



BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

June 2010

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

President's Corner June 2010

This month finds your President without a shack of his own. I mentioned last month that I would be dismantling my shack (actually, a pile of radio equipment on a single shelf in the corner of my study). Well, there's nothing left in my study except for my desk and an echo, as I plaster, sand, repaint, and ultimately remodel (including a much nicer radio setup – it will be closer to my computer so that I can link them up without long wires in between picking up interference).

So what do I do if I want to get on the air? As it turns out, BARA has wonderful resources available to its members, including a fully operating shack on a high, scenic hilltop south of Vestal. Last summer I went up there to operate, and thanks to the altitude and a nice beam on a tower, I was talking (SSB) to people in Algeria, Greece, and other equally far-flung QTH's with strong signal reports – without any external amplifier! Conditions were not even that great; it's just the boost that the right location can give you. The ham shack is available for use by all members; simply contact any of the officers for the combination to the lock, and some operating tips (like where to find the main breaker to power on the station).

A great time to visit the shack, and get a sense of the equipment available, is this coming Field Day (June 26), when I will be leading a team of operators on a friendly (read: not overly competitive) expedition to test our emergency HF communications capabilities. And to make the scene a little more user-friendly,

there will be a portable toilet present.

Speaking of resources available to the membership, I'd like to remind folks that I have tri-fold BARA Brochures available, and piles of brochures from the ARRL, including a pamphlet on Scouting and Amateur Radio. If you can think of anyplace at all to distribute these, please contact me, and I'll get some to you.

And while I'm mentioning resources, those with Internet access may wish to check out the links I've provided on my radio-related web page at www.lutins.org/kc2klc - these include databases of local frequencies, links to radio-related websites, and a lengthy list of online part, kit & schematic sources.

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC
KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG

QSO from the Board...

This month's General Meeting program will consist of a planning session for the upcoming Field Day (to be held at the BARA shack on June 26-27, with setup on the 25th).

A Letter from the Editor

I have been asked to hold off on publishing the BARA facts until after the Board of Directors meetings each month so that they can relay to each and every one of you any pertinent information that was discussed at their meeting.

So, instead of getting your FACTS in the Mail between the 2nd and 7th, you will receive it after the Board meets.

I am still looking for articles each month, so if you have a favorite mode you like, such as Digital, Satellite etc, please share that info with the rest of us with a short paragraph or 2. It WILL be published! Also, if you have equipment you are trying to sell or want, send me the info and I will put it in the upcoming FACTS and I will place it in under the BARAFEST column.

73's de Kb2sin, William Jakaitis

Upcoming Hamfests

June 12, 2010

Skyline Amateur Radio Club

Location: Cortland Co. Fairgrounds

Cortland, NY

Website: www.skylineradioclub.org

Antenna Support System

A strange thing happened to me at the weekly pistol match over on Foley Road a few weeks ago. A fellow shooter who happens to be a HAM came by and asked if I was interested in the "tower" he informed me about via e-mail. E-mailed about. When I indicated I had not reviewed my "stny" account for a while he dragged me over to the far side of the firing line where the owner of the "tower" was stationed. To make a short story long, the owner indicated he wanted to rid himself of the "mast" that

his family had used as a flagpole and for raising a large star during the Christmas holidays. So started the saga of the "antenna support system" acquisition. I initially thought the task of acquisition would not be so tough since one of the club members (who had knowledge of the the military mast and what a few were selling for) made a significant donation toward its acquisition. His thought process was that the "rally around the pole" aspect of assembly on a field day or other situation would engage some club members in a meaningful, bonding task. Unfortunately the club's financial situation would not allow an expenditure of about \$150 from the Treasury for the aforementioned luxury. I thought heck I should be able to roundup the necessary \$. So out went the e-mail to know members of BARA. I must admit and truly appreciate the near immediate response of pledges. Now, little over a week, a number of those pledges have transitioned to actual \$\$\$. Based on the pledges I contacted the mast owner and asked him to hold off placing the item on Craig's list and a few other similar web sites as I was arranging transportation for the item. Fortunately, and without hesitation, Warren Marks agreed to provide the transport. So on Saturday May 15 I dug up some CASH and made "the deal." Shortly thereafter, Warren, I and the former mast owner loaded the mast on the pickup. The mast was unloaded at the W2OW site by 1030. Some may say why this mast? Well, it is very portable. The 5 inch diameter, four foot long +/- aluminum tubes are "launched" (placed in the approximate 18 inch square five foot long fixture that acts as the base and allows raising of the tube so that another tube can be placed below the first and with a belly band clamped to the first tube. That tube is "launched" (cranked) up to the preset position so that the next and next tubes can be attached. Guy rings are attached at appropriate level and guys attached and anchored to predetermined set points. The initial mast kit allows for a height of up to 75 feet. The extender kit (additional tubes) allows up to another 20 foot +/- extension. The final pole assembly of about 10 feet was modified by addition of another piece of pipe to which a pulley was added in a way to allow one line of the pulley to be dropped inside the entire set of tubes while the other line with fasteners attached is external. I can't ever visualize use of the entire mechanism but can visualize having a bunch of fun at the easily achievable 30 to 40 foot level. Hopefully

some of us can get to the hilltop before field day and gain some familiarization with the mast. The technical manual is in a binder under glass in the trophy case in the shack. Let's go launch something.

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

T3B02 – Which of the following statements is true of band plans?

- A. They are mandated by the FCC to regulate spectrum use.
- B. They are mandated by the ITU
- C. They are voluntary guidelines for efficient use of radio spectrum
- D. They are mandatory only in the US.

General Class

G2B02 – What are the objectives of the Amateur Auxiliary

- A. To conduct efficient and orderly amateur licensing examinations
- B. To encourage amateur self-regulation and compliance with the rules
- C. To coordinate repeaters for efficient and orderly spectrum usage
- D. To provide emergency and public safety communications

Extra Class

E2C07 – What is the Cabrillo format

- A. A standard for organizing information in contest log files
 - B. A method of exchanging information during a contest QSO
 - C. The most common set of contest rules
 - D. The rules of order for meetings between contest sponsors
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Answers to May , 2010 “Back to the Basics”

Technician	A
General	C
Extra	C

Contest Calendar June 2010

**June 12 – ARRL VHF QSO Party
World Wide QRP Contest**

June 16 – Youth Day Sprint

**June 19 – SMIRK QSO Party
Kid’s Day**

**June 26 - Marconi HF Contest
ARRL Field Day**

June 28 – Ten-Ten Sprint of 76 QSO Party

ARRL FIELD DAY 2010 NOI (Notice of Intent).

It is hopeful that a large contingent of Binghamton Amateur Radio Association members and guests will demonstrate their emergency communication skills during the 2010 ARRL Field Day period. As always, the event is scheduled for the last full (rainy) weekend in June. You know, the usual graduation weekend for kids or grand kids. I’m sure BARA, Inc has already appointed a Field Day Manager and has acquired this years field day packet from the ARRL. Possible an article for the PRESS has or is being prepared. Maybe a scroll message on the area community bulletin boards is intended.

What is Field Day? Field Day is that day when HAMS in the USA test themselves and their equipment in an unfamiliar environment under emergency conditions. What does that mean? Well, first you pick a location not normally utilized. For certain the Milk’s Road W2OW site meets that criteria this year. Have you been there lately? Besides "the shack", there is a wide selection of primitive tent site possibilities for operating positions and sleep over accommodations. We’ll keep a lantern lit for you. A large, or shall I say, tall selection of natural antenna anchors are present. Best of all a very open field with a midnight sky view that has few challengers. Why

BARA-FEST

even mention Field Day so early? Well, certain preparations must be made - by YOU - if the event is to be a personal and club success. First YOU must commit to participate. Then YOU must start checking your emergency "stuff" and verifying it's operational status prior to the big weekend. "Oh, you mean I just don't show up and operate for a few hours using someone else's or the club's stuff? " Well, you could do that but as indicated earlier, the event is intended to test YOUR skills and YOUR equipment. During the course of the event relief operators are always welcome. Each of us (amateur radio licensees) should be able to provide timely and effective communications during a communication emergency. ARRL Field Day affords us the chance (and challenge) to test local (VHF, UHF) and longer range (HF) capabilities. Transceivers (manuals) , power supplies, batteries, charger, cables, connectors, fuses, antennas, anchor lines, generators, tools, personal need items, tenting, chow, and on and on. Why not get to the Milks Road W2OW site ASAP and size up potential parking spots best suited for closeness to your operating position (tent?) and antenna supports. Don't forget BARA has a 100 foot tower with a pull line and pulley at its apex just waiting for an antenna to be hoisted. Last year GHH parked the Caviler at the base and used the natural alarm clock provided at no extra cost. A wood pecker rapping on the aluminum protective skirt at 0420 AM. That was better than the second night when I fell backwards over an auxiliary auto battery after changing my position to an area closer to the shack. My final bit of glory was my attempt to extract myself from the area in the very early morning hours only to impact the picnic table and dump its very noisy contents. Needless to say the nearby tenters (The Rudy's) should not have needed a later wake up call. This annual preparedness exercise is a good time to get together with other HAMS, family and friends. . Plan now to work closely together to set up an effective emergency communications site. YOU, and YOU are the ones that we refer to as THEY. So without YOU and YOU, THEY won't have a successful event. Oh yes, Murphy isn't invited but he always shows up. More next FACTS.

De WB2GHH, RO RACES

WANTED: Kenwood Microphone for a Kenwood TM-241 2 Meter Mobile. Email – Bill @ kb2sin@stny.rr.com with price.

2010 Club Officers

President	Allen Lutins	KC2KLC	729-4817
Vice President	James Lawson	KC2JED	761-5595
Secretary	Andrew Rudy	KC2QYA	
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	John Carrington	WB2SGS	648-8364
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Editor	William Jakaitis	KB2SIN	648-2112

**BARA, The Binghamton Amateur
Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated
Club**

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net



*Our Printing Sponsor: Unicorn
Electronics, Valley Plaza Drive,
Johnson City, NY*

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, June 16th

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

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday July 7th

Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, June 28th

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

146.82 (PL 146.2) MHz BRAT Net (Informal BARA) Sunday

Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time

