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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

August 2008

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

The President's Corner

Where are all the hams? BARA has a membership of over 70 (last I knew), but a small minority make it out to the monthly meetings. I can't imagine why our members wouldn't want to interact with each other, for the sake of learning new things, enlightening us newer hams with technical information, regaling us with the legends of our community's past, and learning from (and or being entertained by) the presentations we host.

Last week I volunteered to help with communications for the Empire State Games. Now there was a fine showing of the amateur radio community! Folks from all over the state traveled (at their own expense, which can be significant given the price of fuel) to participate in what must be the largest annual gathering of hams in the state (well, maybe the Rochester Hamfest gets more). Knowing that I was volunteering time in service to my community was a great feeling, but so was the opportunity to interact with fellow radio enthusiasts.

I could really use some of that interaction throughout the rest of the year. A guy at work recently loaned me an HF transceiver (last night I made my first HF voice contact from home in 27 years – Field Day at the shack was my first time actually on HF since 1981), and I have questions about grounding my antenna, the proper cable to use, etc. Answers to the questions I have are not easy to come by online or in the ARRL antenna manual sitting on my nightstand – it would be a lot easier just to ask a few experienced elmers in person!

If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, you may not realize that the face of BARA has evolved. While not burgeoning with new members, there certainly are new faces around. We all are looking to more experienced members of the amateur community for guidance. If you're going to attend any meeting at all, make it this month's, which is BARA's annual picnic (August 20, 4 pm at Otsiningo Park), and be sure

to bring your family. I'll be on vacation during the following month's general meeting, so I hope to see y'all when I get back in October.

I look forward to hanging out with more of my fellow hams in the future! — 73 de allen lutins
KC2KLC

QST QST QST The 2008 BARA Picnic Fleamarket and Fellowship Frolic 20 August 2008 Otsiningo Park

Make plans now to attend the annual Binghamton Amateur Radio Club Picnic. All it will cost you is a dish to pass (food that is) and or some munchies, etc. or whatever.

The Club supplies the buns, the dogs, the burgers, the drinks (non-alcoholic only allowed in park), and the location. What deal! Show up and have a great time. Maybe meet the newest and oldest club members and in addition meet a HAM celebrity.

Get an autograph from a HAM named Andy (KC2QYA, 10 year old GENERAL) who was featured in an article which appeared in the June 2008 issue of *World Radio* and whose voice calling "this is W2OW" on Field Day 2008 is immortalized on "you Tube" at <<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX2r0ddUqsw>>> by a quirky HAM who goat back packed gear to a mountain top in Colorado for field day. The quirky HAM's expedition will be featured on national TV in the near future; I'll keep you posted. Andy's recorded voice is on the lead in of the video as well as about two thirds through the interesting video. This video is a must see and listen.

So pass the word (and the Ketchup) about the picnic. The more the merrier. Bring along you favorite

portable chair or lounge, a mitt, ball, Frisbee or whatever that may make your attendance and others enjoyable. A portable rig may prove interesting. I'm certain we can load the metal roof. A trunk full of swappable stuff in a vehicle backed up to the pavilion may prove beneficial.

The Ostiningo Park (off Bevier Street at Front Street, Binghamton) pavilion is located near the garden plots and rest room area. The pavilion area is located on flat terrain within 75 feet of the restrooms and is immediately adjacent to parking spaces. Fully and easily accessible.

We have reserved the pavilion for exclusive use of BARA for the entire day until closing (dark). So come make yourself at home any time you like. Enjoy the park. We will (hope to) strike a fire at about 4:45 PM and begin serving about 5:30 and on until ?????

Hope to see you ALL at the picnic. — *DE Jack*,
WB2GHH; VP and Picnic Site Coordinator

Book Review

The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes

Although our Ham Role in emergencies is generally that of Communicator, the nature of an emergency situation is such that even the people on the “edges” of the action are subject to stress and find that the assignment is anything but “normal”. Furthermore, if we are “on site” when an emergency arises, we will need to quickly make the transition from “normalcy” to the unique requirements of that situation. Amanda Ripley has researched the subject thoroughly and in *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes — and Why*, she provides a roadmap through the “Arc of Survival: Denial Deliberation and the Decisive Moment”.

Drawing on the experiences of survivors of natural and man-made disasters, Ripley identifies the physical and psychological reactions of our bodies and our minds. Along the way, she offers useful advice in the form of actions and strategies that assist us in moving to what she terms “The Decisive Moment” and ways in which we can help others. Using case histories and the insights of scientific research she explains how and why certain techniques and strategies greatly increase the effectiveness of our assistance in an emergency and how we can use these tools to help others.

The non-professional and non-technical reader will not find the material intimidating and, in fact, the

book can be a real “page turner”. The writing is lively, interesting, and relevant. Among the results that will be of interest to us as Hams is the assurance that practice and preparation are key to effectiveness and that confidence in our abilities increases the chance that we apply those abilities effectively. Obvious, perhaps so, but thinking through possible scenarios while reading the text can help to focus our attention and better prepare for what we hope never happens.

And that is the irony of the situation: Our exercises and preparation and honing of skills are for an situation that we hope never arises, insurance against the unthinkable. This book may not be for everyone, but if emergency preparedness is important to you, you may find *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes — and Why* (ISBN 978-0307352897) by Amanda Ripley a valuable supplement to your “Go Kit”.

September Is

National Preparedness Month

The US Department of Homeland Security announced in July that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations — including several Amateur Radio groups — have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition<<<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm08/intro.html>>>.

Sponsored by the department’s “Ready” campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness. “As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly.” “The ‘Ready’ campaign and Citizen Corps <<<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>>> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps,” said ARRL Public Relations and Media Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. “These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as

taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.”

National Preparedness Month Coalition members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Sign up your club or ARES group now!

Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting the Ready Web site <<<http://www.ready.gov/>>> and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

For more information on the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, please visit <<<http://www.ready.gov/>>> or <<<http://www.listo.gov/>>> for information in Spanish.

Information is also available by phone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO (in Spanish).

According to Pitts, linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is “an easy win. The federal people are already doing all the hard work. All you really have to do is sign up. Most clubs and ARES groups are already doing activities which fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course, if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better! But you have to sign your group in and no one can do that for you. There are hundreds of ARES groups and clubs in the country. Wouldn't it be fun to have even 70 percent of them sign up and get noticed?” — *From the ARRL Letter for 8 August 2008*

BARA Nominations and Elections

With August here, November is just a few months away and so are the annual elections for Officers and Directors. One of the topics at upcoming Board Meetings will be the slate of Officers and Directors.

Now I know that we are busy and that there are lots of demands on our time, but I'm going to begin my annual plea to you, the Members of BARA, and once again I am going to ask you to consider answering the call. Even better, if you have any interest in serving as an Officer or Director, please make that fact known.

Is it a commitment? Yes it is. Will it take time? A couple of hours a month. Why should someone do it? Well, if this Club is important to you and if you “get something” out of being a member, this might be the time to give something back. It's a personal decision that only *you* can make, but it is an opportunity to keep

this Club of *ours* going. Look at the names on the last page of the *Facts* and think about the other names that have been on that page. Many names have been there for several years and they represent a long-standing commitment to this organization. But it's not fair to expect those names to remain there forever — burning out the people who keep a club going is no way to recognize service and new blood can bring in new ideas. Wouldn't it be nice to have enough “potentials” on the slate for the Officers and Directors who would like a change to have the opportunity to “bow out” gracefully?

Give it a thought. Or two. Or three. — *this message brought to you by your editor, Eddie, KB2SCF*

This Month

Don't Come to the Hall

Come to the Park



👉 Ostiningo Park 👈 Is the Place to Be



for 👉 The BARA Picnic 👈 August 20th

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 853
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First Class

Club Officers and Committees			
President	allen lutins	kc2klc	729-4817
Vice President	Jack Connors	WB2GHH	724-8822
Secretary	Don Pierce	AB2HT	
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	John Carrington	WB2SGS	648-8364
	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	648-6840
	Bill Jaker	WB8RAE	785-5361
	John Rudy	WB2FQZ	669-4308
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

Next General Meeting
7:30 PM, Wednesday, August 20th
Otsiningo Park Pavilion — See Details in the Facts this Month!

Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Wednesday September 3rd
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session
7:00 PM Monday, August 25th
Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

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

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

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