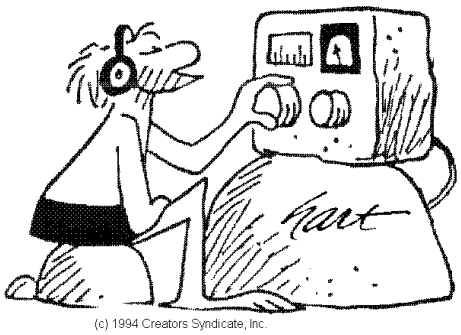


BARA Facts

NEWSLETTER OF THE
BINGHAMTON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2006

http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara

President's Corner

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

The grand re-opening of the shack on Milks Road is June 24 & 25— Field Day. The membership (YOU) has been awfully quiet. We need a count of people who plan to participate.

The fun starts the morning of the 24th with some antenna raising, dipoles in the trees kind of stuff. We will have a tower in place with a Tribander on it and we can also put up a 6M beam or 2M beam if there is interest in VHF. Other antennas will be strung as required and as the spirit moves us. We plan to be there and we plan to have fun. The main reason we need a count is so we can gauge the amount of FOOD and DRINK to have on hand!

Send an e-mail to W2OW@ARRL.NET or give me a call at 748-5232. We'll also have a signup sheet at the June meeting. We will be going over the nuts and bolts of FD operating at the June meeting. If you want to try your hand at some fun operating; check out Field Day, but let us know NOW!

More shack news: Ron, AA2EQ, is designing our new big tower installation. In the meantime we will have one 50' tower, a 30' tower (which may grow to 40'), and potentially one more 50' tower. The club owns enough antennas to easily fill these structures and cover all the bands from 160M to 2M. Watch this space for further updates. If you are interested in helping out, learning about tower installation, etc., give me a call.

We have new furniture in the shack. Thanks to Tom Vroman, KC2OFK, we got our hands on some great modular furniture. We'll have a couple sets in place for FD with more to come.

There is lots of work to be done. We need more arms and legs so volunteer now. Again, an e-mail to W2OW@ARRL.NET or a phone call to me will get you involved. — 73, Bill N2BC *call me at 607-748-5232 or send an e-mail to n2bc@stny.rr.com*

Field Day 2006



Field Day is an opportunity to accomplish several things. First and foremost, it is practice for "The Big One" that we hope never comes. We try and operate "outside the box" with temporary antennas and emergency power (although operating "from the shack on mains" is certainly permitted).

Second, we spread our contacts around assuming that "The Big One" will require building both intra- and inter-state communications networks from scratch. By covering the map we develop the skills and technique needed to establish point-to-point communications across the country.

Third, we work outside our normal routine and stretch our skills and technique; we sharpen our abilities

and try our hands at different styles and practices.

Finally, there is the social aspect of Field Day. Fun, Food, and Recreation mixed with a healthy dose of Operating — you can't go wrong.

At the Shack on Milks' Road. Saturday 24 through Sunday 25 June 2006. Bring Friends or Family; but do bring YOURSELF!

The Plan

Here is a rough outline of how Field Day will unfold.

Beginning on the morning of 24 June monitor the 146.73 Machine for last-minute news. Come up to the Shack as early as you like; bring any tools; equipment; or refreshments that you like.

You can choose to operate "from the shack" using Club Equipment and Antennas or you can operate "al Fresco" using your own gear from a Car, Tent, or Shelter and a Temporary Antenna that you string yourself. You can also opt for a mix of styles or "Club In" with like-minded friends.

Food and Drink are planned, but here is the catch: We (BARA) can't provide sufficient quantities unless you let us know how many to plan for. Please "sign in" at the June Meeting or contact w2ow@arrl.net or n2bc@stny.rr.com.

How long you stay is up to you. In an emergency, we would "camp out" until our services are no longer needed. You can try that approach, or you can "take a break" and "go home" after a few hours. Come and go as you need; or "hunker down" for the duration. Your call, your choice.

Make Field Day a chance for a picnic with Family and Friends. Guests are certainly welcome and through drill in Baseball, Volleyball, Tag, Talking, and Eating are all permitted. Coming up to socialize or kibbitz is fine with "us" if it's OK with "you".

K2RUX — SK

It is with regret that we note the passing of another member of our Amateur Community. Joe Staniszewski, K2RUX, died unexpectedly on the first of June. Joe was a fine gentleman and a friend. He could be counted on for Emergency and Public Service Work and his dry sense of humor snuck up on new acquaintances and caught them without warning.

To Joe's wife and family we extend our sympathy and our thanks for sharing him with us. As for Joe: we miss you and wish best 73s to one who touched our lives and brightened our days however briefly. Thanks much, OM; FB to have known you!

Correction

Never let it be said that the *BARA Facts* does not admit an error or that it hides its mistakes on the last page!

In our last issue the boneheads in the Editorial Department managed to omit the name and call of N2BC, our *beloved* President and Commander in Chief, who was present for set-up, execution, and tear-down.

We deeply regret this omission and hope that it will never happen again. Seriously. — *Eddie the Editor, Bonehead in Chief*

Montenegro, a New DX Entity?

The Republic of Montenegro, which declared its independence on 3 June has applied for United Nations membership, according to *The Daily DX* <<http://www.dailydx.com>. The move paves the way for the tiny Balkan nation to join the ARRL DXCC list.

"Once Montenegro is accepted into the UN or obtains a call sign prefix block, DXers will have a new DXCC entity," says ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG.

The division of Serbia and Montenegro eliminates what remained of Yugoslavia. Serbia's parliament this week declared Serbia a sovereign nation as heir to the former Serbia-Montenegro union. Assuming that Serbia continues to hold its current seat in the UN, it will remain on the DXCC list as a pre-existing and continuing DXCC entity, Mills explained.

A decision on whether to admit Montenegro into the UN must go before the UN Security Council and then to the UN General Assembly. A UN spokesperson could not say how long the process might take, The *Daily DX said. — From the ARRL Letter for 9 June*

Counsel from Counsel Riley

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth advised those attending the FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention 2006 to try kindness instead of confrontation when problems arise on the bands. Hollingsworth spoke May 20 to a nearly full house at Hara Arena, and for the most part he praised the behavior of the majority of Amateur Radio operators, especially those who volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year. But, he noted, radio amateurs still could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense.

"You need to lighten up and not embarrass the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth advised. "All of us make mistakes, especially with the new features you have on radios today. It's very easy to make a mistake, to be on the wrong frequency or be operating split and not know it — there's a hundred ways to make mistakes." Hollingsworth said experience has shown

him that at least 75 percent of the interference complained about is absolutely unintentional.

In Hollingsworth's view, radio amateurs all too often are hypersensitive and rude. “We have a radar going to detect offenses at all times, we assume the worst in people, we rarely give people the benefit of the doubt,” he said. He joked that if there were three amateurs in a town, there would be two Amateur Radio clubs.

“And there’ll be two hamfests with 20 people each, because they wouldn’t dare consolidate them,” he added.

Hollingsworth acknowledged that “certain problem operators” remain, but the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to Amateur Radio. “If there’s a downfall in Amateur Radio, it won’t be caused by no-code Technicians or codeless anything else,” he said. “It’ll be caused by the microphone — no doubt in my mind.” He advised his audience to ignore the troublesome operators and not give them the attention they crave by engaging them on the air.

“Now, think about it: If what you're hearing annoys you, or angers you or is stupid, use the *stupid filter*, which is that big knob — that VFO that will take you somewhere else,” he quipped. “It’s the largest knob on the radio.” He recommended moving to another frequency or even another band altogether.

Hollingsworth praised the Volunteer Examiner program as “outstanding” and noted there had not been a single complaint in the past year stemming from an examination session. He also said the Amateur Radio community should have a greater appreciation for what the ARRL is doing on its behalf.

“Most of you have no idea how much work is done in Newington for you and the Amateur Radio Service generally,” he said. “I see it every day, but I think you have no idea of the hard work and dedication that comes out of that office up there, and I don’t think we would be there if it weren’t for [the League].”

“This country's communications infrastructure needs Amateur Radio,” Hollingsworth emphasized, praising Amateur Radio’s overall performance following Hurricane Katrina. “You have a tremendous amount to be proud of.”

He also suggested that radio amateurs have an obligation to stay informed about what’s going on in Amateur Radio that might affect their activities. “You have to not only keep up, you have to lead the way, because it’s in your charter,” he said, pointing to Section 97.1 of the *Amateur Service rules.*

Hollingsworth noted at the start of his talk that he could not address any questions dealing with the FCC's long-awaited decision on the Morse code requirement (Element 1), because he works in the Commission's Enforcement Bureau. “We don’t meddle in rule making,” he explained, but added that he didn’t expect CW to decline if the FCC does drop the 5 WPM Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it has proposed to do.

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) handles Amateur Radio rule makings, Hollingsworth noted, including the *Morse code proceeding, WT Docket 05-235,* and the so-called *omnibus proceeding, WT Docket 04-140.* The WTB has said it will rule first on the omnibus proceeding, then tackle the Morse code proceeding, but it has not indicated when to expect either Report and Order.

No representative from the WTB was at Dayton Hamvention this year. — *From the ARRL Letter for 26 May*

Are You Being Served?

Halfway through the year and time to begin the annual reminders about Club Elections. Officers and Gentlemen (we don’t need to specify “Gentlewomen”, because none but the finest are members of BARA) are invited to place their names before our Nominating Committee.

In noting this fact, it’s well to note that many of our current Officers and Directors have served more than one term (perhaps many more, over the years). We are certainly grateful for their service, but we (and they as well) remind you that new blood and fresh ideas are always welcome.

Re-establishing BARA on the Hilltop is a big accomplishment and it’s pretty certain that we will continue to build momentum, but help is needed. Your help. Please consider answering the call.

Time For a Picnic

Don’t fail to remember not to forget the 2006 BARA Picnic in August! Will it be at the zoo or up at the Shack? Who will grill the dogs and burn the burgers? For the answer to these and other momentous questions, watch upcoming issues of the BARA Facts, but mark your calender now!

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

7:30 PM, Wednesday, June 21st
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday July 5th
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, June 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

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