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# **BARA** Facts

*Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association*

**March 2011**

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

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## **President's Corner** **March 2011**

Well here it is the first week of March and Spring is just around the corner. Although there is still snow on the ground, things will be starting to happen soon. Things like getting into the shack and checking things. Putting up a newer 2 meter antenna that at least you can take your own rig and hook to the antennae. I would also like to get some other hf antenna's put up for other bands along with the second tower.

But this is all going to have to wait as I was at the site on Tuesday and plowed out the entrance, but due to the recreational vehicles packing down the snow, I was unable to get very far into the site. Maybe we hope for warmer weather and the forecasted rain coming up it won't be that long.

On another subject, we are not far away from the annual BARA hamfest. April 17th will be here before we know it and time for a get together to work socialize and purchase items that we have been looking for. Volunteers are needed for Saturday afternoon setup, Sunday during the hamfest, and cleanup after the hamfest. This year we also have additional 2400 square feet in the truck bay at the fire station which will relieve some congestion in the community room and give us more room for inside sales. Ford passed a signup sheet around at the last general meeting and got quite a few people signing up. But we still need more to step forward and make this a great hamfest. If you know of anyone that wants to reserve tables, please have them contact myself or Ford Drake 73s Brian Adeo K2DLB

# **Binghamton Amateur Radio Association**

## **Business Meeting Minutes**

February 16, 2011

at the Binghamton Town Hall

### **Board Members:**

Present: 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:

Present: George Kilpatrick- N2GSS, Ed Fedor- N2RWH, Ford Drake- AB2HS, Lee Savidge- W3EFE, Ann Whyman- KB3UQC, Jack Connors- WB2GHH, Tom Siglin- WA2LTD, Bob McCabe- KC2DSS

**Visitors:** Joe Majernik- No Call, Rob Gault- KC2VMP

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President, Brian Adee (K2DLB)

### **Secretary Report:**

January 19, 2011 – Since the minutes of the meetings are now published. The reading of the minutes will not be read; unless there is a request for them to be read Brian asked if saw any corrections or deletions for the business meeting minutes of 01.19.2011 in the BARA Newsletter. Ann (KB3UQC) was concerned about having an article written by other people for a different publication and used for our newsletter. She just wanted to make it clear that we need to obtain permission from the writer before printing the article in our newsletter, or we could cite the website and direct people to that article instead. Motion was made by Ford (AB2HS) to accept the secretary's minutes of the 01.19.2011 business meeting as printed and

seconded by Tom (N2BGM). It was voted on and passed.

### **Treasures Report:**

Treasures Report was read and explained. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, made by Ford (AB2HS) and seconded by George (N2GSS), it was voted on and passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Radio Shack-** John (WB2FQZ) reported that he traveled up to the BARA radio shack last Sunday and noticed a piece of roof shingle laying on the ground. He did not notice where it came off but wanted to let everyone know about it. The road was icy in the wheel ruts and some repair to the driveway will need to be done in the spring. Nevertheless, everything looked fine.

**Fundraising-** John (WB2FQZ) reported that he had been in touch with Doug's Fish Fry To-Go and spoke with the people there a second time and confirmed everything what he had spoken about at the board meeting a couple of weeks ago. He gave a quick rundown with their requirements are and how the payout works. However, their calendar has grown a few months longer since he last spoke with them and are booked until late into 2012. At this point, we will think about it some more. The profit potential was low and risky.

**Ham Fest-** Brian (K2DLB) showed the 2011 Ham Fest ticket that he printed from a website, so there would be no cost for them this year. He spoke about giving wristbands as well so people can come and go throughout the HAM Fest without asking people to see their ticket. He also explained that the board voted to give the ladies who are not members of BARA, that help out at the Ham Fest a free wrist band, so they

can come without requiring to buy one. If they would like to take a chance on winning a door prize they can buy a ticket, so they can put a ticket stub in for the drawing. Brian (K2DLB) also said that might be a couple of tables with items, if people would like to donate stuff to help with raising money for the club. There has been past members who have offered some equipment that they do not want and the club has no use for at this time but has agreed to allow the club sell it to help out with the funds for BARA.

Ford (AB2HS) passed around a clip board asking people to sign up for different days (setup, tear down or/and parking.... Etc.) Many members are needed to help make this year's HAM Fest a success. Please contact Ford (AB2HS) at [ab2hs@stny.rr.com](mailto:ab2hs@stny.rr.com) or call him at (607) 754-1214

#### Old Business:

Nothing was reported.

#### New Business:

**Contest Event-** Jack (W2GHH) brought up that people have commented that there was not much going on at the Club Shack. He suggested that we should find someone who would be interested lining up contesting events for the upcoming year. Brian (K2DLB) asked if he was interested in that position, and he declined. Vinnie (N1JPM) spoke about John Carrington had lined up events last year, and we should ask if he would be interested in doing it this year. It was suggested that the board look into it and get back to the membership. That we should look into finding some kind of 2 meter antenna set up, so if nothing else, someone can plug in with at least a mobile unit. Brian (K2DLB) had some ideas but would bring it up at the board meeting and then to the membership.

**Picnic Pavilion-** Jack (W2GHH) brought up that he has booked the pavilion at the Otsiningo

Park for the Picnic, August 17, 2011, and that it only cost \$20.00 for the day. He said if anyone had anything else that they would like to do we have it for the whole day, maybe some kind of radio station or event. The only restriction of using the park is that, there can be NO amplified sound or alcohol beverages allowed in the park. On the other hand, we can do an event anytime during the week for \$20.00 / Weekends for \$75.00.

**Programs-** Brian (K2DLB) reminded that Tom Siglin- (WA2LTD) has brought in a transmitter that he has been building for us tonight. In March, there will be an Advance SKYWARN training taking place at the meeting, John (WB2FQZ) is in the hopes of having someone from Binghamton Airport presenting some type of program. In May, the program will be on Field Day 2011 this coming June. For the future, if anyone has anything that they would like to see or would like to show at the meeting, please get in contact John (WB2FQZ) or Brian (K2DLB).

**Driving while talking on the radio-** John (WB2FQZ) asked if the law changed at all, with the new Cell Phone Law taking effect this week. On February 16, the State of New York will issue 2 points on your driving license plus a fine, if you're caught using your cell phone while driving. As far as anyone knows, nothing has changed that about talking through your Amateur Radio but the consensus is to set down your mike and stop transmitting while driving by a police officer. He may think you are talking on a device or cell phone and attempt to stop you, or you could possibly cause interference on their radio and promote them to look into the situation.

**Interesting Point-** Brian (K2DLB) brought up an interesting bit about LED Christmas Lights. In a publication, he received that there are some strings of Christmas lights on the market that

can be hazardous if they were stepped on or broken. They are known to contain high levels of lead, arsenic and a dozen other potentially hazardous substances. Being the red ones the worst of all colors that contain up to eight times more lead than what California law allows. This came from a notice that he received in from his business that he is in.

**New Membership-** Vinnie (N1JPM) read off the following people who have applied for new membership: Joseph Majernik who has an interest in amateur Radio and in hopes to become one very soon, a Motion was made by Ford (AB2HS), seconded by Tom (N2BGM). It was voted on and motion passed. The second application is Robert Gault- KC2VM. A motion to accept Robert Gault- KC2VM as a member of BARA by Jack Connors- WB2GHH seconded Lee Savidge- W3EFE. It was voted on and passed.

Bob McCabe- KC2DSS makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed (N2RWH) seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.  
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

**Tom Siglin- WA2LTD** showed the group his newly built transmitter that he has wanted to build for many years. There still some changes he would like to do but gave an interesting talk about the components and the different elements he has tried while building his transmitter. It was a very interesting AM transmitter.

\*"Thank you Tom for bringing in your transmitter."\*

## **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.

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## **BARAFEST:**

Uniden-Bearcat 300 channel handheld scanner, fully functional, and programmed with Binghamton/Johnson City/Vestal area frequencies (police, fire, emergency services, aviation, railroad and more). Complete with antenna, charger and electronic copy of owner's manual. Has custom "discriminator tap" output used to decode digital signals using a PC soundcard & readily available shareware. \$75 OBO. Call allen (KC2KLC) @ 729-4817 or email [kc2klc@lutins.org](mailto:kc2klc@lutins.org).

## 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

**T1A07 – 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

**G1A07 – Which of the following frequencies is within the General class portion of the 75 meter phone band?**

- A. 1875 kHz
- B. 3750 kHz
- C. 3900 kHz
- D. 4005 kHz

### Extra Class

**E1A07 – What is the only amateur band where transmission on specific channels rather than a range of frequencies is permitted?**

- A. 12 meter band
- B. 17 meter band
- C. 30 meter band
- D. 60 meter band

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## Question of the month....

**What Oscillator has two variable capacitors center tapped to ground?**

**Answer:** Colpitts

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## TRAINING...

This month's BARA Training is Advanced Skywarn Training provided by the National Weather Service.

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## 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](mailto:AB2HS@stny.rr.com) or 754-1214

Ford Drake AB2HS

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### Board Meeting Minutes

**Binghamton Amateur Radio Association**

March 2, 2011

@ Broome County Emergence Service  
153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive  
Binghamton, NY

### Board Members:

**Present- President: Brian Adee – K2DLB, Vice-President: John Rudy – WB2FQZ, , Treasurer: Paul Slocum – N2NCB, Director: Warren Marks – KC2NGR, Director: Tom Vroman – N2BGM, Director: John Carrington – WB2SGS, Director: Andy Rudy – KC2QYA**

**Absent: Secretary: Vinnie Griggs – N1JPM,**

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

**Secretaries Report:** by President

January 15, 2011 - BARA Board meeting minutes were presented and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's Report was read and explained.

John (WB2FQZ), said his check that he wrote to the Cook Enterprise for the club towards the porta-potty rental had been cashed .

### **Committee Reports:**

**Radio Shack-** John (WB2FQZ) reported that he had nothing to report. Brian (K2DLB) reported he had been to the shack driveway and plowed the entrance and to about 50 feet past the chain. The snowmobiles had packed the snow and was unable to plow any further without getting stuck.

**HAM Fest-** Brian (K2DLB) reported that things were going normal for the Ham Fest. Tickets have been printed. Wrist bands have been order and should be here Thursday 3/3/11. John (WB2FQZ) ask about flyers for the Ham Fest and was told by Brian that he could get them off the web site as he did not have any flyers with him. Flyers have been given out at Marathon and Horseheads as well as sent to different clubs. 25 tables have been reserved so far.

**Programs-** John (WB2FQZ) stated that the program for March meeting will be Advance Skywarn Training put on by the National Weather Service.. John (WB2FQZ) is still wait to hear back from his contact at Broome County Airport and is in hope they can do a presentation in either April or June. May program will be organization of Field Day for June. But we are still looking for ideas from the membership for other presentations.

### **Old Business:**

**Fundraising-** Tom (N2BGM) brought up about making a decision on what we wanted to do about the fund raising. After a discussion it was decided to bring it to the membership to see what they wanted to do. The membership are the ones who are going to be needed to help with this. Also finding a place to hold this event was discussed. Brook's BBQ looks like the most likely option as Doug's Fish Fry to Go does not look like a profitable option.

**Absentee Ballots-** The board discussed this at length and will bring it up at the general meeting to discuss this. If the club was to do Absentee ballots, this means a change to the constitution of the club in order to proceed. This requires drawing up the change and reading at three meetings and voted on.

**Donated Equipment-** Brian (K2DLB) spoke with Joe Marckx (AA2RE), a past member of the club and he would like to donate some radio equipment that he has not used in many years. Joe was out of the area on family business and said he would call when he returned home. Brian asked Joe if the equipment was not of any use to the club if it could be sold at the Ham Fest and Joe said that he did not have a problem with this. In his email he ask in return that we write a document of the worth of the equipment, so he could use it for a tax deduction. \_

### **New Business:**

No new business this month

\_ Reminder that **Tom Vroman (N2BGM)** has refreshment duty for March business meeting...

**Any other Business-** Paul (N2NCB) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting, John (WB2SGS) 2nds it. Vote was unanimously passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

·Minutes submitted by President Brian Adee (K2DLB) in the absence of Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

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## **Back to Basics Answers:**

Technician – C  
General – C  
Extra – D

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## 2011 Club Officers

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

### ***Next General Meeting***

***7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 15th***

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

### ***Board Meeting***

***7:30 PM, Wednesday April 6th***

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

### ***Exam Session***

***March 28th – 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**

**e-Mail Address: [w2ow@arri.net](mailto:w2ow@arri.net)**



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