

President's Corner

January 2010

Happy new year fellow hams! I recently attended the BARA holiday party, and was delighted with the turnout (some 50 people by night's end!). It demonstrates to me that, even though attendance at business meetings may be sagging, there is still a vibrant interest in amateur radio in this area, and in keeping the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association alive.

Explaining the relevance of amateur radio in the 21st century to a wider audience is tough (until communities experience disasters that rely on hams' communications expertise). Keeping BARA relevant to our community is also a challenge. The biggest difficulty facing our club is a paucity of compelling programs. Members are not keen to attend business meetings if they are all business and no fun. We have our regular SkyWarn training to look forward to, and I plan to give a presentation on linking computers to radios. But if you have (or know of anyone that has) anything interesting to present, please contact myself or our Vice President (who organizes programs) James Lawson (jwlawson@stny.rr.com), as it is important that we give our members a good reason to keep paying their dues!

That said, BARA members certainly have plenty to look forward to this coming year. Our annual Field Day event is growing bigger each year. I regrettably had to miss it last year, but I intend to be up at our shack this year, and hope a number of you will join me for the good time that's always had there. There's also our annual hamfest, which for the first time will be indoors. Between not having to worry about the weather, and the efforts and enthusiasm of our organizers Ford Drake (AB2HS) and Brian Adey (K2DLB), this year's hamfest promises to be the most successful in years.

Remember that the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is not simply a handful of hams who pull together a few activities each year – it is each and every one of you, interacting amongst other members, other hams, and the community, to maintain a strong amateur radio presence in our region. I often tell you in my columns that I'd like to hear from you. I am not being rhetorical when I say this – I **really mean** it. Please, if you have anything at all to share regarding your radio experience, your BARA membership, or anything related to technology, do send me an email (address listed below) or call me (my number is listed on the back of the newsletter).

A happy, healthy and prosperous new year to you all!

73 de allen lutins KC2KLC
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