

## President's Corner

### October 2010

Busy times are in store for the BARA shack this month! As I mentioned in my previous column, BARA will again be participating in the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air this month. The Boy Scouts will arrive at the shack on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> early in the day to set up camp. We'll work the radios (and, weather permitting, have a nice campfire) into the night, and they'll be breaking down camp the next morning. I haven't heard from a single individual who might be interested in lending me a hand, and I won't be able to do it alone, so please touch base with me if you're willing to help out (see contact information at the bottom of this article). We *do* have a portable toilet onsite, if that helps...

Also, as I had promised to do some time ago, I've invested equipment to enhance the shack's digital communications capabilities. Thanks to a windfall from ham equipment given to me to sell, I purchased a Signalink USB from TigerTronics. This is a very popular unit; I have an older serial-cable based one, and it performs flawlessly on all sorts of modes (I've used RTTY, PSK and Olivia extensively). I regret that I won't have time to install the unit before Jamboree on the Air (I'll be on vacation during much of the interim). I shouldn't have any trouble installing it, but if anyone cares to assist and/or observe, please touch base with me about that!

By the way, I checked the ARRL website, and receipt of our Field Day logs is verified. They haven't announced results yet, but we weren't in it to compete; rather, we were there to learn the ins and outs of emergency communications preparedness, and to have a good time while doing so. By the way, the combination to the shack locks has been changed recently – if you desire access, contact any of the club Officers and (provided you're a member) they'll be happy to supply the combination.

There has also been an effort underway to obtain materials for the construction of additional antennas up at the shack. This is great news, because the more flexibility we have, the better our capabilities (and it's vital to have backup systems, including antennas, if we are ever to rely on our site for emergency communications). In anticipation of the upcoming antenna construction/erection parties, Ford Drake (AB2HS) will be presenting a program at the BARA general meeting this month (Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>) on wire antenna construction, for those of you seeking to learn or refresh your memory about this important aspect of our hobby.

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