



Bergen Amateur Radio Association

BARA Bulletin

September 2016

Volume 53 Number 9

Our 53rd Year

www.BARA.ORG

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Next Business Meeting September 11, 2016

Meeting Program

The BARA September meeting program is:

“DMR” by K2TRW Kai Chen

Kai will provide a presentation and demonstration of DMR Radio.

ARRL VHF Contest

In keeping with the decision to operate one VHF contest per year, there is no Fall VHF contest operation at the Nike site.

Tony, K2AMI, will be using the K2BAR callsign from his QTH in River Edge. Tony operates SSB and FM on the 50, 144, 222 and 432 bands. Look for him during the contest.

The contest starts Saturday, Sept. 10 at 2:00 PM EDT and continues until 3:00 AM EDT on Monday, Sept. 12.

Members are encouraged to submit logs for the Club Competition aggregate score. Exchange is your callsign and grid square. If assistance is needed contact Phil, WA2LXE, or see contest info at <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Portable Day

Saturday, Sept. 24
Memorial Field
1st Street, Fair Lawn
(Location of town pool)
8 AM - 3 PM
With FLARC

Pick up some ideas on portable operation and operate
One of the stations.

President's Message

Hello,

I hope everyone had a great summer.

We have a lot of BARA events coming up that I hope you will participate in, and also provide some volunteer assistance at the upcoming hamfest.

We will be passing around signup sheets at the next meeting.

We need help with the food and people to work in the lot and at the gate.

We also have the BARA portable day with Fairlawn coming up as well as the BARA Foxhunt. These events should be a lot of fun.

We will not be making a formal effort at the Fall VHF contest but we can still participate on an individual basis and send logs to Phil WA2LXE to be included for a Club score.

Don't forget the NJ QSO Party on the 17th and 18th. Everyone will be looking for New Jersey stations to work, all you have to do to score a point is send your NJ County. It's a fun contest.

73,
Jim, K2ZO

PUBLIC SERVICE

BC RACES NET

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.
7:45 PM on the W2AKR Repeater
146.790 MHz; PL 141.3 Hz.
Net control is NJ2BC
Directed training net for all authorized
Bergen County RACES stations and
authorized liaison stations.

BC RACES

Communications Unit

Any licensed ham operator in Bergen County, if not already a member, is asked to join the BCRACES team by sending an e-mail to:

bcraces@bcoem.org

with your name, callsign, e-mail, and municipality.

New HF Digital Net

Focused on EMCOMM

The New Jersey Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NJ-NBEMS) Net meets every Sunday Morning at 9:30 AM on 7.073 MHz using OLIVIA-8-500. This net is NOT affiliated with RACES or ARES, so any Radio Amateur with appropriate operating privileges may participate.

FLDIGI is the preferred sound card software because FLAMP and FLMSG are used for message handling. This is a training net for new users, so operator error is expected and well tolerated.

For additional information contact Bill, KC2VUT at arrl.net, Rick, N2PHI at comcast.net or Karl, W2KBF at arrl.net.

VE EXAM SCHEDULE

The next Ham License test session is scheduled for:

September 16

7:00 PM

at the

**Township of Washington
Senior Center**

350 Hudson Ave., Township of
Washington, 07676

Park in lot at end of Hudson Ave.
(also used by DPW and police)

The FCC has imposed a
Testing fee of \$15.00 per
exam/retest.

Required documents:

- Two forms of ID required for all transactions.
- Social Security Number if unlicensed or **FRN** Number if licensed.
- Original CSCE if prior test credit is claimed.
- If license upgrade, a signed copy of current FCC license

Calculators are permitted, iphones and ipads are not permitted.

Questions may be directed to:

Don Younger, W2JEK
201-265-6583

Question Pool Revision:

The Extra exam question pool was revised on July 1, 2016.

Current Question Pool:

Technician, Element 2-July 1, 2014
General, Element 3 - July 1, 2015
Extra, Element 4 - July 1, 2016

Practice tests and study guides available at QRZ.COM.

www.qrz.com/hamtest

Link of the Month

Video of the recent White House National Parks on the Air operation at the White House.

<https://vimeo.com/178760910>

Tnx to KA2D and K2ZO

K2BAR NETS

SSB Net:

Mondays 9:00 pm

10 Meters – 28.375 MHz
Net Control: Jim, K2ZO

FM Nets:

Wednesdays 9:00 pm

2 Meters: 146.79 MHz.
PL 141.3
Net Control: Dan, WA2CLP

Thursdays 8:30 pm

70 cm: 444.100
PL 141.3
Net Control: Marco, KC2ZMA

Thursdays 9:00 pm

Technical Net
2 Meters: 146.955 MHz.
PL 141.3

EchoLink is available to Chestnut Ridge repeater members.

Net Control: Gordon, W2TTT

The FM Nets use the BCFMA repeater.

BARA BULLETIN

The BARA Bulletin is published monthly by the Bergen Amateur Radio Association. Subscriptions are included in the annual membership dues. Membership is open to anyone interested in radio communication.

BARA RESOURCES

QSL Bureau:

Warren Hager, K2UFM

Public Service:

Club Contesting:

Phil Barber, WA2LXE

VE Exams:

Don Younger, W2JEK
Donnan917@at'aol.com

Hamfests:

Jim Joyce, K2ZO

Webmasters:

wm@at'bara.org
Tony Izzo, K2AMI
David Levine, K2DSL

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Interested in learning more about amateur radio and meeting new people? Then join the Bergen Amateur Radio Association (BARA). Dues are \$25 per year. Send your application request to:

David Levine, K2DSL
11 Mackay Ave.

Waldwick, NJ 07463

e-mail to k2dsl@at'arrl.net.

Please include your name, address, town, zip, call sign, license class, and phone number.

Upcoming Events

Sept 11 - BARA Business Meeting

Sept 10, 11 - ARRL VHF Contest

Sept 13 - Kit Night at Senior Center

Sept 16 - FCC License Exam Session

Sept 17, 18 - New Jersey QSO Party

Sept 20 - Kit Night at Senior Center

Sept 23-25 - CQ WW DZ Contest - RTTY

Sept 24 - Portable Day at Memorial Field, Fair Lawn

Sept 27 - Kit Night at Senior Center

Sept 30 - Kit Night at Senior Center

Oct 2 - Fox Hunt

Oct 2 - BARA Business Meeting

Oct 4 - Kit Night at Senior Center

Oct 8 - BARA Hamfest

BARA KIT NIGHT

7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Township of Washington Senior Center
350 Hudson Ave., Township of Washington, 07676

- ◆ Build a kit related to Amateur Radio (partial BARA funding available)
- ◆ Diagnose/repair a defective piece of equipment
- ◆ Discuss radio and computer problems
- ◆ Technical assistance available
- ◆ Seek/give technical opinions

We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do.

Mother Teresa

Ham-Cram Alternative Study Strategies

Prologue

Although this tutorial is primarily intended for use with the WIUL Ham Cram website most of the suggested alternative study strategies are applicable to the study or any material.

Since the inception of the WIUL Ham-Cram.com website, when there was only preparation for the Technician license, I have strongly advocated studying one subelement at a time. I also strongly encouraged the candidate to take the subelement's practice exam and if the candidate didn't get at least 85% correct I recommended repeating the process until attaining a test score of at least 85%. (Each license class has 10 subelements which are basically categories.) Despite many years of college level teaching, I committed a rookie educator's mistake, which is assuming all people learn the same way I do. I like my information served in small packages with a frequent practice test to reinforce my learning. The following is a true story and points out the fallacy of my educational assumption.

An experience with a good friend drove home the point that different people learn in different ways. This critique reviews different study modalities when preparing for an amateur license examination.

My Friend Jim

A good friend of mine, I'll call him Jim, passed his Advance license 34 years ago after three unsuccessful tries. He is retired military and is an avid DXer and uses CW exclusively. He takes pride in his lack of technological sophistication. He doesn't own a computer, cell phone or a GPS. I printed the entire Extra question pool for him in the format used on the ham cram website, approximately 300 questions, using the following style:

1. Question number one.

The correct answer for question one.

2. Question number two.

The correct answer for question two and so on.

After Jim had been studying the print out for a couple of weeks I offered to bring my computer to his house so he could take a practice exam. "No way," he exclaimed, "I don't want to see an incorrect answer until I take the actual test!" I suggested he intersperse practice tests with his studying but he adamantly refused.

All's well that ends well. There were three candidates taking the Extra exam at Jim's VE session. He was the first to finish and had only one wrong answer the best of the three!

Is this method for everyone? I honestly don't know. You might want to try it and see if it works for you. A compromise might be to study the questions and correct answer until a day or two before the VE test. Then take a practice exam for the entire test (see below) so you get feedback on what you don't know.

Let's take a look at some other learning methods

Studying Using Multiple, or all, Subelements

Several candidates have commented on their inability to use multiple subelements to create a study session or practice test session and have all the available questions displayed. Mistake on my part, it's possible to do but my explanation is vague.

Here is how to create a study or practice test session using multiple, or all, subelements.

Go to ham-cram.com and select either the Technician, General or Extra study session. We'll use the General study ses-

sion for this example. Figure One show the top of the General study session page.

This General question pool is effective on July 1, 2015 and expires on June 30, 2019			
35	Number of question for this session. Enter "0" for all available subelement(s) questions. 35 is the numbe of questions on the VE test.		
Check to Include	Sub-element	Subelement Title	Question Count
<input type="checkbox"/>	All	All questions in the pool	203

Figure One

The text box in the upper left corner contains the number of questions on the actual test which is 35 for Technician and General exam and 50 for the Extra exam. The first entry in the “Question Count” column is the total number of questions in the ham crams pool for that specific class of license. Select a listing for all questions in the specified ham cram pool by entering zero in the text box in the upper left corner. Next, check the first check box in the leftmost column. Lastly click on the button at the bottom of the page labeled, “Select one or more Subelements for Study.”

This produces a listing of each question, followed by only the correct answer, for the entire question pool. Print the output so you have a complete listing of the entire question pool for your target license class. Take it with you and you can study when you get a few spare minutes.

We learn from using our senses: What we see, hear and touch. We won't do much touching using the ham cram site but we could if use material from the Gordon West Radio School. Check it out at:

<http://www.gordonwestradioschool.com>

When you are using the ham cram study mode (Only questions likely to be on the VE test and only correct answers) read the questions and answers out loud so you are seeing the questions and answers as well as hearing them. Ideally, do the prep with a partner and have one person read the questions and the other read the answers. On the next pass have the person who previously read the questions read the answers and the person who previously read the answers read the questions.

Make an Audio Recording of a Study Session

When reading the questions and answers, as detailed above, record them so you can play them back when on a long drive – this is called a commute in California. If you make a recording of the entire question pool and are willing to share it with other people, email a copy and I'll put it on the ham-cram.com site with full attribution to you.

Flash Cards

If you learn well using flash cards you can easily make your own. Print out the full question pool for your target license as described above. Get several packs of 3 X 5 file cards and cut the print out into questions and answers. Tape or glue the question on one side of the card and the answer on the reverse side.

When studying with flash cards alternate between reading the questions, out loud, first and then read the answers, out loud. Next, read the questions and before reading the answer try and remember the answer. Finally, read the answer and see if you can remember the question.

When you pass your target test – notice I said when, not if – make the cards available to other members of your club.

Whatever Floats Your Boat

If you have come up with any other creative ways of utilizing the ham-cram.com database please let me know.

Anecdotes

All of the July anecdotes are based on my personal knowledge. There were likely many more I didn't know about. July was an interesting month. My nine-year grandson Charlie K3CPV passed his Technician after about a week of studying. His brother Will W3WKV aced the Technician test when 11 years old and also aced the General when he was 12. Charlie is to my knowledge the youngest person to pass the Technician test using the W1UL ham cram method.

Also in July, a 78-year-old great-grandmother, I dare not use her name or call, aced the Technician. She became the oldest person, to my knowledge, to pass a test using the ham cram method.

I'm aware of three people who passed both the Technician and General exams at the same session. BTW, if you pass an exam at a VE session, you can take the next higher license with no additional fee. Again, to my knowledge, there are now 18 people who passed both the Technician and General at the same VE session and only three who attempted both and didn't pass the General portion of the duet. All three passed the General at the next VE session. It's distinctly possible there may be many others that I don't know about.

I helped start an amateur radio club, W2SBP, at my high school alma mater. We had nine student members who took their Technician and seven passed. Additionally of the seven who passed three also passed their General. All of them only had three weeks to prep. A faculty member, Jon KD2LEN, went from no license to Extra in two weeks.

If you have some free time, consider working with a school radio club. It's very rewarding and we desperately need young people in the hobby. When you walk into the typical ham radio club meeting from the back, it looks like a box of Q-Tips.

I would truly be interested in your personal experiences with ham-cram.com.

We just recently passed 43K preparation sessions. Thanks to all of you who helped make that possible.

73,
Urb W1UL
urb@w1ul.com 609-937-5487

Special Event

The Siemens Fire Safety USA Amateur Radio Club KF2IRE, will be operating N2F Special Event Station during Fire Prevention Week this year October 9-15, 2016.

Also listen for N0F, N1F, N3F, N4F, N5F, N6F, N7F, N8F and bonus station KF2IRE.

Their QSL card is shown below.

2016 National Fire Prevention Week Special Event

N0F
N1F
N2F
N3F
N4F
N5F
N6F
N7F
N8F




2016 NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

SEPTEMBER 16TH

National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. This annual event honors our missing service members and their families, and highlights the government's commitment to account for them. Across the country, local POW/MIA ceremonies are encouraged throughout POW/MIA Recognition Week, culminating with countless events and the national ceremony in Washington, DC, on Recognition Day. Support for these missing Americans and their families is deeply felt. America's POW/MIAs should be honored and recognized, rather than memorialized, with the focus on continuing commitment to account as fully as possible for those still missing. Strong, united support by the American people is crucial to achieving concrete answers.



BARA Fox Hunt

Sunday, Oct. 2

Meet at Westwood Regional
High School
12 Noon

Suggested Equipment:

- ◆ 2M FM Receiver (H/T) with received signal strength indicator
- ◆ Directional antenna
- ◆ Bergen County Street Map
- ◆ Compass
- ◆ Ruler, pencil and non-metallic surface for map and compass

BARA HAMFEST

Saturday, October 8th

8 am to 1 pm

Rain or shine

Westwood Jr./Sr. H.S.

VE Session 8 to 10 am

DXCC card checking

BARA Member help needed to direct parking and collect admission from 5 am to noon. Sign up for time slot at meeting, kit night or email Jim, K2ZO.



The K2BAR Field Day satellite QSOs were reported to AMSAT. An article in the July/August issue of the AMSAT Journal listed the participating stations that reported their scores. BARA ranked eight out of 22 stations that reported satellite contacts. The article also included a photo of BARA members setting up the satellite antennas. Congratulations to the satellite team.



Ted, K2TWI, Steve, WI2W, (back to camera) and Val, WA2VDO, prepare the satellite antennas at the BARA Field Day.

New Jersey QSO Party

Objective:

- Non-New Jersey amateurs contact as many NJ amateurs in as many NJ counties as possible.
- NJ stations contact as many amateurs in the US, Canada and the world as possible.

September 17 & 18, 2016

Sat. 1200 (noon) EDST (1600 UTC) to 2359 EDST (0359 UTC) and Sun. 1000 EDST (1400 UTC) to Sun. 1600 EDST (2000 UTC)

Bands: 80 , 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters ONLY

http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/njqp_rules.html

DX Insights

TURKMENISTAN, EZ

#21 on the DXCC MOST WANTED LIST

Turkmenistan is located in Central Asia bordered by Kazakhstan to the northwest, Uzbekistan to the north and east, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south, and the Caspian Sea to the west. It was one of the great Islamic Empires during the medieval times and an important stop on the Silk Road. In 1924 it became a constituent of the Soviet Union, Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1991 it became independent when the Soviet Union was dissolved. This country is one of the worlds most repressive on human rights. It is closed to the media. Religion freedoms and any activists face the constant threat of government reprisal.

Ham radio has been restricted since 2006 and currently there have been no legally licensed stations in Turkmenistan. The country is officially off the air until further notice. There have been some operations by hams with there old call signs but they are not valid as the government has stopped all amateur operations.

Time to get our stations and antennas in shape for the fall and winter seasons. Even with the cycle on the down swing there are still some rare DXperditions coming up. Keep yourself informed, watch the DX bulletins and check into DXWORLD.net for all updated DX info.

73 and Good Hunting,
Harry, W2FT

K2AMI earnrd 1st Place in the September 2015 VHF Contest in the NNJ Section and 9th place overall. Congratulations Tony!





**BARA Picnic
August 2016**



Next Business Meeting
Sunday, September 11th
at the
Twp. Of Washington
Senior Center

President

Jim Joyce, K2ZO
K2ZO 'at' ARRL.NET

Vice-President

Tony Izzo, K2AMI
K2AMI 'at' ARRL.NET

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Bill Montague, KB2OCJ
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W2TTT 'at' ATT.NET

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BARA Bulletin

Phil Barber, WA2LXE, Editor
WA2LXE 'at' ARRL.NET

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Bill James, WA2QHL - SK
Dominick Interdonato, NB2F - SK
Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML - SK



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