

BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

October 2008

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

The President's Corner

Last week I attended the ARAST hamfest in Horseheads, NY. The weather was awful, but the turnout was still respectable, and I found exactly what I was looking for (nice inexpensive used antenna tuner/SWR meter). Some of the things I love about hamfests:

- ◆ Visiting a hamfest is like visiting a museum. There are so many fascinating antique radios, parts, test equipment units, and the like to admire.
- ◆ Nostalgia! I usually spot an old transmitter, receiver or piece of equipment I used to own long ago, and for which I have fond memories.
- ◆ Hamfests are often the only place to get reasonably priced electronic parts. I live a few minutes' walk from Unicorn Electronics, so I support them regularly with purchases for my projects, but retail and mail-order outlets charge top-dollar for parts that can be had for pennies at a hamfest.
- ◆ There is also the rare chance to socialize with a large gathering of fellow hams; the casual conversations that are struck up over curious items for sale are often quite entertaining and/or educational.

Speaking of hamfests: BARA's hamfest in Owego may seem far off, but planning for such an event necessarily begins far in advance. James Lawson (KC2JED), who did an admirable job of managing last year's hamfest, has offered to run it again – but he will need help. Anyone willing to lend a hand should give him a call at 607-761-5595.

I regret that I will miss the general meeting again this month. Last month I was on vacation in Florida with my wife (photos at lutins.org/photos); this month, I will be performing music in Ithaca (for those of you who weren't aware, in addition to being an EMI Technician by day, I am a professional musician by night). I look forward to seeing you all again in November. — *73 de allen lutins KC2KLC*

Interesting BARA Facts

This article was found in the Club's history file. What follows is a transcription from a newspaper clipping hand-dated 10 October 1934 and comes to us through the kindness of Mr. Jack Connors, WB2GHH, a well-known local operator who, we understand, was not present at the event...

"Amateur Radio Students Hold Parley Here. More than 100 gather to discuss latest inventions. Banquet at Legion's Clubhouse Climaxes First Convention.

"More than 100 amateur radio from New York state, Pennsylvania and New Jersey attended the first annual convention of the Binghamton Amateur Radio association held Sunday afternoon at the American Legion clubhouse. Latest inventions and developments in radio and electrical research were demonstrated. Old time spark transmitters, antique tubes of the type first used in radio broadcasts and reception, and the most modern transmitters and tubes were on display. Welcoming the amateurs to Binghamton, Mayor Miles M. Smith congratulated them for their interest in their 'hobby.' In his address he recalled the first convention of radio enthusiasts held in New England 20 years ago attended by 23 interested amateurs. Edwin R. Weeks acted as toastmaster at the dinner which closed the session. He introduced Herbert W. Squires, chief operator of WPGL, Binghamton police radio station.

Dr. C. G. Lyon, 98 Prospect street, an ardent amateur radio enthusiast, told of receiving amateur broadcasts of details of the burning of the *Morro Castle*. A New Jersey amateur, according to Dr. Lyons, broadcast a vivid description of the landing of a group of survivors on the New Jersey coast. The technical speaker was Douglas A Smith of the electronics division of the Hygrade Sylvania corporation. He discussed modern types of tubes and the evolution of tube inventions. D. G. Goetcheus, president of the club, presided at the dinner, introducing Mayor Smith and Mr. Weeks. Mr Goetcheus awarded prizes, donated by merchants, to winners of amateur contests held as a feature of the convention. On the entertainment program, Clyde R. Powell of Endicott Johnson Corporation was presented as an amateur magician. W. Raymond Burrows of Deposit played selections on the 'Theramin,' a musical instrument operated by induction coils and radio tubes. Arthur English and his New Yorkers also entertained with music.

"The committee in charge comprised Mr. Goetcheus, Donald Purdy, Earl Chubbuck, Bert Benedict, Ross Baxter, Arthur Smith, Nick Peros, Kenneth Kenyon, Leroy Davies, Jack McNulty, William O'Neil, Dr. G. C. Lyon, Jonas Spencer, Joseph Sarley, Howard Swick and Rueben Turrell."

Elections Call for Candidates BARA Needs YOU!

Once again we edge to the end of another term for the BARA Officers and Directors. Once again it is time to bang the drum, shake the trees, and rattle the bushes....

Although many Officers and Directors have expressed a willingness to serve again, we understand that none would take it amiss if there were another candidate on the slate. We also understand that the Offices of Vice President and Secretary are open....

How about it, is this Club important to YOU? Can you spare a couple of hours a month to serve in a position as an Officer or a Director? Please give some serious consideration to this question.

As an organization, BARA has many years of history behind it. We date back to the early days of radio and we can be proud of our heritage. But this history will only continue if YOU are willing to be a part of it. If I look at the names on the last page of this Newsletter, there are many that have been moving from

one slot to another for many years. Why is this? It's not because a small group "at the top" runs things, it's because we have members who are willing to step up to the plate and serve. There are several on the current slate who are finishing their first term and some are willing to "go it again". Why not YOU?

I speak from experience, having sat in one of those seats before. Please give it a thought and please step forward. Contact our Vice President or one of the other Officers or Directors if you are interested or if you have any questions. — *73 DE Eddie the Editor, KB2SCF*

Balance

Flipping through old magazines — old Radio magazines, especially, is always fun. Besides learning how they did things "way back when", it's also instructive to see how some things never change. Sometimes it's amusing to note that the same "types" have been around in Ham Radio from the start — the tinkerer, the fellow who can't adjust his equipment, the appliance operator, and the fellow who loves the sound of his own voice (or code) have been part of our ranks since the days of spark. Likewise, every time the FCC (or the FRC or the Department of the Navy) has changed a rule, the voices of those predicting the demise of Amateur Radio have "howled in the night". Some things just never seem to change.

Why bring this up? Well, the "old man" would, I think, take a moment to remind us of this as we come into the final stretch of a somewhat hotly-contested election that Our Hobby should be something that gives us common ground and reminds us that our differences are not so total and complete that we cannot find some place where we can meet in fellowship and with respect.

And Now for Something Completely Different

Combining the best of Meccano (Erector Set) technology and home-brew construction we present pictures of the Meccano Crystal Radio from the 1920s (and in the process fill out another page)....

Listen with a Meccano Receiver

No. 1 Meccano Crystal Receiver

With a good aerial this set will receive telephony up to about 25 miles from a broadcasting station, and Morse signals up to a distance exceeding 100 miles. The set, which may be used with a broadcasting licence obtainable from any Post Office at a cost of 10/-, will receive on wave-lengths from zero to approximately 1,000 metres.

R.S. 1—Receiving Set complete, tested and guaranteed, price 29/-
 Compulsory Broadcasting Fee 1/-
 Price 30/-



No. 1 Receiver



No. 2 Receiver

No. 2 Meccano Crystal Receiver

This set is of the constructional type and is specially adapted to the requirements of those who wish to carry out simple experiments. Its range is the same as that of No. 1 set described above, and it receives on wave-lengths of approximately 300-500 metres. It may only be used with a constructor's licence, which costs 15/-, and is obtainable from any Post Office.

R.S. 2—Complete Set of Parts, in strong carton, including single telephone
 2,000 ohms resistance, price 25/-
 R.S. 2a—Complete Set of Parts, in strong carton, without telephone, price 15/-

MECCANO LIMITED

BINNS ROAD

LIVERPOOL

The Meccano Crystal Radio Receiving Set.

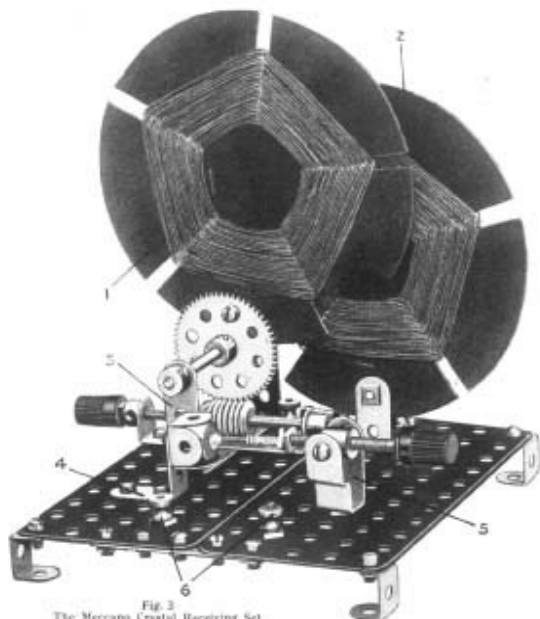
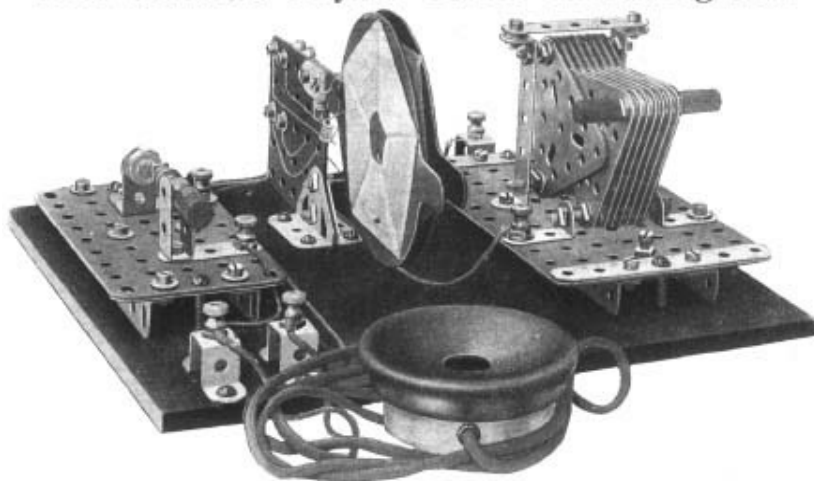


Fig. 3
 The Meccano Crystal Receiving Set

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, October 15th
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the
Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday November 5th
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, October 27th
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

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net



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