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BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

July 2005

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

President's Corner

I hope everyone is enjoying summer. I don't especially enjoy hot humid weather, but I try to remind myself that I don't much enjoy January and February either, so I guess it all averages out.

Jack, WB2GHH, reported that Field Day turnout was light. Jack managed to make a handful of contacts. I heard from another member that he and his son operated from their backyard and made over 900 contacts.

There has been a flurry of activity on our site search. First, to keep you posted, we are no longer pursuing the Town of Binghamton landfill site. We have heard from someone who has significant involvement with the regulating agencies and his advice is a loud and clear "no". I want to thank the many people who looked at this potential site and especially the Town of Binghamton for trying very hard to make this happen.

A promising piece of property has been located in Owego. I plan to go over some maps and pictures at the July General Meeting. If you would like a preview, just open your web browser and point it at: <<<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/cornell.htm>>>. The property is 10 miles from the RT17/RT26 exit. We will review our options and begin a discussion regarding funding, fund raising, etc.

WB2GHH will also update us on other potential sites he is working on.

The "grand finale" for our July meeting will be a presentation on antennas by K2FU. I understand Bob has a special place in his heart for cubical quad antennas — I am looking forward to knowing how they withstand hundreds of pounds of ice (recall that January and February weather I mentioned above).

Hope to see you at the meeting! — 73, Bill
N2BC

SK — Don Gottschall, KB3COS

It is with a teary eye and a heavy heart we report the loss of one of the finest human beings that I have had the pleasure to know. On Sunday June 26, 2005 at 2:55 AM the Amateur radio community lost not only a good operator, but a very special man. Don wasn't only a fine gentleman but also a wonderful friend, he truly will be missed in the Binghamton area.

Don was an avid amateur radio operator even 'til his final days, hearing his weakening voice on the STAR net was somewhat reassuring that all was still right with the world. His best attributes that I have witnessed as a colleague was his wonderful laugh, his smile could light up a sullen day (and in the Binghamton area we have a lot of those days). His outlook on life was exemplary, although in a wheelchair Don always stood heads above the rest. His outlook on life always seemed upbeat and he truly cared about others. It is hard to sum up all of Don's accomplishments but I think ham radio played a large part of his existence. Nothing seemed to please Don more than hosting the early bird net at 5:30 AM on the 73 machine here in Binghamton. You could tell by the tenor of his voice that Don was beaming as he operated as NC.

His unfortunate problems with both his paralysis and his enduring fight with sugar diabetes never got Don depressed. He always had a warm word and a kind thought for all. As a member of the 79ers group, Don reveled on HF with the group. Many nights Don would tell Walt, W2DES, that he didn't have much to say, but that was Don's way, never inconveniencing others. He always was a gentle soul, with an equally warm smile. Don's signal may be gone from our receivers, but he will always remain Q5 in our hearts.

Bless your trip to your new home Don and remember to send us all a CQ once in a while. 73s my friend — *Many thanks to Duane, K2DLT, who composed this tribute and permitted us to use it here*

Rev. Ivon Harris, W3FCU

We were shocked, late in June, to learn of the tragic deaths of Reverend Ivon Harris and his daughter Sarah as a result of an apparent forcible house entry in a Chicago suburb. One newsprint article indicates that Ivon “was born Irish” in 1940 in New Jersey. He was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1968 and his first assignment was to a parish in Hazleton, Pa. Ivon learned to speak the Slovak language phonetically so he could read his sermons in the language of many of his parishioners. As an Amateur Radio Operator, Ivon was instrumental in getting the Hazleton 17/67 repeater on the air in the early 1970's and I enjoyed many conversations with him while I traversed the Pa turnpike. He relocated to Binghamton as pastor of the Ascension Lutheran Church on Clinton Street where BARA enjoyed his hospitality for its general membership meetings for a number of years. After leaving Binghamton Ivon became pastor of a church in the Chicago area. Ivon is survived by his wife Nancy, also a minister, and son Nathan. — *Jack WB2GHH*

Vanity Call Sign Fee to Increase

The regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will go up slightly later this year, an FCC Order indicates. A Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7 increases the fee for Fiscal Year 2005 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted Fiscal Year 2004 “payment units” for each service to better reflect expected Fiscal Year 2005 payment liabilities.

“We tied to obtain verification for these estimates from multiple sources and, in all cases, we compared Fiscal Year 2005 estimates with actual Fiscal Year 2004 payment units to ensure that our revised estimates were reasonable,” the FCC said in the R&O. “Where appropriate, we adjusted and/or rounded our final estimates to take into consideration the fact that certain variables that impact on the number of payment units cannot be estimated exactly.”

In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the proceeding last February, the Commission had proposed keeping the vanity call sign fee at its current

\$20.80. The fee rose from \$16.30 to \$20.80 last August. A reevaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications — or “payment units” — accounts for the latest fee hike.

In its February 2005 NPRM, the Commission had estimated it would receive 8000 vanity applications during Fiscal Year 2005. This month's R&O reflects a downward recalculation to an anticipated 7600 vanity applications — up only slightly from a year earlier — so the fee had to be raised to meet Fiscal Year 2005 revenue requirements.

While the R&O does not specify the effective date of the change, this generally occurs 30 days after publication of the R&O in *The Federal Register*, which hasn't happened yet. In past years, the effective date has been in August or September.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site <<<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>>>. — *from the ARRL Letter for 15 July*

New FCC Form 605

A revised FCC Form 605, "Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services," has gone into effect. The new form must be used for all receipts as of July 18.

“Applicants can avoid filing outdated editions by submitting their applications through the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>>, given that changes to the paper forms will be incorporated into the system automatically,” the FCC said. The new Form 605 is available online from the FCC Web site <<<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>>>. The revised form includes a new Question 13 (subsequent questions have been appropriately renumbered) that will affect amateurs applying for an administrative update (AU) to reflect a change in licensee name. Question 13 now asks: “If the licensee name is being updated, is the update a result from the sale (or transfer of control) of the license(s) to another party and for which proper Commission approval has not been received or proper notification not provided?” Amateur Radio Service applicants should always answer “no” to Question 13.

Not answering the question — which has nothing to do with the Amateur Radio Service — could result in dismissal of an application.

For additional information or assistance, visit the FCC Help and Support Web page AT <<<http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm>>>. This change does not affect the NCVFC Form 605 that VECs and VE teams use. — *from the ARRL Letter for 15 July*

Regulation-By-Bandwidth on ARRL Board Agenda

When it meets July 15-16, the ARRL Board of Directors will consider recommendations that could result in a petition calling on the FCC to regulate the use of amateur spectrum by emission bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) reached consensus on a set of regulation-by-bandwidth proposals (see

<<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>>> on April 9), and the League has received more than 500 comments from the amateur community since the latest version of the draft recommendations went public. The ARRL will file nothing with the FCC until the Board gives its go-ahead, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the Board essentially has four options.

“The Board can adopt them, adopt them in modified form, decline to adopt them or postpone the item pending further study,” he said. “The ARRL has heard the amateur community’s concerns and suggestions and made changes to its draft proposals as a result, and we’re still listening.” The Board began work on the bandwidth concept in 2002, and the League has sought members’ comments on specific concepts at several steps along the way. Many amateurs have expressed concern about interference between incompatible modes in the most popular HF bands.

The EC has advised against asking the FCC to segregate digital and analog emissions by rule. Instead, the Committee believes, the FCC should simply set out band segments in which amateurs may employ bandwidths of up to a specific limit and leave any further subdivision up to band planning. The EC has acknowledged, however, that band-planning mechanisms will have to be improved for its approach to work well.

The EC’s proposals take into account the ARRL’s prior “Novice refarming” petition that includes expansion of some HF ‘phone bands, incorporated in the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 04-140. — *From the ARRL Letter for 8 July*

Looking to the Future

Our items for this month give plenty of reason for thought. Noting the passing of Don and of Reverend

Harris remind us of the club we are today and the deep roots of friendship and brotherhood that we share. It’s hard to say goodbye and it’s well to reflect that once we are gone our only immortality — here on earth, anyway — is in the friends we leave behind and the lives we touch.

For myself, although Reverend Harris left the area before I became a member and I never had the pleasure of his acquaintance, I did know and admire Don and I could not add to the tribute that Duane so eloquently penned.

At the same time I think of the many BARA members with whom I have come in contact. Some are still among our membership, some have moved away, and some — as Don and Reverend Harris — are quite beyond the bands we ordinarily use.

Times change and so do people, but whenever I can I look forward to stopping by our BARA meetings and greeting the gang that turns out too and it seems to me that whether or not the program or the business on a particular evening grab my attention, the friendships always remain and the time is never wasted.

Bill has remarked on a potential site for a Club Shack and I think that as a club we are well advised to consider what we want to do. Having a place to call our own: a farm to grow antennas and a shack to store our “stuff” can help us to focus our attentions and cooperation on a tangible project that we can pass on to future members. As a member, I’d like to encourage each and every other member to give serious consideration to this project and to what it means to our club. For me BARA is much more than a list of members with some standing as a “corporate entity” and perhaps the time has come for us to commit to a bigger project than anything we have tried in the past.

But this decision is not for any one member to make, it is for all of us to consider and to decide. Please join us in the months ahead as we wrestle with the options and hash out a consensus. — *your editor, Eddie*

Reminder — BARA Picnic in August

This note is a friendly reminder that our General Meeting for August will be held at a Ross Park Picnic Pavilion as we set aside our usual formalities and convene for the 2005 BARA PICNIC AND SHINDIG IN THE PARK. Full details will be in the August BARA Facts, but you have been warned, so mark those calenders now!

Club Officers and Committees			
President	Bill Coleman	N2BC	748-5232
Vice President	Bob Handel	K2FU	693-4310
Secretary	allen lutins	KC2KLC	729-4817
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Steve Orzelek	N2MSB	775-0281
	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
	Jack Connors	WB2GHH	724-8822
	Jim Lawson	KC2JED	797-1583
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

BARA, The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association



is an ARRL Affiliated Club

e-Mail Address: w2ow@arrl.net

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, July 20th

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

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday August 3rd

Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

Exam Session

No Exam Session in July

Exams resume in August

BARA Dues

\$18/year Single Member; \$27/year Family

DX Cluster

W2OW on 145.070 MHz with a Data Rate of 1,200 baud; questions to n2bc@stny.rr.com

Local Repeater Nets

146.73 MHz STAR Net (NTS Feeder) Monday-Friday Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time

146.82 MHz BRAT Net (Informal BARA) Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time