



BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

June 2007

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

The President's Corner

First Impressions are lasting impressions and it's really nice to pass along a note of an impression well made and a job well done to the Hams of our Valley and Surrounding Areas!

I happened to be running some errands over in Johnson City about a week ago. As I dashed from my carto my first stop a fellow on the street hailed me and I paused. He asked about the antenna on my jalopy and if I was on the Citizen's Band. When I explained that it was a Ham Rig, his face lit up and he asked if I ever listened to the group on '73. Without prompting, he launched into a monolog about the fine group that hung out in 146.73 and in particular the ones on the STARNet. It turns out that my new friend isn't a Ham himself, but he is an avid listener on the VHF/UHF bands. Let me tell you friends, there is someone out there who has a mighty fine opinion of you and a very good impression of Ham Radio through your behavior on 2-Meter FM.

I won't embarrass (or flatter) anyone by naming names, but he identified several of you in particular and he gave me a pretty accurate (albeit glowing) sketch of your strengths. It was a pleasant and a rewarding conversation and I left with a new perspective on our Hobby.

The License Texts remind us that we should consider the impression that our behavior leaves on others and this has often been in the back of my mind, but it was nice to have it driven home in such a friendly and positive manner. I don't think that it is any great stretch to suggest that you should all stand a bit straighter and reflect on the impression that you leave. There are people out there listening and in a world where public discourse is often acrimonious and cheapened by coarseness and a lack of discretion and respect it is nice to know that there are Hams in Our Valley (and beyond if we consider the Linked Systems)

who put their best foot forward and bring credit to our assembly.

Well Done, Friends! — *DE Ed, KB2SCF*

2007 Esther and William Valky Memorial Scholarship Winner

It is with great pleasure that the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association names Elaine Frost, KC2IKW, the 2007 recipient of our Memorial Scholarship.

Elaine holds a Technician Class License and is a student at Vestal High School with a very commendable grade point average. She hopes to continue her education at SUNY Oswego. Besides her interest in Amateur Radio (and her use of her Radio Abilities to assist in communications at certain Public Service events) Elaine is also active in her church, various musical activities (church, school, and community), the Fire Auxiliary, and the Ross Park Zoo. She has packed a lot of activity into her life and she has learned to use her License Privileges to help serve others.

The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association extends our best wishes of success to Elaine in all her future endeavors. We hope to have her join us at the June General Meeting to receive our congratulations in person.

MS Walk Communications

The Susquehanna Valley Repeater Association (SVARA) provided communications for the MS Walk that was held on 19 May on the West side of Binghamton.

This yearly event has been coordinated by Ford Drake, AB2HS, for many years. Ford not only arranges course communications; he also plans the necessary route for the organization.

This year Ford received significant assistance from Brian Ade, K2DLB, who prepared a course map with communicator assignments to be presented to each

communicator. Brian also toured the course on the day of the event to assure the visibility of hazards caused by reconstruction of Westend Boulevard.

Sharon Drake, N2WGM, was coordinator of the kitchen staff at Seton High School. She assured the stamina of walkers, volunteers and HAMS by efficiently supplying copious amounts of high energy foods and fluids.

As usual, excellent public service was provided to the Walk and the following Hams deserve special thanks: AB2HS, K2DLB, KB0VIW, KB2YEN, KC2KLC, KC2QJL, N2RWH, N2WGM, WB2ALY and WB2GHH. — *Jack, WB2GHH*

Field Day

ARRL Field Day is upon us and runs 23-24 June. Our BARA Effort for this year is modest and informal: One and all are invited to stop by the site and operate.

The Club Equipment and Antennas are, as always, available to members and you can operate as W2OW or under your own call. You also have the option of setting up your own station and/or temporary antennas. Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, kids, and assorted others and Have As Much Fun As You Can. If you are involved in Scouting (Boy or Girl) or in other outside groups, invite your friends to come along.

If you can't come up to the Shack (family, work, and other responsibilities do sometimes call with pressing and insistent urgency), then operate where you are and get your call on the air!

Etiquette at the Shack

Just a few reminders when operating up at the Shack, nothing big and nothing earth-shattering, but a mental checklist to run through before you head home:

1. *Log your activities as appropriate.*
2. *Pack all trash for the trip home. There's no pickup on the Hill and we don't want to get the critters used to handouts.*
3. *Shutdown all Computers and turn off all Equipment. No need to have anything unnecessary power-up for the next member.*
4. *Disconnect all Antennas and Rotor Controls and Ground Connections as Appropriate. Don't give Mother Nature a chance to cook the equipment.*
5. *Secure all shutters and lock all windows.*

Shipshape and Bristol Fashion will protect the site from unwanted and unwelcome visitors.

6. *Pack your stuff and take it home. Don't leave any inadvertent "donations" to the Club.*
7. *Lights Off.*
8. *Main Circuit Breaker Off. Turn off the Main Breaker and assure that no circuits are live.*
9. *Lock the Door and Zero the Lock.*

If you happen to find anything broken or out of order or if something seems "not right", please make a note and contact one of the Officers or Board Members.

The Worst Natural Disaster In US History One of Our Best Kept Secrets?

Did you ever hear of Peshtigo, Wisconsin? I never did until I stumbled upon it during my extensive research on "cheese" hats. It so happens that a most significant event took place there on October 8 through 10, 1871. I know some of you elders may recall the newspaper articles of that period but I bet you never saw a significant story about Peshtigo. Why? Well during those same horrific days. One story circulated that Mr. O'Leary's cow "allegedly" kicked over a lantern in the barn resulting in a small fire in a place called Chicago, Illinois. The end result of that fire was that a good portion of Chicago was burned by the fire itself and the dynamite mitigation efforts that didn't work as planned only added to the conflagration. When it was over much of Chicago was burned and 300 persons had lost their lives.

The Chicago end of that story was very well documented, but on the same night another fire started. On that hot evening near Peshtigo, a wild fire started. One explanation was that a meteor shower impacted the dry tender resulting from an extreme drought period. More realistically, one of the many camp fires in the much-wooded area was more than likely the cause. A raging wild fire soon resulted and the fast-moving blaze quickly encompassed an area ten miles wide and forty miles long. This blaze moved quickly and caught many woodsmen and townspeople by surprise. The entire city of Peshtigo was rapidly consumed. By some estimates over 1,200 lives were lost in the Peshtigo fire. Thus it was, and still is, the worst natural disaster in US

history. Even though this loss of life was many times the loss in Chicago and the area consumed much larger, the press of the day devoted much ink to Chicago while Peshtigo was relegated to much smaller exposure and a near non-mention in history. Now you know the rest of the story for October 8 through 10, 1871. And we thought slanted news coverage was a recent phenomena. — *DE Jack, WB2GHH*

Rescue in the West

ARRL member Eric Christianson, KE7DZZ, of Reno, Nevada, was just listening to the repeater for background noise May 26, but an emergency call made him sit up and take notice.

“I immediately grabbed the mic and asked ‘What’s the nature of the emergency?’ The guy said that he was in a remote area with a downed motorcycle rider who appeared to have a serious neck injury. He said the injured man couldn’t sit up without feeling dizzy.”

On the other end of the circuit was Dave Kersting, KF6QQO, of Redondo Beach, California, who’d been out riding his motorcycle with friends that day. Before he left, Kersting grabbed his 2 meter handheld radio, programmed with some repeater frequencies along their route, and his handheld GPS unit.

“Dave gave me the GPS coordinates of their location, so I called my local 911 dispatch, Washoe County,” Christianson said. He relayed the coordinates to the 911 dispatcher, who asked him to remain in contact with Kersting until EMS arrived at the scene.

“Washoe County couldn’t find these guys,” Christianson recounted. “It seems Dave’s GPS had given the wrong coordinates, but another guy in the group had a GPS, and he got different coordinates. I gave dispatch the new coordinates, and by using them, they found the group.”

The new coordinates placed the group inside Mono County, California. Washoe County then called Mono County. About 7:15 PM, a helicopter ambulance, called Christianson on the phone to let him know their pilot was in flight near the area and asked if he had any more details for them. The chopper landed just a few minutes later and transported the injured biker to a local hospital.

An ARES member and a ham for two years, Christianson first became interested in Amateur Radio because he wanted to help people in need. “I normally would have been on 20 meters looking for some DX,

but I had the radio on the repeater memory scan just because it was quieter than listening to HF while I worked at my computer,” he said. “Thank God for that, I helped to save a life.”

“The real hero is Dave, who had the presence of mind to program in local repeater frequencies. The other hero is Amateur Radio. What we do with Amateur Radio is great, and I am so proud to be a part of it.” — *From the ARRL Letter for 1 June 2007*

Canada Ending 136 kHz and 5 MHz Special Authorizations

In accordance with an agreement between Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and Industry Canada — that country’s telecommunications regulatory agency — special authorizations allowing some Canadian radio amateurs to conduct experiments at 136 kHz and 5 MHz will terminate June 30.

“These experiments have had, as one objective, the provision of data that would support the objectives of RAC and the IARU for possible new allocations to the Amateur Service at these frequencies,” the RAC said. Future special authorizations will depend on the outcomes of World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07), which gets under way October 22, the RAC added.

New, worldwide, secondary amateur allocations at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and in the 5 MHz range are up for possible consideration at WRC-07. RAC Newfoundland-Labrador Section Manager Joe Craig, VO1NA, described some of his LF experiences in “The Transatlantic on 200 Meters,” which appeared in July 2005 *QST* <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/2005/07/craig.pdf>>.

Craig also has been in the forefront of 60-meter experimentation in Canada through the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland. In 2003, club station VO1MRC worked N1RL in Massachusetts for the first Canada-US two-way amateur contact on 60 meters. There more information on the VO1MRC 5 MHz Experiment Web pages <<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/5megex.html>>. — *From the ARRL Letter for 1 June*

Show & Tell in June

The Program for June is Show & Tell — your chance to bring along a new goodie to brag about, and oldie to display, or a puzzle to place before the assembled experts. Don’t be shy, show us what you have been working on!

Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 853
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First Class



Club Officers and Committees			
President	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810
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	Lee Savidge	W3EFE	669-4188
W2OW Trustee	Mel Snitchler	WE2K	723-9612
Newsletter	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810

Next General Meeting
7:30 PM, Wednesday, June 20th
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the
Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting
To Be Defined due to the July 4th Holiday
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency
Services (West Side of Campus)

Exam Session
7:00 PM Monday, June 25th
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

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



BARA, The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club

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