



BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

January 2008

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

The President's Corner

I am honored to serve as this year's president of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association. To be honest, the office of President was not my first choice, but I felt it important that I serve the club in whatever capacity was most required at the time. I'm not the most charismatic person, but then again, how many of us radio electronic geek types are? Those of you who have been attending meetings recognize that I am not a shy person, which *does* distinguish me from a lot of the geek crowd.

Incidentally, you may think the term "geek" is pejorative, and that it's insulting of me to throw it around in reference to myself and a number of my colleagues, but you'd be wrong. In the 21st century, geeks are actually respected, even desirable, members of our society (what with the relative importance of technology these days, and the need for people who understand its functioning). Geeks are now cool! As a technician in an electromagnetic interference laboratory at a local engineering firm, I am *proud* to be a geek (that is, someone who is technologically fluent), and all of you should be as well.

Amateur radio has always been at the forefront of technology, and I think this linkage is one of the keys to our continued viability. Let's face it, the number of kids getting involved in ham radio is probably at an all-time low, what with the Internet having eclipsed global communication as a medium, and computers being the greater recipient of youths' technological tinkering. What keeps me interested in amateur radio is the *linkage* between these various technological hobbies. For me, it is the use of my computer to decode digital transmissions that I find a particularly fascinating aspect of the radio hobby.

As your president this year, I hope to enhance a communal appreciation in the ways amateur radio serves as an adjunct to a wide range of technological

fields. In recognition of the fact that we are losing members faster than we are gaining them, I will endeavor to reach out to other radio organizations (such as SVARA, ARAST and the Kopernik crowd), and perhaps other technology-related organizations (someone help me with what those might be!) in an effort to foster more cooperation in the area. Collaboration with other groups can generate a greater critical mass of individuals to launch successful projects in our community, and may be crucial to keeping our club viable in the future.

Ultimately, this is *your* club, not mine, so I am keen to know what's on your mind regarding what our club should and should not be concentrating on. I am always happy to hear what's on your mind; I can be reached online at KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG, at home (eves and weekends) at 607-729-4817, and via post at 163 Marie Street, Johnson City, NY 13790. 73! — *DE allen lutins, KC2KLC*

Budget Presentation

Members are advised that the main item of business at the January General Meeting will be the presentation of the 2008 BARA Budget. Paul, N2NCB, reviewed the financial activity for the past year against the 2007 budget and projected expenses for 2008. Factoring in Dues and projected returns for our 2008 Hamfest, the various line items were presented to the Officers and Board at the January Board Meeting. After some discussion and adjustments a revised budget was accepted and will be presented to the membership at our January General Meeting.

Toeing The Party Line

A GUD X WAS HD BY ALL. Oops, pardon my CW. A good time was had by all who attended the BARA December Party meeting held at Russell's Steak House in Endicott. The thirty (or so) members and guests who participated enjoyed the festive atmosphere aided by an

adjacent group of young carolers assisted by Blake, KC2GQX.

DonPierce, AB2HT, provided an unusual warm glow to his table, the result of a 900 volt jolt the week before. Stealing, and slightly modifying a comment I hear often from George, N2GSS — “it was great to see Donas opposed to going to view Don.” In reality, Don attempted his high energy exploit in an attempt to be relieved of his duties as our newly-elected secretary — a position he recently won by a landslide vote.

It was also great seeing and talking to Paul, K2ABX, and Ron, AA2EQ, both of whom experienced significant medical expeditions during this last year.

Hedy, AA2MU, always a good skate, executed her twirls, lifts and twists maneuvering through the assembled humanity to disburse 50/50 and door prize tickets. A kudo to Hedy for a job well done in making the arrangements for the evening.

We missed the presence of Stan, W2EWM, and Gail Progy due to the difficulties Stan had in balancing a 40 foot tower. The tower won and now Stan and his pilot Gail have to navigate a wheelchair which would have proved problematic in the meeting venue. Travel distance, weather, health and/or family/school obligations prevented others from attending.

As always the fare was excellent. The Russell signature pumpkin bread, although a third the mass of previous years, was a anticipated and much-welcomed delight. My prime rib was the best I recall having at Russell's. I do hope all the other ribs served were as prime. The XYL enjoyed the fish entree. I assume it must have been fresh that day, perhaps acquired from the holding pond on the eighteenth fairway across the street. I didn't intercept any negative bias about the chow. On the other hand, “so to speak” (again stolen from N2GSS) our table wait staff required a bit of a nudge to get things started. I'm certain the lateness of some attendees to assume their table position and the empty spaces at some tables resulted in mixed signals to the staff. Although he/she never returned to make inquiry of any additional needs, it was a nice touch when the “manager” made a hasty visit to each table and made the appropriate inquires. I do hope there isn't a union grievance resulting from Mark, K2ABX, providing water service to our table. I thought Brian, K2DLB, would be the recipient of a unplanned shower when the waiter and Mark were “discussing” who should be in possession of the pitcher which was then positioned over Brian's head.

There was no BARA Service Award issued for 2007, but that doesn't mean one will not be presented. Last year's award issued to Norm McSweyn, N3YKF, was entrusted to me to be hand delivered. The award went missing within days of the meeting. Searched the auto, shack, garage. Called Russell's and had them scour the coat rack area. No luck. The award was not located. Three weeks ago while I was moving “stuff” around to get to the Christmas decorations an “empty” box rattled. You guessed it, it was the award. How or why it got there is a mystery. Now my only — and possibly bigger — problem, is how to locate Norm.

The exiting leadership speeches were only exceeded in brevity by the new officers' acceptance speeches. So short and of muted QRP intensity, loosely coupled to and covered by the usual QRM in the dining area, all the attendees missed the assumed inspirational words. Regardless, the many individual QSOs were priceless.

Well, based on the lack of any negative feedback, and since I'm penning this article and have already taken many liberties, everyone had a most enjoyable evening. — *DE Jack, WB2GHH*

Winter SKYWARN Training Session

A representative from the National Weather Service, Binghamton, NY will present a Winter SKYWARN training session at the January 16th BARA meeting. The meeting date is January 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the Town of Binghamton town hall located at 279 Park Ave. To get to the town hall head toward Ross Park. Pass the Ross Park entrance on Park Avenue and proceed up the hill about one mile. The town hall is on the left, a former school building with plenty of parking on the side and to the rear. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend or two. Attendance is open to the public.

SVARA Provides Classroom HAM Radio Demonstration

Members of the Susquehanna Valley Amateur Radio Association (SVARA) provided a demonstration of HAM radio to the third grade class of the Greene Intermediate School on Thursday December 6, 2007. The effort was arranged by Kathleen, KC2QJL, with help from Duane, KB0VIW. HAM radio in general was explained with emphasis on its use during emergency situations. Students had the opportunity to make contact with and ask “on air” questions that were answered by HAMS who were in the coverage area of the SVARA linked repeater system. Participating area HAMS, in addition to KC2QJL and KB0VIW, were Ford, AB2HS,

Brian, K2DLB, Rex, KC2SKW, Craig, KC2SNO, and Glen, W2GTW. — *DE Jack, WB2GHH*

Hamfest Reminder

Please take note that our 2008 Hamfest will be held in Marvin Park in Owego (the Tioga County Fairgrounds) on Saturday, 3 May.

Jim, KC2JED, will be our Chairman for 2008 and the date and location have been cleared with all the relevant authorities. We will begin planning very soon and the more help we have, the easier the job will be for every one.

Lets make 2008 the year that the Owego Hamfest comes alive. Consider volunteering for a job and mark your calendars now. Remind your friends that the 2008 Owego Hamfest is ON!

Empire State Games

Remember, The Empire State Games (ESG) will be hosted in the Binghamton Area between July 23rd and July 27th, 2008. Communicators are needed, please contact Mel, WE2K, (we2k@binghamtonwireless.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Meeting Reminders

All members are reminded that as an Incorporated Body, the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association (BARA) is governed by elected Officers and Directors.

The primary business meeting of the Association is the Board Meeting which is conducted at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of every month at the Broome County Office of Emergency Services in the Broome County Public Safety Building behind the Broome County Community College.

General Meetings of the Association are conducted at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of every month at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall at 279 Park Avenue in Binghamton.

The views and suggestions of the Membership are earnestly solicited and requested. Members are free to attend both the Board and General Meeting, but are reminded that the Board Meeting is where most of the Club Business is discussed and that, by our Charter of Incorporation, the Board is required to vote on and conduct all ordinary business.

2008 FAR Scholarships Announced

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2008-2009 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully

funds three of these scholarships. Eleven are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one (41) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors. Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Amateur Radio Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2008. Please send name, call and address to:

**FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738**

Applications are also available for download from the Foundation's web site <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>. The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. The Foundation encourages all qualified amateurs to apply for these awards. — *From the ARRL via allen, kc2klc*

Did You Know

The **1L6** is a Pentagrid Converter and was used in very few receivers. It is found in the GRC-109 R-1004 Receiver (also known as the RR-28 in the RS-1 CIA variant) and the Zenith TransOceanic receiver. It's a rare tube and expensive when obtainable. If you find a TransOceanic at a "good" price, check to make sure that the **1L6** is present in the lineup and good. A **1R5** can be substituted, but it is not an exact replacement and performance will suffer

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, January 16th
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Wednesday February 6th
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

Exam Session
7:00 PM Monday, January 28th
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

Our Printing Sponsor: Unicorn Electronics, Valley Plaza Drive, Johnson City, NY



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

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net

