



# **BARA** Facts

*Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association*

**October 2010**

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

## **President's Corner October 2010**

Busy times are in store for the BARA shack this month! As I mentioned in my previous column, BARA will again be participating in the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air this month. The Boy Scouts will arrive at the shack on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> early in the day to set up camp. We'll work the radios (and, weather permitting, have a nice campfire) into the night, and they'll be breaking down camp the next morning. I haven't heard from a single individual who might be interested in lending me a hand, and I won't be able to do it alone, so please touch base with me if you're willing to help out (see contact information at the bottom of this article). We *do* have a portable toilet onsite, if that helps...

Also, as I had promised to do some time ago, I've invested equipment to enhance the shack's digital communications capabilities. Thanks to a windfall from ham equipment given to me to sell, I purchased a Signalink USB from TigerTronics. This is a very popular unit; I have an older serial-cable based one, and it performs flawlessly on all sorts of modes (I've used RTTY, PSK and Olivia extensively). I regret that I won't have time to install the unit before Jamboree on the Air (I'll be on vacation during much of the interim). I shouldn't have any trouble installing it, but if anyone cares to assist and/or observe, please touch base with me about that!

By the way, I checked the ARRL website, and receipt of our Field Day logs is verified. They haven't announced results yet, but we weren't in it to compete; rather, we were there to learn the ins and

outs of emergency communications preparedness, and to have a good time while doing so. By the way, the combination to the shack locks has been changed recently – if you desire access, contact any of the club Officers and (provided you're a member) they'll be happy to supply the combination.

There has also been an effort underway to obtain materials for the construction of additional antennas up at the shack. This is great news, because the more flexibility we have, the better our capabilities (and it's vital to have backup systems, including antennas, if we are ever to rely on our site for emergency communications). In anticipation of the upcoming antenna construction/erection parties, Ford Drake (AB2HS) will be presenting a program at the BARA general meeting this month (Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>) on wire antenna construction, for those of you seeking to learn or refresh your memory about this important aspect of our hobby.

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!

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## 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.

## Radiotelephony for Railroads

*From "Electrical World, May 30, 1914, page 1269:*

On account of the success that attended the wireless-telegraph installations on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad during the nine-day paralysis of its wires in last February's blizzard the officials of that system have been investigating the possibilities of the radiotelegraph and radiotelephone on their

moving trains.

Wireless-telephone apparatus was recently installed at Scranton, Pa., and on one of the through fast trains. The Scranton installation, though hurriedly made, was able on its second trial to maintain clear voice transmission to this train as far as to Stroudsburg, Pa., a distance of 53 miles, the train running at 60 miles per hour. The antenna at Scranton is 300 ft. long and 150 ft. high; that on the train extends over the four forward cars only, the station being in the second car from the locomotive. On account of train noises it is necessary to use an amplifier and a detector. A two-step amplifier giving from fifty to sixty times amplification is used on the train. The generator is directly connected to a steam turbine in the baggage coach, which is supplied with steam from the steam-heating pipes beneath the car. At the Scranton station 125-volt direct current is used.

The present apparatus is of only 1-kw rating, but no difficulty has been had in telephoning from Scranton to Binghamton, a distance of 67 miles, over rough wooded and mountainous country. The officials of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad purpose to make permanent installations on two of their fast-train equipments for facilitating dispatcher's service and especially for the convenience of the public.

In the radiotelephone equipment described a De Forest transmitter; an Audion amplifier and an Audion detector were used. These devices were built by the Radio Telephone & Telegraph Company, 309 Broadway, New York, which also made the installation at Scranton and on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western train described above.

**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

**T1A03 – Which part of the FCC rules contains the rules and regulations governing the Amateur Radio Service?**

- A Part 73
- B Part 95
- C Part 90
- D. Part 97

### General Class

**G1A03 – On which of the following bands is image transmission prohibited?**

- A. 160 Meters
- B. 30 Meters
- C. 20 Meters
- D 12 Meters

### Extra Class

**E1A06 – What is the maximum power output permitted on the 60 meter band?**

- A 50 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to an isotropic radiator
- B 50 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to a dipole
- C. 100 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to an isotropic radiator
- D. 100 watts PEP effective radiated power relative to a dipole

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## TEXAS QSO PARTY and BARA SHACK WORK PARTY

By John, WB2SGS

Often when we have a contest a work party is combined with it. This allows those people who are resting from the rigors of contesting a way to shake out the kinks and become one with the Shack and its environs. The September 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Texas QSO Party was such a contest.

**The forest on the north side of the Shack was beaten back a rod or so with the felling of several trees that had been hampering the rotation of various beams. Lower vegetation in this area had been removed earlier in the month. A crippled thirty foot tower was gently toppled and inspected to determine damage. Other trees and brambles are on the hit list for next spring.**

**W2OW made thirty nine contacts with twenty five different Texas counties. Most were in east Texas, one in extreme west Texas and four in the Panhandle. These four were made with a mobile unit bordering all four counties in one fell swoop. In amateur speak that would be fell swooping *in extremis*. Two adjacent counties were worked with a marine mobile unit on a sailboat in Galveston Bay.**

**An EME sked with a Sabine County, Texas station did not come to fruition, but after the contest closed Saturday night we worked three stations via moon bounce; one in California, one in Indiana and one in Russia. Using EME technology all DX is the same distance from the moon!**

**Participants were Vinnie Griggs (Vinnie just recently upgraded to General Class), Ray Terry, Tom Vroman, Drew Deskur, Lee Savidge and yours truly.**

**The next airing of W2OW is expected to be the BSA JOTA on October 16 and 17 unless we can find an excuse to get on the air sooner.**

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### 2011 CLUB OFFICERS NEEDED

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is seeking to fill its roster of Officers for the 2011 calendar year. Any full member in good standing is eligible to serve, and we hate to ask the same few people to bear the same responsibilities year after year (some new blood thrown into the mix once in a while is always of benefit to our club!). The positions are:

**President:** The primary role of the President is to preside at meetings; an understanding of Robert's

Rules of Order (which directs the conduct of meetings for most organizations) is helpful. The President is also the instrumental in BARA's day-to-day functioning, and ideally would also submit a monthly update to the BARA Notes as I have been doing.

**Vice President:** In addition to filling in for the President when he/she is absent, the V.P.'s primary role in BARA has traditionally been to arrange for programs and presentations.

**Secretary:** The Secretary records the minutes of General and Board meetings, and handles the occasional piece correspondence.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer is responsible for maintaining BARA's bookkeeping. This is a position requiring very specialized capabilities, and has been handled capably for many years now by Paul Slocum (N2NCB). It would be preferable for someone interested in this position to have significant prior treasury experience.

**Director:** In addition to the above-listed Officers, four directors assist in the management of the club. This generally is done through brief Board meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the WSKG studios in Vestal. Please let Paul Slocum ([n2ncb@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2ncb@stny.rr.com)) know if you or someone you know might be willing to serve in any of these capacities.

-Allen Lutins  
KC2KLC  
President, Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

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**Frank Gyidik Jr., K2CWD**, 90 passed away at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Althea Gyidik, two sons and daughters in law, Steven and June Gyidik,

Maine, and Gary and Judy Gyidik, Vestal, one daughter, Karen Bonadies, Glenville, NY, three grandchildren, Lauren Bonadies, Kara and Jenna Gyidik, two step grandchildren, Terrie Silvernail and Tammie Survilla and four step great grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers and a sister in law, Edward and Irene Gyidik, Endwell, and Carl Gyidik, also of Endwell, three nieces and two nephews, one aunt, several cousins, brothers in law and sisters in law. Frank was retired from [IBM](#) in Endicott. He was a [WWII Veteran](#) serving with the US Air Force 56th Fighter Group. During the war, he was stationed in England as Crew Chief of a P-47. He was also a past president of the 56th Fighter Group Reunion Association. Frank loved flying. He belonged to several pilot organizations and was a pilot at the Tri-Cities Airport for many years. Frank was also an amateur radio operator (**K2CWD**).

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Answers to **October, 2010** "Back to the Basics"

Technician	D
General	B
Extra	B

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**Silent Key**

**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

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**2010 Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Allen Lutins</b>	<b>KC2KLC</b>	<b>729-4817</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>James Lawson</b>	<b>KC2JED</b>	<b>761-5595</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Andrew Rudy</b>	<b>KC2QYA</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Paul Slocum</b>	<b>N2NCB</b>	<b>687-2057</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Warren Marks</b>	<b>KC2NGR</b>	<b>648-6840</b>
	<b>Bill Jaker</b>	<b>WB8RAE</b>	<b>785-5361</b>
	<b>John Rudy</b>	<b>WB2FQZ</b>	<b>669-4308</b>
	<b>John Carrington</b>	<b>WB2SGS</b>	<b>648-8364</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>

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

### **Board Meeting**

*7:00 PM, Wednesday November 3rd  
Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal*

### **Exam Session**

*October 25<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:w2ow@arrl.net)**



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

### **Next General Meeting**

*7:30 PM, Wednesday, October 20th*

