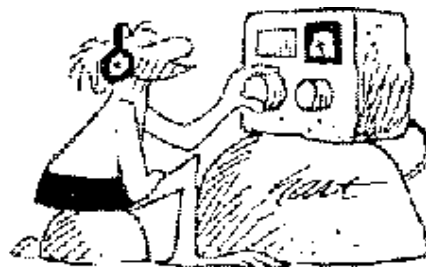


# **BARA** FACTS



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**

Well, BARA Hamfest 2001 is now history. Thanks to the dedicated dozen or so 'volunteers,' the hamfest became a reality. And thanks to the 500 or so visitors, the Hamfest became a success. The good Lord gave us a half hour rain shower beginning at 6:03 AM, just enough to keep the dust and pollen down. It turned out to be a beautiful but long day for the volunteers who were on site from 5 AM. Thank you! Kudos for the hamfest chair, Hedy, AA2MU for a job well done. A special thanks to Paul, N2NCB, the keeper of the successful hamfest recipe.

The "W2OW All Weather Access Vehicle," with its very proud owner Ron, AA2EQ, at the helm, made one of its rare public appearances in Owego. Standing next to one of its tires made me feel, and look like a kid again. Where can I get a set of those tires for my sedan?

Bob, WA2VCS, reported that the VE session resulted in a half dozen new HAMS. Congratulations. Did they all pick up a BARA application? A special thanks to the VE team for providing the test session.

With the hamfest behind us (at least for a few weeks - until next year planning starts) BARA now turns its attention to the next items on its 2001 agenda. Next up is "Kid's Night", the program being featured at the May general membership meeting. How about bringing the younger member of the family or grand child. Minimum age? I guess about eight and above. Bring a neighborhood kid. Some kid, any kid who might be dazzled by the science of the evening. If that fails make sure you entice them with the pizza and soda.

Then comes June. A few fix up, paint up days to be scheduled on the hill top. Then during the last full week-end in June, Field Days. Still looking for someone to chair and or coordinate that activity. Enuf for now. CU on the radio.

De WB2GHH

## **A BIG ROUND OF THANKS**

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Hamfest a success. We had at least 34 members helping out with planning, set up, ticket taking, BARA table, Talk in, VE testing, and clean up. All the help allowed everyone to enjoy the Hamfest. I believe we can call it a success.

According Paul, N2NCB we had 500 people come through the gate. I personally think we make need a recount because such an even number is awful suspicious. I want to give a big round of thanks to Paul for his guidance. He makes the job of chairing the Hamfest easy.

Again a big thank you to all who helped make this Hamfest a success.

de AA2MU

## **HAMFEST HELPERS**

The unofficial list of helpers... Hedy AA2MU, Jack WB2GHH, paul n2ncb, Bob WS2U, John N2YZI, Ed KB2SCF, Bob K2FU, Paul K2ABX, Rick N3VXM, Tom W2TRT, Charles K2CAL, Al WA2FBT, Jerry KG2FY, Ron AA2EQ, Ron N2RWK, Rich N2MGM, Malcolm KC2EOV, Jack KB2YEN, Mel WE2K, Bill NK2H, Ray KC2GIL, Sharon N2WGM, Ford AA2HS, Red KC2HKB, Sarah KE4SPL, George K2CM, Merle K2AOV, Bob WA2VCS, Bob KC2DSS, Jerry KA2WQR, Victor N2LZM, Don N2NON.

## **KIDS NIGHT - WEDNESDAY**

Find a kid, rent a kid - don't kidnap a kid... The theme of this month's meeting is kids night. Experiments, awesome displays, **FREE FOOD!**

## MISSION TO MARS

The Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as separately managed and operated programs by the Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force. MARS members are volunteer licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in providing auxiliary or emergency communications to local, national and international emergency and safety organizations, as an adjunct to normal communications.

The primary concept of MARS is to meet the requirements of training for any communications emergency. To this end, organization, methods and facilities must be adequate to meet any emergency requirements and must be flexible in order to provide for rapid expansion. Normal methods must be such that only minor changes will be required when shifting to an emergency status.

### The Mission of the MARS system is to:

- ✚ Provide auxiliary communications for military, federal and local disaster management officials during periods of emergency or while conducting drills in emergency procedures.
- ✚ Assist in effecting normal communications under emergency conditions.
- ✚ Create interest and furnish a means of training members in military communications procedures and provide a potential reserve of trained communications personnel.
- ✚ Handle morale and quasi-official message and voice communications traffic for members of the Armed Forces and authorized U.S. Government civilian personnel stationed throughout the world.
- ✚ Provide, during daily routine operations, a method of exchanging MARSGRAMS and two-way telephone contacts between service personnel and their families back home. In carrying out this assignment, MARS operates a 24-hour message relay system and maintains a series of electronic mailboxes throughout the world.
- ✚ Conduct daily traffic and training nets, drills and critiques to train operators and test the systems readiness to handle demands during an emergency.

### Benefits of Membership in MARS

- ✚ Add to the enjoyment of your amateur radio hobby through the expanded horizon of MARS
- ✚ Become part of the Army, Navy-Marine Corps or Air Force MARS worldwide communications sys-

tem. There are MARS stations in Japan, Korea, the Trust Territories, Hawaii, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Central America, Alaska, Germany, Africa and the continental United States.

- ✚ Increase your communications skills and capabilities. Selected correspondence courses are available free to MARS members, from their respective affiliated service, after completion of six months active membership.
- ✚ Operate on specially assigned military radio frequencies in SSB, SSTV and various Digital modes of communications.
- ✚ Join a group of dedicated fellow radio amateurs participating in meaningful public service.
- ✚ Affiliate with the service branch of your choice and become part of the professional military communications family, contributing to the preparedness of the nation.
- ✚ Gain a feeling of being associated with a military mission and contributing to the welfare of personnel assigned to duties world-wide
- ✚ Participate in regulated, disciplined radio nets with structured lines of organization and very specific operating rules.
- ✚ Participate in the MARS Excess/Surplus Equipment Program after six months active membership. Issue of equipment is based on availability of equipment and the possible assigned mission of an individual activity. (The granting of MARS membership to an individual or activity does not in itself convey an automatic right or entitlement of the recipient to receive or demand MARS property).



Want to join? Check out these websites:

<http://navymars.org/>

<http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/>

<http://public.afca.scott.af.mil/public/mars1.htm>

## WHY AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR IS CALLED A HAM

Gerry Crenshaw, WD4BIS, Garland, Texas

(This was previously published in the Amateur Radio Communicator MARCH/APRIL 1994)

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, according to the Northern Ohio Radio Society, it goes like this: the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first Amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the HARVARD RADIO CLUB. There were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murry. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from Amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, Amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some Amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit Amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little Amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements that were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little Amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM."

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with Amateurs. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, an Amateur is a HAM.

GL and 73's de Gerry WD4BIS

## KIDS ON THE AIR

Sponsored by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, Kid's Day began in 1994 as a one-hour time slot, and kids exchanged their favorite color. The initial event drew fewer than 50 participants, but more than 1000 have turned out for recent Kid's Day events in January and June. Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation and assistance of the BARC.

Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

**Dates:** June 16, 2001.

**Time:** 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time.

**Suggested exchange:** Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

**Suggested Frequencies:** 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

**Reporting:** Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet to [kids@contesting.com](mailto:kids@contesting.com). You may review these postings at <http://www.contesting.com/kids/>. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club.

**Awards:** All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). You can [download this certificate](#) for free or send a 9 X 12 SASE to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357; Boring, OR 97009. More details may be obtained at the Web site, <http://www.jzap.com/k7rat/>

Our May general meeting is "Kids Night" – bring a kid to the meeting, then get them on the air June 16<sup>th</sup> !