

President's Corner

October 2008

Last week I attended the ARAST hamfest in Horseheads, NY. The weather was awful, but the turnout was still respectable, and I found exactly what I was looking for (nice inexpensive used antenna tuner/SWR meter). Some of the things I love about hamfests:

- Visiting a hamfest is like visiting a museum. There are so many fascinating antique radios, parts, test equipment units, and the like to admire.
- Nostalgia! I usually spot an old transmitter, receiver or piece of equipment I used to own long ago, and for which I have fond memories.
- Hamfests are often the only place to get reasonably priced electronic parts. I live a few minutes' walk from Unicorn Electronics, so I support them regularly with purchases for my projects, but retail and mail-order outlets charge top-dollar for parts that can be had for pennies at a hamfest.
- There is also the rare chance to socialize with a large gathering of fellow hams; the casual conversations that are struck up over curious items for sale are often quite entertaining and/or educational.

Speaking of hamfests: BARA's hamfest in Owego may seem far off, but planning for such an event necessarily begins far in advance. James Lawson (KC2JED), who did an admirable job of managing last year's hamfest, has offered to run it again – but he will need help. Anyone willing to lend a hand should give him a call at 607-761-5595.

I regret that I will miss the general meeting again this month. Last month I was on vacation in Florida with my wife (photos at lutins.org/photos); this month, I will be performing music in Ithaca (for those of you who weren't aware, in addition to being an EMI Technician by day, I am a professional musician by night). I look forward to seeing you all again in November.

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC