

# BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

October 2011

## September's Regular Meeting.....



**Ford Drake AB2HS**

**Taking questions about his presentation on "What you could plan to pack for your jump bag, if you are called upon to help out for an Emergence Disaster."**

Photo by Jerry Heller - KA2WQR

The Binghamton Amateur radio Association, Inc., meet on September 21 at the Town of Binghamton's Town Clerks office at our new time of 7:00. There was a great turn out new and old members present.

Brain Adee (K2DLB) opened the meeting and Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) read the minutes of the August Picnic/Meeting that was held at Otsiningo Park on Bevier Street in Binghamton, NY. A couple corrections were made. Brian

(K2DLB) gave a quick Treasures report which our treasure emailed him due that he was going in for two medical procedures for his eyes that week. Both reports were voted on and passed.

John (WB2FQZ) said he had gone up to the shack and checked on the road and stuff and everything looked fine. Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke up and stated that he went up to the shack before all the rained hit and dug some water bars in the road to diverted the majority of the run off out into the wood or side ditches. He also said that he continued cutting the brush that grew up around the tower on the west side some but more was needed. He also spoke that the new Yaesu is installed and setup. The VHF patch cord is hooked up but a HF patch cord is still need. Ford (AB2HS) has volunteered to take some coax that is up there and cut it to the length need and solder two connectors to it. Vinnie (N1JPM) had the coax in his car and will give it to him after the meeting.

*Continued to page 2  
September's Regular Meeting*

### **October's Newsletter Articles**

**September's  
Regular Meeting** Page 1-3

**Help Needed?**  
Page 2

**Local Radio Nets**  
Page 3

**Unicorn Electronics**  
Page 4

**Welcome our New Member**  
Page 5

**Answering a Stations CQ**  
Page 5 & 7

**Note from the Editor**  
Page 6

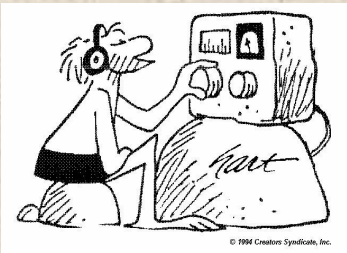
**Omar, the HAM Hermit**  
Page 6-7

**Board of Director's Meeting**  
Page 6 & 8

**New York QSO Party**  
Page 7

**Up Coming Events**  
Page 8

**BARA Officer's**  
Page 8



© 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.



*Continued from Page 1  
September's Regular Meeting*

Then John (WB2FQZ) asked about the status of the two Kenwood radios that are at the shack. Brian (K2DLB) spoke up and explained that one was not working at all and the other one is still putting out low power and sometimes the amp that is up there help to get out on to the air. He asked the members what they wanted to do about the Kenwood radios up there. He asked if anyone know of anyone that could take a look at them and see what it would take to make them operational again. Ford suggested that we put a plea into the next newsletter. To see if any of the members that repair radios if they could take a look at it or if someone has had good luck from one particular repair shop to see if we could at least to evaluate the radio.

Then Brian asked if there was any old business that needed to come in front of the membership? Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke up and said that there was the matter of the Constitution change that was brought up by Allen Lutins (KC2KLC) proposed as a motion at the August meeting that required two read of the suggested proposal before it can be voted on. Vinnie (N1JPM) read how the original constitution sec-

tion that was suggested to be changed, then he read the new proposed changed. With no questions being asked, Brian (K2DLB) asked to have a vote on this new proposal. It was voted on and passes. So instead of 10 members present, not including the officers, the constitution will required that 5 members, not including the officers with the rest of the section staying the same. Then Ford (AB2HS) brought up the subject of the Holiday Party. He said that everything is all set at "The Spot Restaurant" for us to hold our annual Holiday 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.

For new Business, Brian (K2DLB) asked if there were any new applications for membership. Vinnie (N1JPM) read the applications Lou Alfonsetti (KA2AHY), wishing to join the club.

George (N2GSS) made the motion to accept the applications; Jerry (KA2WQR) seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

*Continued to page 3  
September's Regular Meeting*

**At the Septembers BARA meeting, the question about the two Kenwood radio's at the W2OW's Club Shack was brought up. There was a suggestion that we should try to find someone to take a look at the radios and see what is need to repair them.**

**Is there anyone in the club that works on radios that would be willing to take a look at them to evaluate what it need to get them working again**

**or**

**If not does anyone know of a place which we can get a evaluation , so we have a idea of the cost and existent of damages?**



(c) 1994 Creators Syndicate, Inc.



*Continued from Page 2  
September's Regular Meeting*

Anne Whyman (KC3UQC) asked if anyone had heard about the statues and future of Unicorn Electronics. Many members commented that they did not release how lucky we have been for having a business like this one and hope the owners and there employs are doing well, after dealing with a flooding situation that they are experiencing right know. Tom (WA2LTD) spoke of his experience helping and surveying the damages of what this store has gone though. Kathy (KD2ADU) found out that they did not have flood insurance, so they had a huge financial loss. We can only hope they can find a way to reopen. If you know the owner or any of the employees, please take the time to help them out in any way.

Vinnie (N1JPM) also informed the group that our own Allen Lutins (KC2KLC) home was severely flooded and had sustained a large loss. He was not exactly sure how much HAM gear was loss but he and his wife had water from his basement all the way into his first floor as well. So please keep them in your thoughts.

Then Vinnie (N1JPM) asked if there was anything people disliked or wanted to see different in the newly designed newsletter. He said that he was going to try to make it enjoyable

and informational for our members. He asked if anyone had articles or ideas that can be incorporated into the newsletter, if you do please email him with your ideas.

At that time Vinnie(N1JPM) brought up that there were a couple fun contest coming up soon. The first one was the **New York QSO Party** – Just a reminder that the New York's QSO party is coming up this October 15, 2011, so look up on the web or there may be something in the newsletter. As well as, the **ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest** – Vinnie (N1JPM) announced that we as a club should try to participate in this contest. In the next month you will hear more about it. There is a small group of members that have talked about getting together and give this contest a run for its money. We figured that we could schedule time slots for people interested in giving it a try or to just come up watch. Keep a look out in the BARA FACTS for more information.

At that point, with nothing more, Warren Marks (KC2NGR) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Heller (KA2WRQ) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Ford (AB2HS) did a great demonstration on **"What you should have in your jump bag for Amateur radio"**

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

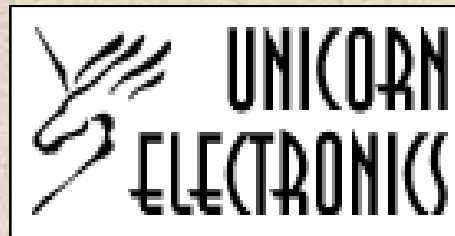
**28.470 +/-MHz      Southern Tier HF Net**

Every Monday evening at 7:00 Local Time





# Open for Business



Lets all welcome back

## **UNICORN ELECTRONICS**

There has been a lot of talk from the local Amateur Radio Community

As well as other people if they would return but great news.

**"There Back....."**





**ANSWERING A STATIONS CQ CALL & LOGGING THE CORRECT TIME**

"The following material from the NAQCC Newsletter was reprinted with permission from the North American QRP CW Club - <http://naqcc.info/>"

First of all, the best thing to do is to zero beat the station you are calling. For any rank newcomer, zero beating is a term left over from the early days of radio when you actually did tune your VFO until the beat note between it and the station you are planning to call became zero Hz or inaudible. Nowadays it means setting your frequency exactly to that of the station you are calling by whatever means your station setup uses. Of course if you're using a crystal controlled rig, you can't do that and your procedure will be a bit different as described below.

When you are zero beat, send the call of the station you are calling once since he knows his call, and you only need to send it once so he knows for sure you are calling him. Then DE and your call twice (maybe 3 times in poor conditions) as follows:

**X3XXX DE K3WWP K3WWP AR**

The AR is sent as one character, not two. It means the end of your call, and hopefully the station heard you and will start a QSO with you. Technically it's not proper to use K, and definitely not KN here since you are not yet in definite communication with the station and not telling him to go ahead.

DO NOT send his call several times, and yours only once. Again he knows his call, and wants to know yours. He may not get it right if you only send it once.

The exception is for crystal control when you KNOW you are not zero beat, then it is best to send his call 2 or 3 times and yours twice as:

**X3XXX X3XXX DE K3WWP K3WWP AR**

In contesting or sprints, brevity is the number one priority. In that situation, when responding to a CQ, simply send your call once - period.

DON'T send his call, DE, AR, K, or anything but your call. See the first two items in a typical contest exchange here:

X3XXX sends: **CQ NA X3XXX**

K3WWP responds with: **K3WWP**

(contest exchange now takes place if he heard you)

A second quick topic. Use of the correct time in logging. One of our members (Art K6XT) explained this very well in a recent member news item. I'd like to repeat in summary form here.

**WELCOME**

**Lou Alfonsetti Jr.  
KD2AHY**

**He just joined BARA last month. Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome him to the club.**

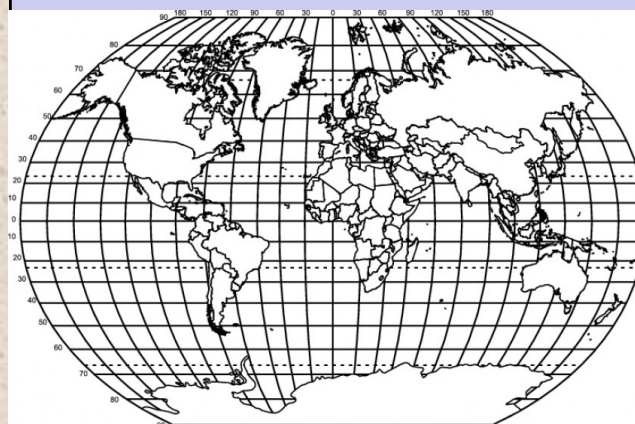
In a world-wide hobby like ham radio, it can be very confusing if we use Eastern Standard Time when communicating with someone in say Australia.

Offhand I have no idea what time it is in Australia right now in Australian time. I don't even know what time zone (s) Australia uses. The same way with the person in Australia and USA time. If I use EST on my QSL, eQSL, LotW, etc., it is more or less meaningless to the Australian ham until he performs some tricky calculations. You get the picture.

OK so how do we get around this shortcoming? We use what was once called GMT or Greenwich Meridian Time, which is the time at Greenwich observatory in England. Now it is commonly called UTC or Z time (both terms are identical, Z is more commonly used for brevity). It's a 24 hour time with no colons in the time. That is, 10:30 AM is 1030, 2:20 PM is 1420. There are no time zones for UTC - the time is the same everywhere.

When a person in the EST zone says the QSO took place at 0120Z, the ham in Australia also using UTC, has 0120Z in his log as well and there is no confusion. Therefore all hams world-wide need to learn and use UTC or Z time.

*Continuation to page 8  
"ANSWERING A STATIONS CQ CALL"*





**October's  
BARA's Board of Directors Meeting**

At the Octobers BARA's board of director's meeting, we all had a pleasant surprise, our own Paul Slocum (N2NCB), has able to attend the meeting with the help of his wife, diving him there. Paul spoke about his multiple procedures that he had gone through since July with his eyes. He was in good sprints and had his great sense of humor, as always.

After going over the Secretary's report and Treasures report for August, due to the board of director's meeting being canceled in September because of the start of server weather leading to the flood. Brian (K2DLB) started up with the subject of continuing with the HAMfest for next year. The question went around the table, asking each of us, their feeling about the matter. We all agreed, that having it at the Port Crane Fire Station, is on the pricey side but the facility provides a lot of room for our needs. The board decided that we continue forward in having a HAMfest next year. However, we need to get the consensus on what the membership feels about it at the next regular meeting.



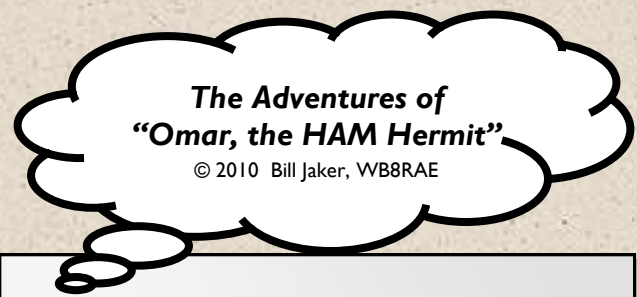
*Continued to page 7  
Board of Director's Meeting*

The National Weather Service in Binghamton, NY. Is now on Facebook.

You can find us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/>

[US.NationalWeatherService.Binghamton.gov](http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Binghamton.gov)



*We hereby resume the ever-expanding diary of "Omar, the Ham Hermit". Omar Doradious, W2UWU, is a licensed hermit whose entire contact with the rest of the human race comes through his ham radio. That should keep him protected from infectious diseases but otherwise Omar isn't that different than the rest of us.*

Healthy Hams

Well, the 6146s must be warmed up because I feel really hot and a little green around the gills. I'd open a window in the ham shack but who knows what would fly in. So let's see who's on 20 meters this morning.

Tuning around 14,190 it sounds like there's some kind of contest going on.

"DL3EKG this is W7OOH. Thanks for the good report, Fritz. The DLs must really be feeling good right now. Your report is 5 by 9 +20. Blood pressure here is 124 over 78, heart-beat 73, which is also what I wish for you."

He doesn't sound out of breath, even working DX. I'll give a call, see if he's able to hear someone stateside.

"W7OOH, this is W2UWU." I wait for a response. Maybe he's still reporting to the Germans. "W7OOH, hier ist W2UWU, über."

"W2UWU, this is W7OOH. My name is Marty. Blood pressure here is 124 over 78, heartbeat 73. How do you feel?"

"W7OOH, W2UWU. Thanks. The name is Omar, old man amateur radio. Maybe I'm a little flushed at the moment, but I'll scrub up and cool down later. You're a good 5 and 9 here."

"How do you feel, Omar? What's your report? I told you my blood pressure is 124 over 78, resting pulse 73. How do you feel?"

"W7OOH, W2UWU. Thanks. The name is Omar, old man amateur radio. Maybe I'm a little flushed at the moment, but I'll scrub up and cool down later. You're a good 5 and 9 here."

*Continued to page 7  
Healthy Hams*

Check out our website at: <http://w2ow.org>



*Continuation from page 6  
Board of Director's Meeting*

At the same time, it was also brought up that the profit of the HAMfest and attendance has not changed over the past years. Nevertheless, the question came up, are we doing it for a profit or to provide a service for the Amateur Radio community. But on the other side of the question, obtaining help setting up and clean up afterwards requires a lot of time for the ones who do end up helping. There was a suggestion, that if we consider doing a chicken BBQ or two a year, we could make the money need for our fund-raising needs, with less time required from each us.

On the subject on the W2OW radio shack, Vinnie (NIJPM) spoke that the Yaesu FT-897d was set up working great and that a new patch panel coax was needed to make the HF portion of the radio operable. Ford (AB2HS) has been contacted and has volunteered to solder new ends on a piece of coax, which is missing at the moment. Vinnie

(NIJPM) said that he and our newest member, Lou Alfonso (KA2AHY), will be up at the shack on Saturday (10/8) showing off the shack and the new Yaesu due to him interested in purchasing a radio like that one. (Anyone interested in looking or using the shack and would like someone to show them the in's or out's on how the shack is set up ... Please contact me, and I would gladly go up there with you, contact me by email at [vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com](mailto:vinnie.griggs@yahoo.com) )

Paul (N2NCB) reminded the group at the October, regular meeting their needs to be an announcement. November meeting will be the election of officers for 2012.

Vinnie (NIJPM) asked if there were any questions or concerns about the way he has redesigned the BARA FACTS. It was brought up, he should try to incorporate the cartoon characters the late Johnny Hart had drawn up for the club to use, and he said he forgot about them, when he was redoing the newsletter, and he said recognizes the importance on having them in the newsletter for all of us to enjoy.

*"Continued from Page 6  
Healthy Hams*

How do you feel, Omar? What's your report? I told you my blood pressure is 124 over 78, resting pulse 73. How do you feel?"

I look carefully around the shack. My station has many meters: VTVM, watt meter, SWR meter plus those 20 meters that I'm transmitting over. But where do I attach the connector for my blood pressure?

"Marty, don't you need one of those devices... what do the medical people call it, a sick-nose-man-ometer? It's got an arm-band and a rubber bulb on one end and a cute nurse wearing earphones on the other. All I know is my blood pressure is under

control and my heart is still beating."

"How do you feel? You get three points for feeling good, zero if you're sick, but you earn additional points for exchanging blood pressure, pulse and cholesterol count. I'd just as soon leave that last number out, the higher you go the fewer points you receive. So how do you feel, Omar?"

"Well, I'm fine, thank you. But what kind of event is this?"

"Didn't you know? It's Feel Day! 73 and take care. CQ Feel Day. CQ Feel Day. This is W7OOH calling. CQ Feel Day..."

I think I'll go lie down. I believe that's good for half a point.

© 2010 Bill Jaker, WB8RAE

**CQ NYQP!**

**The New York State QSO Party Is Back!**

Phone  
CW  
RTTY/  
Digital

**!!! CQ NYQP !!!**

This weekend is the New York QSO Party

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011: 1400 UTC  
thru  
Oct. 16, 0200 - 12 Hours**

Sponsored by:

Contesting information & rules:  
Go to the web: <http://nyqp.org>



Continuation from page 5  
"ANSWERING A STATIONS CQ CALL"

There's a conversion factor for each time zone around the world that makes it simple to convert local time to UTC. I'll just list a couple examples here which should make it obvious once you learn your local conversion factor.

Here in the EST zone, simply add 5 hours to local time, that is: 10:30 AM plus 5 hours equals 1530Z after dropping the colon 2:20 PM is a tad trickier. First convert to 24 hour time which becomes 2:20 plus 12 or 14:20 EST, then add the 5 hours conversion factor and you get 1920Z

Trickiest of all is when the date changes with the conversion. Follow along carefully here:

9:30 PM EST converted to 24 hour time becomes 21:30 EST. Then adding 5 hours makes it 2630Z. Huh? There are only 24 hours in a day. Well then we subtract 24 hours to make it 0230Z, BUT it is now the next day. I'll repeat - it's now the next day. This leads to a lot of confusion to those new to UTC or Z time, so here's a more specific example:

9:45 PM EST on Tuesday, December 9, 2011 after conversion as shown above becomes 0245Z on Wednesday, December 10, 2011.

Many countries use Daylight Savings Time of one kind or other in their warmer months. In that case the conversion factor changes because UTC does NOT use any kind of savings time. It's the same the whole year round. So here in the USA Eastern Zone, the factor is 5 for Standard time, but becomes 4 during Daylight Savings time.

Probably the easiest thing to do is to purchase a 24 hour digital clock for the shack and set it to UTC time. I've had such a setup in my shack for many years and it makes logging the correct time a snap for paper logging. Of course if your computer log in the shack, just set the logging program to UTC and you're all set.

by John Shannon, K3WWP as liberated from the  
NAQCC NEWSLETTER number 148



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

### Up Coming Event

October 12, 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

October 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm

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

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

October 31, 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

November 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm

#### BARA Board of Directors Meeting

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

#### 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