BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

May 2010

President's Corner
May 2010

I'm completely dismantling my station, and going off the air. But don't worry, I haven't thrown in the towel and given up! Rather, I am completely re-doing my study, where my station is located, from floor to ceiling.

When I moved in with my then wife-to-be (a consummate packrat), I crammed just about everything I owned into the one small bedroom that we cleared out for my use. I had to put my life together in a hurry, with the same cinder-block shelves and large wooden desk I'd used for decades. Eventually I started accumulating some radio equipment, and set it up in the back corner of the room. It all came together organically, without a real chance to plan things out.

Recently I've been thinking about how to organize the whole room better, so I've started taking action to dismantle every shelf, remove every item, spackle & repaint, and start over. One thing I realize is that my radio equipment needs to be adjacent to my desk. I use computer software to process digital signals on my radios, to control one of my receivers, and to filter the audio. The long leads from my computer to the radio function as antennas, picking up lots of interference (mostly from my computer and my monitor). Shortening up those leads should eliminate a lot of spurious signals! Also, when I'm transmitting from the radio, I keep running over to my desk on the other side of the room to enter call signs into the lookup engine at QRZ.com (if you're a computer-using ham, I'm s

ure you know the site I'm talking about). This running back-and-forth is silly! I do have a laptop next to my radio with my electronic log, but it's not online (I don't have wireless in my home).

I've always envied the gorgeous setups I've seen in amateur radio magazines. Since I've been a working a steady job for over a decade now, I'm going to splurge a bit, and put something together that more closely resembles my dream station. I plan to acquire an L-shaped desk, and have my ham setup on one side, with my workspace on the other. It still will be a budget station, though – no expensive radios, and I'll still be operating barebones into a dipole made from Slinky toys – but at least the shelving won't be made from cinder blocks and 2x6's!

Once my new station is complete, I'll see about getting some photos into the BARA Notes (I've never submitted photos to the newsletter before, but I don't see any reason why black-and-white photos shouldn't reproduce okay). In the meantime, I'll be calling on a few hams I know, to check out their stations for ideas on how to organize & wire my own. If you have some hints I should consider, or ideas on what NOT to do when I set up my new station, please let me know!

73 de Allen Lutins KC2KLC
KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG

A Letter from the Editor

I had the opportunity to attend this year's hamfest in Port Crane and would like to say it was a HUGE improvement from previous years.
Ford, Brian and the entire staff that worked so diligently to make this possible deserve a BIG round of applause for the job they completed!
Even though the BARA hamfest has come and gone, it doesn't mean you need to hold onto that equipment you have been trying to sell! Send me an email with what you have to offer, price, condition etc, and I will list it in the BARA Facts each month.
Again, THANK YOU to the staff that made this year's hamfest a HUGE success!!!

73's de Kb2sin, William Jakaitis

Upcoming Hamfests
May 8, 2010
East Greenbush Amateur Radio Assoc.
Location: East Greenbush Fire Co.
Rensselaer, NY
Website: www.w2egb.org

Well the 2010 BARA hamfest has come and gone. It was held on Sunday April 18th at the Port Crane Fire Company in Port Crane , New York. We had 5 Commercial vendors which is the most I have seen at one of our hamfest since I have been involved with BARA. The vendors were, KJI Electronics, Quicksilver Communications, Sauder Electronics, Radio Oasis, and Watercress Farms. We also had 10 individual vendors inside and 7 tailgaters out under the pavilion. This year we also had Dave Morford from the National Weather Service, which I believe is a first.

The Port Crane Fire Company provided the concession for breakfast and lunch. Even though they ran out of some items (not their fault),they quickly remedied the situation and did a fabulous job. Bob Soltis WA2VCS provided his W5YI VE Team to administer test to 7 prospective hams and 6 of them are now going to receive their new license whether it be new or upgrade.

I would like to thank the Port Crane Fire Company for providing a great place for the Hamfest and hopefully we can continue to hold the hamfest at this location in the future. Also I would Like to thank all who helped on Saturday and Sunday for the great help that we received in either setting up, during and teardown and cleaning of the site Some were members and some were not members.
It just goes to show that when everyone helps out what can be accomplished. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the hamfest, even from out of area hams who were not even at the hamfest.
I would especially like to thank Ford Drake AB2HS for all of his help in the preliminary work and the weekend to make this a success for the club. I also better include Sharon Drake N2WGM for the work she did doing an excellent job with the ladies who were working on Sunday at the doors selling tickets and collecting money. Also I would like to thank John Carrington WB2SGS for the wonderful job he did painting the new signs. This is not a one person job.
Again thanks to everyone for a successful hamfest
73s   Brian Adee K2DLB

The Hamfest for this year is now history. I think it went very well and thanks to the participation we had, it was a success. There are some changes that we will have to consider and maybe implement for next year. If any of you have ideas, suggestions or criticism please let us know. We will take it under consideration. I want to thank the following people that gave their time and energy to help put the event together, run and then cleanup after it was over. Many helped with unloading and loading the vendors. They greatly appreciated this gesture. Here are the workers KB2FLU and Sandy, KB0VIW, KC2QJL, KC2AVX, N2RWH, KC2KLC, N2WZQ, N2NCB, WB2FQZ, KC2SJM, N2GSS, WB8RAE, KC2JED, KC2DSS, KC2EOV, KC2DWE, WB2GHH and Bernadine, Phyllis Wife of KA2WQR, K2HK, Ann future KC3???, KC2QYA, KC2NGR, WB2SGS, WC2R, N2SLC, N2WGM, N1JPM, NA2X, N2NFU, N2BGM and Gavin, N2KIU and Wife Erica.
Special thanks need to go out to Brian K2DLB. He is the that had the ideas of how to make it better and how to pull it off. He tracked down the location and made arrangements. My part was to agree or disagree with his ideas, work along side of

him and handle the parking crew and the prizes. And finally thanks to all that supported the Hamfest. Without people attending, it isn't a Hamfest. Ford AB2HS

Back to the Basics

In this article I would like to go over some basic questions, definitions and/or formulas. This will be old hat for most but for some, a refresher. I will split this up into Technician, General & the Extra class.

Technician Class
T1B02 –What is the purpose of ITU Regions?

A. They are used to assist in the management of frequency allocations.
B. They are useful when operating maritime mobile
C. They are used in call sign assignments
D. They must be used after your call sign to indicate your location

General Class
G3A03 – How long does it take the increased ultraviolet and x-ray radiation from solar flares to affect radio-wave propagation on the earth?

A. 28 Days
B. Several hours depending on the position of the earth in its orbit
C. Approximately 8 minutes
D. 20 to 40 hours after the radiation reaches the earth

Extra Class
E1C07 – What is meant by local control?

A. Controlling a station through a local auxiliary link
B. Automatically manipulating local station controls
C. Direct manipulation of the transmitter by a control operator
D. Controlling a repeater using a portable handheld transceiver

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Answers to March "Back to the Basics"

Technician	C
General	D
Extra	D

ARRL FIELD DAY 2010 NOI (Notice of Intent).

It is hopeful that a large contingent of Binghamton Amateur Radio Association members and guests will demonstrate their emergency communication skills during the 2010 ARRL Field Day period. As always, the event is scheduled for the last full (rainy) weekend in June. You know, the usual graduation weekend for kids or grand kids. I'm sure BARA, Inc has already appointed a Field Day Manager and has acquired this years field day packet from the ARRL. Possible an article for the PRESS has or is being prepared. Maybe a scroll message on the area community bulletin boards is intended.

What is Field Day? Field Day is that day when HAMS in the USA test themselves and their equipment in an unfamiliar environment under emergency conditions. What does that mean? Well, first you pick a location not normally utilized. For certain the Milk's Road W2OW site meets that criteria this year. Have you been there lately? Besides "the shack", there is a wide selection of primitive tent site possibilities for operating positions and sleep over accommodations. We'll keep a lantern lit for you. A large, or shall I say, tall selection of natural antenna anchors are present. Best of all a very open field with a midnight sky view that has few challengers. Why even mention Field Day so early? Well, certain preparations must be made - by YOU - if the event is to be a personal and club success. First YOU must commit to participate. Then YOU must start checking your emergency "stuff" and verifying it's operational status prior to the big weekend. "Oh, you mean I just don't show up and operate for a few hours using someone else's or the club's stuff? " Well, you could do that but as indicated earlier, the event is intended to test YOUR skills and YOUR equipment. During the course of the event relief operators are always welcome. Each of us (amateur radio licensees) should be able to provide timely and effective communications during a communication emergency. ARRL Field Day affords us the chance (and

challenge) to test local (VHF, UHF) and longer range (HF) capabilities. Transceivers (manuals) , power supplies, batteries, charger, cables, connectors, fuses, antennas, anchor lines, generators, tools, personal need items, tenting, chow, and on and on. Why not get to the Milks Road W2OW site ASAP and size up potential parking spots best suited for closeness to your operating position (tent?) and antenna supports. Don't forget BARA has a 100 foot tower with a pull line and pulley at its apex just waiting for an antenna to be hoisted. Last year GHH parked the Caviler at the base and used the natural alarm clock provided at no extra cost. A wood pecker rapping on the aluminum protective skirt at 0420 AM. That was better than the second night when I fell backwards over an auxiliary auto battery after changing my position to an area closer to the shack. My final bit of glory was my attempt to extract myself from the area in the very early morning hours only to impact the picnic table and dump its very noisy contents. Needless to say the nearby tenters (The Rudy's) should not have needed a later wake up call. This annual preparedness exercise is a good time to get together with other HAMS, family and friends. . Plan now to work closely together to set up an effective emergency communications site. YOU, and YOU are the ones that we refer to as THEY. So without YOU and YOU, THEY won't have a successful event. Oh yes, Murphy isn't invited but he always shows up. More next FACTS.

De

WB2GHH, RO RACES

BARA-FEST

WANTED: Kenwood Microphone for a Kenwood TM-241 2 Meter Mobile. Email – Bill @ kb2sin@stny.rr.com with price.

What is RACES

Founded in 1952, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a public service provided by a reserve (volunteer) communications group within government agencies in times of extraordinary need. During periods of RACES activation, certified unpaid personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government agencies they serve. Although the exact nature of each activation will be different, the common thread is communications.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides planning guidance and technical assistance for establishing a RACES organization at the state and local government level.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is responsible for the regulation of RACES operations. RACES is administrated by a local, county, or state civil defense agency responsible for disaster services. This civil defense agency is typically an emergency services or emergency management organization, sometimes within another agency such as police or fire. RACES is a function of the agency's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), sometimes known as DCS (Disaster Communications Service), ECS (Emergency Communications Service), ARPSC (Amateur Radio Public Service Corps), etc. Many ACS units identify themselves solely as RACES organizations, even though their communications functions and activities typically go beyond the restrictions of RACES operations. Other ACS units combine government RACES and non-government ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) activities and identify themselves as ARES/RACES organizations. Yet other ACS units who use amateur radio for emergency government communications identify themselves solely as ARES organizations, whether or not they activate under FCC RACES Rules.

The Amateur Radio Regulations, Part 97, Subpart E, §97.407, were created by the FCC to describe RACES operations in detail. Although no longer issued or renewable, RACES station licenses were issued in the past by the FCC to government agencies for RACES operations. The agencies may continue to conduct RACES operations without these licenses, using primary or club call signs.

ACS, in its RACES and other reserve emergency communications functions, provides a pool of emergency communications personnel that can be called upon in time of need. ACS/RACES units across the country prepare themselves for the inevitable day when they will be called upon. When a

local, county, or state government agency activates its ACS unit, that unit will use its communications resources (RACES, if necessary) to meet whatever need that agency has.

Traditional RACES operations involve emergency message handling on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. These operations typically involve messages between critical locations such as hospitals, emergency services, emergency shelters, and any other locations where communication is needed. These communications are handled in any mode available, with 2 meters FM being the most prevalent. During time of war, when the President exercises his War Emergency Powers, RACES might become the only communications allowed via amateur radio. Activating under the FCC's restrictive RACES Rules is not always necessary when using Amateur Radio Service frequencies for emergency communications. For example, ACS communicators may need to communicate with ARES or other radio amateurs who are not government-certified to operate in a RACES net. ACS personnel also might become involved in non-amateur public-safety or other government communications, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staffing, and emergency equipment repair.

Whatever need arises, trained ACS personnel are ready and prepared to help, via RACES or other means. ACS/RACES groups develop and maintain their communications ability by training throughout the year with special exercises and public-service events. When that fateful day occurs, ACS/RACES will be there to meet the challenge.

If you want to become an ACS or RACES member and to be able to participate in RACES and other government emergency communications activities, contact your local, county, or state ACS Officer or RACES Radio Officer or Coordinator.

2010 Club Officers

President	**Allen Lutins**	**K2KLC**	**729-4817**
Vice President	**James Lawson**	**KC2JED**	**761-5595**
Secretary	**Andrew Rudy**	**KC2QYA**	
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	Bill Jaker	**WB8RAE**	**785-5361**
	John Rudy	**WB2FQZ**	**669-4308**
	John Carrington	**WB2SGS**	**648-8364**
W2OW Trustee	**Mel Snitchler**	**WE2K**	**723-9612**
Editor	**William Jakaitis**	**KB2SIN**	**648-2112**

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, May 19th

Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of

the Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday June 2nd

Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, May 31st

Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

BARA Dues

$18/year Single member; $27/year Family

Local Repeater Nets

*146.73 (**PL-100**) MHz STAR Net (NTS Feeder) Every*

Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time

*146.82 **(PL 146.2)** 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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