

## President's Corner Jan 2008

I am honored to serve as this year's president of the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association. To be honest, the office of President was not my first choice, but I felt it important that I serve the club in whatever capacity was most required at the time. I'm not the most charismatic person, but then again, how many of us radio electronic geek types are? Those of you who have been attending meetings recognize that I am not a shy person, which *does* distinguish me from a lot of the geek crowd.

Incidentally, you may think the term "geek" is pejorative, and that it's insulting of me to throw it around in reference to myself and a number of my colleagues, but you'd be wrong. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, geeks are actually respected, even desirable, members of our society (what with the relative importance of technology these days, and the need for people who understand its functioning). Geeks are now cool! As a technician in an electromagnetic interference laboratory at a local engineering firm, I am *proud* to be a geek (that is, someone who is technologically fluent), and all of you should be as well.

Amateur radio has always been at the forefront of technology, and I think this linkage is one of the keys to our continued viability. Let's face it, the number of kids getting involved in ham radio is probably at an all-time low, what with the Internet having eclipsed global communication as a medium, and computers being the greater recipient of youths' technological tinkering. What keeps me interested in amateur radio is the *linkage* between these various technological hobbies. For me, it is the use of my computer to decode digital transmissions that I find a particularly fascinating aspect of the radio hobby.

As your president this year, I hope to enhance a communal appreciation in the ways amateur radio serves as an adjunct to a wide range of technological fields. In recognition of the fact that we are losing members faster than we are gaining them, I will endeavor to reach out to other radio organizations (such as SVARA, ARAST and the Kopernik crowd), and perhaps other technology-related organizations (someone help me with what those might be!) in an effort to foster more cooperation in the area. Collaboration with other groups can generate a greater critical mass of individuals to launch successful projects in our community, and may be crucial to keeping our club viable in the future.

Ultimately, this is *your* club, not mine, so I am keen to know what's on your mind regarding what our club should and should not be concentrating on. I am always happy to hear what's on your mind; I can be reached online at KC2KLC@LUTINS.ORG, at home (eves and weekends) at 607-729-4817, and via post at 163 Marie Street, Johnson City, NY 13790. 73!

-allen lutins  
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