

President's Corner

February 2010

The holidays aren't too far behind us (I can tell because my neighbor's Christmas tree is still flashing away in the window, even though February's almost here), and I had a marvelous time – mainly because I had a nice stretch of days off, which afforded me the opportunity to get cranking on some projects.

One thing I did was update the BARA Pamphlets with the roster of new officers. Maybe you didn't know that BARA now has nice tri-fold pamphlets available. I designed these, and brought them to a few meetings for feedback, after which I finalized the design & started distributing them at hamfests I attend (also delivered a small handful to Unicorn Electronics the other day). This is all part of my effort to try to reach out to potential new members. You can help, too – if you know of anyplace where some BARA pamphlets could be useful, let me know, and I'll be happy to print some up for you!

The other thing I accomplished was finishing up some electronics projects I started. One was the ultrasonic receiving device I'd talked about before in this column. I didn't have high expectations for its performance, but WOW, does this thing work great! My wife and I listened to the ultrasonic emanations from her jewelry cleaner, our computers, even jangling keys (anyone got a dog whistle I can borrow?).

As I was heading out the door last Wednesday for the BARA General Meeting it occurred to me that I ought to bring it for "show-and-tell", because we didn't have a program scheduled. Turns out Tom Siglin (WA2LTD) had the same idea, and brought along an impressive cordless tool to demonstrate that he'd recently purchased. Our impromptu program seemed to be a hit – so much so that Paul Slocum (N2NCB) emailed me recommending we make it a regular feature of our meetings. I wholeheartedly concur with Paul! If you have anything (especially, but not necessarily, home-brewed) that you think may be of interest to your fellow hams to demonstrate, by all means bring it to a General Meeting. If there's no time for show-and-tell that night due to a scheduled program, we can always postpone it until the next meeting.

I also had time to bang out a coupla other little projects as well. If you have internet access and would like to see a few photos (as well as a short write-up on how I make the fancy face plates & labels I sometimes employ), check out www.lutins.org/projects.

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