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# **BARA** Facts

**Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association**

**April 2006**

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

## **QST BARA**

### **The Great Owego Hamfest**

**BARA Members, Friends of BARA, Nodding Acquaintances of BARA, All Ham Operators, and Any Interested Parties are hereby informed that the 2006 BARA Hamfest is a GO!**

**Saturday, 6 May 2006 is the date to remember and the Tioga County Fairgrounds (Marvin Park) on Route 17C Owego is the place to be! We are right across the street from the Owego Price Chopper (formerly Tops) and Rain or Shine the Owego Hamfest is THE Place to Be on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.**

**Tell your Friends, tell your Neighbors, tell everyone. And remember to stop by yourself.**

**And for a healthy dose of camaraderie and fun, please consider stopping by the Fairgrounds on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> (around Noon) for Cleanup, Setup, and General Preparation. It's always fun and if you have never been a part of setup, this might just be the year to start!**

**See YOU in Owego at the BARA Hamfest!**

## **President's Corner Spring into action**

These are busy times for all of us. Cleaning up the yard, getting the mower ready for weekly duty, preparing the snow blower for a long, long, long rest in a corner of the garage. Lots of activity for the club too.

By the time you read this we will be well on our way to re-establishing the club station on the Milks Road hilltop. There is a tower moving party in a couple days. The towers have been resting in a horizontal position for over two years and will soon be returned to their proper place, aiming at DX all around the world. There are plans to get the electric service back on, and we're building a team to do some necessary maintenance

on the building (cleaning, repair, painting).

We are targeting the end of June for a Grand Re-Opening of the hilltop. A gala Field Day operation complete with food, fun, and a bit of radio thrown in for good measure.

All of this action on the hilltop will take arms and legs. I recommend that all of us with Internet capability subscribe to the BARA reflector for up-to-the-minute information on hilltop activities. We will also try to announce "events" on the STAR net (nightly at 6:30PM on the 146.730 repeater). If you don't do the Internet and cannot catch the STAR net, give me a call (748-5232) as I will be setting up a phone tree. I don't want to miss anybody who would like to help out.

Last month I mentioned putting together a class for upgrading to General Class. So far I have three names. There must be more people out there. Get in touch with me ASAP (748-5232 or email [n2bc@stny.rr.com](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com)). I would like to see a roomful of newly minted Generals. I don't have details about where, when, etc. that all depends on the number of people. Contact me now! — Happy Spring! 73, Bill N2BC

## **Sign Up for the BARA Reflector**

To sign up for the BARA YAHOO reflector: Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w2ow/> You will see a button on the top right side of the page that says **JOIN THIS GROUP!**, click it. This takes you to a page where you "sign in" to YAHOO. If you have an ID just use it, if not then create a user name and password. You will end up back at the BARA reflector page. Now just respond to the questions and submit your join request. In a day or two we'll handle your join request and you will start seeing BARA news in your email in-box.

YAHOO is quite “safe” — they do not sell off your email address. Plus we run the BARA reflector as a “moderated” group, this means that all the users must register and be approved by the moderators. We try to make sure that the users are indeed hams or other interested people and not SPAM machines.

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### **Hams at the Ready**

I hope these remarks find you radio-active in your corner of the RF spectrum. It's that time of year when I beat the bushes and attempt to drive into the open those unique entities called “emergency communicators.” Although Broome County has not required our services in recent years, sooner or later we will be needed. Will we be ready to respond?

Emergency Communications continues to be a vital reason for justifying the existence of amateur radio. My *Operating An Amateur Radio Station* pamphlet says it best: *Amateur Radio exists because it qualifies as a service. Its continued existence depends to a great degree not on the service we have performed in the past, or on our simple potential for service, but on what we are performing now and will continue to perform in the future.* That statement was valid in 1984 when the pamphlet was printed and is possibly even more valid today.

There is a spot in the emergency communications system for everyone who wants to serve. When a need arises, we balance ability and need and allocate resources accordingly. And each of us can serve to the degree dictated by our license classification and our technical and physical capabilities.

HAMs have significant advantages in frequency agility and station disbursement across a wide area. When a situation develops, there may already be a HAM in the general area. But for effective communications, YOU must be trained and ready before a need develops.

Today I'm asking for you to serve and/or continue to serve as a valued asset to OUR community.

You will notice that I have not mentioned any specific organization. That's because we must first step forward under the AMATEUR RADIO banner. — *Adapted from a communication of Jack Connors, WB2GHH, Radio Officer RACES, Broome County. Please see the Communications Plan elsewhere in this issue.*

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### **News Flash**

(*Milks Road, 9 April 2006*) Numerous suspicious characters were spotted in the vicinity of a property on Milks Road in the Town of Binghamton. A foreign

national — William Entoobeese — was spotted on the scene and questioned by this reporter. Entoobeese claims that it was “just a bunch of people who showed up to muscle towers, rotors, antennas, cables and other goodies in place” but this reporter thinks otherwise.

The genial gentleman seemed harmless enough as he babbled “thanks to K1OW, WE2K, KC2DSS, N2NCB, N2HR, KC2JED, N2NFS, WB2SGS, WB2GHH, N2MSB, N3VKM.” Although the syllables were clear, the language was nothing this reporter has ever heard! Eventually Entoobeese reverted to English and offered special thanks to Mel, WE2K, for storing all the “stuff” and to Steve, N2MSB, for the big trailer to haul it all to the hilltop.

Soon, very soon (he remarked) the Shack will indeed be Back!

Next steps (it is claimed) are inspection and refurbishment of towers and antennas. One or two tower raising parties will be announced on the YAHOO email reflector, keep an eye open for them. Also, Entoobeese plans to add some picture pages to the BARA Website to keep everybody posted on the progress and he thanks cameramen N2MSB and WB2SGS for snapping pictures of the event.

In conclusion, Thanks to the guys for all the help!

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### **Summer Skywarn Training**

The National Weather Service at Binghamton Regional Airport announces a “Summer Skywarn Training Session” at the BARA General Meeting for 19 April.

The Training Session is open to the general public and any interested parties are welcome to attend. Please spread the word and invite anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio, the Weather, or Matters meteorological.

The Skywarn Presentations are always interesting and relevant and often feature information and reports based on Weather Events in our own area. The Skywarn Program is a significant partnership between Amateur Radio, Non-Ham Observers, and the National Weather Service to provide real-time and accurate Ground Reports that supplement the Weather Radars. It's a Partnership that Works and one that benefits Hams and the General Public.

Even if you have been trained before, the Skywarn Sessions are of continuing value. They keep or training current and make us better prepared for the event that we hope will never happen. Join us!

# Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Plan Broome County, New York

Abbreviated

A natural disaster or technical problem or man made event may cause governmental or relief agencies to request the amateur radio community to provide communication support to their mitigation efforts.

Preparedness is key for an effective response. Amateur radio operators should contact and register with their Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) and their Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Radio Officer (RO). Further, amateur operators should test their operational status by participation in events such as field days, simulated emergency tests, public awareness days and public service events. Maintaining and updating your "GO BAG" and keeping abreast of potential situations by monitoring commercial communication outlets, weather radio and amateur frequencies is beneficial. The plan below is intended to facilitate the initial amateur radio response.

Actions: The responsible individual will cause appropriate announcements of the situation and instructions to be made on repeater and simplex frequencies as indicated below.

Initial check in and assignments will be conducted on the 146.820 repeater.

Monitor 146.52 simplex if your equipment has multi frequency and or scan capabilities. Acknowledge any calling station and direct them to 146.820 or assist them as necessary.

<u>Freq</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>Notes</u>
146.820	-	146.2	Primary County Frequency
146.730	-	100	Secondary County Frequency
147.075	+		Eastern Wide Area
147.120	+	100	Western
145.470	-		Southern
147.255	+	100	Western, EchoLink
444.100	+	146.2	Command Control
444.550	+		Tactical
146.520	Simplex		National VHF Calling Frequency
146.550	Simplex		
147.495	Simplex		
147.540	Simplex		Tactical on site

As the situation warrants:

Specific frequency assignments (with the exception of 146.82) may be made.

For example, shelters may be assigned to a separate frequency, hospitals to another.

Resource scheduling and assignment may be shifted to a specific frequency.

In case of repeater failure, switch to simplex operation on the repeater output freq.

If all else fails, switch to 146.52 simplex and indicate your presence.

Participation: Recognizing that radio waves do not adhere to county lines, stations outside Broome County may assist in relief agency communication efforts as directed.

<b>Club Officers and Committees</b>			
<b>President</b>	<b>Bill Coleman</b>	<b>N2BC</b>	<b>748-5232</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bob Handel</b>	<b>K2FU</b>	<b>693-4310</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bob McCabe</b>	<b>KC2DSS</b>	<b>748-9808</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Paul Slocum</b>	<b>N2NCB</b>	<b>687-2057</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Steve Orzelek</b>	<b>N2MSB</b>	<b>775-0281</b>
	<b>Mel Snitchler</b>	<b>WE2K</b>	<b>723-9612</b>
	<b>Jack Connors</b>	<b>WB2GHH</b>	<b>724-8822</b>
	<b>Jim Lawson</b>	<b>KC2JED</b>	<b>797-1583</b>
<b>W2OW Trustee</b>	<b>Mel Snitchler</b>	<b>WE2K</b>	<b>723-9612</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Ed Plesnar</b>	<b>KB2SCF</b>	<b>754-3810</b>

**BARA, The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association**



**is an ARRL Affiliated Club**

**e-Mail Address: [w2ow@arrl.net](mailto:w2ow@arrl.net)**

***Next General Meeting***

7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 19th  
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance

***Board Meeting***

7:00 PM, Wednesday May 3rd  
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

***Exam Session***

7:00 PM Monday, April 24th  
Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

***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](mailto:n2bc@stny.rr.com)

***Local Repeater Nets***

146.73 MHz STAR Net (NTS Feeder) Every Evening at 6:30 PM Local Time  
146.82 MHz BRAT Net (Informal BARA) Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM Local Time