

BARA

Facts

Newsletter of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

March 2007

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

The President's Corner

Murphy was sure busy in February and he had a particular fondness for BARA! Between frustrating our efforts to get the *Facts* to press and distributed, making sure that we were "locked out" of our meeting place, and rescheduling the meeting place for the General Class he had his hands full (and so did we).

First, I apologize for the lateness of the February *Facts*. The fault was neither with Unicorn (who printed it) nor Hedy, AA2MU, (who collated, addressed, and mailed the copies). Your Editor here had trouble putting the issue to bed and then getting the electronic copy formatted for the printer. I hope that things go better this month.

Second, due to circumstances beyond our control the Town of Binghamton Hall was not open for us last month. Murphy had all of our contacts hopping and we ended up "out in the cold". We were indeed fortunate that John, KB2FQZ, had come prepared with pizzas and cake to celebrate his son Andy, KC2QYA, passing the Technician Exam. John suggested a change of venue to his own house (just up the road) and we gratefully accepted. John's wife, Pauline, was a gracious and most forgiving hostess when a motley assortment of BARA Members appeared on her doorstep and John Jr. helped to make us at home. We appreciate the hospitality of John, Pauline, Andy, and John Jr. and we thank them for helping to salvage our evening.

For details on Murphy's flummoxification of the General Class Location, see below. In other news, there are two major projects that we need to work on and decide on as a Club.

Winter is (we hope) passing and with Spring comes the opportunity to resume activities at our Club Shack. We need to put plans in place and we also need a Chairman, Visionary, and Dreamer to help us

focus those plans into concrete activities. If you are interested, please contact me or one of our other Club Officers.

June is fast approaching and with it Field Day. It is by no means too early to think about Field Day plans and for a Chairman to step forward. In the past there have been many suggestions about what *could* have been done for Field Day. Well, this is your chance to step forward and to make sure that what *does* happen will be a credit to the Club! Anyone up to the challenge?

General Class Underway

At our January General Meeting the final details of the General Class were set in place. Ford, AB2HS, outlined what was planned and he filled out the roster of Instructors with volunteers from among the membership.

Reports received thus far are positive. The Class Size is fifteen (with two students from Newark Valley) and this is just about right for our first attempt. We hope everyone finds the General Class to be a success. We did have to move the sessions to the East Maine Fire Station on East Maine Road (Murphy again) at the last minute, but that is through no fault of the people who are making this happen.

If there is sufficient interest for another class (or for an Extra class), please let us know.

Who was Fred Porterfield, W2OW? (Part 2)

An inquiry to Jack, WB2GHH, on Fred Porterfield and the origins of the W2OW Callsign elicited some fragments of information. Jack mentioned the query to Bill Thompson, W2MTA, and the following article was the result. We ran the first part last month. Many thanks to Bill for taking the time to share his memories.

Last month Bill gave us a brief synopsis of a young engineer's initiation into the world of high technology

(of the 1950s) and he introduced us to the IBM Radio Club and its cast of characters. We pick up this month with the dawn of the Space Age "...

We decided that IBM should get into the Space Age and that the IBM, K2ERQ, Club would sponsor and erect a satellite tracking station. Fred Porterfield, W2OW, was in charge of the event and several of us from the Owego Plant were on his team. The installation was to be set up in a field North and East of the Owego facility in what later became the softball fields.

We young engineers procured lumber and brass to build the antenna array, tilted 30 degrees to overcome the low horizon orbital approaches that we were expecting for the various satellites. I went to Bob Orrange in engineering to negotiate the loan of a theodolite to shoot in the 4X4 supports for the array (which at other sites were built horizontally).

Fred defined the necessary hybrid junction required to feed the multiple 108-Mc. dipoles (12 in parallel). Dick, K2UNY, oversaw fabrication of the brass junction in the Owego Model Shop where he worked. Larry and Gene Mertz (a K2 call from long ago) were real squirrels getting all of the coax that was needed. Curt Johnson, the Owego Plant General Manager, was very helpful and quite excited about the project which became known throughout the nation's tracking world as ENDICOTT MOONBEAM.

Fred B. Porterfield, W2OW, resided at 1221 Vestal Avenue in Vestal and had previously lived at 410 Groats in Endicott NY. I can recall his teenage son coming with him to the Moonbeam site as we did the installation and at the subsequent tracking radio station in the old farmhouse at the site. The station was in operation for several years and the antennae stood well into the late seventies — testimony to a job well done!

In the Spring of 1960 I went on field assignments to Milwaukee and I lost track of Fred. I finally returned home for good in July 1964. Does anyone else out there remember Fred and Moonbeam? — *Bill Thompson, W2MTA*

Emergency Communications

Included with this issue of the BARA Facts is a revised Emergency Communications Plan (courtesy of Jack, WB2GHH). This revision supersedes the previous version released after the flooding last June and should be part of your emergency "go kit" along with other essentials.

Besides general requirements and procedures, your notice is directed to the Repeater Frequencies

AND the Simplex Frequencies. We tend to rely on Repeaters as our Primary Communications Channel, but Repeaters (like Cell Phones) can fail and in that event you will want to know the Simplex Frequencies that will be in use.

Above all, practice and confident familiarity with Net and Traffic Procedures are recommended. The STAR Net on 146.73 MHz at 18:30h every evening is an excellent training venue as are the SkyWarn, RACES, and ARES sessions. Remember, in these days of heightened security, RACES Registration may be required for communicators volunteering to assist in emergency situations. Contact Jack, WB2GHH for more information.

Hamfest News

Confirmation of our use of Marvin Park has been received, so we can kick our Hamfest Planning up a notch. Expect to hear more from Jim, KC2JED, and Bob, KC2DSS, at the General Meeting, Mark your calenders now for the first weekend in May!

Shack Reminders

Please make sure that you spin the Combination Lock dials to zeros after you open the door. This will assure that the locks catch properly and that no strangers can open the locks without cycling through the possibilities.

Antennas are to be disconnected and/or grounded after you turn off the radios and prepare to leave.

Always turn off the Main Breaker before leaving the building and locking the door.

All trash/food that comes with you leaves with you.

March Program: Numbers Stations

If you have ever heard those mysterious Shortwave Broadcasts of strings of numbers and/or letters that come on the air and then vanish. If you have ever speculated on their purpose. If you ask what they are for or who might be responsible for them, then we may just have some more questions for you to consider!

For speculations on these and other interesting matters, come to the February General Meeting to hear what allen, KC2LKC, has to offer!

Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Plan Broome County, NY

Revision D; March 5, 2007

Introduction: A natural disaster, technical problem or man made event may cause government or relief agencies to request the assistance of amateur radio in support of their mitigation efforts. Preparedness is key for an effective response. Amateur radio operators should register with their Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) and their Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Radio Officer (RO) to indicate your interest which in turn facilitates the gathering of contact information. You are encouraged to participation in Public Service events, radio club sponsored field days, Simulated Emergency Tests (SET) and other such activities that hone your operational skills and tests your equipment. Additionally, you will interact with other HAMS and served agency personnel. As a result, you may identify items for your "GO BAG" (accumulated radio widgets, extra charged batteries, note pads, energy bars and other personal items) that would make you more self sustaining at an event.

Notification of Need: Being informed is key to a communicator preparedness and subsequent response. During unusual periods monitor commercial radio and TV outlets and NOAA weather radio statements. Listen up on repeater frequencies. Actions: When a communication request is received appropriate announcements will be made on commonly used area repeater and simplex frequencies. Additional methods of alert may also be utilized. Communicators shall check in on the 146.820. Assignments will also be coordinated on 146.820.

As the situation warrants specific communications may be assigned to individual frequencies. For example, evacuation shelters may be assigned to one frequency, hospitals and medical to another, resource scheduling and asset assignment to another frequency. Again, these assignments will be made on the 146.820 repeater.

In case of repeater failure, change to simplex operation (transmit and receive) on the repeater output frequency. If unable to establish communication attempt to locate and report in on another active repeater. If possible, monitor 146.52 simplex. Visiting communicators, unaware of local repeater assignments and others who experienced repeater failures, may be attempting contact on that frequency. Acknowledge any calling station and direct them to 146.820 or assist them as maybe necessary.

Frequency Assignments:

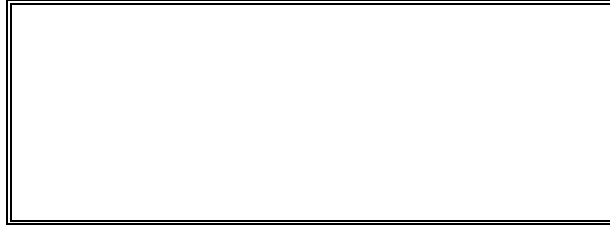
<u>Freq</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>Notes</u>
146.820	-	146.2	<u>Primary</u> Broome County Frequency. Note this is the output of the SVARA linked repeater system utilizing the following two repeaters. When you use either of the three repeaters the other two repeaters also transmit your signal and you hear the responding signals from all the coverage areas.
146.865	-	146.2	Beldon Hill, improves coverage NE in the I 88 corridor.
147.345	+	146.2	Near Hancock, NY, coverage in far eastern Broome & parts of Delaware County.
146.730	-	100	<u>Secondary</u> Broome County Frequency, SKYWARN Hub frequency
146.760	-		Tioga County Primary; 147.390 + Secondary
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
147.495	Simplex		
147.540	Simplex		Tactical on site

Participation: Recognizing that radio waves do not adhere to governmental boundaries any station copying the net control station is requested to check in and assist as the situation warrants.

J. Connors, WB2GHH, Radio Officer RACES , 9/28/05; Rev B 6/17/06; Rev C: 7/21/06; Rev D: 3/05/07

*Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 853
Binghamton, New York 13902*

First Class



Club Officers and Committees			
President	Ed Plesnar	KB2SCF	754-3810
Vice President	Jim Lawson	KC2JED	797-1583
Secretary	Blake McCabe	KC2GQX	748-9808
Treasurer	Paul Slocum	N2NCB	687-2057
Directors	Jack Connors	WB2GHH	724-8822
	Warren Marks	KC2NGR	648-6840
	Bob McCabe	KC2DSS	748-9808
	Lee Savidge	W3EFE	669-4188
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@arrrl.net

Next General Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 21st
Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, South of the Ross Park Entrance

Board Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday April 4th
Broome Community College Campus, Office of Emergency Services (West Side of Campus)

Exam Session

7:00 PM Monday, March 26th
Vestal Public Library, Route 434 Vestal

BARA Dues

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

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



Our Printing Sponsor: Unicorn Electronics, Valley Plaza Drive, Johnson City, NY