

BARA FACTS

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

September 2011

Summer Picnic/ Meeting.....



Warren Marks-KC2NQR and his wife.. Barbara
Photo by Jerry Heller-KA2WQR

The August 17th the regular meeting of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (BARA) met at the Otsiningo Park Pavilion in Binghamton, NY. It was a gorgeous day with a nice breeze blowing to make it a perfect evening for a picnic/ meeting. The picnic started at 5 o'clock in the evening and with members bringing a dish to pass, which made it a delicious meal. Our own director Warren Marks and his wife got the charcoal going before we all showed up. By 5:15 they had hamburgers and hot dogs cooking for all of

use to enjoy. There was a good mix of new and old friends at the picnic/meeting.

Then when it came to dessert time, a short but important meeting took place. This was the first official meeting that had the minimum required amount of members present which met the requirement of at least 10 members not including the officers.

Brian Adee (K2DLB) called the meeting just before 6:00 p.m. The reading of the Secretaries and Treasures report was waved to keep it a short meeting. The first order of business was to vote in the five applications for membership that have been waiting to be voted in. The following people's applications were read, voted on and passed; Duane Traver (WV2B), Thomas Pocengal (W2SVA), David Pagnani (AC2GA), Kathy Pagnina (KD2ADU) and Sharon Drake (N2WGM). Congratulations to our new members and if you should see or hear any of them on the air. Please take a moment and welcome them to the club.

The second thing that was brought up was from Tom Vroman (N2BGM) who made a motion to change the time of the regular meeting from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. Steven Chodkowski (K2CZ) seconded the motion. The discussion was that it would hopefully allow the regular meeting to get done earlier. The motion was voted on and passed.

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Sept. 7, 7:00 pm

BARA Board of Directors Meeting

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

Sept.21, 7:00 pm

BARA Regular Meeting

Broome County
Emergence Service
Bldg.
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive,

Check out our website at::

<http://www.w2ow> or <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu.bara>

Continued from Page 1 BARA Picnic/Meeting

The third order of business was from Ford Drake (AB2HS). He stood up and explained to the group that the present radio at the BARA's W2OW radio shack is getting unstable and not working to its full capacity. That there is a second Kenwood radio, as well, that is up there that has not worked for some time. He felt that the club should look at getting a newer radio (solid state) that is more reliable and able to work the antennas that we have up at the shack. He heard of a radio that one of the members knew about, that was only used for a few months and is available for sale at a reasonable price. The radio is a Yaesu FT-897D, which is a "all mode radio," 2 meter, 70 meter & 160-6 meter, as well. It would allow any member to use the band of which their license allows and would make a great improvement for the radios that are at the shack which are virtually not working properly. So with that, he made the motion "That the club should purchase the Yaesu FT-897D for \$700.00. Vinnie (N1JPM) seconded the motion. With no questions asked. The motion was voted on and passed.

Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) stood up and said with the approval of the FT-897D that we should purchase an auto-antenna tuner and Nifty Mini-Manual to help with the performance of the radio. Since it's a menu-driven radio it would make it easier for those people that are familiar with this radio, to use it. So he made the motion to be allowed to spend up to \$250.00 to purchase those items to enhance the FT897D. George Kilpatrick (N2GSS) second the motion. No questions were asked. The motion was voted on and passed.

Then Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke up that the last four regular meeting have not being able to take place because of not enough people present for a quorum required as written in the BARA constitution. He was concerned about the club dwindling due to no meeting taking place. The boards of directors have been meeting but with no regular meeting, business for the club was at a standstill. He spoke that he wanted to see the club start flourishing but with the members not meeting no any business can take place. He read how the constitution was currently written and brought up the wording that he thought would help the club to start having meetings again. However, there was concerned from the membership that there was no longer required number for an amount of members required in the motion but could understand that we could change something in the constitution.

There was good discussion with different ideas about numbers or percentages of members could be used for the required amount for a quorum for a meeting. Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke that he really wanted to try to start a change of the article today, so the requirements of having this brought up at two regular meeting before it can be put to a vote.

Allen (KC2KLC) spoke that he felt that a number of 5 instead of 10 members present would work for him and after some discussion about that. He said that he would make the motion "That the **Article IV, Section 3** stay the same but with the amount of 10 members required to be changed to five members required, and the rest stayed the same." Vinnie (N1JPM) seconded this motion. The group acted satisfied with the motion. (Please note... that official vote was not taken because it needs a second reading before voting on the amendment as written out in the constitution under amendments).

Then Vinnie (N1JPM) asked everyone to sign the two cards in the back of the Pavilion for Paul Slocum (N2NCB) who is going in for surgery tomorrow (8/18) to have his retina reattached in his eye and Bill Coleman (N2BC) who underwent triple bypass surgery earlier this month.

With no other business to come before the membership, Jerry Heller (KA2WRQ) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. George Kilpatrick (N2GSS) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Afterward, Dew Deskur (KA1M) told the group that there was a satellite pass going over in a few minutes. So a group of people walked out where he was standing to observe his presentation.



Brian Adee (K2DLB), Jack Connors (WB2GHH), Lee Savidge (W3EFE) and George Kilpatrick (N2GSS) during the ARRL Field Day event left to right.
Photo By John Carrington—WB2SGS



Note from the newest newsletter editor:

I am always looking for stories or bio's of the membership interest for our newsletter. In addition, I would like to incorporate new, as well as, old photos of BARA events and gatherings. I am also, looking for feed backs of the new look of the newsletter. There was nothing wrong with the other style of the BARA FACTS but wanted to see if people enjoy what I am doing now. We all want BARA to grow and become a fun and active club. You can



- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Duane Traver | WV2B |
| Thomas Pocengal | W2SVA |
| David Pagnani | AC2GA |
| Kathy Pagnani | KD2ADU |
| Sharon Drake | N2WGM |

If you see anyone of these new members...
Please take the time to introduce yourself
and welcome them to the club.



Ralph Azersky
formally known as KC2WHA
has a new Call sign.
AC2GR

**So listen for the new call sign
and say "Congratulations"...**



A BIG "THANK YOU"
to
Bill Jakaitis (KB2SIN)

For his dedication and hard
work on putting out our "BARA
FACTS" newsletter for use to
enjoy over the years. Best of
luck in you future ventures
and don't be a stranger to the



**Check this new
internet show
out!**

I would like to inform the group of a new ex-
citing, and educational internet show for the
hobby of Amateur Radio. "HAM Nation" is
the new TWIT show about ham radio. **Bob
Heil (K9EID)** with co-hosts **Gordon West
(WB6NOA)** and **Leo Laporte (W6TWT)** and
guests will cover the excitement and im-
portance of ham radio - from tossing an an-
tenna wire in a tree allowing you to talk to
the world, to the importance of ham radio
operators in time of disasters. HAM Nation
airs live each Tuesday at 6:00 PT/ 9:00ET on
<http://live.twit.tv/or> you can download the
show on iTunes.

It is for every-
one from people
thinking about
what Amateur
Radio is all the
way to the Extra
Class license.
Check it out... I
find it entertain-
ing.



**A PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENSMENT
TO BE READ & POSSIBLY VOTING ON AT THE
NEXT REGULAR MEETING**



There has been a real concern about not being able to hold our regular BARA meetings for the last four months. The BARA's constitution does not allow conducting business, unless there is a specific number of full members. The present constitution reads as following:

Article IV Meetings

Sec 3. Quorum

The presence of not less than ten (10) Full Members, not including those officers present, will constitute a quorum and will be necessary to conduct the business of the association. A lesser number may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than five weeks. Such action will cause for the Secretary to give written notice to the membership of the next meeting date and to identify any unusual topic anticipated to be presented at that meeting.

At the August BARA Picnic/Meeting, Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM) brought up this concern and made a motion to amend the constitution. Vinnie (N1JPM) explained his thinking and had presented this proposal to the Board of Directors earlier this month. The board had found that there was some confusion on how the wording of the present constitution could have allowed a meeting to be held in June but found even with the clarification it still did not help and without meeting the club will fail quickly. After Vinnie (N1JPM) presented is amendment there was concern about not having a minimum amount listed. So after discussion and

Vinnie(N1JPM) withdrawing his motion. Allen Lukas (KC2KFC) made the motion and Vinnie (N1JPM) seconded it, to only amend the amount of ten (10) full members present to five (5) members required. So the amendment;

Article IV - Meeting

Sec. 3. Quorum

*The presence of not less than **five (5)** Full Members, not including those officers present, will constitute a quorum and will be necessary to conduct the business of the association. A lesser number may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than five weeks. Such action will cause for the Secretary to give written notice to the membership of the next meeting date and to identify any unusual topic anticipated to be presented at that meeting.*

The motion will have to be read one more time before it can be voted on. After that the motion will be brought up for a vote. The continuation of the club is vital and when there is a lower amount of full members present at the regular meeting, the club will still be able to conduct business. The club needs your help, so please come to the September 21st meeting to ask any questions or concerns about this amendment. Your vote is important.



Our thoughts and prayers
are extended to ALL though
people and families that were
effected by the flood this month.
Including our long time sponsor
Unicorn Electronics



Advanced SKYWARN Class

There will be a Advanced SKYWARN Class held on September 22nd at 7:00 pm. The class will be held at the Tioga County Public Safety Building located on 130 Corporate Street in Owego, New York 13827. This class is free and open to anyone who has already taken a Basic Skywarn class. This is a great class if you want to go more in depth with severe weather. If you plan on attending, please register by email me at Erik.Heden@noaa.gov . Space is limited so please let us know as soon as you can.

Observations Before, During, and After the Storm and Flood of 2011.

By Ford Drake—AB2HS



First off, I want to thank those that helped out with both Hurricane Irene and then with Tropical Storm Lee and the flooding that resulted. Many of you supplied rain gauge readings, which help the flood forecasters, by giving them more information on where the heavy rainfall is and isn't occurring. The rain that is falling in the head waters of the river affects those downstream. Even if you live near where one of the flood gauges are, the rain that falls still affects the river level and points downstream. Some of the others helped out by giving up your time to be at some of the Red Cross Shelters. We were requested to help out communicating because they were flooded out of the Endicott Headquarters and more importantly the usual Cellphone and others were overloaded or not working. I will list what I

saw and heard on the various 2 meter frequencies and give my opinion on what was good & bad and needs to be changed.

1.) Hams need to listen to the repeater and keep up on what is happening. Previous emails by myself or Jack WB2GHH resulted in a few responses. People have told me just give me a call or email me. If those of us in the leadership positions are coordinating setups and other logistics, we don't have time to email, phone or text each person. Even after the operation was underway, very few called and said I can help on the next shift or into the week if need be. This prompted fast and very to the point emails by Jack and myself. Even then just a few replies back.

2.) Callout lists of those who we can count on. Not those that want to be on the list because it looks good but those that are willing to be called on.

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Observations 2011

Due to the Storm and Flooding Situations

The **BARA Board of Directors Meeting** was canceled for the Month of September and there will be no **“Presidents Corner”** due to the demand of his job situation dealing with storm & flooding damages to others.

Continued from Page 5 Observations 2011

3.) We need a person at the EOC or point of command that knows or can find out road information. It is hard to get people to a location if the roads are closed. Too much time can be lost trying to get people around areas that they may not be familiar with.

4.) On the same line if possible we need to try and get people into areas that are close to where they live. In Tioga County, they had a person that lives up near Greenwood Park trying to get to the shelter in Apalachin. Four hours later he got there and fortunately, he planned to spend the night.

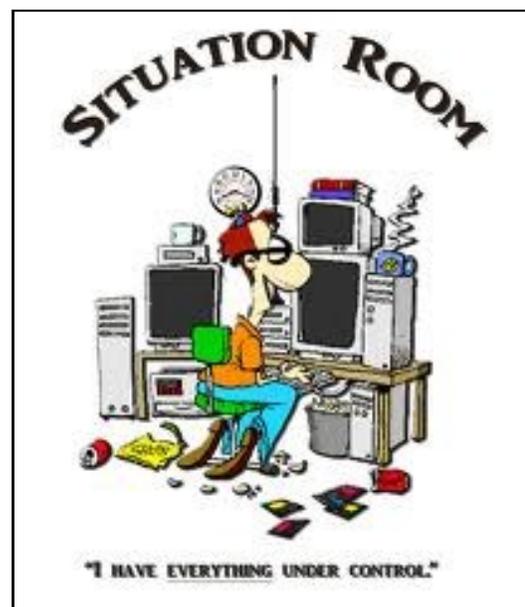
5.) We need to have our radios programmed to the frequencies that we might use, have spare antenna, power supply, something better than a HT, rubber duck and one spare battery, and headphones for noisy areas.

6.) At home we should have even a simple rain gauge, and thermometer. Know or learn how to read and follow a map or verbal directions. GPS doesn't always work. Columbus discovered America without a GPS.

7.) For my own problems. I wasn't ready for Irene

fortunately we came out pretty good on that one. Hurricane Lee I was ready for, radios laid out, coax and antennas ready and was in touch with the Weather Service. We did have a remote receiver that does not cover the area it is supposed to cover, and the fix hasn't been tested out yet. That is one of the around to it. The Hancock repeater is out of service, and another one will be put in service when I get it done.

Overall, I don't think we did too bad in Broome County but as noted above, we have more to do. Some of this will come out at a later time. Good project for winter.





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



Sept. 14 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

Sept. 18 at 1:00pm

Alzheimer's Walk & Run

Has asked for help with there radio communications for there event. If you can volunteer....

Contact Ford Drake
AB2HS
607-555-5656
AB2HS@stny.rr.com

Sept. 24 8:00am—2:00pm

36th Annual Elmira International Hamfest & Computerfest

Chemung County
Fairgrounds
Grand Central Avenue
Horsehead, NY

Contact: Charlie Santi
KA2BED
(607)481-0908

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)372-9612

Tom Vroman (N2BGM) (607)669-4874

Andy Rudy (KC2QYA) (607)669-4308



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



Special "Thanks" to:

UNICORN ELECTRONICS

Valley Plaza Drive
Johnson City, NY

"For there support for printing the newsletter all these years"