

## President's Corner

### August 2009

I've done my fair share of whining about the state of amateur radio, and in particular the lack of enthusiasm and participation in our region. So now, some happy thoughts for a change!

First off, some good news from the latest (August) issue of QST: apparently ARRL membership is up, to levels not seen in quite a few years. Evidently eliminating the morse code requirement from the amateur exam has had its intended effect. This is also reflected in the fact that (also according to QST) sales of entry- and mid-level HF & VHF amateur transceivers is up as well – and this during a financial recession. Excellent news indeed.

Locally, we have something exciting to look forward shortly –BARA's annual picnic. This is always BARA's most popular meeting, and is being held once again at the pavillion in Otsiningo Park (thanks to Jack Connors, WB2GHH, for securing this lovely spot!). This has always proved to be a wonderful, event-filled day. Once again this year all are invited to bring their surplus radio gear to sell or swap; I will actually be bringing a number of give-away items, and one valuable item at a steep discount, for some lucky hams (I won't say what these items are in advance – you'll just have to be there to find out). The weather has been most cooperative these past few years – I'm hoping the weather deities will be kind to us again this year.

As I write this, I am also preparing for vacation. I will be leaving for a week to participate in an event that couldn't possibly be further from the high-tech world I normally inhabit: I will be camping out at a huge regional medieval re-enactment in western Pennsylvania (think civil war re-enactment, only with over 15,000 people all dressed as if they're from medieval Europe, with large battles of lance, sword and bow wielding soldiers, classes on medieval arts & sciences, and merchants selling medieval food, crafts & clothing). Definitely won't be any computers or ham radios where I'm going! I may suffer some slight technology withdrawal symptoms. (This is not, by the way, *my* idea of a vacation – it's something my wife & friends enjoy, and I get dragged along every few years for what I call "dress up & make-believe; hopefully I can get another week off in October so we can drive up to Maine for a *real* vacation.)

I will be back in time for the BARA picnic – hope to see you there!

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