

## **President's Corner**

### **July 2008**

Summer's here, and there's tons of amateur radio-related activities in which to participate. Field Day was held this past weekend, and I had a blast! It was my first time on HF since 1981, and I'm definitely going to get back up to the shack again this summer (don't yet own my own HF rig). Field Day proved its worth as an emergency preparedness exercise as we worked through the typical problems one encounters in such a situation. (Forgot the power supply? Use a car battery and jumper cables! Not getting any reception? Try swapping out antenna cables – the one you're using may have a bad connector!) We had a respectable amount of participation, and racked up around 500 contacts across three operating stations at the site. I originally said we would only be in it for the fun, and would avoid being too competitive, but my adrenaline really got pumping as west coast stations, sometimes half a dozen to a dozen in a row, jumped at the opportunity to QSO us on 20 meters (and to tell us how fine our <100 watts was booming in on their end). I hope Mark (KC2SOQ) and Andrew (KC2QYA) didn't think I was getting too bossy as I shouted with excitement, "call them! get them! QRZ!" late into the night.

Next weekend is the Wilkes-Barre MURGAS hamfest in Pennsylvania. I love hamfests because you will see things there you don't get to see anywhere else. My XYL even enjoys accompanying me to them once in a while; she loves seeing the old console radios, and she appreciates the artistic, aesthetic appeal of the big old vacuum tubes. I bought a Variac at an amazing price not too long ago, and recently put it to good use slowing down a fan that was too fast on the "low" setting, so that we could enjoy a very light breeze on us at the dinner table (no AC in our house).

Later this month the Empire State Games will be coming to the Souther Tier, and we hams will be providing vital emergency communications to this prestigious event. The games take place July 23rd through 27th, and it's never too late to volunteer to help out. If you're interested, let me know (contact info at back of newsletter).

And next month (on August 20) is the BARA picnic. The picnic is always a fun time to meet the families of fellow hams, and you never know what kind of entertainment might be there (in recent years we've had operating rigs, items for sale/swap, and a demonstration of radio-controlled aircraft). BARA provides the staples (hamburgers/hot dogs/buns) – feel free to bring a dish to flesh out the menu!

Hope to see y'all soon at one of these events. 73 de allen lutins KC2KLC