

President's Corner

August 2008

Where are all the hams? BARA has a membership of over 70 (last I knew), but a small minority make it out to the monthly meetings. I can't imagine why our members wouldn't want to interact with each other, for the sake of learning new things, enlightening us newer hams with technical information, regaling us with the legends of our community's past, and learning from (and or being entertained by) the presentations we host.

Last week I volunteered to help with communications for the Empire State Games. Now there was a fine showing of the amateur radio community! Folks from all over the state traveled (at their own expense, which can be significant given the price of fuel) to participate in what must be the largest annual gathering of hams in the state (well, maybe the Rochester Hamfest gets more). Knowing that I was volunteering time in service to my community was a great feeling, but so was the opportunity to interact with fellow radio enthusiasts.

I could really use some of that interaction throughout the rest of the year. A guy at work recently loaned me an HF transceiver (last night I made my first HF voice contact from home in 27 years – Field Day at the shack was my first time actually on HF since 1981), and I have questions about grounding my antenna, the proper cable to use, etc. Answers to the questions I have are not easy to come by online or in the ARRL antenna manual sitting on my nightstand – it would be a lot easier just to ask a few experienced elmers in person!

If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, you may not realize that the face of BARA has evolved. While not burgeoning with new members, there certainly are new faces around. We all are looking to more experienced members of the amateur community for guidance. If you're going to attend any meeting at all, make it this month's, which is BARA's annual picnic (August 20, 4 pm at Otsiningo Park), and be sure to bring your family. I'll be on vacation during the following month's general meeting, so I hope to see y'all when I get back in October.

I look forward to hanging out with more of my fellow hams in the future!

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC