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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

August 2009

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

The President's Corner

I've done my fair share of whining about the state of amateur radio, and in particular the lack of enthusiasm and participation in our region. So now, some happy thoughts for a change!

First off, some good news from the latest (August) issue of QST: apparently ARRL membership is up, to levels not seen in quite a few years. Evidently eliminating the morse code requirement from the amateur exam has had its intended effect. This is also reflected in the fact that (also according to QST) sales of entry- and mid-level HF & VHF amateur transceivers is up as well – and this during a financial recession. Excellent news indeed.

Locally, we have something exciting to look forward shortly –BARA's annual picnic. This is always BARA's most popular meeting, and is being held once again at the pavilion in Otsiningo Park (thanks to Jack Connors, WB2GHH, for securing this lovely spot!). This has always proved to be a wonderful, event-filled day. Once again this year all are invited to bring their surplus radio gear to sell or swap; I will actually be bringing a number of give-away items, and one valuable item at a steep discount, for some lucky hams (I won't say what these items are in advance – you'll just have to be there to find out). The weather has been most cooperative these past few years – I'm hoping the weather deities will be kind to us again this year.

As I write this, I am also preparing for vacation. I will be leaving for a week to participate in an event that couldn't possibly be further from the high-tech world I normally inhabit: I will be camping out at a huge regional medieval re-enactment in western Pennsylvania (think civil war re-enactment, only with over 15,000 people all dressed as if they're from medieval Europe, with large battles of lance, sword and bow wielding soldiers, classes on medieval arts & sciences, and merchants selling medieval food, crafts &

clothing). Definitely won't be any computers or ham radios where I'm going! I may suffer some slight technology withdrawal symptoms. (This is not, by the way, *my* idea of a vacation – it's something my wife & friends enjoy, and I get dragged along every few years for what I call "dress up & make-believe; hopefully I can get another week off in October so we can drive up to Maine for a *real* vacation.)

I will be back in time for the BARA picnic – hope to see you there! — *73 de allen lutins KC2KLC*

Book Review — Spycraft

Speculation about "Numbers Stations" has a long history in the Ham and SWL communities. For years it has been "common knowledge" that these stations were part of a secret communications network. Well, this rumor has been confirmed. *Spycraft, the secret history of the CIA's spytechs, from Communism to Al-Qaeda*, by Robert Wallace and H. Keith Melton, is a history of the CIA Office of Technical Services (OTS) and related departments. It details how "Numbers Stations" played a role in Agent Communications Networks and it offers a wealth of other information.

Spycraft (ISBN 978-0-452-29547-6) is published by Plume (an imprint of Penguin) and is available from many retailers. The cover price is \$18.00.

Remember the Picnic This Month!

Remember: The August General Meeting is at the Park, not at the Hall! The grills will be fired up and ready to cook between 4:30 and 5:00 PM, so come early. Bring a dish to pass and stuff to trade. Bring yourself, bring your Family or a Friend. To assist us in planning, please RSVP to John Rudy at 669-4380 (that is a business number, please leave a message). We hope to see you at Otsiningo Park on Wednesday the 19th!

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

First Class

| Club Officers and Committees | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| President | allen lutins | kc2klc | 729-4817 |
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| Secretary | Tom Siglin | WA2LTD | |
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| | 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, August 19th
Otsiningo Park off Brevier St, Binghamton.
Grills fire up 4:30-5:00 PM

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday September 2nd
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, August 31th
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@arrrl.net



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