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BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

December 2008

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

2008 BARA Christmas/Holiday Party

All BARA Members should note that our 2008 Holiday/Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 17 December at the Spot Restaurant on Front St. Note that this is a change of venue from previous years. The Spot is on Upper Front Street (Route 11) North of Broome County Community College and South of the overpass where Route 81 crosses over Front Street. The Doors will open at 5:00 PM and we will be seated to order at 6:00 PM. Participants can order off the regular Spot menu and will receive separate checks. Once again Hedy, AA2MU, will reprise her role as BARA Social Director and MC the party.

The Spot has easy access and plenty of parking and will accommodate people with wheelchairs or mobility problems.

The BARA Party will be in the large room to the right as you enter the restaurant. — *thanks to Ford, AB2HS, for this information*

Help Wanted at the Facts

Hedy, AA2MU has faithfully taken care of folding, labeling, and mailing issues of the *BARA Facts* for longer than some of us have been members. Although she is (and remains) an esteemed member of BARA, she is involved in other outside activities and would like a break. She recently requested that we (meaning the editorial staff) try and find

someone to take over this task. She has kindly offered to continue for a short time, but we really should honor her request and I am accordingly asking for any interested parties to please volunteer their services.

What does the job involve? Your Editor has been picking up the printed copies and labels and delivering them soon after the Facts are printed. I can continue this arrangement or we could work out another arrangement. The copies are then folded and stapled and labels are affixed. (Collating us usually done at the printer.) Hedy also highlights the “dues date” printed on the label if the members dues are due.

If you are willing to take on this job for the Club, please contact your editor, Ed, KB2SCF, at 607-754-3810. Thank You.

Election of BARA Officers and Directors for 2009

At the November General Meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association (BARA), Inc. a slate of Officers and Directors proposed by the Nominating Committee was presented and voted on. The results are as follows:

President:	allen lutens, k2klc
Vice President:	James Lawson, KC2JED
Secretary:	Tom Siglin, WA2LTD
Treasurer:	Paul Slocum, N2NCB
Directors:	John Carrington, WB2SGS Warren Marks, KC2NGR

Bill Jaker, WB8RAE
John Rudy, WB2FQZ

We congratulate our new Officers and Directors and we thank them for stepping up to this responsibility and offering their service to our Club. We also thank our outgoing Vice President John Connors, WB2GHH, and our outgoing Secretary Don Pierce, AB2HT.

We take this opportunity to remind all members that the Officers and Directors of the BARA Board meet at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month in the conference room at the studios of WSKG, 501 Gates Road, Vestal, NY. All BARA members and parties with an interest in bringing business before the Club are welcome to attend. The BARA General Meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. It is conducted at the Town of Binghamton Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY. Members, guests, and interested parties are invited to attend.

SK, Marv, N2ZMN

Anyone in the New York/Pennsylvania area who operated 2-meters over the last five to ten years probably come across Marv Shoemaker, N2ZMN, at one time or another. He was my own first contact back when I first was licenced and we had many conversations on the air and off. Marv was one of those people who always seemed to be “on the air” and if someone needed directions or local information, N2ZMN likely knew the answer. If you tossed out your call on the local repeaters, you were almost certain of a comeback from N2ZMN. It’s true that he was less active over the last several years as illness and age caught up with him, but he got out and on the air as much as possible.

Well, time wound down for Marv on 9 November and he passed on to his reward. His key is silent, but he will live on in the memories of his many friends and acquaintances. Marv was a friend to all and the world is a little emptier now. But his best legacy will be in the fact that many

hams, young and old alike, knew that there was someone in the Southern Tier who didn’t mind stopping and chatting for a while with whomever passed through.

Best 73, Marv, may your signals always be full quieting and your reward great.

ARRL VEC Exam Fee Increase

Please be aware that the fee for exams administered by the ARRL VEC has increased by one dollar. The fee for sitting for an ARRL VEC Exam is now \$15.00. This fee permits the applicant to sit for any desired Exam Elements at one sitting.

Thoughts of the Season

With but little in the way of news for this issue of the *Facts*, it falls upon your editor to either end the year with white space or to pad the issue out with some editorial content. I hope that you won’t mind is I spend some time reflecting on our Hobby, the Season, and things in general...

It’s a cold and a dark time of the year and it is perhaps a little odd that both the Christian and Jewish faiths should choose this time for feasts that celebrate light, rebirth, and renewal.

For Christians this is the season of Christmas preceded by a time of Advent preparation and traditionally extended by the twelve days leading to the Epiphany. And amid the cards, the shopping, the gifts, and the festivities there is at the core a message of waiting for a birth, the signal of a star, and the fulfilment of a promise.

Around the same time the Jewish Calendar marks the festival of Hanukkah — a celebration which one of my Jewish friends remarks is not so much a major or a religious holiday as it is a festival for children. Be that as it may, it is still a festival of lights, prolonged through days to celebrate deliverance against all odds from foreign oppression and the cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple and the re-establishment of the Temple

worship. Light is a part of the celebration as the candles of the menorah recall the eight days of vigil illuminated by a small supply of sacred oil that miraculously lasted until a new stock of oil could be consecrated.

Light, Hope, Deliverance. Faithful cleaving to an ancient promise. In their own ways each festival echos this theme. Scanning the news outlets, it is too easy to find examples of messages and actions that are anything but in tune. For every voice of peace there seems a clamor of tongues demanding violence and it is easy to give in to the fear that discord will overwhelm and swallow harmony.

But as the cycle of the seasons comes around, these feasts re-mind us that so long as time endures, so does Hope. The reminder of a Child Born in a manger and the tiny flickering flames building and combining into a blaze of light are the fulfilment of a promise.

So here we are, Hams. Communicators. International Ambassadors of Good Will. In the history of our Hobby there have been times when we have stepped up to the plate and used key, mike, or phone patch to connect people with people. It's not an activity that looks any further than the need to connect and to facilitate the connection between people separated by chance, accident, or distance. Every time we key the transmitter or fine-tune the receiver we connect. The type and the quality of that connection is up to us and in our hands.

Whatever your faith or inclination, may this Season bring you peace and joy. Whatever the uncertainties of international affairs, economics, or health, may your signals be good, your communications clear, and may we find ourselves next December another year older, three hundred and sixty-five days wiser, and closer than ever —
Eddie the Editor

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, December 17th
BARA Christmas/Holiday Party at the Spot Restaurant, Upper
Front Street, Binghamton

Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Wednesday January 7th
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session
7:00 PM Monday, December 29th
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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