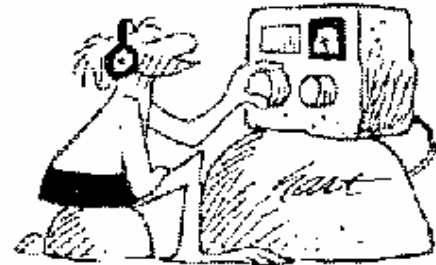


BARA FACTS



Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PO Box 853
Binghamton, NY 13902

Established 1919



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W2OW Fred W. Porterfield Memorial Station

W2OW Repeater 147.39/.99

Check out BARA on the web!

<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/>

PRESIDENT' CORNER

Follows a number of important topics for your consideration - and ACTION.

BARA NEEDS YOU

BARA is in need of a few good members. Nominations for officers for the year 2002 are NOW being solicited by VP Bill, N2BC. Please let him know that you'll participate in this very democratic process. A few officers have served for a number of years and would like to sit back and kick up their feet, so to speak. As a BARA member I'm certain you would like to have your views reflected in the operation of the club. You can best accomplish this by serving in one of the officer capacities. What's the old saying? "More hands make light work." BARA has been fortunate to have had the active hands and minds that we do. But more hands, fresh blood, new ideas, different thoughts on implementation all come about only if YOU step forward. Lets keep BARA radio active. Give Bill a call or drop a note or something - PLEASE.

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST 2001

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for October 6 and 7, 2001. SET is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Emergency Coordinators (EC). The Broome County EC = Jack, KB2YEN. Both ARES and the National Traffic System (NTS) are involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within their community while interacting with NTS nets. BARA members usually have provided the lead actions in this important exercise. In fact the BARA aircraft is usually launched to aid in this exercise. Unfortunately it always 'lands' hard and must be located by resourceful HAMS using the latest in direction finding (DF) equipment to locate the simulated Emergency Locating Transmitter (ELT). Just like the Dukes of Hazard lots of running around, a big bang, no injuries and lots of fun. So plan now for spending a few hours checking out your equipment, maps, note pads, pencils and

your operating skills under simulated disaster situations. De wb2ghh

CURRENT EVENTS

I'm sure we are all watching the horrible events unfold in NYC, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. The enormity of the loss of life and the effect on thousands of families and friends is hard to comprehend.

While there is a Simulated Emergency Test scheduled for next month, a REAL emergency is happening right now.

I recommend that we all pay close attention to the ARRL bulletins – available via the internet at ARRL.ORG, or via the airwaves from W1AW (check QST for times and frequencies).

A call for volunteers to handle communications duty at the Red Cross went out over the weekend. There is a need to rotate teams through the NYC Red Cross locations.

While NYC is trying to 'get back to normal', the communications systems are still fragile and under enormous stress – hams are filling a void to keep the Red Cross information flowing.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)

JOTA is scheduled for Oct 20th and 21st. Howard Dingman, AA2CO, is heading up the HAM radio interface this year. He is soliciting a few HAMS and equipment to provide the local scouts the opportunity to contact their counterparts world wide.

The Maine Town Park has been selected as the operating site. The three shelters in the park have been reserved for JOTA. There is enough commercial power available even to run a linear or two. Joe Pisani, N2YR, promises to give a demonstration on the use of fish poles and sinkers to anchor antennas. Howard, AA2CO, can be

reached at 754-6214 or email him at hdingman@holocom.com. If you interested in more information about JOTA go to <http://www2.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html> or Scouting: <http://www.bsa.scouting.org/international/jota.html>

De wb2ghh

DOES ANYONE LISTEN TO 146.52 MHZ SIMPLEX?

Why would anyone listen to 146.52? First off, 146.52 is the National Calling Frequency for two meters FM. It is the frequency identified to be used as that band's calling frequency. The intention being that you go to 146.52, make your initial contact and then head off to another frequency to carry on your conversation. With the advent of repeaters use of 146.52 has become a near abandoned frequency. In the Binghamton area some use is made of 146.52 as a chit chat frequency. I guess that is better than no use at all. When your in 'foreign' territory and when your zipping along the road ways, 146.52 remains a good frequency to monitor. You may spot a HAM license plate and you have no idea what local repeater may be monitored. But if you shout out on 146.52, that HAM (or others local to your present position) may be monitoring. This June during my drive in MA, ME, NH, VT and NY, I made a number of interesting and informative contacts on 146.52. Another thing to remember about 146.52 is that it is written into most amateur radio emergency response plans as the goto frequency during emergencies in case you can't use a repeater because of power outage or physical damage at the repeater site. So when you have some time give a call on 146.52. Check out your simplex coverage. You maybe surprised as to how many (or how few) came back to you call. de wb2ghh

DON'T HAVE UR E-MAIL ADR

At times BARA (or I) have a tidbit we would like to send to you ASAP (will not exactly). E-mail is the easy, cost effective way. Of course we need your address to do that. So how bout sending me a message so I can copy your address into the address file. Thanks wb2ghh@arrl.net

"DE (YOUR CALL) LISTENING ???"

Many of us monitor two meters and public service frequencies while in SCAN mode. So when a station is heard to say "DE xyz listening" the monitor has to be pretty quick to get a glimpse of the frequency before the scan is resumed. A near impossible task while driving. So why not change your announcement to include the

frequency you are ON. For example say "de xyz listening 82 (or 73 or Oh75 or dot55 or whatever frequency your on)". You may even increase the number of contacts you make. Then again, since amateur radio seems to be coming less friendly, you may not. De wb2ghh

WHY SAY YOUR CALL SIGN... AND MORE?

The primary reason for saying your call sign is to meet the legal requirement for station Identification. Each station is required to Identify at the beginning, the end (of the QSO, not each time you "turn it over") and at ten minute intervals. When checking into a 'net', even though you have done so for a trillion times, it is courteous (for those who have not heard your call sign vocalized at 40 words a minute - and for us older guys with tin ears) to say your call phonetically. Each additional entry into the net you can just say your call sign. Also during a QSO, there is no reason to say WHY you are Identifying your station. Just say your call sign. Drop the "...for ID." The only reason you do give your call sign is for identification. de wb2ghh

2002 OFFICERS

Election of the club 2002 officer team will happen at the November General Meeting. While some of the current crew have indicated they will run again, some competition would be GREAT!

Contact me at n2bc@arrl.net or 748-5232

73, Bill

HAMFEST LEADER NEEDED

We're looking for someone to head up the 2002 hamfest committee. The May hamfest is the club's primary fund-raiser. It's not all the hard as we have a pretty good 'cookbook' in place which covers all the preparation and 'day-of' activities. Contact any club officer, or stop in at the club Board of Directors meeting - first Wednesday of the month, 7PM at the Office of Emergency Services.

PICNIC SUCCESS

We had a great turn-out & the yacking went on until well into the dark! Thanks to the team that pulled it together and especially to Ron N2RWK for manning the grill!