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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

September 2008

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

The President's Corner

Since I've been quick in the past to complain about some of the deficiencies I've noticed amongst our community, I will start this month's column with an apology for something I screwed up. I regret that I never had a chance to submit our Field Day logs to the ARRL, so we do not appear in this year's official listings. Mel asked me to get him the logs so he could take care of it, but before I could obtain the information we needed, it was too late. I'm sorry!

One of the reasons I neglected to submit our logs is because of how busy I've been. In addition to working 9-hour days (and some overtime beyond that), I am also a professional musician by night (in three different bands), and am also responsible for maintaining and repairing our home and vehicles (somehow I still find time to get on the air on HF some evenings!). My wife and I also travel a lot to see friends and families, so keeping up with my BARA responsibilities (mainly writing this column, and attending bi-monthly meetings) has been tricky.

I could really use a break! I agreed to be President because absolutely no one else would volunteer for the position, but it would be nice if someone else took a turn next year. If you ever attend any business or government meetings, you're familiar with how it's done (and if you need a refresher, I can provide an outline). Please think about running for President (or any other position – everyone needs a break once in a while) – elections are coming up soon! I will remain a committed, active member of BARA no matter

what the outcome.

Our holiday party will also be here before you know it. We decided to change the venue this year, to the Spot Diner. The Spot has great food, but more importantly, it's handicap accessible, which is important to some of our members. We will also have more flexibility to order whatever we want from the menu, rather than being limited to two or three choices, and they'll still do individual bills. I think this is a win-win situation for everybody; my appreciation goes out to Ford for researching our options and making the necessary arrangements. Hope to see you all there, and/or the November meeting (I will miss the September general meeting because my wife and I will be on vacation). — *73 de allen lutins KC2KLC*

Call for Candidates

A call for candidates for any of the Officer/Director positions in the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (BARA) is now open. Even though a number of officers have voiced their desire to seek office for another term any member in good standing can self-nominate or nominate another individual who has indicated to them that they will accept the position if elected. So, put the thinking cap on and identify individuals who best match your ideas and interest in the club. Drop a note or give me a call (leave message if no answer). Nominations will close and elections conducted at the November general membership meeting. — *The BARA Election committee: Jack Connors, WB2GHH; John Carrington, WB2SGS*

Picnic a Success

If you missed the picnic you missed a good time. About forty of us and three “puppies” enjoyed the accommodations. Fine weather, interesting people and conversations and good (free) chow. Strangely, we all must be thinking “healthy” as evidenced (not by our girth) but by the fact that few if any sweets were in evidence. Must confess that there was a substantial amount of non-healthy munchies. Ah, those long in absence tastes, refreshing. I want to note and thank those who made a significant contribution to the success of the event. Certainly, the Rudy family for shopping for the basic picnic items such as meats, breads, pop and ice. Warren Marks as the keeper of the flame (not to be confused with the tower of the flame), Warren’s XYL for assuming the apron and flipping burgers and dogs for the evening. To Sharon Drake for her traditional and anxiously awaited lasagna. To all who brought delicious dishes most of which went home empty. A special thanks to those who came a distance like Red, Ray and Malcolm Heath. Of course, the real success is attributed to each who came and participated in a wonderful summer evening. — *DE WB2GHH x Picnic Coordinator*

September is Preparedness Month

A few weeks ago there was an earthquake in California. It caused limited damage and frightened many people. While poking around the web looking for news of the event, I happened to come across a TV reporter talking about preparedness. She identified a new member of her TV crew who had recently returned to California from Georgia. She was surprised with his disaster preparedness “kit”. He started his show and tell by pulling a large translucent (30 gal, I think) tote box into view. He normally carries in the trunk of his automobile. Now I know many of you are saying, “Oh, it’s his go kit”. (*He was so well prepared he must be a HAM — GHH.*) I learned at least two things from his two minute interview. Not only have the “right

stuff” but he had packed it in a “use” sequence. For example, have the FIRST AID items on top since in a disaster situation that more than likely will be the first thing needed. Food stuffs, sleeping gear, etc. are layered as you work your way to the bottom of the tote. You get the idea. One thing he did mention that in all my years of “preparedness” I never gave a thought. He explained he learned it the hard way. Years ago, he was awakened by a tumbler. He jumped out of bed and ran to check on others in the household before he realized his feet were badly cut from his pouncing on glass fragments from picture frame glass that had fallen and broken. It put him out of business immediately until his cuts were cleansed and bandaged and limited his movements for weeks. Lesson learned. Always have a pair of shoes of some type at bedside and assure that getting them on your feet is the FIRST thing you accomplish regardless of the situation. Without your feet you are dead in the water, so to speak.

Are You Ready?

While at the NYS FAIR I happened to spot a flyer from the CDC with the “Are You Ready?” title. Surely I had to pick one up. My quick review surprised me with some of the items and quantities. It contains a sample shopping list (for one person) and a pet and is intended to cover a two week supply. I’ll share the details of the suggested provisions: 21 gallons of water; 1 box hot tea (not certain what that means, GHH) ; powdered milk for 2.5 gallons; 2 boxes of cereal; 1 cup sugar; 2 loaves bread; 14 cans vegetables; 1 jelly; 1 peanut butter; 7 soups; 7 Ramen; 7 canned meat; 3 canned pasta; 2 gallons juice; 1 mayo; 1 relish; 1 mustard; 7 boxes rice; 4 beans (cans I presume, GHH); salsa 1 jar; refried beans 4; spaghetti sauce 1 jar; noodles 1 pack; saltines 2 boxes; apple sauce 2 packets; granola; bars 2 boxes; beef jerky 2 bags; dried fruits 2 bags; dried fruits and nuts 2 bags; raisins 1 container; multivitamins; prescription medications; pet supplies. The estimated cost for the above is \$200.18. Some of the items just don’t seem to blend with my thoughts, but what the hey. Then

again, maybe there should be some hay? Regardless, hope this article causes you to think about the provisions you maintain. Is it enough for at least 3 days following an unexpected event? Better if you can sustain yourself for weeks. "Outside" assistance may take time to get to your QTH. The CDC suggests the following web sites for additional information. They are: <<www.emergency.cdc.gov>> and <<www.pandemicflu.gov>> — DE Jack, WB2GHH

Timely QSL Request

Received a strange request for a QSL card this week. The request was for one of my rare six meter contacts. Not that the person I contacted was rare but the person he contacted was rare since I'm seldom on six with my sick TR-6 and mini Hilltopper 3 element (actually 2 1/2 element beam). Whatever, the requester stated he needs my card to confirm a contact in FN22. I must admit I SMIRKed a bit since he needs a card from GHH. I proceeded to dig out my logbook and sure enough I did make the contact with Phil, KS7P from Elmira, Oregon on 50.125 MHz. "So what?" you may ask. That's a stretch but not an unusual distance. Well, it is (was) for me with my sometime high power of 40 watts. The odd part of the QSL card request was that it was for a contact made on **July 18, 1987**. — DE Jack, WB2GHH

September Program

The September Meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association will be by YOU (possibly).

Each of us has a HAM related activity, item, or question that would be of interest to the rest of the group. So, why not come prepared to give a 1 to 2 minute informal overview of that interest, etc.. For example, some of us recently became aware of

the fact that a member of the club is quite a successful QRP operator on 30 meters. A very interesting discussion followed.

I'm certain there are similar "surprises" that would be of interest and in turn possibly create a thread to other areas of commonality among us.

As a group, I bet we have a fantastic bag of varied talents; so, why don't we give "IT" a go at the next meeting on September 17 at 7:30 PM at the TOB Town Hall on Park Ave. — Jack WB2GHH, VP BARA, Inc.

A Word of Warning

This past month there was a report of two Hams connecting with High Voltage Distribution Lines while performing antenna work. The result was not a happy one and a reminder to look up, down, and all around and never, ever, ever get near those wires!



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

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, September 17th
Otsiningo Park Pavilion — See Details in the Facts this Month!

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday October 1st
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, September 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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