

President's Corner

December 2009

Last month's meeting was election night, and I appreciate all the folks who came out to ensure we had a quorum to get the job done. It's pretty tough filling all the slots, so I'd like to convey a great big thanks to all of the officers and trustees who decided to stay on in their positions to keep BARA alive, and also to Andrew Rudy for taking on the Secretary's job (we have to take your dad's word for it that you really wanted the position – I don't think I ever really got a chance to ask you about it in person! Since being an officer for a non-profit organization is new to you, we'll be happy to help out).

While the face of the club's leadership has changed little, much else about BARA *is* changing. This month our holiday dinner will be at The Spot Diner for the first time, and next year's hamfest will be indoors (no worrying about the weather!). Also, the newsletter has changed hands, and is now published by Bill Jakaitis (KB2SIN). I want to thank Bill, too, for his efforts, and to let you know that he **cannot** do this by himself. If you can think of anything at all, be it a sentence, a paragraph, even a couple of pages, to contribute that has any connection with radio, electronics, technology, etc, **please** send it along to Bill (if you sent it to me at the email address listed below I'll make sure he gets it).

While I'm doling out kudos, I'd like to convey my appreciation to Bill Coleman (N2BC) for maintaining our website, and to Ford Drake (AB2HS) and Brian Adey (K2DLB) for coordinating next year's hamfest.

I've been working a lot of overtime lately, and have had a lot of musical performances to give, so I've had previous little time to get on the air (in the past 3 months I've probably turned the shortwave on for a bit of monitoring twice, and logged into the StarNet once). I haven't had time to finish my latest project, either (ultrasonic detector, which I wrote about some months ago), and I still have a pile of old radio equipment that I inherited that I'm in the midst of evaluating for its functionality, so that I can sell it off. Actually, I decided to keep a few pieces – like the genuine Vibroplex bug...and I restored the old Heathkit Cantenna, so that I can test out the kilowatt amplifier in my basement. That cantenna was very rusty, and missing half its oil, but I read all about it on the Internet, and after discovering that the resistor inside still measured close to 50 ohms, decided it was worth cleaning up. Now it looks great, and I've topped it off with mineral oil (I don't even want to know *what* is in the oil that started out in there!) – I plan to test it out soon with my 100 watt transceiver. I also need to test out a Bird wattmeter that I got at a hamfest last year (I bought the 1000 watt element online, so that I could use it when testing that kilowatt amplifier). I expect that being trapped indoors most of the winter will give me time to catch up on these things.

I hope you folks also find the time this winter to engage in some radio/electronics projects. Please write and let me know what y'all are up to!

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC
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