



BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

March 2010

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

President's Corner **March 2010**

Greetings fellow radio-electronics enthusiasts! Allow me tell you about my latest project - and how it will benefit the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association.

Last year, I received word that a gentleman by the name of Dan Gold was looking for a home for a bunch of "boat anchor" and other radio equipment formerly owned by his deceased brother. On the assumption that there might be an item or two of interest to me, I went to check it out. There was a lot of equipment there, but relatively little that interested me at first. Dan informed me that whatever I didn't take would be hauled to the landfill, as no one else had responded, the pressure was on from the XYL to free up the space, and he knew of no other means of conveying the stuff to an interested party.

I had no desire to take on yet another project (those of you who read my column regularly know how busy I am with work & music, electronics projects, etc.) but

I couldn't bear to see Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, Collins, and other radio equipment tossed in a dumpster. With an agreement that some of the funds I raised from the sale of this equipment benefit BARA, Dan and I hauled the pick of the lot down three flights of stairs, and filled up my van (I left behind additional equipment that appeared cannabilized, or otherwise lacking in functionality or intrinsic value). When I got home with it, I apologetically explained to my XYL that it would regrettably occupy some space while I worked on selling it off.

Dealing with all this equipment turned out to be a

daunting task. First, I had to do some research to find out which of these units was of any desire, and the typical value of working vs. non-working units. Next, I had to seek out manuals for as many of the items as possible, in part to properly evaluate their functionality (and render repairs, if feasible). Next came cleaning them up, plugging them in, and seeing whether or not the magic smoke came out (I plugged them into a Variac so that I could slowly ramp up the voltage, rather than applying the full 120 V in one fell swoop for the first time in half a decade). Some of the units worked completely; some were partially functional; one did let the magic smoke out, and one was completely dead. After that I spent some time repairing the receiver that had smoked on power-up, and performing some diagnostic testing on the dead receiver (I concluded that the power transformer was shot).

Finally, it was time to find buyers. I sold the receiver I'd repaired to a co-worker. A few items I decided to keep (a "cantenna" dummy antenna, a Vibroplex "bug"-type morse code key, and a 1 kW amplifier – still haven't tested it yet). The rest I photographed then documented on a web page (www.lutins.org/forsale). I posted a bunch of ads online, then waited.

Slowly but surely, buyers came out of the woodwork for one piece after another. I've yet to sell the fully-functional Collins receiver, but I have faith that it will bring in a fair amount once the right person discovers it.

All in all, I spent *way* more time than I desired on this project, but the benefit has been three-fold: (1) I kept a bunch of classic, working radio equipment from

being discarded at the landfill; (2) I wound up with a few nifty items for my shack for free; (3) I made some money to compensate me for my time and effort, and to benefit BARA as well.

I've been bitten by the digital modes bug these past few months (more about that in my next column!), and I'd like to share the experience (and to demonstrate how simple it is). To that end, I plan to purchase the requisite hardware and software required to work digital modes for installation at the BARA shack. I prefer doing something concrete like this for our club, rather than simply paying a lump-sum into the general treasury. I plan to donate more money to BARA when I finally sell that Collins receiver; if you have ideas on how you'd like to see money spent, please let me know!

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC
KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG

Letter from the Editor

I'm hoping the new style and content of the BARA FACTS is pleasing to everyone! I am trying to bring each and every one of you something of interest and informative. Some months are more interesting than others and I would like all of you to participate to make this more interesting and informative EVERY month!

If any of you have a special aspect of Amateur radio you would like to share with the rest of us, PLEASE send your idea's or articles to me. If you would like to copy and paste them from an article you have read, please forward them to me as well, along with the appropriate credits.

If any of you have used equipment you would like to list here, both for sale and wanted, please send that information to me as well and I will start a BARAFEST Page. I look forward to hearing from you in the future!

Thank You! 73's - de kb2sin William Jakaitis
Kb2sin@stny.rr.com

Upcoming Hamfests

March 14th 2010

Greater Buffalo Hamfest

Ismailia Shrine Center

West Seneca, NY

Talk-In – 147.255 (PL-107.2)

BARA Hamfest 2010

It is getting that time of year for the BARA Hamfest. This year as some of you know the date and location has changed:

New Date **SUNDAY April 18th**

New Location **Port Crane Fire Company**
844 State Route 369
Port Crane NY

Time is 6 AM for Vendors and 8 AM the doors will open.
Just follow the NEW signs to the hamfest.

Breakfast and Lunch will be served by the PortCrane Fire Co.

9 AM VE Testing Walk-ins welcome.

Tables are available for \$10 each. Reserve early as they are going fast.
About 20 left.

Commercial Vendors are
KJI Electronics
Sauder Electronics
Quicksilver Radio
Radio Oasis
The Wireman/ Scott Clovis
Also QCWA
National Weather Service
Contact Brian Adey K2DLB @ K2dlb@arrl.net 607-752-3230
Ford Drake AB2HS @ Ab2hs@stny.rr.com 607-754-1214

Signup for working the fest and receive free admission ticket.

Any questions please feel free to contact either one of us

Check the flyer at the website www.w2ow.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

T1B01 – What is the ITU?

- The International Telecommunications Utility
- The International Telephone Union
- The International Telecommunications Union
- The International Technology Union

General Class

G2F02 – What should you do if a CW station send “QRS” when using Morse code?

- Send Slower
- Change Frequency
- Increase your power
- Repeat everything twice

Extra Class

E1B08 – On what frequencies may the operation of an amateur station be restricted if its emissions cause interference to the reception of a domestic broadcast station on a receiver of good engineering design?

- On the frequency used by the domestic broadcast station
- On all frequencies below 30 MHz
- On all frequencies above 30 MHz
- On the interfering amateur service transmitting frequencies

Answers to last month’s “Back to the Basics”

Technician	C
General	D
Extra	B

Contest Calendar March 2010 (ARRL)

March 6-7th – ARRL International DX
Contest (Phone)

Disaster Prep Tips (from ARRL ARES E-Letter)

As we start a new decade, let's review some of the basics of Amateur Radio disaster preparedness. The following are tips from John Covington, W4CC, of Dallas, North Carolina.

You must make sure you're personally prepared for a disaster before you can even consider helping with Amateur Radio. If you are preoccupied with personal matters, you won't be able to help ARES®. To be ready for disaster communications, do the following: Train regularly with your local ARES® group.

Think about how you might best be able to help during a disaster. Some of us are good at installing antennas and equipment, others of us are better at operating on the air. Not everyone is suited to doing every job. Sometimes just having helping hands, spare equipment or supplies can be helpful even if you cannot operate the radios yourself. Generators need fuel, operators need coffee, and stations need to be set up. Figure out where you best fit in. Decide how you can help out if you stay home: Can you deploy at a shelter or EOC for a few hours? Operate from home?

If you must evacuate, can you deploy from where you have evacuated to, such as a shelter?

Have all resource materials you need in printed form. Don't depend on computers, PDAs and so forth as they may not work in a disaster, require electricity and are relatively fragile.

If you use a computer regularly in your on-the-air operations, make sure you practice doing things such as calling nets and handling traffic the pencil-and-paper way once in a while. Remember, you may not be able to spare the amp-hours or the table space to run a computer.

Have an Amateur Radio ready-kit to supplement your personal ready kit. Some items to include:

*Portable radio, antenna and power supply or

batteries (2 sets)

*Headset or earphones (you may be operating in a noisy area)

*Any cables you could possibly need

*Pencils and Paper

*Clipboard (firm writing surface, you may not have one otherwise)

*Radiogram forms (helpful but not absolutely required)

*Operating aids (pink card, Field Resources Manual, list of ARRL numbered radiograms, and anything appropriate for your local area)

*Small tools (multi-tip screwdriver, multitools, etc.)

*ARES® Identification Card, if appropriate

*Important phone numbers and frequencies

*Map of the area

*Flashlight

*Poncho - very small to store, only around \$2 and can be useful when you least expect

If carried in lieu of a personal ready kit, a few other items may be helpful:

*For a short deployment, a bottle of water plus some crackers or something to eat requiring no preparation could make things much more bearable for you

*Medicine

*Toilet paper - small packets from MRE kits are very handy and don't take up much room

*Moist towelettes

Here are a few other suggestions based on the perspective of a Registered Nurse:

*Know CPR.

*Know the location of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to use it.

*Know the signs/symptoms of a heart attack and stroke.

Also, be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for the sometimes overwhelming demands of a disaster or emergency environment. Hope for the best, but expect the worst. You are at risk for witnessing horrific scenes. Protect your self and especially young hams; participate in psychological and grief counseling, if necessary. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

Barafest

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

Joke of the Month....

After an antenna-raising party, Ham 1 says to Ham 2, "Hey, we're all done. Why are you still on the roof?"

Ham 2 replied, "Well, Joe said that after we got his antenna up, the drinks would be on the house."

2010 Club Officers

President	Allen Lutins	K2KLC	729-4817
Vice President	James Lawson	KC2JED	761-5595
Secretary	Andrew Rudy	KC2QYA	
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	John Rudy	WB2FQZ	669-4308
	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@arrrl.net



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

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 17th

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

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday April 7th

Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, March 22nd

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

