



# BARA FACTS



Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

November 2011

## October's Regular Meeting.....



**Paul Slocum - N2NBC**

Photo by Jerry Heller - KA2WQR

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. meets on October 19th at the Town of Binghamton's Town Clerks office. There were 15 members present, and President Brian Adee (K2DLB) opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Secretary Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) had copies of the September regular meeting minutes on the deck for people to review, next to the sign-up sheet to help speed up the secretary's report. After a few minutes with no changes to be made, the membership voted on them and passed as printed.

Our treasurer Paul Slocum (N2NCB) read his treasurer's report to the group. There were a few

questions but everything sounded fine, so it was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) spoke of receive a call from Bill Coleman (N2BC) inquiring about the article that was in the Septembers newsletter about the two Kenwood radios that are up at the W2OW shack. He said that he could look at them and see if he could figure out what's wrong with them. He will go up to the shack and pick one up and see what's wrong with them and get back in touch with the club.

That's when Brian (K2DLB) asked the group on their interest on continuing with the HAMfest for 2012. The Board of Directors had met and discussed about their feeling and concerns about the fundraiser and felt that we should. Nevertheless, the board of Directors felt the membership need to make the final decision. There were some questions if we should hold one for profit only or to provide an event for the HAM's in the area could benefit. Paul (N2NCB) spoke up and said that it had to be a money maker for the club to help keep it afloat. It was said that attendance to HAM-fest are on a decline, but we should try again in 2012. Then the discussion was if we should continue to have it at Port Crane Fire Department. The consensus was that it was a great facility.

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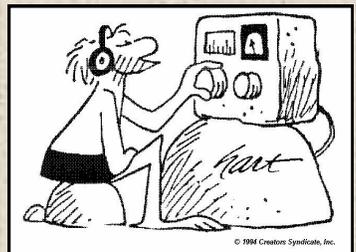
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**October's Regular Meeting**

It would be great to get more tailgaters but not sure how to get them to come. Someone asked if we should not rent the truck bays due to the higher cost, but the feeling was it was too small in just the one room and having the truck bay made it nicer. Lee Savidge (W3EFE) asked if we have asked if we could get a better rate for renting the building, in hopes to make more money instead of breaking even. Warren (KC2NGR) made the motion to have a HAM-fest like we had in 2011. Ford Drake (AB2HS) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Ford (AB2HS) said that everything is all set at "The Spot Restaurant" for us to hold our annual party/ meeting, which will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>. You order what you want and pay for it yourself. There will be a short meeting during it, as well. It starts at 5:00pm, and dinner will begin at 6:00pm. Hope to see you all there. We have a private room to enjoy visiting new or old friends.

Brain (K2DLB) asked the secretary if he had any membership applications that need to be voted on. - Vinnie (N1JPM) read the applications of Laura Kraemer (KD2APU), Giorgio Alvarez and Stephanie Alvarez (both working on getting their HAM license) wishing to join the club. Warren (KC2NGR) made the motion to accept the applications; Ford (AB2HS) seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

Brian (K2DLB) reminded that the next meeting in November will be elections for officers for 2012. He said that he has spoken to all the officers except for two, and they all said that they would accept their positions that they hold currently. He asked if anyone else was interested in running for an office, and no one spoke up.

Ann Whyman (KB3UQC) asked if any programs are planned at this time. Brian (K2DLB) said that John (WB2FQZ) was not here, and he had not heard of any. She also asked about future SKYWARN training and if anyone could talk about weather stations.



**Laura Kraemer KD2APU**

**Giorgio Alvarez**

**Stephanie Alvarez**

*(both who are working on getting their license)*

**If you see anyone of these new members...**

**Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club.**

Ford (AB2HS) spoke up that if anyone had a weather report when weather turns bad, just speak up, and he will gladly take your report. He also spoke up that there is a SKYWARN Appreciation Day on December 2-3, 2011.

There were no programs presented. However, Vinnie (N1JPM) said that he had purchased a DVD about "THE LAST BIG FIELD DAY" which could be used in the future. It was about 35 minutes long, so he would try to present it when there was not much on the agenda at a later meeting.

With nothing else to come forward to the group Paul (N2NCB) made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded on and voted on. The meeting closed at 8:05 PM. Respectfully submitted by the Secretary, Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM)



## Election of Officers

At this November's Regular Meeting on  
November 16, 2011

is the elections for officers for next year.

If you're interested in serving as an officer for BARA,  
or even better come show your support

Come Vote.... Your vote counts!!!



Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) asking Tom Siglin (WA2LTD)  
a question about how to operate the club radio during  
2011 ARRL Field Day event

Photo by Bill Jaker

## The Adventures of "Omar, the Ham Hermit"

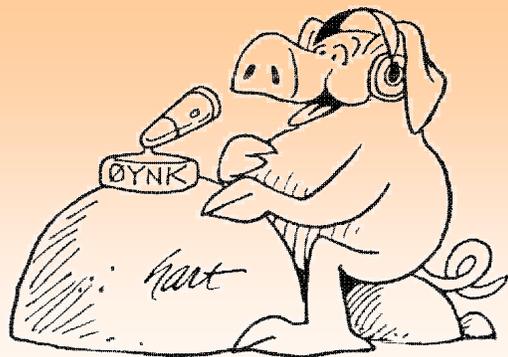
© 2010 Bill Jaker, WB8RAE

*Continuing the never-dull journal of Omar, the Ham Hermit:  
Omar Doradius, W2UWU, whose entire contact with others in  
the human race is just one long series of spotty QSOs.*

One by one they fall, and then a gust whips off dozens at once and soon the weeds around the trees are covered with leaves. Now I can again see the old dipoles that stretch from tree to tree, from the sugar maple to the white pine. Those are simple dependable antennae most of the time. I haven't checked the latest MUFs so I don't know what band will be open for a 56-foot length of copper that runs northeast-southwest, through an elm tree's widest branches and close by a tall spruce. The tech manuals say that an antenna should be set clear of all vegetation. But that isn't vegetation, it's trees! Trees are supposed to be made of wood and therefore won't conduct electricity but instead act as insulators from each other, as if they didn't exist at all, right?

Up here in my hermitage I can erect towers and run wires and try out weird antennae to my Q's content. I can mount a vertical to radiate equally poorly in all directions or bounce a signal off the cyclone fence by the doggie-run. Hams have been hanging wires from trees ever since trees were invented. That blasted oak over by the old stable has been radiating since 1904.

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"Omar, the Ham Hermit"*



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NWS Binghamton, NY  
2011 SKYWARN  
Recognition Day  
Coming in December

**2011 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day**  
December 3, 2011, from 0000z to 2400z

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service (NWS). On SRD, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. Information regarding SRD is found at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

The NWS recognizes the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. NWS offices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to protect life and property.

**Operating Instructions**

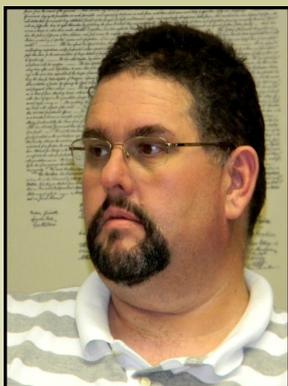
**Notes from the editor,**

Just want to thank everyone for the kind words about the newly designed BARA FACT'S. One great idea that I received in a email, was to feature a profile of a BARA member a members profile, so others can get to know. I think that's a "awesome" idea. That way our member can tell how they got into Amateur Radio, what they have done in life, memorable events in Amateur Radio. Plus maybe a photo of their ham shack as well. So if anyone would can write up something about themselves. So if you have another idea like this one please let me know.

73,

Vinnie Griggs - N1JPM

[vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com](mailto:vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com)



- 1. Object** For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKY-WARN™ Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.
- 2. Date** NWS stations will operate Saturday, December 3, 2011, from 0000 - 2400 UTC.
- 3. Exchange:** Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.).
- 4. Modes:** NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).
- 5. Station Control Operator:** It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.
- 6. Event and QSL Information:** The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates may be requested from: Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates may be requested from:

SKYWARN Recognition Day  
920 Army Road  
Goodland, KS 67735

Simply enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a list of NWS stations worked. The certificate size is 8.5 x 11 inch-



### BARA's Board of Directors Meeting

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. board of directors met at the Broome County Emergency Service Center on Lt Vanwinkle Drive on November 2nd. President Brian Adey (K2DLB) opened the meeting at 7:06 PM. He asked if anyone noticed and thing that need to be changed in the Secretary's Report hearing known there was a motion to accept, voted on and passed. Paul Slocum gave his Treasurer's Report and that too was voted on and passed.

John Rudy (WB2FQZ) had nothing to report about the W2OW shack. He spoke up that in Kirkwood, there is a stock pile of creek bed of stone that they will be getting rid of, and we could probably get it for nothing except, we need to find a way to truck it up to the shack to help repair the road. That would not be available until spring 2012. Tom was up at the shack last night, and everything looked fine. Brian (K2DLB) spoke that Bill Coleman (N2BC) has picked up the Kenwood that has not worked for a while and has found that it's working fine but there were some bands that the display would just show dots. He was going to look at the second one and see if it is possible to make one good one out of the two. John (WB2SGS) suggested that we need to remember to thank him for his time in looking at the radios. Tom Vroman (N2BGM) told that the rope was broken and should we fix it. Vinnie (N1JPM) said that he would like to see a gate or chain up to help try to make it safe and possibly discourage kids partying up there. It was agreeable to wait till spring to look into putting something, like a chain or gate.

Brian (K2DLB) said he had received a phone call from the HAM radio group that has their HAMfest the day before ours, and they were inquiring if we were going to still have one on the third weekend on that Sunday in 2012. He told him that we were planning on doing one the same time as usual. The other group spoke that they were going to contact the commercial vender to make sure we were on their list of events.

Brian (K2DLB) asked if Tom (N2BGM) still had the information on the fundraising

paperwork for Brooks. Vinnie (N1JPM) had a copy with him and gave it to Brian (K2DLB) to give to Ford (AB2HS) because he had some questions but made it clear that he was not interested in heading it up. Vinnie (N1JPM) had it in his email and will try to find it. The group's feeling was that it was probably the time to try to book a date for next year. John Carrington (WB2SGS) asked if we had an idea where we could hold it. At this time, no place has been approached. We discussed different scenarios, but nothing was decided at this time.

Paul (N1NCB) asked if everything was all set for "THE SPOT RESTAURANT." He said we need to call the membership to see if they are planning on coming and to get a rough count to give to the restaurant.

He also reminded us that this month is the elections at the regular meeting in two weeks for next year. At this time, all current officers said they would run again except for Andy Rudy (KC2QYA). We will have to wait to see if he would accept it again or not. Paul (N2NCB) asked about how the constitution is written about secret ballot. It might be a good idea to look into changing the wording sometime so there could be some other wording. John (WB2FQZ) asked if doing the program that Andy (KC2QYA) has come up with be okay for this month. It's a game on Amateur Radio trivia and knowledge. He might ask a FEMA guy whom he met during the flood can enlighten us about FEMA.

Paul (N2NCB) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Vinnie (N1JPM) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38p.m. Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.



### UNICORN ELECTRONICS

Valley Plaza Drive  
Johnson City, NY

"For all there support over the years"



**U.S. Amateur Radio Operator's are now  
700,000 Strong!**



10/12/2011 - Article found on-line in ARRL.org

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

"When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, respectively. As new Technicians earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."

Somma said these high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in hobby: "These are compelling statistics and I am thrilled to see the highest number of amateur radio licensees ever! When I began working at the ARRL back in the mid 1980s, there were approximately 450,000 amateurs in the US. Our VEC program conducted an average of 55 sessions a week. Today, we administer approximately 150 exam sessions each week, and our total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year."

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

- December 1971: 285,000
- December 1981: 433,000
- December 1991: 494,000
- December 2001: 683,000
- September 2011: 700,221

FCC LICENSEES BY LICENSE CLASS							
Year	Ending Month	Extra	Advanced	General	Tech*	Novice	Total
2011	Sep	125,661	58,224	159,861	341,658	14,817	700,221
2010	Dec	122,951	59,387	155,781	342,191	15,731	696,041
2009	Dec	119,403	60,795	150,970	334,245	17,084	682,497
2008	Dec	115,625	62,104	144,832	322,660	18,343	663,564
2007	Dec	112,022	65,368	142,680	315,314	20,458	655,842
2006	Dec	108,223	69,915	131,224	323,073	23,633	656,068
2005	Dec	107,440	74,221	135,067	319,125	26,747	662,600
2004	Dec	106,090	77,948	138,292	319,742	29,765	671,837
2003	Dec	104,894	82,034	141,498	322,821	32,812	684,059
2002	Dec	103,257	84,326	139,848	321,805	36,072	685,308
2001	Dec	97,977	86,545	138,625	319,735	40,155	683,037
2000	Dec	93,807	88,783	134,144	319,874	45,632	682,240
1999	Dec	75,392	103,471	110,386	335,768	52,375	677,392

Source: 1971, 1981, 1991: print editions of [Radio Amateur Callbook](#). 2001, 2011: [www.ah0a.org/FCC/Graphs.html](http://www.ah0a.org/FCC/Graphs.html). Please note: While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.

"As technology changes and advances, it is especially vital to keep up or be at the forefront," Somma said. "I believe that Amateur Radio has done just that! The measurable results are our indisputable license numbers. It amazes me after all these years how important and relevant Amateur Radio remains. I am proud to be one of the 700,221 licensees and to see this historic and important milestone."



*Continued from Page 3  
"Omar, the Ham Hermit"*

"WI spread the leaves around to improve the ground conductivity, go into the shack and turn on my trusty, rusty green HW-101.

"This is W2UWU calling CQ. Whiskey Two Uncle Willy's Underwear." (umm, I better find a more formal set of phonetics if I'm going to speak it out loud) "This is Whiskey Two United Whiskey United calling any amateur radio station, or as they say in ham talk 'CQ CQ', dadee dadee dahdahdedaa anybody?"

2UWU, this is WOØDY, WOØDY, WOØDY. Am I out of the noise?"

Has my combination of copper and xylem attracted a fellow forester? "WOØDY, this is W2UWU. My name is Omar: oak-maple-ash-redbud, Omar. You're as solid as ironwood at my QTH. How's it sound there?"

"Hi, Omar. The name here is Douglas, as in fir. I'm running 9 watts into a long wire between two eighty-foot yellow poplars. There's a little fading on your signal. Over."

"Well, you're solid 5 by 9 plus 33 feet here. I'm running about 250 watts into a dipole with one end in a pine tree and the other in a sugar maple. Ain't that sweet?"

"Sorry, Omar, you faded out for a moment and then came back strong and began to fade again. It doesn't sound like normal QSB. Try again."

He's loud and clear on just 9 watts. I step on the PTT pedal, "I'm running about 250 watts into a random dipole with one end in a pine tree and the other in a sugar maple. Copy now, Douglas?"

"Ahh, there's your problem, Omar. You've got one leg of the antenna hanging from a conifer and the other in a deciduous tree. There's going to be intermittent trouble since the RF experiences a high Standing Wood Ratio. Can you plant a couple of tulip trees there? That's what I'm running. They grow nice and tall and they're always a good match. W2UWU WOØDY."

His signal is so loud it overloads the front end of the HotWater-101 and I grab the fire extinguisher as the shack fills with the aroma of WOØDY smoke. A good match, you say?

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### Message from the President

Well here it is November and the weather is better than 2 months ago. Sorry for being absent from the newsletter, but with the flooding situation I have been extremely busy at work. 9 weeks later and it is still busy but not as bad. As for the club, it is that time where we will be having election of officers at the November meeting. If anyone is willing or chomping at the bit to run for an office please contact a board member prior to the meeting and we will put you on the slate.

73s and hope to see you at the meeting

**Brian Adee**  
**K2DLB**



Photo by Jerry Heller-KA2WQR





Nationwide **Emergency Alert System** Shortened to Thirty Seconds

Fri, 2011-11-04 08:12 AM By: [Mark Rockwell](#)

Public anxiety lurks as government agencies prepare for a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System on Nov. 9 that could interrupt radio and television broadcasts for thirty seconds.



When it announced the test earlier this year, [FEMA](#) originally said it could last as long as three-and-a-half minutes, but the agency acknowledged to news organizations that it had reduced the test's duration, apparently over public concerns.

Although the three agencies participating in the test began notifying the public in June, public anxiety is creeping up as the Nov. 9 date nears. Blast email circulating on the Web from some bloggers in the last few days have questioned the government's motives behind the test. Reportedly, some school boards have circulated email expressing concerns over what the test will entail. News reports cited one email distributed in a Washington D.C. school district that said there was "great concern" from local law enforcement and emergency management that the test would spark concern among residents.

The national EAS test, which is the first official test of a Presidential Emergency Action Notification, includes all broadcast radio and television stations, as well as most cable and satellite operators. It will be conducted jointly by the three federal agencies that have EAS management responsibilities: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through its Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS). During the test, FEMA and the FCC have said that some "this is a test" messages on television screens may not appear, which might ratchet up public concerns on Nov. 9.

*Continued to page 9*  
**Emergency Alert System**

This is N2NCB calling up the STAR NET.....



**LOCAL RADIO NETS**

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

Every Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time

**146.865 (PL 146.2) MHz      BRAT Net (Informal BARA)**

Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time

**28.470 +/-MHz      Southern Tier HF Net**

Every Monday evening at 7:00 Local Time





*Continued from Page 8*  
**Emergency Alert System**

“The audio message will be the same for all EAS Participants; however, due to limitations in the EAS, the video test message scroll may not be the same or indicate that ‘This is a test,’” said the FCC’s Website. “This is due to the use of a ‘live’ national code – the same code that would be used in an actual emergency,” it said. “In addition, the background image that appears on video screens during an alert may indicate that ‘This is a test,’ but in some instances there might not be an image at all,” it said. “FEMA and the FCC plan to conduct outreach to organizations representing people with hearing disabilities to prepare that community for the national EAS test.”

FEMA has been urging local emergency management organizations to get the word out to the public about the test and how it will work.

“Our top priority is to make sure that all members of the public know that this test is coming up – and that it is just a test,” said FEMA on Oct. 28 on its Web blog in a message aimed at local emergency response organizations. “For most of us, this test will look and sound very similar to the local tests of the Emergency Alert System that we often see on TV or hear on the radio,” it explained.

“But as we always say here at FEMA, we’re just part of the team – and we’re counting on all of you to help us spread the word in your communities, with your co-coworkers, neighbors, friends and loved ones,” it said.

**Up Coming Event**

**November 9, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

**SVARA Repeater Group Meeting**

This is the local group that owns and maintains the local repeaters.

Broome County Emergence Service Bldg.  
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13902

**November 16, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

**Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
Regular Meeting**

Town of Binghamton Town Clerks Office  
279 Park Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

**November 28, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

**Volunteer Examiners (VE) Testing**

If you have studied to obtain your Amateur Radio license or would like to upgrade. There is a testing session on the last Mondays of the month at:

Vestal Public Library  
320 Vestal Parkway  
Vestal, NY 13850

Contact: Bob Soltis - WA2VCS  
wa2vcs@gmail.com or (607)754-7940

**December 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

**BARA Board of Directors Meeting**

Broome County Emergence Service Bldg.  
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13902



**Binghamton  
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
(BARA)  
is an ARRL affiliated Club**

**Officers:**

President: **Brian Adee** K2DLB (607)206-4800  
Vice-President: **John Rudy** WB2FQZ (607)669-4308  
Secretary: **Vinnie Griggs** N1JPM (607)651-8884  
Treasurer: **Paul Slocum** N2NCB (607)687-2057

**Directors:**

**John Carrington** WB2SG (607)648-8364  
**Warren Marks** KC2NGR (607)372-2090  
**Tom Vroman** N2BGM (607)669-4874  
**Andy Rudy** KC2QYA (607)669-4308