

President's Corner

June 2010

This month finds your President without a shack of his own. I mentioned last month that I would be dismantling my shack (actually, a pile of radio equipment on a single shelf in the corner of my study). Well, there's nothing left in my study except for my desk and an echo, as I plaster, sand, repaint, and ultimately remodel (including a much nicer radio setup – it will be closer to my computer so that I can link them up without long wires in between picking up interference).

So what do I do if I want to get on the air? As it turns out, BARA has wonderful resources available to its members, including a fully operating shack on a high, scenic hilltop south of Vestal. Last summer I went up there to operate, and thanks to the altitude and a nice beam on a tower, I was talking (SSB) to people in Algeria, Greece, and other equally far-flung QTH's with strong signal reports – without any external amplifier! Conditions were not even that great; it's just the boost that the right location can give you. The ham shack is available for use by all members; simply contact any of the officers for the combination to the lock, and some operating tips (like where to find the main breaker to power on the station).

A great time to visit the shack, and get a sense of the equipment available, is this coming Field Day (June 26), when I will be leading a team of operators on a friendly (read: not overly competitive) expedition to test our emergency HF communications capabilities. And to make the scene a little more user-friendly, there will be a portable toilet present.

Speaking of resources available to the membership, I'd like to remind folks that I have tri-fold BARA Brochures available, and piles of brochures from the ARRL, including a pamphlet on Scouting and Amateur Radio. If you can think of anyplace at all to distribute these, please contact me, and I'll get some to you.

And while I'm mentioning resources, those with Internet access may wish to check out the links I've provided on my radio-related web page at www.lutins.org/kc2klc - these include databases of local frequencies, links to radio-related websites, and a lengthy list of online part, kit & schematic sources.

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