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BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

November 2005

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

President's Corner

(November Snoozer)

It's contest season! If you have never tried a contest, you should at least once. I am recovering from a lightning and hail shortened effort in the November ARRL CW Sweepstakes. It was a best-ever for me on the CW weekend, 313 contacts and 79 of the 80 sections worked. Our VP, K2FU, did triple the number of contacts and found that elusive 80th section.

Phone Sweepstakes is the weekend of November 19, give it a try. I am hoping to pull together a club entry (simply pooling individual club member logs) — so we need 8 more stations to compete.

Be sure to attend the November general meeting. Tom Apalenek, WA2IVD, will give us a briefing on the recovery operations in the wake of the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. In addition we will be holding elections for the 2006 club officers.

Speaking of officers. We are in need of candidates! No one has yet raised their hand for the Secretary job. Allen Lutins, KC2KLC, has reluctantly decided to retire from office. Allen has done a great job as Secretary, he should get an award for creative writing as he makes some of my nonsense sound almost professional. Thanks Allen for all your hard work. If you would like to be Secretary — or for that matter if you want ANY of the jobs, give me a call or send an e-mail (see the back page of the newsletter).

Back the Shack update: We have hit a bump in Milks Road. The owner had previously committed to a contract to log some of the property. We cannot go back on the hilltop until the logging is complete. The contract requires completion by June 2007, but the work has yet to start. In the meantime, we have re-affirmed our interest and continue to work

on preparing the lease for the property. As soon as the logging is complete, we will be ready to go! — See you at the meeting! 73, Bill N2BC

BARA Holiday Party

Hedy, AA2MU, reminds us that Russell's Steak and Seafood House will be the place to be on Wednesday, 21 December! Pencil in that date now and join us for our annual bash.

We begin at 5:45 PM with a Social Hour. Seating and confirmation of orders will be at 6:30 PM.

Pricing for your meal with Appetizers and Dessert is \$19.95/person plus tax and gratuity. Please contact Hedy at (607) 748-4387 or one of your Officers with your reservation and a selection from the following Entrees:

ENTREES

*Stuffed Orange Roughy
Ten-Ounce Prime Rib
Chicken Cordon Bleu*

APPETIZERS

Fresh Vegetables with House Dip, Prime Rib Soup, and Tossed Salad.

*Entrees accompanied by Oven Warmed Bread,
Homemade Pumpkin Bread and Choice of Potato.*

DESSERT

Elmer Shafer, N2PQX, SK

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Elmer Shafer, N2PQX, on 25 October 2005. “Mer” as he was known to friends and family was a fine gentleman and a credit to our ranks. He leaves behind his wife, Sally, Children, family, and many friends.

Elmer served as our club secretary for several years and was the recipient of a BARA Award in 1999 for his long and cheerful dedication to our club.

Always friendly and smiling, Elmer was among the first to arrive for meetings and for our Hamfest setup.

His energy and dedication exceeded that of many a younger person and he never complained or gave in to circumstances or complained about his lot in life. Elmer was an example to us all and will be greatly missed.

To Sally and the rest of the Shafer clan we extend our heartfelt sympathy, but also our thanks and gratitude for sharing with us a FB OM in every sense of the word. 73, good friend. You were an Elmer to us in more ways than one!

Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Plan

Broome County, New York (Abbreviated)

A natural disaster or technical problem or man made event may cause governmental or relief agencies to request the amateur radio community to provide communication support to their mitigation efforts.

Preparedness is key for an effective response. Amateur radio operators should contact and register with their Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) and their Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Radio Officer (RO). Further, amateur operators should test their operational status by participation in events such as field days, simulated emergency tests, public awareness days and public service events. Maintaining and updating your “GO BAG” and keeping abreast of potential situations by monitoring commercial communication outlets, weather radio and amateur frequencies is beneficial. The plan below is intended to facilitate the initial amateur radio response.

Actions: The responsible individual will cause appropriate announcements of the situation and instructions to be made on repeater and simplex frequencies as indicated below.

Initial check in and assignments will be conducted on the

As is our custom, there will be drawings and prizes. Donations of door prizes are always welcome and your attendance is most earnestly solicited!

146.820 repeater. Monitor 146.52 simplex if your equipment has multi frequency and or scan capabilities. Acknowledge any calling station and direct them to 146.820 or assist them as necessary.

Freq	Off	PL	Notes
146.820	-	146.2	Primary County Frequency
146.730	-	100.0	Secondary County Frequency
147.075	+		Eastern Wide Area
147.120	+	100.0	Western
145.470	-		Southern
147.255	+	100.0	Western, EchoLink
444.100	+	146.2	Command Control
444.550	+		Tactical
146.520			Simplex National VHF Calling Frequency
146.550			Simplex
147.495			Simplex
147.540			Simplex Tactical on site

As the situation warrants: Specific frequency assignments (with the exception of 146.82) may be made. For example, shelters may be assigned to a separate frequency, hospitals to another. Resource scheduling and assignment may be shifted to a specific frequency. In case of repeater failure, switch to simplex operation on the repeater output freq. If all else fails, switch to 146.52 simplex and indicate your presence.

Participation: Recognizing that radio waves do not adhere to county lines, stations outside Broome County may assist in relief agency communication efforts as directed. — *Jack Connors, WB2GHH, RACES Radio Officer*

Accident or Near Miss

You Decide

Brian, K2DLB provided the following item that he received through W4DON. It points out an unexpected hazard in Antenna Work and highlights an area of caution for all who work on anything connected to the AC Grid. Through an oversight of our editorial staff, publication was delayed.

True incident. It was not our [Iredell] radio organization. Near miss??? Perhaps... you decide.

Man, on top of tower, preparing to remove an antenna, got a big jolt (shock) when he disconnected the coax connector at bottom of old repeater antenna. Reason. Power company had lost their neutral at distribution point. This created a dangerous situation.

Now in this particular situation it was possible for someone to have gotten shocked or even electrocuted while unhooking coax cable at their repeater or radio room.

Power companies, cities and community owned distribution systems should routinely inspect and test their neutral connections at ALL distribution points or a lawyer could soon be knocking on their doors.

RULE: Unplug or disconnect all power cords (first) and coax cables (second) before working on any antenna. In other words isolate the antenna and tower first. Take AC voltage readings if any doubt before work begins.

Remember, the neutral wire/cable that connects to the power transformer at the power pole is the neutral wire for all 120 vac distribution points in our homes, radio rooms, shops, etc. The other two insulated wires coming from that transformer are "hot" wires having a potential of 230-240 vac between them and 120 vac with reference to the neutral wire. Therefore, the neutral wire carries current for any 120 vac appliance or machine that's turned on. IF . . . that neutral wire connection is lost at the transformer or at your breaker panel that current will seek another path to flow. If a person becomes connected in that path current will pass through the persons body. If the current exceeds one-tenth of an ampere (100 milliamperes) the person can be electrocuted instantly. (He/she becomes a fuse.)

In the case of this incident mentioned above the neutral point became the antenna tower foundation and it's grounding in the earth. The neutral wire for the radio equipment and building lighting became the shield on the coax cable going to bottom of antenna and then back down tower to tower

foundation and grounding in the earth. Therefore, when the man on tower was disconnecting the coax cable at bottom of antenna he partially broke that metallic path for neutral current and he felt the results due to the potential difference in voltage. Yes, some current passed through him but it was not enough to cause injury or electrocution. Work was stopped immediately until tower and antenna were isolated. Power company repaired their neutral cable connection two days later.

Spreeeeeeeeeeed the word. Those ungrounded neutrals can / will cause death. — Charles D. Summers, W4DON, Iredell County Amateur Radio Society

Rome Radio Falls Silent

From Jerry Proc's Website at <<http://jproc.ca/radiostor/rome_radio.html>> we receive notice of the passing of another Coast Station.

Rome Radio was on the air continuously from 1954 until its closure on 31 October, 2005. It was the main Italian coastal radio station which served the Italian navy, Italian merchant ships and international seafarers on the H/F bands using both CW and SSB.

On October 26, a message which announced the closure was copied by Sylvester Foecking, DH4PB, on 8670 kHz. The message was sent in both Italian and English. Only the English version follows:

cq cq cq de IAR IAR =

This is the final transmission from Roma Radio morse service. We conclude our watchkeeping after many years of continuous service with pride and sadness on October the 31st. Telecom Italia coast stations wishes all seafarers fair winds and following seas. We salute all who have served our profession with skill and dedication through the years.

= de iar iar ar sk

One cannot help but think of the thousands of messages passed via IAR and the rhythm of those letters comes alive as I type them. It may be that change is inevitable, but some bits of the past leave a void that just can't be filled. Let's pause for a moment and give thanks for the "Sparks" who passed the traffic and made this world a little smaller and safer.

A Word to the Wise

Our Officers and Directors give a great deal to this Club of Ours. Many have been serving for more than one term and their dedication and willingness to

guide our organization is much appreciated — without them, there would be no BARA. Why not give consideration to lending *your* hand for a term? I guarantee that you will never be alone and that our members are always willing to step in and work with our leaders — I know, I have been there myself. Please give some thought to offering *your* name for the ballot — *Eddie the Editor*.

Club Officers and Committees			
President	Bill Coleman	N2BC	748-5232
Vice President	Bob Handel	K2FU	693-4310
Secretary	allen lutins	KC2KLC	729-4817
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

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, November 16th

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



Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday December 7th

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

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, November 28th

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

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
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First Class

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