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BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

November 2010

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

President's Corner November 2010

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association capped off another wonderful event last month when we sponsored the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air up at our shack. Twenty persons attended that weekend, including 6 BARA members, 6 other adults, and 8 scouts from the Baden-Powell Council, Hiawatha District, Troop 212. Nine of the attendees were amateur radio operators, and some (including myself) camped out on the hill overnight with the scouts. Ray Terry (K1OW), one of the campers, gave a fine demonstration of EME ("moon bounce"), including an introduction to several high-tech aspects of ham radio, such as the use of digital modes, and internet applications for coordinating contacts. I coordinated the event (through co-worker scout leaders), and John Rudy provided food (thanks Pauline!).

BARA is about to engage in another annual event – yearly elections. This time around, I will not seek re-election. Those of you read my column know how busy I've been with my 9-hour a day job & second career as a musician. What you may not know is that I am also involved in numerous other local groups: For example, my wife and I volunteer at the Cranberry Coffeehouse (a local folk music venue) each month, and we also participate in events sponsored by PAST (the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier). After five years as a BARA Officer (2 years as Secretary and 3 years as President), I've decided to make time for other worthy regional causes. I am proud of what BARA has accomplished during my tenure as BARA President (including getting back the

shack, reviving Field Day as an organized club activity, transitioning the newsletter to a new editor & initiating electronic distribution; and organizing Jamboree on the Air), and I trust that the local amateur radio community has benefited from my efforts. Although I won't be an officer next year, I'll still be working behind the scenes to further BARA's interests, primarily concentrating on having more programs at our general meetings (I think this is key to attracting and retaining members; who wants to go to a boring business meeting every month?!).

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC
KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG

QSO from the Board...

BARA is spending a fair amount of money on postage to send out paper copies of the BARA Facts. The costs associated with this are contributing to our current budget deficit. If you are still receiving the paper version and have internet access, please consider reading the BARA Facts online (at W2OW.org) and canceling the mailed edition (by emailing Paul Slocum at n2ncb@stny.rr.com). By switching to the online edition, you'll not only save the club money, but also will gain quicker access to the BARA Facts. Thanks!

A Letter from the Editor

I just want to remind everyone that I am always in need of Amateur Radio related articles! I would like to see more articles on the different modes we operate, such as Digital, Satellite etc. these do NOT have to be long and drawn out!! A Simple paragraph or 2 will do fine.

I would also like to add some humor to the newsletter! So if you have a Ham Related joke that you think everyone would get a laugh out of, send it to me! If it includes a cartoon, scan it and I will add it! REMEMBER, in these rough times, laughter can go a long way!!

You will also see that I have added a place for Silent Key's these are the original obits from the newspaper but will be lacking the visiting hours. **IF ANYONE TAKES OFFENSE TO THIS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP!!** And I will delete it from upcoming editions.

What I didn't Know About My Friend Fran WA2FZQ (SK)

I started work at General Electric (Actually Air Force Plant 59) in Johnson City on December 7, 1959. Shortly afterward I met Fran Berry. We became friends on and off the job. Fran had worked in test for a number of years before I came upon the scene. Fran was a HAM. His call sign was WA2FZQ. Fran would relate some of his radio

experiences and a few of his war experiences as we had a coffee or a beer. He was a radio operator and gunner on a B-25. He flew in the Burma-China Theater. The one story I recall that he told me was an incident on returning from a mission. He had extended the long wire antenna from the tail to catch BBC broadcasts. He had forgotten about the antenna until "IT" reminded him. During the landing approach, the antenna tore up a farmer's fence. During another mission a member of the crew reported that he saw someone signaling from a building. Thinking it may be fellow downed fliers trying to get their attention, the pilot made a second lower pass by the building. The flashes resumed but were not from a mirror but rather from an enemy machine gun. Fortunately the gunner did little damage and no one was hurt. When I arrived in Binghamton with anthracite coal dust behind my ears, I didn't know a amateur radio even existed. He and a number of other HAMS prodded and poked at me until I became a HAM. I'm glad they did. Fran and I were party to many interesting HAM experiments. At one time we were curious about which mobile two meter antenna was better for communications in the hilly Binghamton area. We decided to compare the quarter wave whip with the half wave whip. Fran positioned himself in the STAR parking lot (now Olum's) in Vestal. I was at the top of Felters road in Conklin. We started our comparison. Quarter wave to quarter wave. Fran would not only change antenna but also rotate his vehicle to compare reception, etc. We did this for some time then switched to half wave antennas. He did the same automobile rotating thing. Did I mention this was being done in the twilight period. Better yet, the on again, off again, driving in circles was observed by a Vestal Police Officer who after some length of time confronted Fran and asked him "what the hell are you doing"? After an interesting period of questioning and explanation the officer retreated. Many years have since passed. Fran retired from GE, and stayed in the area for awhile. His QTH was on the top of Bun Hill Road. He moved out of the area and we lost contact with him. A few years ago I found out he is now a SK (silent key). Three weeks ago I entered his call sign into GOOGLE. One response was from a book about the China-Burma operations during WW II = (2). It provided profiles on many servicemen who served in that period. The profile for "WA2FZQ" stated:

" Francis J. Berry born in Scranton, Pa. on July 26, 1919. Joined Army Air Corp in April 1943. Basic training at in Greensboro, N. C. , Scottfield Radio School, Aerial Gunnery School, Combat Crew School. Fran was assigned to a B-25 crew which flew Feni (Fenny) in Aug 1944 via Brazil, Ascension Island, North Africa . He was assigned to Squadron "Bulldog" 12th Bomb Group as a radio operator gunner. He completed 81 bombing missions of various types and targets over the Burma China area. On one mission he crawled into the bomb bay to dislodge a fragmentation bomb that got hung up on wires. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross in April 1945. He was awarded the DFC in a parade ceremony on the air strip. The ceremony was filmed. His dad happened to see the award ceremony in a local movie theater. Other awards included Air Medal with Cluster, Pacific Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars. Discharged in September 1945 he entered the radio business. Later he was employed as a electronics technician at General Electric in Johnson City, NY where he worked until he retired and relocated to Concord, N.C." I was in the presence of a real HERO for a number of years and never knew it. I wonder how many other HEROS remain in our mist today. God Bless Them All. de WB2GHH

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

T1A04 – Which of the following meets the FCC definition of harmful interference?

- A. Radio transmissions that annoy users of a repeater
- B. Unwanted radio transmissions that cause costly harm to radio station apparatus
- C. That which seriously degrades, obstructs, or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations
- D. Static from lightning storms

General Class

G1A04 – Which amateur band restricts communication to specific channels, using only USB voice, and prohibits all other modes, including CW and data?

- A. 11 meters
- B. 12 meters
- C. 30 meters
- D. 60 meters

Extra Class

E1A04 – With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station's CQ on 3.601 MHz LSB. Is it legal to return the call using lower sideband on the same frequency?

- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
 - B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 75 meter phone band segment
 - C. No, my sidebands will extend beyond the edge of the phone band segment
 - D. No, USA stations are not permitted to use phone emissions below 3.610 MHz
-

KENTUCKY QSO PARTY

As they say on WSKG-TV, "We have a challenge!"

An anonymous patron of BARA has agreed to give the club some cash for participating in the Kentucky QSO Party. The offer is \$1 for each Kentucky county contacted during the contest plus \$5 per BARA member who make a minimum of ten county contacts plus \$5 for contacting KY4DXA.

There are 120 Kentucky counties.

KY4DXA is the club call of the Western Kentucky DX Association who sponsors the contest.

The contest begins 1400Z Saturday November 13 and ends 0200Z Sunday November 14. This contest will operate all through the night which will give the night

owl BARA operators an excellent opportunity to make a bunch of money for the club.

BARA will operate from the Shack. Our exchange to the KY station will be RS(T) – NY. The KY station exchange will be RS(T) plus their county.

Note to the denizen of downtown Chenango Forks: Remember daylight savings time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday November 7. Since the KY QSO Party begins on November 14 that should give you ample time to get your act together, figure out when the contest begins Eastern Standard Time and get to the Shack in time to operate. I know this will be a problem for you so if you need help figuring this out give WB2GHH a call.

WB2SGS – John

The annual BARA Holiday Party will be held on December 15th at the Spot Diner (cocktails @ 5:30, seating at 6 pm). No need to RSVP right now, but please mark your calendars! The Spot Diner is handicap-accessible, one can order what one wishes from their regular menu, and there is a bar on the premises. Hope to see you there!

BARA's annual elections will be held at this month's general meeting (November 17th). The following candidates are running for office:

President: Brian Adee (K2DLB)
Vice President: John Rudy (WB2FQZ)
Treasurer: Paul Slocum (N2NCB)
Secretary: Vinnie Griggs (N1JPM)
Board Members (4): John Carrington (WB2SGS), Warren Marks (KC2NGR), Tom Vroman () and Andrew Rudy (KC2QYA)

Please come out and vote.

A SignalLink USB adapter has been installed at the club shack site. I hope to give an instructive presentation on its use (it is used to link the computer to the radio to operate digital modes like SSTV, RTTY and PSK-31), but if you'd like to use it sooner but don't know how, please let me know and I'll be happy to help.

-allen
KC2KLC
729-4817

BARAFEST

Seeking 19" rack for rack-mount equipment - must be 24 - 48 inches in height. Please contact allen (KC2KLC) at 729-4817 / kc2klc@lutins.org if you know where I can find one - thanks!

Answers to Back to the Basics.....

Technician Class	C
General Class	D
Extra Class	C

2010 Club Officers

President	Allen Lutins	KC2KLC	729-4817
Vice President	James Lawson	KC2JED	761-5595
Secretary	Andrew Rudy	KC2QYA	
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	648-6840
	Bill Jaker	WB8RAE	785-5361
	John Rudy	WB2FQZ	669-4308
	John Carrington	WB2SGS	648-8364
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Editor	William Jakaitis	KB2SIN	648-2112

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, November 17th

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

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday December 1st

Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

November 29th – 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@arrl.net



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