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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

September 2010

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

President's Corner September 2010

This past month I had the pleasure of visiting the the BARA shack to operate for an afternoon. For those of you who weren't aware, BARA members enjoy use ham shack located on a scenic hilltop off Milks Road in Vestal. The shack is outfitted with a Kenwood transceiver, a tri-band beam antenna with rotor atop a tower, a dipole antenna, and a PC. The site is gorgeous – I spent part of my afternoon picking lush ripe blackberries adjacent to the shack.

I find the BARA shack site to be far superior to my home in the valley. With my "slinky" dipole, I struggle to achieve DX (I usually have to resort to CW or digital modes), but up on the hill, the same 100 watt power gives me a clear voice into Europe. I had previously received awesome signal reports from European SSB stations; that day I contacted Siena, Italy and Paraguay (South America). I also copied a couple of Slow-Scan TV signals (I'm submitting these to our editor in hopes that we will be able to reproduce them in color in the online version of the BARA Facts) using software and an audio interface

I've provided. I will soon be purchasing a PC interface (USB-based) so that we can expand our digital capabilities there, and be able to send (not just receive) using SSTV and other digital modes.

Your membership dues are supporting use and maintenance of the shack, which is available for use by all BARA members. If you are interested in using the shack, contact myself or any of the Officers listed on the last page of this newsletter for information.

You are free to use your own callsign, or else you can use the club call (W2OW). If you decide to use the club callsign, Mel (WE2K), our Trustee, has established the following guidelines:

- Operators must remain within the bands allocated to the class of license they hold – using the W2OW callsign does *not* grant privileges outside one's designated limits.
- BARA members can also use the W2OW callsign from home (during, for example, contests), but permission must first be secured from Mel.

Anyone under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult when using the BARA shack.

The next activity planned up at the shack is Jamboree on the Air, during the weekend of October 16-17 (this is also the weekend of the NY QSO Party, so the airwaves should be jumping!). As we did this past Field Day, we will again have a portable toilet onsite to facilitate long-term use of the shack. I am working with a couple of co-workers to ensure that we have a few local Boy Scouts participating this year. Weather permitting, we will camp out up on the hilltop. If you would like to be involved, please let me know!

73 de Allen Lutins KC2KLC
KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG



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

9/11/2010

Saratoga County RACES Hamfest

Ballston Spa, NY

Utica ARC

9/18/2010

EmConn East Convention

Rochester, NY

9/18/2010

Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse

Pompey, NY

9/25/2010

35th Annual Elmira Hamfest

Horseheads, NY

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!

Tower Power

Once upon a time the shack did not have commercial electric power. Way back then, the early 60's power was obtained from various small personal generators when needed. The "dog house", about ten feet in the woods on the North side of the shack, housed a small gasoline generator. One night it grew legs and walked away. Shortly thereafter the club was blessed with a Military Model PE-95-K generator. It used a Willy's CJ-3A gas engine. At full load it cranked out 10,000 watts. It was rated at 85 amps at 118 Volts, 60 cycle. This baby was placed on railroad ties on the South side of the shack and was housed in a utility shed type enclosure. I can still remember the day it was delivered. I was a relatively new member of BARA at that time. Just a kid of 24 +/- Jim Salisbury, W2OKA, transported the generator in his pickup to the hilltop. Some number of us were waiting to off load. He backed up to the bed of railroad ties and using pipes etc the big machine was leveraged and shoved off the truck. "KAPLOW", it landed smack dab in the middle of the ties. No further adjustment in position had to be made. The shed was then built around it. I don't know who or how the generator was loaded on the truck. It was "acquired" from the Central Fire Station in Binghamton for a very reasonable price. Did I mention that Fred Frieberg, WA2MSQ, a member of BARA, happened to be BFD Fire Chief. Oh, that Willy's engine sounded great. As I recall it has less than thirty hours on the elapsed time meter when it was delivered. Good thing it had crank start capabilities in addition to electric start. The battery didn't hold up well in the January cold for the VHF contest or the many winter, every week, 11 AM Sunday morning 6 meter net operations run from the shack. The generator loved the gas. The contents of the 6.5 gallon tank seemed to almost evaporate. Even at \$0.24 per gallon it was expensive to run the "big" machine. Fuel acquisition and storage were problematic. We were then blessed with two 1.5 KW generators from the same benefactor. These worked fine for single equipment operations. The "big" machine was used for contests. One of the small generators wandered off over the years. The second is "out of service" and still accountable at a member's location.

One day, the club received an odd request. A representative from BOCES (Board Of Cooperative

Education Services) made inquiry wondering if the club would be interested in petitioning the electric utility company (NYSE&G) to run electricity to both the intended BOCES tower site and the shack. BOCES wished to build the 97 foot tower with a TV translator at its base and rebroadcast educational programs to the school on Saddlemere Road. If two entities petitioned the utility for service and the primary line was within 1500 feet then the utility would have to be positive in their reply. Well, as my faded (or jaded) memory recalls, the measurements were made and the utility started the construction project. Oh, did I mention that the chap who did the tape measure work for the utility was a HAM. All was going well until the construction proved quite difficult. Drilling equipment became stuck a number of times in the rock up cropping, etc. About this time, a second call from BOCES indicated that the project would now be a partial "cost share" project and BARA's share would be about \$4,000. Needless to say BARA would not be able to cover such an expense. To make a long story short, I understand BOCES ended up paying Both shares, ours and theirs. And so, without much fan fare, the hilltop acquired commercial electric power. What happened to the PE-95-K? Well, it was sold, for \$800, to a race track for their use for emergency power in April 1984. Elapsed time on the operating meter, 125 hours. So now you almost know the rest of the story.

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

T1A02 – What agency regulates and enforces the rules for the Amateur Radio Service in the United States?

- A. FEMA
- B The ITU
- C. The FCC
- D. Homeland Security

General Class

G1A02 – On which of the following bands is phone operation prohibited?

- A. 160 Meters
- B. 30 Meters
- C. 17 Meters
- D 12 Meters

Extra Class

E1A05 – Which is the only amateur band that does not permit the transmission of phone or image emissions?

- A 160 Meters
 - B 60 Meters
 - C. 30 Meters
 - D. 17 Meters
-

BARA-FEST

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

For Sale: Heathkit SG-8 signal generator (\$10)
Details and photos at lutins.org/forsale, or call me at 607-729-4817

For Sale: Alinco DR-635T/E With Manual, Separation Kit, Microphone and Power Cord \$300.00
Email: kb2sin@stny.rr.com

Answers to **Septemeber, 2010** “Back to the Basics”

Technician	C
General	B
Extra	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, September 15th

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

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday October 6th

Conference Room, WSKG Studios, 501 Gates Road, Vestal

Exam Session

September 27th – 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

146.82 (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



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

