



(c) 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

December 2006

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

President's Corner

Winter is arriving in the Southern Tier. Sliding down a steep road sideways is guaranteed to get the blood flowing.

A reminder: The club's annual holiday dinner is December 20th at Russell's Restaurant in Glendale.

Hope to see many of you there. Plan on some great company, good food, and lots of fun.

I met with Ed Plesnar, KB2SCF, today. Ed will become the club's President in January. We discussed some of the key things that need to be done to keep the club vital and moving forward. The primary need is YOU. Participation in the club's events, attending a meeting, giving a presentation, writing an article for the newsletter, these are all things any of us can do. If you have an idea or a need, make sure Ed is aware.

I want to thank the club and the team of officers for their efforts over the past two years. I think there will plenty of excitement in the club in 2007. I am looking forward to continued improvement at our Milks Road site and the 2007 BARA Owego Hamfest.

See you all at the party on the 20th, and drive safely! — Best 73, Bill N2BC

BARA Officers and Directors

The election of Officers and Directors of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association was conducted at the Club General Meeting in November 2006.

The following members were elected as Officers:

- ◆ President: Ed Plesnar, KB2SCF
- ◆ Vice President: Jim Lawson, KC2JED
- ◆ Secretary: Blake McCabe, KC2GQX
- ◆ Treasurer: Paul Slocum, N2NCB
- ◆ Directors were elected as follows:

- ◆ Lee Savage, W3EFE
- ◆ Jack Connors, WB2GHH
- ◆ Bob McCabe, KC2DSS
- ◆ Warren Marks, KC2NGR

We thank these members for their willingness to serve our Club and we thank outgoing Officers Bill Coleman, N2BC, (President) and Bob Handel, K2FU, (Vice President) as well as outgoing Directors Steve Orzelek, N2MSB, and Mel Snitchler, WE2K, for their service to our Club.

Wanted — Hamfest Chairman

As of this issue, our Club needs a Chairman for the 2006 BARA Hamfest in Owego. Past chairmen (who have served for many terms) are unable to coordinate the event for 2007 and we need someone to step forward if the Hamfest is to continue.

The job is not at all difficult — Paul, N2NCB, has put together a detailed list of “things to do” and all the chairman needs to do is to make sure they get checked off as required. There are also many willing hands to assist with the execution of each job and there is a great deal of satisfaction to be had in working with our gang, but we need a Chairman.

So, if the job isn't that hard, why doesn't one of the officers do it? A fair question, but in all fairness, the officers are already working for the success of the Club and it isn't right to “dump” all the work into their hands. Put another away, taking advantage of the officers will help assure that nobody will want that job!

So, the challenge to YOU, the members, is to come up with a Hamfest Chairman. Call Ed Plesnar, KB2SCF, at 754-3810 or Paul Slocum, N2NCB at 687-2057 if you are interested. Remember, the Hamfest funds our Club activities. We need YOU!

FCC to Drop Morse Testing

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission has adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. As of this date, the FCC has only issued a public notice, so some details — including the effective date of the R&O — remain uncertain.

The FCC also adopted an Order on Reconsideration, in WT Docket 04-140 — the “omnibus” proceeding — agreeing to modify the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective on 15 December (*please see the enclosed chart of the Bands*). The Commission said it will carve out the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations.

Prior to this action of the FCC, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. After the effective date, that requirement will be eliminated for General and Amateur Extra applicants.

In the words of the FCC, “This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio.” The decision to drop the Morse Code requirement is consistent with the FCC proposal. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only.

The FCC action appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the R&O goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the R&O in the Morse code docket would eliminate a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees. Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. “With today’s elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained,” the FCC said in its public notice. “Therefore, the FCC, in today’s action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees

For All Amateur License Classes

identical operating privileges.”

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall. A number of countries, including Canada, no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. The list has been increasing regularly.

The FCC said today’s R&O in WT Docket 05-235 comports with revisions to the international Radio Regulations resulting from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Typically, the effective date of an FCC Order is 30 days after it appears in the Federal Register. That would mean the Morse requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely not go into effect until late January 2007.

The ARRL will provide any additional information on these important Part 97 rule revisions as it becomes available. — Extracted from ARRL Bulletin 30 from ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT dated 16 December 2006

Christmas/Holiday Party at Russell’s

Our annual Christmas/Holiday Party will take the place of our General Meeting this month. Please join us on the 20th at Russell’s Steak House (across from the Enjoi Golf Course on Route 17C) in Endicott. We will NOT be at the Town of Binghamton Hall that evening!

Wrapping Up

As 2006 draws to a close, take some time to reflect on the year past and to think about the year ahead. Take time, too, to spend time with Friends and Family and to let those you love know that you love them —

Friends and Family are treasure beyond price, but we sometimes forget to tell them so! 2007 will be here soon and it holds as much promise as we are willing to work for, and I for one am happy to be working with this group. To you and yours: All the Best. Best 73s, 88s, and all that they imply — *Eddie the Editor, KB2SCF*

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 853

Binghamton, New York 13902

First Class

--

Club Officers and Committees			
President	Bill Coleman	N2BC	748-5232
Vice President	Bob Handel	K2FU	693-4310
Secretary	Bob McCabe	KC2DSS	748-9808
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

5:30 PM, Wednesday, December 20th

Annual Christmas/Holiday Party

Russell's Steak House in Endicott

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday January 3rd

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

Exam Session

Special Schedule for December

Regular Schedule Resumes in January

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