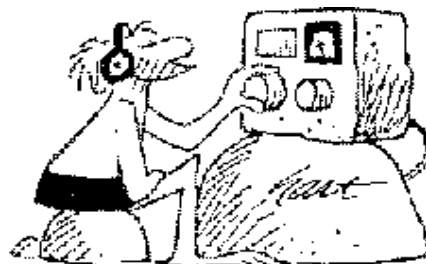


BARA FACTS



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

Meeting Reminder. The June general membership (June 20th) meeting is on the hilltop.

Field Day? Not exactly. No member stepped forward to chair the activities. No one indicated a willingness to participate. So come Saturday, June 23rd the intention is to have knowledgeable operators available at the hill top in order that other members less familiar with 'shack' operations can mossy up and learn how to operate from this good RF location. An MSL of 1755 feet with fantastic antennas.

Aviation Day, July 15th. No member interest was indicated in setting up a BARA information booth. The intention was to present BARA's presence and communication participation fifty years ago at MT Ettrick's opening day.

Retirement. After spending forty years in a windowless work environment I truly enjoy witnessing the fullness, and visibility of every day. For the last sixteen months I have kept busy on things of my own design. I find it most enjoyable and enlightening to be able to stop whatever I'm doing whenever I want to and just take in the sights and sounds. Hard as I try to eliminate them, there are still schedules and deadlines that have to be kept. The real difference is that they are my own deadlines and schedules not those of a variety of taskmasters (spouse exception).

It truly is amazing as to how easy it is to fill your dance card, so to speak. I actually thought that I would have difficulty finding 'stuff' to do to fill the forty or sixty 'extra' hours I would have. That isn't the case. The event calendar gets filled quite quickly. It is surprising how many scheduling conflicts have to be resolved.

The real problem with retirement is not having the time to do all the 'stuff' as opposed to the preretirement fear of not having enough 'stuff' to fill the time.

Did I say it before? If not I'll say it now. Retirement is not what its quacked up to be. It's better.

de wb2ggh@arrl.net

WALTER S. TAYLOR, K2MLT, SK

Amateur Radio recently lost one of its most controversial, colorful, argumentative, business savvy, lovable operators when Walter S. Taylor, K2MLT, became a silent key on Friday, April 20, 2001.

Who was Walter? I really didn't know Walt. I just know of him. I'm aware of some of his antics and a few of his hardships. I spoke to him a number of times on the air. Two of those on air encounters were quite memorable. More about those later. I may have met Walt once or twice but I just can't seem to tune in those memories. I seem to think that many years ago he was a speaker or had a wine display at the dinner following one of the Owego hamfests.

Walt was an offspring of the family that started the Taylor Wine Company at Hammondsport, NY. Walt became a significant member of the Taylor Wine Company. At some point the Taylor Wine Company was sold to Coca-Cola and Walt started a winery (next door, I think) and called it "Bully Hill."

You may have seen his free hand drawn labels with "odd" names on his product in wine stores. Seems the new Taylor/Coke people didn't take pleasure in Walt using his name "Taylor" on his entrance sign to his winery or on his product. Coke took him to court - and won. The end result being that Walt was ordered to eliminate his name. He complied, but being Walt, he did it his way. He modified his labels by placing an eye mask over his image and used a magic marker strike out over his last name. My understanding is that he solicited visitors to his winery to help modify the labels. The judge wasn't to happy and dealt Walt another blow (details unknown).

Then I recall a family disaster. Why? Maybe it was because my daughter was about the same age as Walt's. She had just acquired her driving skills. Regardless, one of his daughters died in an automobile accident on or very close to the winery. I still get a sick feeling thinking about that.

As I said earlier, I talked to Walt a number of times over the hilltops on two meters. One time Walt was coming through Binghamton on his way to a wine tasting session. I forgot the details but as he described it, his van had a very unique and visible antenna, which was cause for comment.

My most memorable QSO with Walt occurred on April 23, 1988 at 1320L (I just checked my log book.) He was traveling West on Route 88 at mile post 20 and came upon a nasty accident. I responded to his "Emergency" call on the 22/82 repeater. He was in pursuit of a hit and run vehicle. He provided a description and the Texan license plate number. I called the State Police who in turn dispatched a car. I don't recall the outcome of the incident.

A few months later, October 1988, I received a three foot long, 4 inch diameter mailing tube. The address label was a hand drawn "BHV" (Bully Hill Vineyards). Inside were copies of newspaper articles referencing Walter and his exploits. "Vintage Space Art", Space World, Washington DC, July 1968; "US Embassy Invites Artist to Paris Air Show", The Courier - Advocate, Bath, NY Apr 1987; "Winemaker Blasts State" The Evening Tribune, Hornell, Sept 1988; "The Interesting World of Walter S. XXXXXX"; "The Goats of Wrath" Daily News Magazine, Sept 1988; "Taylor Wins Round in NASA Battle" The Leader, Corning, NY, June 1987; "The Ballad of Walter S." ("They have taken away my heritage, but they didn't get my goat.") The Plain Dealer Cleveland Ohio Jul, 1988.

Did I happen to mention that Walt was a very successful watercolor artist? Or that he was commissioned by NASA for artwork? That he subsequently sued NASA for use of "Space Shuttle" on his products? And oh yea, that he was controversial?

Also in that mailer tube was the largest QSL Card I ever received. A 2 foot by 3 foot copy of his water color "First Shuttle Flight Columbia" April 12, 1981. The art work is signed "Walter S. Taylor, NASA Art Team 10.25.88." A fantastic treasure and remembrance.

A few years later, Walt was involved in a traffic accident on Rt 95 in Florida. As a result he became a quadriplegic. I often thought that Walt wasn't dealt the best hand of cards in life. Maybe he just didn't play his hand the best he could. I know one thing. He sure as hell had fun try-

ing. Possibly, the hand written inscription on the BHV shipping label sums up Walt's attitude toward life - and possibly death.. "Freedom through laughter."

Walt, thanks for giving so many people so many reasons to smile.

DE WB2GHH 30APR01

JUNE MEETING AT BARA HILLTOP !

The June 20th general meeting will be held at the BARA hilltop. We're planning a clean-up / fix-up / tour / instruction / operating / mini-hamfest / Field day warmup / food evening - something for everyone!

The fun will begin in the afternoon with a painting crew, feel free to wander up anytime after noon. The plan is to have the worst of the messy stuff complete by 6PM. Cold beverages, some pizza and other goodies will arrive at 6PM.

The mini-hamfest starts as soon as the first trunk-full of treasures arrives.

There will be a brief business meeting starting at 7:30 and any empty time slots before or after 7:30 will be filled with fun in the shack and/or cleanup chores.

Feel free to bring along your favorite weed-wacker and maybe some munchies or dessert.

Any folks interested in painting (staining actually) should give me a call @ 748-5232 or email n2bc@stny.rr.com so I can be prepared with enough supplies (brushes, etc).

A map and directions to the site are on the next page.

ATTENTION!!

**JUNE 20th GENERAL
MEETING WILL BE HELD
AT THE CLUB SHACK,
MILKS ROAD,
HAWLEYTON.**

See the article above for
details. →

← See maps on next page.

BE THERE!

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHACK

From Endicott / JC / Vestal via Route 26 South

Proceed South on Rt 26, continue through Vestal Center, you're headed for State Line Road, the last road intersecting Rt 26 before PA. If you see a greeting from that guy Tom Ridge, YOU WENT TOO FAR!

Turn left (East) on State Line Road (wave to KG2FY), proceed through the hills-n-dales until you come to a STOP sign. Continue straight through the STOP sign. Continue on the windy-twisty passing Jackson Road on the right, now watch for the Town of Binghamton Garage on the left – SLOW DOWN!

From Binghamton via Pennsylvania Ave South

Proceed South on Pennsylvania Ave passing Ingraham Hill (the big towers) and past the intersection of Pennsylvania Ave and Park Ave. Pass Saddlemire Road on the left, now watch for the Town of Binghamton Garage on the right – SLOW DOWN!

Everybody: Milks Road – you're almost there!

You should have the Town of Binghamton Garage in sight on the North side of Pennsylvania Ave – and you should be SLOWING DOWN!! Milks Road is opposite the Town Garage. For those folks coming in from Rt 26, Milks Rd is a nasty sharp right turn (that's why the "Slow Down!").

Turn onto Milks Road – now heading South. Milks curves to the left and starts climbing into the clouds – that's one reason the shack site is terrific! At the crest of the hill, Milks heads to the right – the entrance to the shack is directly opposite. We'll have some balloons or a CB radio hanging from a tree. Continue gingerly up the 'driveway' and you'll soon see the first tower. You may certainly romp up the driveway if you desire – and own stock in Midas Muffler. The road isn't bad, just take it slow.

YOU'RE THERE!

