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# **BARA** Facts

*Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association*

**December 2005**

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

## **The President's Corner**

I made a typo in last month's column. Just a little one, off by a year. We are still "GO" for getting back into the shack on Milks Road, it will happen my mid 2006 (not 2007).

I want to take a moment to thank the club Officer Team for all their help this year and for signing up for another term. Special thanks to allen lutins, KC2KLC, for doing a great job with the Secretary chores all year. Also, thanks to our newsletter editor Ed Plesnar, KB2SCF, for silently slogging away every month to put the newsletter together.

If you missed the November meeting, you missed a great presentation by Tom Apalenek, WA2IVD. Tom and his wife Deb, N2LZN, traveled to Mississippi to help out after the hurricanes. Tom had many photos, the devastation is unimaginable.

The December General Meeting (12/21) will be held at Russell's Steak House. If you have not been contacted by now, give Hedy Clothier (AA2MU) a call at 748-4387 ASAP to reserve your spot! See the November *BARA Facts* for all the details. The November issue can be found on line at the BARA club Website.

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy 2006. — *73 from the Colemans*

**Reminder: BARA Christmas/Holiday Party**

**All BARA Members are advised that our General Meeting for December will be conducted at Russell's Steak and Seafood House in Endicott (across from the Enjoi Golf Course). We will convene for a Social Hour at 5:45 PM and seating will commence around 6:30 PM.**

**There was an unfortunate problem with the**

**Reservation List, so if you plan to attend, but have**

**not contacted Hedy, AA2MU, or one of the Club Officers since Saturday, 11 December we ask that you call Hedy at (607) 748-4387 as soon as possible to make your reservation.**

**In any event, don't show up at the Town of Binghamton Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> because everyone else will be over at Russell's!**

## **Election of Officers**

The Slate of Candidates presented at our November meeting was declared official. There being no contest, the slate was elected unanimously.

We note, however, that the position of Secretary is, at this time, vacant. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact our President, Bill, N2BC.

## **A Thread Across the Ocean**

In a day when it is taken for granted that news spreads at the speed of light it is startling to remember that things were not always so and that as recent as a hundred and fifty years ago news spread at the pace of sail, steam, and foot. The Western and Eastern Hemispheres were divided by an ocean and news of the old world took weeks to arrive. To give just one example: Andrew Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans, was celebrated for his victory in a battle fought *after* peace was declared simply because it took so long for word of a treaty to arrive in the New World.

Samuel Morse's Electromagnetic Telegraph promised to annihilate distance and to tie cities together with webs of wire and so it did, but the oceans still remained barriers to communication. Many sought to bridge the waters with wire and some successes were realized, but it was until 1866 that the

Atlantic was finally spanned with cable and the task was not an easy one. Along the way were setbacks and failures as the technology was stretched to its limits. Several times the entire project was delayed as the promoters re-capitalized the venture and the Civil War brought work to a halt for the duration of hostilities.

Cyrus Field was the man who dared to dream and the motive force behind this enterprise. A Thread Across the Ocean by John Steele Gordon tells the story and tells it very well. In 240 pages (including Notes and Index) we are presented with a careful picture of the people and personalities involved as well as a credible overview of the technology and the problems that had to be surmounted. It is a story of technology stretched to the limit; of invention, advance, and false starts; of men, and money, and enterprise.

It is also the story of perseverance despite failure and failure again.

If you have an interest in technology or in the human forces that drive change, you will find this book rewarding. If you like to study communications technology, you will find much of interest inside. If you like a tale of adventure, you will be amply rewarded.

A Thread Across the Ocean by John Steele Gordon (ISBN 0-06-052446-4) is available in paperback for \$12.95

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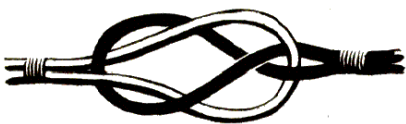
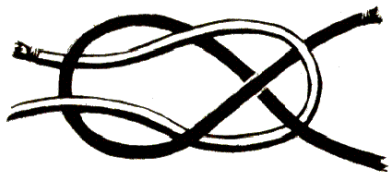
#### **Knot a Bad Idea**

Winter can be hard on Antennas and sometimes the best-rigged Sky-Wire parts and falls. When the temperature has fallen with the Antenna you might not feel like running a new wire and you might not have a pair of Wire Rope Clips to effect a temporary repair.

In such cases a knot called the Carrick Bend

may be just the ticket. It is strong and designed to transfer tension along a straight line. It also happens to be the knot of choice for sailors when making up a towing line at sea or when a Wire Rope parts.

As can be seen from the graphic, the Carrick Bend is similar



telegraph united the Old and New worlds. to a Square Knot.

Begin by cleaning the Antenna Wire as well as possible so that the wires will make good electrical contact. Then form a loop in one wire and weave the other wire in and out of the loop, over and under the wires. When complete and tension is applied to the wires, the knot may upset (appear non-symmetrical), but this is not a problem as the knot will tighten as it upsets and the tension is distributed along a straight line.

If desired, the loose ends of the wire can be bound to the Antenna Wire. A short jumper across the knot may also be added to assure a good electrical path.

As is always the case with knots, a little practice now on a couple of pieces of rope to get familiar with the Carrick Bend will pay dividends on the day that the knot is needed in a hurry.

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#### **Wrapping Up the Year**

As 2005 draws to a close we take satisfaction in some changes to our Club and we look forward to 2006.

Our new Meeting Room at the Town of Binghamton Hall is working out well. The chairs are comfortable, there is little “arranging” necessary, and the “digs” are first class in every way. We are grateful to our hosts for their hospitality.

BARA is finally and formally recognized as a Non-Profit Organization. Although we might joke about having been Non-Profit for a long time, the fact that we have official recognition means a lot for us as a Club and represents a significant benefit to anyone who donates cash, equipment, or materials to BARA. Filing the paperwork and collecting the information required by New York State and by the Internal Revenue Service was a big job and all that helped deserve our thanks.

After being without a Shack Site for several years, we finally have a chance to get “back on the hill” off Milks Road. To this we can only say “Wonderful!”

These activities and keeping our Club going take work. Our Officers and Directors are the obvious “worker bees”, but there are many who work behind the scenes to keep our club going.

At the top of the list for 2005 we find those who worked to complete the transition of BARA to a recognized Non-Profit Organization. Bob, KC2DSS; Bill, N2BC; Jack, WB2GHH; and Mel, WE2K each contributed to this effort, but we all owe a

monumental “THANKS” to our Treasurer, Paul, N2NCB, who filled out forms, wrote checks to cover

Closer to home we find our Shack Team chasing down leads and investigating sites. Ron, AA2EQ; Steve, N2MSB; Jack, WB2GHH; Bob, K2FU; Bill, N2BC; and Paul, N2NCB (among others) offered suggestions, chased leads, and evaluated locations. There may have been many “dead ends”, but there was still a whale of activity. With the search behind us, Jack, WB2GHH, is now our primary contact as we negotiate with the Milks family.

Our Hamfest Committee covered the job once again. Bob, WS2U; and Bill, N2BC chaired the effort with Paul, N2NCB ticking off items on the master checklist. Other hands pitched in as well with preparation and execution and (of course) clean-up.

We tried for a Field Day presence this year with Mel, WE2K, at the helm. For our first effort in a couple of years we managed OK with Bill, N2BC; and Jack, WB2GHH, doing their part to organize the event and to man the stations.

Nothing brings the group together like food and Hedy, AA2MU, made sure that our Picnic and Christmas Party were carried off with style. She had help, though, with Jack, WB2GHH, handling reservations for the Picnic Site; Bob, K2FU, running the grills, and a host of others pitching in.

Now if it happens that your Editor has missed one or another event or person in the list above the fault is his and additions will be cheerfully be reported in the next issue of the *BARA Facts*. Notwithstanding additions and corrections a Round of Applause and a Word of Thanks to all who make the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association the organization we are all proud of!

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#### **Licence Exams**

As we move into 2006 a round of thanks are owed to our local VE Team — chaired by Bob Soltis, WA2VCS — for making Amateur Radio Licence Exams available on a monthly basis. These gents are there at the Vestal Library every month (excepting July) offering all Elements. It’s an unpaid service to our community and these gents sometimes spend an evening with “no takers”, but they are there nonetheless and some Hams have traveled many miles and many hours because Bob and his Team provide a regular exam that can be counted on.

Exams commence at 7:00 PM at the Vestal Library (near the interchange between Route 434 —

fees, and sent many last-minute faxes and submissions to complete the process.

the Vestal Parkway — and Route 26) on the last Monday of each month (except July) unless a Legal Holiday falls on that Monday. In the event of a Legal Holiday, the exam is moved to the previous Monday. Registration begins sometime around 6:30 PM. The Exam Schedule for 2005 is as follows:

*January 30th*

*February 27th*

*March 27th*

*April 24th*

*May 22nd (Monday before Memorial Day)*

*June 26th*

*July (NO EXAM)*

*August 28th*

*September 25th*

*October 30th*

*November 27th*

*December 18th (Monday before Christmas)*

If you have been thinking of upgrading, why not make 2006 the year you take the plunge? And if you see Bob or one of the other VEs, please remember to thank them for the time they spend making exams available!

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#### **A Matter of SPAM**

The Editor of the *BARA Facts* apologizes to anyone who sent him an e-Mail, note, or article that was never printed or acknowledged. There are some days when the volume of SPAM in our Mailbox far outstrips the legitimate e-Mail and things are deleted by accident.

If you send an article and receive no acknowledgment, please query me on the subject. —  
*Your Editor, Eddie*

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#### **Correction**

In the November edition of the *BARA Facts* we noted that a Lumber Contract on the Milks property must be completed before BARA might occupy the site. This contract competes in June 2006 (NOT 2007 as previously reported).

We apologize for the error.

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#### **In Closing**

As 2005 wanes and the final days of December are upon us we at the *BARA Facts* wish you and yours all the best in this Holiday Season. Whatever your

personal religious or spiritual affiliation may be (or perhaps you have none at all) we reflect that this is a season of Friendship, Fellowship, and Family and we note that our Great Fraternity of Amateur Radio unites comrades and continents. Take some time now and in 2006 to strengthen these ties both on the air and off and remember that finally and forever it is not our material successes that matter, but the friendships, memories, and kindnesses that we leave behind. All the best to BARA's Best!

Club Officers and Committees			
President	Bill Coleman	N2BC	748-5232
Vice President	Bob Handel	K2FU	693-4310
Secretary	open	----	----
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Steve Orzelek	N2MSB	775-0281
	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
	Jack Connors	WB2GHH	724-8822
	Jim Lawson	KC2JED	797-1583
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

BARA, The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club

e-Mail Address: [w2ow@arrl.net](mailto:w2ow@arrl.net)

***Next General Meeting***

7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 21st

Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance



***Board Meeting***

7:00 PM, Wednesday January 4th

Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

***Exam Session***

7:00 PM Monday, December 26th

Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

***BARA Dues***

\$18/year Single Member; \$27/year Family

***DX Cluster***

W2OW on 145.070 MHz with a Data Rate of 1,200 baud; questions to [n2bc@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com)

***Local Repeater Nets***

146.73 MHz STAR Net (NTS Feeder) Every

Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time

146.82 MHz BRAT Net (Informal BARA) Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time

*Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.*

*P. O. Box 853*

*Binghamton, New York 13902*

*First Class*

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