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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

April 2011

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

President's Corner **April 2011**

Well spring is here. The snow is gone and hopefully till next winter. Just a reminder that the BARA Hamfest is coming real soon. April 17th at the Port Crane Fire Company on Rte 369 by the Chenango Valley State Park.

We have several Vendors coming. Sauder Electronics, KJI Electronics, Radio Oasis, and Quicksilver Radio.

Gene from KJI is coming from NJ to our Hamfest without going to Newark, NY on Saturday. That means a special trip for him which I think is great. Must be we do something right. Anyone that can help, we would appreciate it. We have a good amount for Saturday and Sunday afternoon to clean up. What we need is members to help during the hamfest. If you can help, please contact Ford Drake AB2HS at 754-1214 or ab2hs@stny.rr.com. Hope to see you at the hamfest.

Brian Adee K2DLB

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association
Business Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2011
at the Binghamton Town Hall
Binghamton, NY

Board Members:

President: Brian Adee – K2DLB, Vice-President: John Rudy – WB2FQZ, Secretary: Vinnie Griggs –

N1JPM, Treasurer: Paul Slocum – N2NCB, Director: Warren Marks – KC2NGR, Director: Tom Vroman – N2BGM, Director: Andy Rudy – KC2QYA

General members:

George Kilpatrick – N2GSS, Jerry Heller – KA2WQR, Ed Fedor – N2RWH, Ford Drake- AB2HS, Lee Savidge – W3EFE, Ann Whyman – KB3UQC, Jack Connors – WB2GHH, Joe Majernik – KC2ZVO, Howard Klein – K2HK,

Visitors: Sharon Drake – N2WGM, Steve Martel – KB3VHB, William Roth – KC2ZQW, Amanda Tower

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President, Brian Adee (K2DLB)

Secretaries Report:

Brian (K2DLB) asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written in the BARA Newsletter. George (N2GSS) made the motion to accept the minutes as published. Seconded by Ford (AB2HS). Motion voted on and passed.

Treasures Report:

Treasures Report was read and explained.

Committee Reports:

Radio Shack- John (WB2FQZ) said he had really nothing to report.

Ham Fest- Brian (K2DLB) Everything is going well, We still need help with set up and take down, see Ford (AB2HS). He has a sign-up sheet. We still need ladies with ticket sales during the HAM Fest. Non-

members will be given a wrist band for free if the work.

Fundraisers – Nothing to really report this month, due to the Advance Skywarn this evening.

Old Business: Nothing was reported.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Paul (N2NCB) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. George (N2GSS) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

- Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

There was a presentation by David J. Nicosia from the National Weather Service of Binghamton, NY, which featured an Advance Skywarn Class for all who attended.

Board Meeting Minutes
Binghamton Amateur Radio Association
April 6, 2011
@ Broome County Emergence Service
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive
Binghamton, NY

Board Members:

Present: President: Brian Adee – K2DLB,
Secretary: Vinnie Griggs – N1JPM, **Treasurer:**
Paul Slocum – N2NCB, **Director: John Carrington**
– WB2SGS, **Director: Warren Marks** – KC2NGR,
Director: Tom Vroman – N2BGM, ,

Absent: Vice-President: John Rudy – WB2FQZ,
Director: Andy Rudy – KC2QYA

Visitor: Ford Drake – AB2HS

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President,
Brian Adee (K2DLB)

Secretaries Report:

Warren (KC2NGR), made the motion to accept the March 2, 2010 Secretaries Report as printed. Paul (N2NCB) seconded the motion. It voted on and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report was read and explained.

Vinnie (N1JPM) made a motion to accept the Treasure's Report as presented. Seconded by Warren (KC2NGR). It voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Radio Shack- Tom (N2BGM) mentioned that there was still snow around his house and expect the same would be for the shack. Vinnie (N1JPM) mentioned that Lee Savidge (W3EFE) walked up to the shack and operated the radio for a few hours. He said the snow was deep in the certain area but everything worked well.

Ham Fest- Brian (K2DLB) reported that everything was going as planned. That he has received the wristbands and showed us one of them. Brian (K2DLB) also has been in touch with Joe Marckx (AA2RE). He would like to donate some items to the club. They tried to get together a few weeks back, but the day they were going to meet there happen to have it snow, so they were going to reschedule for a later date. He also received an email from Hedy Clothier – (AA2MU), that a good friend of hers, Charles Meadows (K2PVY) who passed away earlier this year. His wife would like to donate his radio gear to the club. Brian (K2DLB) suggested that we put it in the HAM fest because of the age of the equipment, a lot of the stuff people would not know how to set it up and use. The board left it up to Brain (K2DLB) to handle those items. Brian (K2DLB) also brought up that Vinnie (N1JPM) discovered where he could get another door prize from Scott Davis (N3FJP) from www.n3fjp.com, which has developed computer software for logging, contesting and other situations. It happens to be the program that the club uses for Field Day and other contesting events.

Ford (AB2HS) spoke that there are still a lot of positions that have not been filled. He also mentioned that there is an only small amount of the membership that has signed up to help. He reminded the board that we need to remember that it's not the

Brian and Ford HAM fest; it's the BARA HAM fest. He went over positions that need to still be filled. He also mentioned that he drove up to the Port Crane Fire Department and the upper field seemed dry but the road to it was very wet.

Fundraising- Nothing to report this month, we will look into it more after the HAM fest.

Programs- John (WB2FQZ) was not at this meeting, and Brian (K2DLB) has not spoken to him. So not sure what is planned at this time. Brain (K2DLB) received an email from Steven Chadkowski (K2CZ) that he could put on a demonstration at one of our meetings of an antenna he built and could show the group and low cost antenna model software that people might be interested in. Tom (N2BGM) asks if Ron Quillen, the IT Specialist from the National Weather Service, here in Binghamton, would come to a meeting and talk about the set up, they have and what they can do.

Public Relations- No report.

Old Business:

Nothing was reported.

New Business: Vinnie (N1JPM) asked the board their feeling about taking any money that the club makes at the HAM fest, to purchase some items, so we can work toward having equipment for 2 meters at the shack. He said that he would prefer that the general membership should decide. Vinnie (N1JPM) said that he will bring it up at a future meeting.

Any other Business- John Carrington (WB2SGS) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting, Warren (KC2NG) 2nds it. Vote was unanimously passes.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

Who is the new secretary of BARA this year?

Well, my name is Vincent Griggs but likes to be called "Vinnie". My call sign is N1JPM originally from Chester Vermont. I moved to Binghamton, NY, (Hillcrest) in June of 2009 after being laid off and health issues prevented me to return to my profession as an Over-the Road Tractor Trailer driver of over 10 + years. In January of 2010, I decided to attend Broome Community College and pursue a degree in accounting. I got interest in Amateur Radio when I was a Boy scout back in the mid-1970's but did not really get interested until I had a doctor appointment with a doctor (Dr. Steven Baumrucker – WD4MKQ at the time, now his call sign is K4TLC) at a health clinic one day, and was in his office waiting for some test results and noticed a copy of QST on his desk. I picked it up, started to look through it, when he walked in. We started to talk about being a HAM radio and said I was always wanted to get my ticket but struggled with learning the code. He informed me that there was a HAM license that did not require learning Morse code, and I could try. Well, after talking for a couple of days, he invited me to travel with him to HRO store in Salem, NH because he was going that Saturday. We talked about amateur radio all the way and talked to different HAMS on the local repeaters along the way, as well. While at HRO, I noticed a flyer on the door of the store announcing a Gordon West 3 day class in Connecticut the next month. So I called, made reservations, drove 170 + mile away and attended the class. It was Fri, Sat and Sunday and the test was given by the local repeater club in Groton, CT. and on July 9, 1991. I received a letter from the FCC in the mail with my current call sign, N1JPM. I have had the pleasure of learning packet radio, which I use to go from Chester, VT overseas to London with many nodes jumping in between, talked to a cosmonaut on the Mir Space Station with a simple ground plane I built with 5 watts, plus many other events. Then in 1995, I lost interest in amateur radio after my doctor returned to Tennessee and not having anyone in the area for about 15 years. Then when I moved down here to Binghamton and stayed with a friend while trying to get my life started again. I was very bored. I really did not know anyone and since my wife, and I was separating. I decided to start doing things that I use to really enjoy. I found on the internet that there was a local amateur radio club and thought I would like to

get back involved in this hobby, since I still had a license. I went to my first BARA meeting in November of 2010 and joined in January after realizing that there were a lot of interesting people in the club. In the spring, I helped with the HAM fest and found my way to the Radio Shack that the club had. I noticed that there were a lot of things that need some TLC and started to spruce the area up some. Then in June at field day, I really got the itch to get my general Class license, so I could use the radio at the shack and start chatting around the world like I use to with my old Doctor back in Vermont. Since then I upgraded to General Class in August 2010 and have continued cutting brush and making repair to the shack. I started to ask a lot of questions and getting involved in the club. I have been very vocal about the purpose of the radio shack and what we can do to improve it for all to use. I started to attend the board meetings and talking to the members present and pass about how the radio shack came about. I would like to see more social get togethers, either with contesting or field day events. Plus just having people get together and learn about different modes of amateur radio. I realize that most of the membership has their own setup but why not help other to get interested in the hobby. I know the new officers on the board really want to generate new life into the club and developing new interest into the hobby and the club. I always want to learn more about amateur radio and invite all of you to get involved in the club and the different events that BARA puts on. Please feel free to contact me or come up to me and introduce yourself to me, anytime. I am looking forward to warmer weather, so I can return back to the radio shack and continue to improve the area and try to get people involved in coming up and getting back on the air with W2OW again. Come on up and lend a hand or just come up and boss me around, I look forward in meeting each and every one of you. Tell me your stories and what you do in amateur radio. I am always looking for you, Elmer's.

Sincerely,
H. Vincent Griggs (Vinnie) N1JPM

Assembling a QRP Station on a Budget

By Ed Comfort KCOZLR

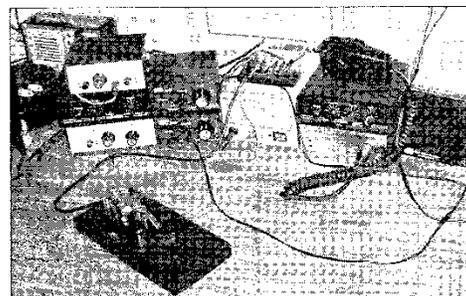
My first kit was the \$28 Vectronics 20M receiver. The 20M dipole had already been installed in the attic, but I had nothing to use it with until the kit arrived. It is a direct conversion receiver able to cover the entire 20M band and to hear both CW and SSB stations. The printed circuit board had plenty of room and everything went together with no problems.

Next I ordered the companion transmitter, also \$28. This is a one watt crystal-controlled transmitter with two selectable crystal frequencies. The VXO allows slight adjustment of each transmitting frequency. The antenna, routed to the receiver through the transmitter, is disconnected from the



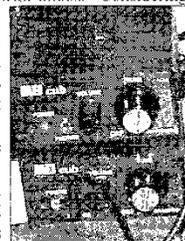
Vectronics rigs.

receiver when transmitting. There is no sidetone. Everything went well until I had my first experience with winding a toroid. The instructions said to wind each turn tightly,



8

Vectronics, a new toroid was soon in my hands. Completing the station required two \$14 enclosures with knobs. Considering shipping costs, buying everything piecemeal was not a very smart way to go.



MFJ rigs.

But the station worked. I made several contacts and eventually was awarded the one thousand mile per watt certificate by the QRP ARCI. However, with a receiver that could tune the entire band, hearing many stations calling CQ that I could never answer began to be a frustration.

So I decided to try the 40M MFJ Cub. The kit is \$99 from MFJ, but the ARRL offers it for the same price and includes the \$20 QRP book by Rich Arland. So I viewed the kit as costing only \$79, quite a savings considering the wired version costs \$149.

The Cub includes a lot of nice features that the Vectronics was lacking, including a VFO, single conversion superhet receiver, ladder filter, full QSK, sidetone, AGC, and up to double the power (1.5 - 2 watts). The board comes populated with many surface-mount parts, so only through-hole conventional parts are left for the builder. Although there were two toroids to wind, this time everything went smoothly.

See Budget QRP, page 15

The Low Down 68 Winter 2011

THE FRENCH RADIO AMATEUR WHO MADE MY DAY

by David J. Ring, Jr. N1EA as printed in the KY9A Telegraph

I will always remember the French fellow, he had an OLD call sign and no one was answering him, he'd call for hours. I had to copy him for maybe 15 minutes to even get his call sign.

He was an old Sparks who had had a stroke and he "just wanted to have a QSO because he was growing old". It was obvious to me, at least, it was near his end and he just wanted to be able to send one more QSO.

I made his day, I came back and from the little I could copy, I thanked him and tried to make it sound like I copied him. I never did say R or "ALL OK", I just talked to him from the one or two half dozen words I could copy.

He was ecstatic; I did copy the part where he said: "I have been calling and calling just to speak to someone one more time."

That's all I needed to hear; I'm glad I did it.

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

T1A08 – What is the FCC Part 97 definition of telemetry?

- A. An information bulletin issued by the FCC
- B. A one-way transmission to initiate, modify or terminate functions of a device at a distance
- C. A one-way transmission of measurements at a distance from the measuring instrument
- D. An information bulletin from a VEC

General Class

G1A08 – Which of the following frequencies is within the General Class portion of the 20 meter phone band?

- A. 14005 kHz
- B. 14105 kHz
- C. 14305 kHz
- D. 14405 kHz

Extra Class

E1A08 – What is the only emission type permitted to be transmitted on the 60 meter band by an amateur station?

- A. CW
- B. RTTY Frequency shift keying
- C. Single sideband, upper sideband only
- D. Single sideband, lower sideband only

Question of the month....

What is the minimum sampling frequency for a band limited signal?

A: 2 Times the highest frequency of the signal

My introduction to ham radio was a little bit unusual. It started with a trip to the dentist for a new filling. A few days later, as I sipped on my orange juice at breakfast, I started to feel a very strange and uncomfortable sensation in my jaw. There was a rhythm to it but it wasn't like music. Over the next couple of weeks, every Tuesday and Thursday morning I would feel these strange pulses while drinking my orange juice. Trips to my dentist, family doctor, and even my psychiatrist didn't help. (Although I did learn that I have suppressed feelings of hostility toward my mother's uncle whom I am named after.) Then one day I was talking over the fence with my backyard neighbor Paul, N8XMS, about my miserable situation. Paul carefully questioned me about the exact times that I felt the pulses and then sheepishly admitted to me that they corresponded exactly to a CW net that he participates in. Some quick experiments soon confirmed that I was indeed receiving his kilowatt CW with my dental fillings.

Paul's a really nice guy and wanted to help me find a solution to my problem. We soon discovered that if he reduces his power to 5 watts I still had perfect copy, but without the unpleasant zinging that the kilowatt caused. One thing led to another and I soon passed the ham radio exam and received my ticket.

Paul and I have continued to operate and experiment with QRP. We have recently been working on an 80-meter QRPP rig using my dental fillings. A few SMT parts on a little circuit board with some special pads that I can bite down on worked great, but hooking up the 12-volt power supply really hurt! We eventually found that we could fix that problem with a screwdriver - the kind made by mixing vodka with my orange juice. To date my most exciting QSO with this little rig was a 2XQRPP contact with K3WWP.

At least I think that it was K3WWP - I really had to juice it up with the screwdrivers to get good copy.

I would really enjoy meeting you on the air sometime. I usually hang out at the normal QRP watering holes around the cocktail hour. Cheers and 73.

Tom - KA4FUN

HAMFEST NEWS

The Hamfest is up and coming. Sunday April 17th at the Port Crane Fire Company
We are looking for members and members wife's or family that would be interested in helping
The wife's can help sell tickets, etc at the door. The more we have the less time will be spent giving you more time to visit vendors at the fest. Help is needed for setup on Saturday, during hamfest on Sunday, and cleanup afterwards along with parking, Garbage removal, BARA table etc. Anyone that can help please contact Ford at AB2HS@stny.rr.com or 754-1214
Ford Drake AB2HS

CW - The Once and Future Mode

by
Marshall G. Emm N1FN/VK5FN

[First published in "73 Amateur Radio" Issue #473, April 2000]

My grandmother was born in 1877. That means that I personally knew and spoke to a person who remembered the introduction of the electric light, the telephone, the automobile, and world war. She knew *her* grandmother, who was born in 1840, before the Civil War and before the invention of Morse code and the electric telegraph. I'm 50 years old, and I knew someone who knew someone who remembered the Civil War! The pace of change is so rapid now that we tend to forget that we're only a few generations

removed from a very primitive lifestyle

Man has been around for something like 25,000 years (depending on who you talk to, and their definition of man). We have documentary records, i.e. recorded history, going back perhaps 6,000 years, again depending on who you talk to. But it is only in the last 150 years that we have been able to communicate with distant people at speeds faster than a runner, or a horseback rider, or someone on a boat. 150 years ago communications beyond line-of-sight traveled at literally a walking pace.

What we think of as Communication today was born with the electric telegraph, which in turn depended on Morse code. What Samuel FB Morse and the other pioneers of telegraph could not know was how profound would be the changes resulting from the telegraph. It wasn't just "the birth of communications" but a full-scale revolution in relationships between people who weren't in physical proximity. Warfare, commerce, politics and everyday life were changed dramatically and permanently.

In 1844 the only telegraph line was Morse's demonstration line between Baltimore and Washington, a distance of 40 miles. Six years later, according to the US Census of 1850, there were already *12,000 miles* of telegraph lines in use. By 1900 there were hundreds of thousands of miles of telegraph lines all over the world, connected in true networks that would be familiar to any student of the Internet. There were tens of thousands of professional telegraphers. We forget how big a deal it was. And we also forget that the original wet-battery powered telegraph networks evolved into the telephone system, the wireless radio networks, and even the broadcast media. All of those were gradual evolutions from the original electric telegraph. And at the heart of it all was Morse code.

Just as the original electric telegraph depended on Samuel Morse's code, so did the evolution of radio-communications, and later digital communications. It sounds "clever" to say that Morse was the original digital mode, but it's literally true. Morse uses a simple "binary state" to store and carry information, and that is exactly what all those gigabytes of "ones and zeroes" on your hard disks and DVDs are using.

What's more, if you want to you can use any of the current means of communication to carry a message in Morse code. There is actually a large group of former (and aging) telegraphers who use the telephone system to hook up keys and sounders, keeping the art alive with the aid of Ma Bell. I believe they are working on ways to do it via the Internet even now.

Amateur radio operators were the pioneers of wireless telegraphy, and up to a point were the pioneers of most other forms of wireless communication. It is certainly true that code is no longer the defining element of amateur radio, but it is still useful, and fun, and for many of us the true heartbeat of the hobby.

Back to Basics Answers:

Technician – B

General – C

Extra – C

2011 Club Officers

President	Brian Adee	K2DLB	206-4800
Vice President	John Rudy	WB2FQZ	669-4308
Secretary	Vinnie Griggs	N1JPM	651-8884
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Tom Vroman	N2BGM	669-4874
	Andy Rudy	KC2QYA	669-4308
	John Carrington	WB2SGS	648-8364
	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	372-0290
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Editor	William Jakaitis	KB2SIN	648-2112

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 20th

Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday May 4th

*Office of Emergency Services
Lt. Vanwinkle Dr. (Behind BCC)*

Exam Session

April 25th – 7PM

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

146.865 (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

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