



BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

December 2007

Website: <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara> or <http://w2ow.org>

The President's Corner

As we wind down 2007 and look ahead to 2008, I have this opportunity to pen a last "President's Corner". I've served as President a few times and it is time to step down as other commitments are making demands on my time and I have to admit that I step down with some regret.

While I would never say that the position of BARA President is a "piece of cake", there are still many compensations. There is no doubt that the job gives you a real insight into how our Club works and the spirit that keeps us going. Although the President is sometimes worker and sometimes cheerleader, nothing happens just because of "him". Always, it is the members that make up BARA and ultimately BARA will sink or float through your efforts.

As I look back over the past year, I am reminded of the things that have happened and that we have accomplished. Our Shack sees more use and bit-by-bit is coming back together. John, WB2FQZ, and his family have picked up on some of the organization and cleaning and they and other members have begun burning holes in the ether from the W2OW site. There's been a bit of Contest and Field Day activity (thanks in part to Ray, K1OW, and Jack, WB2GHH) and we can only work to make things better.

Attendance at meetings is up and our programs have held interest and generated positive remarks. There is a real reservoir of talent in our Club and we have only just begun to tap into the wealth of knowledge hidden "under our hats".

Speaking of that knowledge, the General Class earlier this year was a real example of Hams working together. I'm proud to say that I can claim no credit there because Ford, AB2HS, and Brian, K2DLB, were two of the "Movers and Shakers" who floated the idea and then made sure that the class came off. But they didn't do it alone. Many of you took part as well by

teaching classes and helping with the logistics of pulling it off.

Our Picnic in August was a success in more ways than one. Besides having a good turnout from the Club and some new faces mixed in with the usual crowd, the work was spread over many so that no one member had to bear the bulk of the job. Jack, WB2GHH, and Hedy, AA2MU, made sure that we had a place to meet and delivered the "general supplies", but many others helped with setup, cooking, cleanup, and other chores. We also had a nice demonstration of Radio Controlled Model Flight (courtesy of the Rudy Clan).

After a rocky and uncertain start, our Hamfest got underway with Jim, KC2JED, and Bob, KC2DSS, at the helm. We learn a lot every time we run the Fest and this year was no exception, but one positive change is that we are primed and ready for 2008 with the site reserved and locked in already.

As always, finances are a source of worry. The Hamfest helped as do timely Dues Payments and the occasional donation. This year we implemented an "e-Mail Only" option for Newsletter delivery and a number of members took advantage of this thus reducing our postal charges. Anyone who would like to opt for receiving an e-Mail notice that the *BARA Facts* is available online, should contact our Treasurer, Paul, N2NCB. At the same time we offered an e-Mail option for the *Facts*, Tom, WA2LTD, approached Unicorn Electronics and negotiated an arrangement whereby Unicorn prints the paper copies of the *Facts* at no cost to BARA. If you happen to stop by Unicorn, you might consider identifying yourself as a BARA Member and saying "thanks" for their kindness.

Along with our online Newsletter we have the BARA Website which Bill, N2BC, has been updating at the occasion warrants. Mostly we add Newsletter, Hamfest, and other event information. Bill's attention

is appreciated. Besides the “old” path to our Website, Tom, WA2LTD, also arranged for w2ow.org as an alternate which redirects to our homepage.

I’m sure that there are other things that we have accomplished this year and I apologize if I have missed your favorite. I wanted to take some space and do this review as a way of thanking and recognizing everyone who works to make our Club a success.

Looking ahead to 2008, I know that there is a VHF Contest on the horizon for January and, of course, our Hamfest in May. Field Day comes in June (as always) and we will be on the air again. How big a presence we show is, as always, up to you.

Finally, As I prepare to pass the helm of the “GoodShip BARA” to allen, KC2KLC, I would like to thank each of you for your part in BARA and for your support. Without you there would be no Club and without your participation there is little that would be done. It has been a privilege to work with you and an honor to serve you. Thanks. And, as we wind down the year, I wish to you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. May 2008 bring you the best and may tomorrow always hold greater riches than the day that passes! — *DE Ed, KB2SCF*

A Note of Thanks Jack Connors, WB2GHH

From time to time the President of BARA is privileged to make awards of various kinds. The most common is the BARA Award, which is bestowed for “Service to Our Club” and is presented at the discretion of the President and (generally) in consultation with the Officers and Board. This year, there is a Ham and a Gentleman who deserves recognition of a special order and (since he already received the award in 2004) I felt that rather than bestow it again it would be appropriate to single him out in a special way.

The gentleman to whom I refer is Jack Connors, WB2GHH, and I think he needs little introduction to members of our Club or to Hams in our area. Jack is a gentleman and a first-class Ham. It is probably common knowledge that he is active in Public Service (both in Ham Radio and in other, community-based activities) and an ambassador of all that is good in Ham Radio, but his role in BARA deserves special recognition.

Jack has been active on our Club since before I came on board and I am sure that he will continue to be active so long as the Good Lord permits. Having worked with him in his roles as Officer, Director, and

Member, I want to acknowledge the commitment he has to BARA and his generosity in sharing his time and his talent with us. If ever a member stands up for BARA, it is Jack and Jack has gone to bat for this Club more than once. In meetings and in private conversations, Jack’s honest and direct advice is of value and he considers our Club before any other interest. His forthrightness and candor mark him as a gentleman and I would like at this time to go on record in these pages as recognizing his contributions and thanking him for them. — *DE Ed, KB2SCF*

Election Results

The Election of Officers and Directors in the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association (BARA) was conducted at the General Meeting of 21 November 2007. Ballots were distributed and counted with the following results.

President:	allen lutins, KC2KLC
Vice President:	John Connors. WB2GHH
Secretary:	Don Pierce, AB2HT
Treasurer:	Paul Slocum, N2NCB
Director:	Warren Marks, KC2NGR
	John Rudy, WB2FQZ
	Bill Jaker, WB8RAE
	John Carrington, WB2SGS

The new Officer and Directors will officially begin to exercise their responsibilities in January 2008. The incoming president, allen, K2KLC, has requested that all retiring Officers and Directors attend the BARA Board Meeting on 2 January 2008 if possible to assist in wrapping up business and making the transition to the new leadership team.

Are You Prepared?

As we move into the Winter months and consider some of the extreme weather events of the past few weeks, it’s not a bad idea to go over emergency plans and consider whether or not we are ready for a snow emergency. Winter offers special challenges and modifications to our “ordinary” emergency plans and the following notes are based on some winter camping experience.

Perhaps the most important rule of preparedness is to remember that our first responsibility is to ourselves and to our immediate family. We do no good if we go off “to help” without considering our abilities and our needs and without taking care of the people who depend on us. So perhaps it is best to consider first

how to prepare our homes and then to put together a kit to be taken if we have to evacuate or if we need to relocate to assist with communications. We'll assume that you have the usual radio "stuff" in hand and we will concentrate on the special considerations imposed by cold weather.

Water, Warmth, and Food are the first three requirements. We can only live for a few days without water. Without warmth our bodies will shut down, and without food we can't maintain our energy. Whatever supplies we put together, remember that water must be pure. Liquid supplies will also freeze in the cold, so a portable stove to thaw ice or snow and foods can be essential. Make sure that you know how to use the stove, that you have the correct fuel, and that you have a set of pots and pans that are sized for the stove and which have no projecting handles. Remember to keep matches handy in a waterproof container. Old-fashioned "strike anywhere" matches are best and keep in mind that many "waterproof" brands are safety matches that require the special striker on the box for ignition.

Snow and ice should never be ingested in any quantity because your body will expend much energy thawing these materials and bringing them to temperature. You should also consider that only fresh, clean snow is "safe". Suspect ice or snow must be boiled after thawing.

It is helpful to have a stock of prepared foods: Canned soups, meats, pastas and sauce can be prepared without much work. Crackers, hardtack, and "energy bars" will supplement them. Dehydrated foods are another possibility, but remember that they require water for preparation. Don't forget hard candies and chocolate for quick energy, but do not rely on them as a primary source of food. Likewise, very cold foods will demand energy from your body to bring them to temperature in your stomach while very hot foods and drinks can promote sweating and the loss of fluid.

For warmth, layering is best and remember that wool and synthetic fabrics are better than cotton if there is any chance you will get wet. Keep your feet warm and dry with several layers of non-cotton socks. Wool gloves (or mittens) will keep your hands comfortable and will continue to provide insulating value even if wet. A cap (especially a stocking cap) will prevent heat loss from your head and can be worn to bed.

With regard to radio equipment, portable equipment and temporary antennas with cables, connectors, and accessories should be packed in a bag along with tools, a multimeter, and electrical tape.

For power, don't forget appropriate cables and adapters. A cigar-lighter plug with several feet of color-coded cable terminated in insulated alligator clips can be used to lash up a temporary supply. A supply of batteries is also recommended, but remember that terminal voltage drops with temperature, so you may need to keep your battery pack in a warm pocket. Gel-cell power packs are another consideration. Battery power is temporary and you should plan alternate or replacement sources if commercial power fails. If you use a generator, use it outside and do not allow the exhaust to get in your house or to collect in enclosed areas — Carbon monoxide is an odorless and deadly gas! Speaking of generators, the time to test one is before an emergency. Make sure the engine starts, the oil is topped off and of an appropriate viscosity, and make sure that the fuel is treated with stabilizer.

A source of light is essential. For battery power, consider a LED Flashlight. The newer lamps are quite efficient and very bright. Consider too the kind of flashlight: a sturdy plastic case is much better in the cold than a metal case. Take extra batteries and keep a penlight in an inside pocket.

Personal medications and a First Aid Kit should be at hand. Remember, though, that liquids will freeze and plan accordingly. In a pinch, a small cooler with hot or jars of hot water rocks inside can be used to keep things above freezing so long as you renew the heat sources.

If you are forced to evacuate, personal papers, prescriptions, eyeglasses, phone lists, and some ready cash plus credit cards will be needed. Take a book and a deck of cards as well. Morale and comfort are important aspects of survival. Thinking ahead, planning, and maintaining calm and balance are always key to handling emergencies and responding effectively and efficiently to the unexpected.

BARA Christmas/Holiday Party

This month we celebrate the Christmas/Holiday Season with our annual party at Russell's Steak House in Endicott. The party is on Wednesday the 19th and we can begin gathering in the Bar anytime after 5:00 PM with seating beginning at 6:00 so that orders can be taken by 6:30.

Russell's is located at 1001 West Main Street in Endicott (across from the enJoi Golf Course).

Remember, we will NOT be at the Town of Binghamton Hall this month!

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 853
Binghamton, New York 13902

First Class

Club Officers and Committees			
President	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810
Vice President	Jim Lawson	KC2JED	797-1583
Secretary	Blake McCabe	KC2GQX	748-9808
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Jack Connors	WB2GHH	724-8822
	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	648-6840
	Bob McCabe	KC2DSS	748-9808
	Lee Savidge	W3EFE	669-4188
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

Next General Meeting
7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 19th
Russell's Steak House, Endicott
(across from the enJoi Golf Course)

Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Wednesday January 2nd
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency
Services (West Side of Campus)

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



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

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net

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