



BARA Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

May 2011

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

President's Corner May 2011

Well, I see spring has sprung and so has the rain. Hopefully the rain will stop soon. Last month the BARA Hamfest was held at the Port Crane Fire Co. And was a good hamfest in my opinion. The ticket sales were about the same as last year and if it wasn't for the donated items from a SK family and from a previous member of BARA. We would have had about the same profit as last year. All in all everything went well.

On another subject, I know by the time you get the newsletter it will be short notice. May 15th there will be the Greater Binghamton Bridge Run held in downtown Binghamton. This running race is made up of a half marathon run starting at 7:30 am and a 5 k run starting at 9.30 am. This is sponsored by UHS, Binghamton Chamber of Commerce and others. The local ham radio operators have been asked to provide communications along the race route. There is a need for approximately 14 communicators to make this work the way they want. Anyone that can help on this run, please contact Ford Drake AB2HS at ab2hs@stny.RR.com or at his home at 754 1214.

Today May 7th I was at the shack and checked the 2 meter beams and the swr on both beams show very good results. We would like to get these put up so that we may use them for Field Day and for anyone who wants to use it at other times. I am in the process of seeing just what we need to install them. I would like to have a work party at the shack around the 1st week of June. Please let me know if you can help. The more the better.

I would also like to see more people at the meetings. Last months meeting was not an official meeting as we did not have a quorum of 10 members besides the Board of Directors. Is there something lacking at the meetings that keeps members from coming? If so please let me know what it is and we will try to remedy the situation. Hope to see you at the next meeting as we have different items that we need input from the members.

73s **Brian Adee K2DLB**

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association
Business Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2011
at the Binghamton Town Hall
Binghamton, NY

Vroman – N2BGM, Director: John Carrington –
WB2SGS, Director: Andy Rudy – KC2QYA

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. By President,
Brian Adee (K2DLB)

Board Members:

President: Brian Adee – K2DLB, Vice-President:
John Rudy – WB2FQZ, Secretary: Vinnie Griggs –
N1JPM, Treasurer: Paul Slocum – N2NCB, Director:
Warren Marks – KC2NGR,

Board members absent: Director: Tom Vroman –
N2BGM, Director: Andy Rudy – KC2QYA

General members:

George Kilpatrick – N2GSS, Ed Fedor – N2RWH,
Ford Drake- AB2HS, Jack Connors – WB2GHH,
Bill Coleman– N2BC, Al Miller Jr. - WA2FBT

No Meeting was held, due to insufficient
membership present to hold a meeting as bylaws
required

Hope to see a better turn out for the May Meeting,
May 18, 2011 at 7:30pm

Noted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

Board Meeting Minutes
Binghamton Amateur Radio Association
May 4, 2011
@ Broome County Emergence Service

153 Lt Vanwinkle Drive

Binghamton, NY

Board Members:

Present- President: Brian Adee – K2DLB, Vice-
President: John Rudy – WB2FQZ, Secretary: Vinnie
Griggs – N1JPM, Treasurer: Paul Slocum – N2NCB,
Director: Warren Marks – KC2NGR, Director: Tom

Secretaries Report: Paul (N2NCB) made the motion
to accept the April 6, 2011 Secretaries Report as
printed. Andy (KC2QYA) seconded the motion. It
voted on and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report was read and explained.

Tom (N2BGM), made the motion to accept the
Treasurer's Report as presented. Andy (KC2QYA)
seconded the motion. It voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Radio Shack- John (WB2FQZ) reported that the
road was in bad shape after all the spring rain. Brian (
K2DLB) told the board that Jack Connors (
WB2GHH) and Vinnie (N1JPM) were going to get
together with the landowner whom we lease the
property from for the W2OW Shack for the renew of
our lease agreement with the end near to the end of
June 2011.

Tom (N2BGM) asked about getting a 2 meter
antenna and/or equipment for the shack before field
day maybe. Brian (K2DLB) said that his thinking was
to try to get a vertical & horizontal beam set up so it
can be used for FM and SSB. There were some
questions about the 2 meter beams that are already up
there, as well as, were some concern may be getting a
different antenna type. We thought about bringing it
up the BARA Meeting.

Program- John (WB2FQZ) Said that May program
is- Field day 2011. Brian (K2DLB) asked if we
should get hold of the media for our Field day 2011
event. He mentioned that there was another group
having a field day event at the Maine Fire
Department. Vinnie (N1JPM) said that he would get
hold of the media for BARA. John (WB2FQ) said

that he already made arrangements for food, and the rest can be brought up at the meeting..

Fundraising:

HAM Fest- Brian (K2DLB) reported that the total amount of tickets sold were 189, about 18 tickets less than last year. Profit was about the same, with the addition of the equipment people have donated that the club had no use for but was allowed to sell to help raise money for the club. (Ticket sales, table sales and equipment donated). There were less people to help with setup and tear down, which it made more work for those who did volunteer but more would have made it easy next year. The fire department generously gave use more room than we originally planned. There was discussion if the vendors were satisfied with their sale, and it was mentioned that sales were ok.

Chicken BBQ- Brian (K2DLB) asked what the board wanted to do about having a fundraiser with a chicken BBQ. Paul (N2NCB) was concerned having to presale ticket, and that he had passed a Brooks BBQ going on in Owego and saw very little people around buying anything. Tom (N2BGM) said he found it hard to believe it but figured that Brooks would be filled up with dates for this year for sure. Other comments from the board were made and discussed. With the final idea at the end of the discussion, was to bring it up to the membership to decide.

Point rewards Program – Brian (K2DLB) asked the board what they're feeling we're about an email he sent us about the Rochester Amateur Radio Club reward program. In his email, he showed the different way members can get to earn points and win whatever the club decides the points can be used for. After some discussion, the board decided to bring it up at the regular meeting to see if this award program would encourage people to get more involved.

Fundraiser with a dinner- John (WB2FQZ) mentioned maybe we could have an all-you-could-eat Spaghetti Dinner at a local restaurant and sell tickets ahead of time and try to make some money that way. We can have it for HAM's and/ or anyone. The idea was talked about and decided to bring it to the regular BARA meeting and see what the members feel about

it. There were a couple of restaurants names mentioned but will wait to see if the membership would be interested in it. Not much for work for members but just come and eat and enjoy the social gathering.

Old Business: Nothing except was mentioned earlier.

New Business: No new business this month

Reminder that Brian (K2DLB) has refreshment duty for May's business meeting...

Any other Business- Warren Marks (KC2NGR) makes the motion to adjourn the meeting; John (WB2SGS) seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

·Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vinnie Griggs, N1JPM.

Adventures of a NU-B by John Herman, KJ4ZFE

On April 20th (21st by UTC time), I finally gained the courage to make my first QSO. I cheated a little, I had a couple of elmers meet me on a frequency and we had a nice ragchew. I struggled to copy one of the two, the other, 100% copy. I was hooked! I can say I didn't get "buck fever" or sweat profusely, but after the chew, I sat back with a smile on my face and rewarded myself with an adult beverage.

50 minutes later in another ragchew with a local ham, we jumped down to the lower part of the 6 meter band and had another QSO. 100% copy, his report back to me was I needed to work on spacing my words out a little better. With a feeling of great accomplishment, I called it a night and headed off to bed with dits and dahs floating in my head.

Over the rest of the week, I made 6 more QSOs. Most of which were with SKCC members. I have been very fortunate in that I have received great support and constructive feedback. Plus, I've received emails from the members I had the QSO with and even a couple of phone calls. One QSO recorded our chat and emailed it to me. That was awesome!

I took a week off for a family vacation, didn't have access to my HF rig so I purchased a practice oscillator, practiced with it, recorded myself, and

spent time downloading WIAW files and practiced copying.

This past week I've made four more QSOs with copying coming a lot easier, all of which have been with SKCC members. I'm still slow but I've seen many posts stating accuracy is more important than speed so I'll continue to master the straight key and my spacing, speed will come with time.

When I first got my ticket punched, I had no desire to learn CW. As I started watching the spots on the internet, I started getting interested. Then, after the Virginia QSO party, I received an email from a gentleman who needed Southampton County for his worked all counties. That put a fire under me.

Without the spot reports, and the email, I may still have had little interest in learning CW.

Then, I stumbled upon the SKCC. The SKCC along with some Elmers, I have successfully broke into the CW arena. I had planned to use a keyer and learn to use it. Even purchased a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer Standard. I've used it once and went back to the straight key that was given to me by one of the hams in my area.

So, for such a long post (yes, I'm long winded), just wanted to say thanks to those I have made a QSO with and for all who have posted to the group. Inside almost every post is great advice.

Now, on to 20 WPM accurately! :-)

73

John KJ4ZFE SKCC#7914

BACK to the BASICS (May)

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

T1A09 - Who selects a Frequency Coordinator?

- A. The FCC Office of Spectrum Management and Coordination Policy
- B. The local chapter of the Office of National Council of Independent Frequency Coordinators
- C. Amateur operators in a local or regional area whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations
- D. FCC Regional Field Office

General Class

G1A09 – Which of the following frequencies is within the General Class portion of the 80 meter band?

- A. 1855 kHz
- B. 2560 kHz
- C. 3560 kHz
- D. 3650 kHz

Extra Class

E1A09 – Which frequency bands contain at least one segment authorized only to control operators holding an Amateur Extra Class operator license?

- A. 80/75, 40, 20 and 15 meters
- B. 80/75, 40, 20, and 10 meters
- C. 80/75, 40, 30 and 10 meters
- D. 160, 80/75, 40 and 20 meters

Letter from the Editor:

Summer is just around the corner and I realize everyone has commitments other than Amateur Radio. However, I am still going to ask you for articles. The past few issues have filled up FAST and last months was just on the line for extra postage. Brian at Unicorn has done an excellent job of 2 sided copying and including the mailing page in with the rest of the content, making it easier and using less paper.

I would still like to see the BARA FACTS a 100% On-line newsletter!!!! BUT, **ONLY YOU!!!!** Can make that happen. So if you're holding this newsletter in your hands right now, take a moment and ask yourself... CAN I READ THIS ONLINE? If the answer is **YES**, then why aren't you? YOU too can help save the Club Money! READ BARA FACTS ON-LINE!!!! Contact Paul, N2NCB and tell him you want the ON-LINE Edition only! Thank You!!

William Jakaitis KB2SIN

Question of the month....

H3E is the FCC designation for...?

A: Single Sideband with Full Carrier

Back to Basics Answers: (May)

Technician – C

General – C

Extra – A

2011 Club Officers

President	Brian Adee	K2DLB	206-4800
Vice President	John Rudy	WB2FQZ	669-4308
Secretary	Vinnie Griggs	N1JPM	651-8884
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Tom Vroman	N2BGM	669-4874
	Andy Rudy	KC2QYA	669-4308
	John Carrington	WB2SGS	648-8364
	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	372-0290
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Editor	William Jakaitis	KB2SIN	648-2112

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, May 18th

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

Board Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday June 1st

Office of Emergency Services
Lt. Vanwinkle Dr. (Behind BCC)

Exam Session

May 23rd – 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**

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