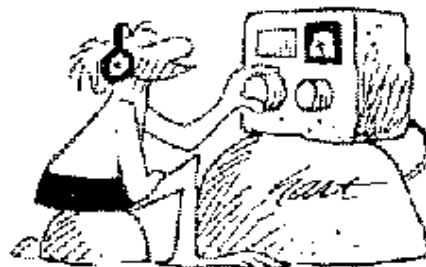


BARA FACTS



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

Ah only eight inches of snow on the ground. Spring is right around the corner. In fact yesterday when I was traveling to Lowe's, I thought I smelt spring. I was mistaken. It was only a crew cleaning the pool behind the Press Building. One of the things to smell forward to.

Speaking of things to look forward to, BARA has planned a busy year 2001. This year the Board wishes to showcase the "Hilltop." The Board has decided to hold a number of events at the site. But first we have to get the HAMFEST under our belts. YOU need to sign up NOW to lend a hand on Friday, May 4th for set up and Saturday May 5th for execution (many tasks) and clean up. Remember, "the more the easier." A number of clean up fix up actions will be scheduled in May and June at the W2OW site. Watch BARA Facts and the W2OW Reflector for dates and times.

We are fortunate to have Scott Bauer, W2LC, the ARRL Western New York Section Manager scheduled to attend our March meeting. ARRL initiatives will be presented. Come on down and meet Scott.

April is SKYWARN training session time. This year, a new video tape featuring local events will be narrated by a new NOAA personality.

Kid's night is in June this year. This is a fun opportunity to have a youngster (regardless of age) introduced to aspects of Amateur Radio. Greater participation is hoped for in 2001. The national ARRL Field Day activities will be returning to the W2OW site this year. We still need a "chair" / "coordinator" for that event. Step forward please. Again, the desire is to entice a broader spectrum of BARA members and family members to the hill top to check out the permanent antenna farm and shack operating procedures and in so doing lessen the hesitancy to come up more often to operate.

Field Day (the last rainy weekend in June, this year June 23-24) is conducted in order to test YOUR emer-

gency equipment and operating skills in an unfamiliar environment. That has and can be done in a FUN filled manner. Setting up operating positions, using emergency power, portable antennas, foreign (other than usual) equipment, temporary enclosures. Testing your cooking skills. Finding out that those emergency rations really didn't last as long as advertised. No one should go hungry this year since all the left over Y2K supplies will more than likely pop up. So mark your calendars NOW for field day. And remember to look for the Blue Nun who has been sighted near the generators over the years. Maybe again this year.

During July, there will be planned activity at the W2OW location. Details and timing in later issues. In addition, the Board is in the early stages of arranging a significant FUN FILLED, HISTORIC EVENT IN MID JULY inclusive of a "Special Event Station". Those who have worked at such stations know the effort required before, during and after the event to make the event a success. More later.

Again this August BARA will host its general membership meeting and picnic at the W2OW site. This is always a good time, with good food and friends. And all during this period, there will be scheduled and unscheduled "public service" and "emergency" events requiring communicators. Please NOW make your availability known to Jack, KB2YEN EC ARES and or Ford, AB2HS, BARA's Public Service Coordinator. Remember the BARA's motto for over fifty years "We are prepared to serve."

de WB2GHH

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED

Got something for the newsletter? Email me or call.

Bill N2BC (n2bc@stny.rr.com, 748-5232)

GET CONNECTED...

Do you know about the BARA Email reflector? It's a great way to stay right on top of club happenings, some debate, a little fun sometimes too. Aim your browser at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w2ow>

Also, visit the BARA home pages – hosted by Don Kunkel, N2NON and SUNY Binghamton:

<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/>

BARA BOARD MEETINGS

The BARA Board of Directors meets at 7PM on the first Wednesday of every month at the Broome County Offices of Emergency Services (or more appropriately, the County Jail...).

The meeting is open to all BARA members. Lately we have been cooking up ideas aimed at:

- Exposing youngsters to the hobby
- Re-establishing a packet radio presence in the valley
- Increasing member participation in club meetings and activities

We cook these things at the board meeting and when they are half-baked we bring them to the general meeting (you can smile now). Seriously, if you have an idea for a club project or just want to listen in, come to a Board Meeting!

CLUB CONSTITUTION UPDATE

At the February general meeting we went through a detailed review of the proposed changes to the club Constitution and Bylaws. The entire document was included in last month's newsletter.

There was one small change to the changes discussed and approved at the February meeting.

Copies of the old and new documents will be available at the March meeting as we will do another quick review. If you have any questions or comments be sure to come to the March 17th meeting – or send them to me:

n2bc@stny.rr.com

DON'T MISS THE MARCH MEETING !!

Our guest speaker for the March 17th general meeting is Scott Bauer, W2LC, ARRL Western New York Section Manager. Scott will be winding his way down from the Syracuse area to attend the meeting.

WWV SURVEY PLANNED

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 20, 2001--The National Institute of Standards and Technology plans to survey users of WWV and WWVH later this year. The time and frequency-standard stations have been airing occasional announcements about the upcoming poll in order to start building a mailing list of survey recipients. The announcements state that NIST "is seeking information on how listeners use the broadcast services offered on the WWV broadcast," but the survey will not begin for at least several weeks.

WWV Station Manager John Lowe says the announcements are being broadcast now as a heads up and to encourage early signups for the agency's survey mailing list. The survey itself will not be ready for release until it's been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Lowe said. He doesn't expect that to happen until May, although he said the surveys could be ready sooner. He said the survey period likely would extend through the summer.

According to Lowe, the last WWV-WWVH user survey was done in 1985. "We just don't know who our user base is anymore," he said. Lowe confirmed that the data collected ultimately could be used to determine whether WWV and WWVH remain on the air--especially given the popularity of NIST's other outlets, including its Web-based time server that gets in excess of 3 million hits a day.

"If we get only two people who say they're using WWV, then we've got a problem," he said. Lowe added that he does not think WWV and WWVH will be shut down, and he vowed to "fight for the radio stations," if it came down to that. "But the ultimate decision is not in my hands," he said. "We have to look at our budget and our users."

Lowe strongly encouraged WWV users to get on the mailing list and to send in a survey when the time comes. He suggested, however, that more weight will be given to survey responses from corporate and institutional users of the radio service as opposed to individual users.

To be added to the NIST WWV-WWVH survey mailing list, send your name and postal address to the NIST Radio Station WWV, 2000 E County Road 58, Ft Collins,

CO 80524, or e-mail the information to nist.radio@boulder.nist.gov.

Lowe said WWV-WWVH users should hold their fire until the survey begins. Once OMB has okayed the survey, he said he plans to spread the word through all available means, including the NIST [Web site](#).

WWV in Ft Collins, Colorado, and WWVH on Kauai, Hawaii, broadcast continuous time and frequency information to millions of listeners worldwide. Information broadcast includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings, and Global Positioning System status reports.

WWV transmits double-sideband AM on 2.5, 5, 10, 15 and 20 MHz using a separate transmitter for each frequency feeding half-wave vertical antennas. WWVH transmits on 2.5, 5, 10 and 15 MHz and uses phased vertical arrays on 5, 10 and 15 MHz.

The WWV call letters were assigned to the National Bureau of Standards (as NIST was then known) in 1919, and the station initiated experimental broadcasts from Washington, DC, in 1920--several months before the historic KDKA broadcasts. Standard frequency transmissions began in 1922; time announcements began in 1945, initially in Morse code, later in voice.



The WWV 5-MHz transmitter at Ft Collins, Colorado.
[NIST Photos]



WWVH 15-MHz phased vertical array on the island of Kauai, Hawaii.

HOBBIES WITHIN THE HOBBY

You are online with the internet, right? Here's some of my favorite spots to visit, check them out. Send me YOUR finds.

- BIG radios – Jim Hawkins web pages document some really BIG transmitters. Jim and I attended the same grade school – Jim was a couple years ahead of me, but we both had a crush on our 4th grade teacher!

<http://www.qsl.net/wa2whv/>

- Heathkit radios – the days when you could build an entire station from kits

<http://www.heathkit-museum.com/>

- The history of telegraphy on Canadian railways, plus a list of movies where CW was used!

<http://railwayop.tripod.ca/crthindex.html>

- Commercial transmitter info along with DX shortware listings, loads of links.

<http://www.transmitter.be/>