



BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

February 2008

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

The President's Corner

Greetings from Rochester, County Kent, England! My job as an electromagnetic interference technician has taken me to the U.K. for a month to provide technical assistance (thus my absence at the January general meeting).

Last month I touched briefly on some goals I believe are important for BARA to focus on. This month, I'd like to discuss a topic of importance not just locally, but to hams the world over: emergency communications.

When I mention that I'm an amateur radio operator, I oftentimes get the response, "Oh, do people still do that?" They must not be aware that hams are still occasionally in the news, most often when disaster strikes & amateur radio proves to be invaluable for providing critical communications links. Hurricane Katrina and 9-11 were notable examples.

More recently, parts of Oregon were hit by a major storm in December of 2007. When downed trees knocked out numerous phone lines in this region, where cell coverage was limited, amateur radio operators came to the rescue. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski stated, "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." ARES District 1 spokesman Steve Sanders added, "You are amateur in name only."

Global climate change is projected to increase the risk of severe thunderstorms in the Northeast over the next few decades. If this projection is accurate, the importance of amateur radio in our region may well increase in the future. Indeed, over the past three years we've experienced violent weather twice, with significant floods ravaging our region. The situation did not result in communications outages, but in the face of the possibility of increasing weather-related disasters in our region in the future, we should be prepared to

respond to the call for our unique capabilities.

To this end, I hope that the area hams will participate as fully as possible in the opportunities to train for emergency communication, such as the weekly Star net, the annual Field Day, and local events such as The Empire Games. The experience we receive may well be of critical importance to our region should weather-related disaster strike! — 73 - DE allen lutins, KC2KLC

BARA Budget Accepted

The 2008 Budget was read and accepted after some discussion at the January General Meeting.

W2OW Active for January 2008

VHF Contest

The W2OW call sign was heard on the 50, 144, and 432 MHz bands during the VHF contest on January 20-21, 2008. W2OW, in the person of Ray terry, K1OW, operated from the lonely hilltop site. Contacts were hard to come by but Ray captured a total of about 50 for a rather meager score of 1,250. This was a winning number, not because he achieved a large claimed score, but because he trekked to the hilltop and had the W2OW call sign reverberating *ON THE AIR* again this year for the VHF contest. Kudos to Ray. — Jack, WB2GHH

Empire State Games News

It's that time of year again. We are signing up volunteers for the Empire State Games. I will be the Local committee chair person for the Greater New York State Games that will be here locally from July 23 to July 27. Opening ceremonies are on the evening of July 23rd. The games this year will be held in Binghamton. This event is supported by the Amateur Radio community. We are looking for volunteers to support the different Venues. If you can work at any time during these dates it would be appreciated. Communications will be done on 2 meter radios with PL tone capability. If anyone doesn't have this

equipment please let us know as some “loner” equipment may be available. If you can work any of these dates please fill out the form that will be at the club meeting and give it back by June 15th so we can begin scheduling for the different venues.

There will be a Q/A session at the next BARA meeting on February 20th given by Bob Brackett (KD2IM) & myself (WE2K). There will be a signup sheet at that time for those who would like to sign up. Come and enjoy the fun & have a great time.

If you are interested in helping out, please reply to either Bob Brackett, KD2IM, kd2im@bluefrog.com (607) 347-4444 or Mel Snitchler we2k@binghamtonwireless.com (607)723-9612 — *Mel, WE2K*

Notes From the Shack and... A Few Words From Jack

Ah, another hilltop construction and use season is just around the corner. Besides thinking of the house and yard work consider one more thing. What do “WE” want to accomplish at the W2OW site this season? If you (we) think it can be accomplished by attending a single “Open House” or participation at a single “Field Day” I think otherwise. Great if YOU can attend those functions and in some cases that is all one can do for a variety of reasons. That’s OK, but, I think there are a number of club members and HAM and non-HAM friends of the club that could accomplish a lot more. Yes this, as all other seasons, will be a busy one. School events for the kids (and grand-kids), baseball, swimming picnics, public service events, the “Hamfest, the NYS Games. Each of these events and more cry for some of OUR “free” time. I still enjoy the hilltop and recall the many times of great activities with other hams and the kids, mine and others.

Just think: the site has been “radioactive” since (at least) the early 1940s. What an operating site! At 1,800 feet above sea level and now with a tri-bander at 40 feet coupled to a monster maximum legal output amplifier (at idle), the equipment is just sitting there waiting to have the cobwebs blown out. There is also a 40-meter dipole antenna at about 20 feet on the same tower so you can pull your wheels up close to the tower and the hanging PL259 and couple it via your coax to your mobile rig.

Then there is the 100-foot tower. It has, since last season, been adorned with a pulley and line attached to its apex. A wire antenna can be yanked to the top. Haven’t you always wanted to have a “low” band

antenna at 100 feet?

These accommodations may be Spartan compared to our previous, glorious, accommodations but they are what we have NOW. What does the CLUB, you know, that inanimate object, want to do? Well, YOU are the club. Your thoughts, ideas, desires and concerns should be made known to one of the officers or directors. The sooner the better. Plant the seed. The President and the board will be struggling to develop an effective “plan” for this year and for the near future. Better yet YOU should drop in on the BARA Board meeting to plead your desires. Some of YOU have taken individual actions to OPEN the site and make it operable. I commend and thank you for those self-initiated actions — *What more can I say than, “...all we gotta do is...” Hopeful for another successful ham radio season at W2OW, I am Jack WB2GHH.*

SK John Okenica, KC2KUW

It is with sadness that we record the passing of BARA club member John Walter Okenica, Jr., KC2KUW of Johnson City on Friday February 8, 2008.

A Memorial Mass will be offered at St. James Church, 155 Main Street, Johnson City, Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary of the Assumption's Soup Kitchen, 37 Fayette St., Binghamton, N.Y. 13901.

We extend our condolences to the Okenica family. — *Jack, WB2GHH*

February BARA Program

Bob Brackett, KD2IM, the NYS Chairman of Communications for the NYSG and Paula Brackett, KB2JMM, will travel from Freeville, NY to present information relative to the 2008 New York State Games and to show highlights of previous games.

In Binghamton our own Mel, WE2K, is assisting as “Point Man” to sign up volunteers and to coordinate the effort. Many local groups and organizations will be volunteering for various tasks and Communications will be an important part of the Event Infrastructure. That’s where we come in.

Applications for providing communicator assistance will be available. The applications request certain information so that NYSG Communicator tee shirts and caps can be ordered and your preference for venue location can be addressed. At least 100 communicators are required for the three day event. Go to <<<http://W2OW.org>>> for more information. — *Jack, WB2GHH*

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

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, February 20th
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the
Ross Park Entrance

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

Exam Session
7:00 PM Monday, February 25th
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



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

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net



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