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# **BARA** Facts

*Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association*

*October 2001*

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

## **President's Corner**

We find ourselves living in one of the most defining times of our country. A month ago, I thought our way of life was forever secured by the sacrifices of those that had served, those that suffered and those that made the ultimate sacrifice over the last two hundred years. Yes, I really felt secure prior to September 11, 2001 at 1206 UTC.

I had recently commented to my XYL how blessed our family was that during the last forty years we did not have to worry about our sons or daughters having to serve in response to a conflict of one sort or the other. I often wondered what my Mom and Dad felt when their brothers served in WW II and their sons served during the Korean War ( not conflict or police action ). How difficult it must have been to make family decisions in those difficult years.

I recall having an air raid warden bang on my bedroom window, on one of THOSE nights, because I was playing with a flashlight. I also recall the town truck stopping at our house and a city employee handing down a civil defense fire pump. You know, one of those cylindrical things with the black pump handle and fold down foot. Fill it with water and pump away. Then there was the day of real commotion. I was rushed out of the house. Neighbors were on the garage roof behind our house waving and yelling. Then, the biggest airplane I ever have seen flew low over the house a few times. It wasn't until years later that I learned that the neighbor's son was an Army pilot and he buzzed his parents home. These things I remember happened BEFORE I WAS SIX YEARS OLD.

Why mention this? Well, I'm trying to figure out how these relatively insignificant things were burned into my memory. Somehow the circumstances of these few WAR related things were so intense that they stuck. Maybe my

parents felt like I'm feeling now. Maybe the intensity of their concern for family was such that it transferred to me. To think such an impact to the memory of a five year old could be made without repetition is bewildering.

So, how has the last three weeks of newscasts, regardless of how few fragments the children captured, and our body language inscribed their young memories. We may never know. Someday, somewhere they may sit back and attempt to answer similar questions as I have penned tonight. I pray that when they do ponder "what it must have been like" they do it in an environment of freedom and diversity no less equal to our present status.

Go hug your kids, your parents, your grand parents. Squeeze and smile. Remember those moments over all others. P. S. God Bless America. DE WB2GHH

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## **CHOW Walk**

Ford Drake, AB2HS, notes that communicators are needed for the annual CHOW Walk. The event will be held on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> and communicators are needed beginning around 1:00 PM at Enjoi Golf Course in Endicott.

If you can help, please contact Ford at home on on the 146.82 machine.

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## **Contest Time**

Contest season is rapidly approaching. If your house is like mine in the summer, it's time to dust off the radio and tune up the antenna's at the homestead. Most of our summer HF is generated marine mobile, mobile or at a campsite. The first contest that comes to mind is the PA QSO PARTY. October 13 and 14, 2001. This is a phone and CW contest.

Then comes the CQ WW DX phone contest. This is the fall contest that we have traditionally run from the club shack on Milks Road. George, K2CM has offered to take his travel home up to the shack so there would be a private rest room facility and a place to crash if you stay up too long and don't feel like driving home. In the past, junk food and drinks were miles away but about two years ago a small store opened up at the intersection of Hawleyton Road and Penna. Ave, so no need to worry about going hungry if you come up and get hooked on contesting. The contest starts 8 PM on Friday, October 27 and runs until Sunday at 7 PM. It's also the weekend to turn your clocks back. Ever since I started working this contest I have never forgotten to change the clock! This is your chance to work some rare DX. I usually pick up one or two new countries on a new band during this contest. We will be using the club call, but if you hear something you want or need work him for yourself. I have to admit that one of the reasons I love contesting is because this YL voice has broken several piles ups that they guys can't get! I know it's an unfair advantage, but you guys are better at putting up antennas! So if you are interested in working this contest give me a call at 778-2562 or see me at the October club meeting. Remember, you don't need to come up and just contest. Bring your dog, go for a walk in the surrounding woods, come and socialize and meet some new friends.

The next contest is the November Sweepstakes Phone, November 17, 4 PM until November 18, at 10 PM. If you haven't worked this contest in a few years, please note that a few sections have been added and there are currently 80 sections for a cleansweep. This one is my favorite contests and I plan on working it from home. However, the shack is available to any and all that want to go up and run the contest from the shack. There is a great selection of antenna's up there. Of course since I challenged someone to dethrone me from top place in WNY unlimited last year and they did! I am going to try and regain my top score this year. I remember all my mistakes from last year and don't plan on repeating them again. I blame last years defeat on sleep deprivation!

For the CW fans, CQWW CW is Nov. 24-25, 2001 and Nov.SS is Nov. 3-5,2001. Hope to see you at the shack. DE AA2MU

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### **FCC to Dismiss Filings Submitted on Outdated Form 605**

According to the ARRL Letter the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has announced that, starting Monday, October 15, it will dismiss all submittals it receives on Form 605 Quick-FoApplication for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Service that bear edition dates prior to March 2001. This change does not affect applicants filing on-line via the Universal Licensing System (ULS).

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### **Mothers (and Fathers) do Let Your Kids Grow Up to be Hams**

THE strongest ties in life are the home ties. It makes a lot of difference, both to you--his parents--and to him too, when a young man has grown up whether his thoughts dwell with sweet pleasure upon his old homestead, or whether the remembrance of his home and his past home-life are painful to him.

How many well-meaning, fond American parents develop the home-idea in the young boy? Are you not a bit to blame if your boy, when still in his 'teens, is seen too much in questionable company and in questionable resorts? Your boy is not naturally inclined to stay away from his home and his family. He is usually forced out, for want of something to keep his growing, inquisitive mind occupied; it's the something that he can't find at his own home that forces him out. So out he goes. He drifts on, away from you--the heartstrings loosen more and more, you--his fond parents--wonder and wonder and the boy becomes a stranger before you realize it.

IT IS USUALLY THEN TOO LATE TO MEND This is--alas--only too true a picture of the average American youth. And it is so easy to keep your boy at home. He doesn't want much, just something to dabble, to tinker, to experiment with and to keep his inborn insatiable curiosity satisfied.

You know your boy likes nothing better than this, he was born for it; are you going to club it out of him? How do we know all this about your boy? Why, bless him, if it wasn't in his system, if he wasn't soaked full of it, do you think he would have written for this catalogue of ours? He has the right idea--the home idea; somewhere in him is a spark alive that needs but proper fanning to create a future Edison, a coming Marconi. It has been our business for ten years to keep hundreds of thousands of boys at home, and the multitude of letters of grateful parents testify that we must have done it successfully.

Electricity, especially Wireless, are positively the strongest home-magnets to-day. His workshop, his small Electric laboratory or his Wireless Den are the most powerful home attractions for the 20th Century Boy. Electricity and Wireless are the coming, undreamed of, world-moving forces. Don't kill the electric spark in your boy. It costs little to keep it going, and some fine day it will pay you and your boy handsome dividends.

Only one in 300 boys is interested in Electricity and Wireless. Your boy has the electric "bug." Thank the stars for it that he is so deeply interested in the greatest art the world has ever known. It's distinction, besides: "IT KEEPS YOUR BOY AT HOME."

*[and I suppose we could say "boy or girl" just as well -- Ed]* H. GERNSEBACK. Electro Importing Catalog 14, 2nd Edition, 1914, page 144; reproduced on the Internet at Thomas Whites's website: <<http://www.ipass.net/~whitetho/1914serm.htm>>

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## **CORES/FRN "Mass Conversion" Planned for ULS Registrants**

From the ARRL Letter the following information is of interest: Before the switchover to mandatory Commission Registration System (CORES) registration on December 3, 2001, the FCC plans to do a "mass conversion" from its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

Once CORES becomes mandatory in December, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move is "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the ULS were assigned an FRN by CORES in a mass conversion last year. Affected amateurs were notified by mail.

An FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau spokesperson told ARRL this week that another mass conversion will be done prior to December. As a result, anyone who has registered a Taxpayer Identification Number--typically an individual's Social Security Number--with the FCC will be assigned an FRN, which will appear in the FCC amateur database.

The requirement to obtain an FRN extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. An FRN will not be needed

to file comments in rulemaking proceedings, however.

Amateur Service licensees not already registered in the ULS are encouraged to register their TINs soon, to save the step of a second CORES registration after December 3. To register, visit the FCC's ULS Web site at <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>>

The FCC established CORES last year and has been in the process of implementing it. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concedes that a lot of issues remain undecided regarding how CORES/FRN will work for the Amateur Service.

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## **Election Notice!**

Please bear in mind that the BARA Election of Officers and Directors will take place at the BARA General Meeting in **NOVEMBER**. This is a change from previous years and we will **NOT** hold the Election at the club Christmas Party.

With the Election a month away you should really be getting nominations to our Vice President Bill, N2BC so that he can draw up the final slate of candidates and prepare the ballots. Don't be shy! If you would like to be President, Vice President, or anything please let Bill know.

Many hands make work light and we should remember that many of the Officers and Directors have been serving for two years or more — They might appreciate a break!

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## **What Happened to the Newsletter?**

You may have noticed a change in style between the last issue of the *BARA Facts* and the present issue. You should rest assured that the change is just a transition from one editor to another.

Bill, N2BC, who has been doing the Newsletter for the last three years or so asked for a volunteer to take over as Editor and Ed, KB2SCF, was not quite quick enough to get away.

Seriously, Bill has done more than his share in keeping the *BARA Facts* lively and interesting and his work and efforts are well appreciated. We hope to hear much from him in the future as I work to fill these pages and on behalf of the club I'd like to extend the hearty hand of friendship and a palm to him in thanks for a job well done!

At the same time I'd like to solicit contributions to the Newsletter from any and all. If you have the bug to

write ship off an article to me and I will massage it and fit it in wherever appropriate. If you don't feel comfortable writing, I'd be glad to chat with you about your ideas and maybe turn them into an article. Drop me a line at kb2scf@arrl.net or the BARA Post Office Box and let's see what we can work out. DE Ed, KB2SCF