



# The Old Barney Beacon

## WinLink—An Email Program via Radio

So what is WinLink? Well to quote their webpage WinLink is ***“...is a network of amateur radio and authorized government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present.”***

WinLink is a way to send email using radios as a medium. You can also use a Telnet link if you are on the internet but what if you are somewhere that the internet is not available? Would you like to be able to send an email?

WinLink is not going to replace your regular email but it can be a supplement to it. You have to have a WinLink address and so does the party you want to communicate with. So another email address? Yes but it is really just your callsign so not a hard one to remember.

Another thing to remember about WinLink is if you use it attached to a radio it is over the air so technically easier to intercept and not as encrypted as the bigger email providers are.

So why then? Because it is useful. Like anything amateur radio it is about the capability to provide a service when conventional methods are down.

So how does it work. To enable WinLink to only thing you really need is a computer with WinLink Express installed and a communications medium. You also need to register to have your email address created in the system. As far as transmitting and receiving you could use the internet with the Telnet protocol. It works fine. The only thing is you are then

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# Annual Dinner

February 19, 2023—2pm

@

Lefty's Tavern

547 N. Main Street

Barnegat, NJ 08005

**SAVE THE DATE**

Details on meal choices and registration will be coming out soon!

For questions—Contact Frank Piccolo N2HWL

*Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4th, at the Ocean Acres Community Center.*

## VE CORNER

We had two candidates in December who both earned their Technician licenses

VE sessions are held Wed nights before the meeting at the community center at 6pm.

If you are looking to upgrade your license or you know someone who needs a session please contact Rick at [n2rpg@arrl.net](mailto:n2rpg@arrl.net).



Pictured (L-R) Bob Schenck, N200, Beth Schenck, KF2BQ, Rick Kennard, N2RPQ, Nancy Wick, KA2YNH, Bob Wick, N2HM—  
Photo by Tom Preiser, N2XW

**Life Time  
Achievement  
Award  
Presentation**

At the December 2022 meeting, club President Rick Kennard, N2RPQ, presented Bob Schenck, N200, Beth Schenck, KF2BQ, Bob Wick, N2HM, and Nancy Wick, KA2YNH, with Life Time Achievement awards on behalf of the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club for their continuous support of the club from the time of its inception.

## WinLink—Continued

dependent on the internet again. To be wireless you need a radio, another software package and an interface box.

The new program that is gaining a lot of popularity is VARA. VARA can be used on 2 meters or HF (VARA FM or VARA HF). It allows communications at two speeds 1200 & 9600. To use the higher speed you do need to license it. The license is a one-time purchase. Once you have it you can use it on multiple devices without having to license each one separately.

Speeds 1200 & 9600. To use the higher speed you do need to license it. The license is a one-time purchase. Once you have it you can use it on multiple devices without having to license each one separately.

VARA connects to the radio through an interface box to the radio and uses its protocols to connect with local area access points. These access points are connected to the internet usually somewhere that provides backup connection power in an emergency. The access points (RMS Stations) also use a version of VARA to relay between the internet and radio channel and can also be set up to “store and forward” if a connection is not available. This way once a connection once again becomes available it will forward any email that it received.

Other stations are also set up as digi-peaters. Repeaters for digital data. When you send a radio message you send it to the closet reception point. If you are within range of an access point (RMS) you send it there. If you are further away then you use a closer digi-peater which is set up to relay your message to the access point (over the air).

In our area here a VARA network has been being built out making it more and more available. Currently there are access points in Bayville, Westampton (Burlington County) and Atlantic County. A digi-peater already exists in Barnegat and Bayville with plans moving forward for additional ones in Burlington county to expand the system. The goal is to allow access to the system in a wide area of the SNJ section and to provide backup should one access point be out of service. The digi-peater would then switch to the next closest access point.

Currently SNJ ARES groups are using WinLink more and more as a means for communication of information that should not go over the air. This year’s emergency drill relied on WinLink along with VARA to forward critical information from EOC to EOC and to report severe weather damage.

So if you’re looking for something new to try you may want to investigate WinLink as well as VARA. Just as a side note, Master Communications makes an interface box, the DRA-30, which I have personally used for my setup. You can buy it pre-built or in a kit.

Here are a couple of links if you are interested in learning more:

WinLink: <https://www.winlink.org/WinlinkExpress>

VARA: <https://www.winlink.org/tags/vara>

DRA-30: <https://www.masterscommunications.com/products/radio-adapter/dra/dra30.html>

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2023! And also to this long awaited next issue of the Beacon.

My new schedule that started last year proved to be more of a challenge in adjusting time than I thought it would be but I think I’ve got it figured out.

We had a great 2022 with all our events and accomplishments! None of which would have been a success without all of you. Thank you!

I am looking forward to another good year. I enjoy our events together and it really puts a smile on my face to see you all enjoying them too.

While we work through the winter cold don’t forget to join our nets on Thursday nights!

We really could use another net controller so please consider joining Tom, Carl, Ira and myself to help ease the schedule. It really is a lot easier than you think. If interested let Tom, N2XW know. He will get you all set up and we will all be there to support you.

I hope everyone is having a happy safe and healthy new year.

Until next month...

N2RPQ

## 2023 ARRL CONTESTS

- ◇ Straight Key Night—1/1
- ◇ Kids Day—1/7
- ◇ RTTY Roundup—1/7 & 1/8
- ◇ January VHF—1/21– 1/23
- ◇ School Club Roundup—2/13-2/17
- ◇ International DX-CW—2/18 & 2/19
- ◇ International DX-Phone—3/4 & 3/5
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-Phone—4/16
- ◇ International Digital Contest— 6/3 & 6/4
- ◇ June VHF— 6/10–6/12
- ◇ Kids Day—6/17
- ◇ Field Day—6/24 & 6/25
- ◇ IARU HF World Championship—7/8 & 7/9
- ◇ 222MHz and Up Distance Contest—8/5 & 8/6
- ◇ 10GHz and UP-Round 1—8/19 & 8/20
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-RTTY --8/20
- ◇ EME-2.3GHz & Up—8/12 & 8/13
- ◇ September VHF—9/9—9/11
- ◇ 10GHz & Up-Round 2—9/16 & 9/17
- ◇ EME-2.3GHz & Up—9/9 & 9/10
- ◇ Collegiate QSO Party—10/1 & 10/2
- ◇ School Club Roundup—10/16– 10/20
- ◇ EME-50 to 1296MHz—10/28 & 10/29
- ◇ Nov Sweepstakes-CW—11/4—11/6
- ◇ Nov Sweepstakes-Phone—11/18—11/20
- ◇ EME-50 to 1296MHz 11/25 & 11/26
- ◇ 160 Meter—12/1—12/3
- ◇ 10 Meter—12/9—12/10
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-CW—12/17

## 2022 Events A Big Success!

This year we were once again able to conduct a full event schedule since the outbreak occurred. It was great to be back in the swing of things and I would declare each and every event this year a success!

Our first event on April 10th was our annual dinner. Frank Piccolo and his wife Jill do a fantastic job arranging for us to all have a good time at a great price. This year's dinner was at Lefty's which always proves to be well worth the cost. As I commented during a brief speech at the dinner we were fortunate to have 4 generations of amateur operators in attendance. If you haven't been able to attend one of our dinner events I would suggest adding it to your bucket list.



2022 Dinner—Photo by Barb Morrello-Kennard

Next up was field day the weekend of June 25th & 26th. We chose to once again be safe and operate field day from home this year. Still the event was a big success thanks to Bob, N200 taking the lead and making it happen. Hopefully in 2023 we can be back outside.



Picnic with the grill cooking—Photo by Barb Morrello-Kennard

On July 24th I once again took to the grill at A. Paul King Park for our annual picnic. We had a great day. Even though the outside temperatures were hot we were blessed to have a beautiful breeze under the pavilion.

We always have a fun time there with family and friends. The new picnic area and grill at the park makes it such a great location.

August is lighthouse month! First we headed back to the Tuckerton lighthouse

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## FOR OUR MEMBERS...

### OLD BARNEY GEAR

You can find Old Barney Gear at all these places:

**We are working with a new vendor in Stafford. Stay tuned for more information!**

#### **Café Press (All types of logoed items available)**

New Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/oldbarneyarcnewlogo>

Old Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/obarc>

#### **Gold Medal Ideas (Personalized Old Barney Items)**

1160 Thompson Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

[https://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs/Old\\_Barney-Products/10000170](https://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs/Old_Barney-Products/10000170)

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“When you can’t control what’s happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what’s happening. That is where the power is.”—**Unknown**

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### OUR MEMBERS

#### **January Birthdays:**

**1/18—Norm, W2NRS**

### JOIN US ON THE AIR

Join us for our club net. The net is held every Thursday night at 7:30pm (except holidays and special occasions) on the WU2E repeater.

Every week we host a random topic of discussion.

Find us at: 146.835 (-600)  
PL 127.3

We look forward to sharing time with you!

For any comments or questions regarding the weekly net please contact Tom Preiser, N2XW at [n2xw@arrl.net](mailto:n2xw@arrl.net).

Old Barney would like to thank the 835 users group for allowing us to use the WU2E repeater to host our club nets.



John Tichy, KB3JG with Luke On-The-Air  
Photo by N2RPQ

and set up on the second floor as we have done in the past.

Bob, N2OO shared his experience in running the event and showed us how to easily set up and tear down. We had a good turnout of members and made a lot of contacts. John Tichy, KB3JG, saw the interest that one of the young man named Luke, who was a lighthouse guest, showed in our setup and the teacher in him came right out explaining to the young man what everything was and even getting him on the air! He had a blast and did a great job making several contacts.

Everyone there was enjoying seeing interest in our hobby be shared with the visitors.

The Tuckerton Lighthouse group is always so helpful to us in getting us booked and supporting our needs during the event. We thank them for their generosity in hosting our event.

After Tuckerton we got a week off then back out to the Old Barney Lighthouse on the 20th of August for International Lighthouse & Lightship weekend.

Even though the lighthouse itself was closed for and re-furbishing the park was still open and people still came to go down by the water and enjoy the day. This year John Sawina, NA2R, took on the task of organizing the event and along with his loyal helper, Mike Libonati, WA2ACV, they were ready to go first thing in the morning. We set up two stations and learned along the way that even though Mike, KD2TCK is not allergic to poison ivy he is to poison oak! Mike made his way through the brush to help get the support for the antenna up and apparently waded through an entire patch of it. Sorry Mike but we did warn you!

We did, once again, manage to involve a member of the public from the Chicago area who walked over to see what was going on. Even though it was a day of not too many contacts timing was perfect because as we let him call out CQ, Bob, K2RET had just turned his radio on to say hi to us. The result was a great conversation and another happy guest! I must say he was a natural too! He took to the radio like he had been doing it for years.

Along with our outside events, we also had our annual Chinese auction at the October meeting and a pizza fellowship following our December meeting.

If you were at any of these events you probably noticed the big smile on my face. I love it we can all enjoy the events so much! Of course they wouldn't have been a success without all of you and for that I must say a big

**THANK YOU!** Looking forward to 2023! N2RPQ



Our setup at Old Barney—Photo by N2RPQ

# NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SECTION...



## OCEAN COUNTY ARES® JANUARY 2023

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, WX2NJ, N2XW and N2RPQ installed an APRS digipeater at the Chatsworth Tower in Burlington County. The digipeater will replace the APRS digipeater removed from Barnegat to make room for the VARA FM digipeater.

The antenna on the Chatsworth tower is approximately 300 feet above sea level. The digipeater carries the ID CHATSW and is operated under callsign WA2RES with an output of 50 watts on 144.390 MHz.

Preliminary results indicate excellent APRS coverage on Route 72 west of the Parkway. APRS signals were pretty much dead down to Little Egg Harbor after the removal of the Barnegat APRS Digipeater and the Chatsworth unit will certainly improve coverage.



WX2NJ installing the Chatsworth APRS Digipeater

Photo by N2RPQ



Chatsworth Tower

Photo by WX2NJ

The following is the 2023 schedule of meetings and VE sessions for Ocean County ARES at the Ocean County EOC (All at 7:00 PM):

Meetings: FEB 15, APR 19, JUN 21, AUG 16, OCT 18 and DEC 20.

VE Sessions: JAN 17, MAR 21, MAY 16, JUL 18, SEP 19 and NOV 21.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

## WHO IS OLD BARNEY?

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) was established in 1975 by a diverse group of individuals with a common goal of promoting Amateur Radio.

Today the group continues towards making the amateur radio hobby rewarding through participation in several events throughout the year, training sessions, VE testing and monthly meetings.

Our meetings are held at the [Ocean Acres Community Center](#), 489 Nautilus Blvd, Manahawkin, NJ 08050\*, beginning at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except holidays). We welcome anyone (licensed or not) to come and meet with us to learn more about amateur radio.

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## SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The newsletter is open to anyone who would like to submit articles. Please join me in contributing to content and share the knowledge you have about our hobby with all our readers.

Presentations are also welcomed. We try to host a presentation at each monthly meeting covering different topics. We would even welcome "special" sessions via Zoom for presentations that are too long to host at a meeting.

Please contact me at [n2rpg@arrl.net](mailto:n2rpg@arrl.net) with any articles or to arrange a presentation.

## THE OLD BARNEY RADIO CLUB IS ARRL AFFILIATED



### Old Barney Amateur Radio Club

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E-mail: [n2ob@arrl.net](mailto:n2ob@arrl.net)

Visit the ARRL at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

