

SECOND ANNUAL
KI8BQ MEMORIAL GET TOGETHER
by the members of
MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET
and the
BLOSSOMLAND AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

It was a great weather day for what turned out to be a very successful combined event. There was quite a good response for the second annual KI8BQ Memorial gathering. Thirty-seven members of BARA, the local ham radio club, turned out for the day. The MCRN was represented by 24 members who made the journey, some of whom traveled quite a distance. Three of the Am-ers even traveled over 400 miles, round-trip to attend.

Both Bob W9RAN and Masa AB9MQ, with Becky, racked up 220 miles one-way. Bob came from Rockford, IL (W) and Masa from Normal, IL (S/W). Furthest from the East were Rex WA6GYC & Sue traveling about 205 miles from Troy, MI. From the South, Gary W9WOO edged out Borgi K9YQQ by 15 miles at 165 miles from Indy. Eric (NQ8J) takes furthest traveled from North status at 100 miles from Grand Rapids. The furthest traveled from the Northeast would be John AC8FL at 190 miles from Fenton, MI. Stealing furthest distance from the Southeast is Jeff KA9TOC from Osceola, IN. All that travel adds up to a wonderful statement made by all those who attended, near and far.

Of course, the BARA club being a local ham club had members come from the surrounding towns. The youngest ham at the event was BARA club member, Hudson KF8ABS (age 12 years). He appeared to enjoy cruising the tables. Some of us are members of both organizations. The oldest attendee award might go to Dan NI9Y. He has probably attended more of Gary's Sturgis events than any of us. Aside from missing our long time friend Gary, the void became larger last month when we lost Jack W9GT SK. He would surely have attended as he did for most all of the events.

Everyone did plenty of socializing and there were about 20 vendors who set up tables with all sorts of ham and related gear. I saw some really great deals being offered and transacted. We had plenty of great treats available and they were all free. Bob W8LHP & Marilyn provided hot dogs, brats, condiments, cookies, pop, and water. Jerry W8ZAP provided hot coffee all day. Rex WA6GYC & Sue brought iced tea. Steve K9IPD brought some fancy donuts. All the preceding resulted in the donation jars to rapidly fill.

Radios and other items accumulated at the auction area. Rex and "Cecil B." Terry N6TLU who both wanted to "boogie" early called for an (earlier than advertised) auction. The attendees donated some very nice items. There were even donations sent in by Carol KB9OYR. Her husband Robert KB9NJP recently became a SK. When she heard of the event and the Five Pines programs she sent a number of items. All auction items were sold off by Col. Harry N9CQX and the process moved smoothly thanks to Jerry W8ZAP and Eric NQ8J who worked the "ring". An outstanding job of accounting was handled by Borgi K9YQQ.

A great big pat on the back is extended to all involved with the KI8BQ Memorial Get-together. What a nice surprise, as all the donations plus the auction proceeds totaled \$840. That money was donated to the Five Pines Ministries who graciously gave us use of their property. Five Pines Ministries is located in a beautiful country setting and is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian camp and retreat center offering many programs for the youth and their families.

BARA is a local ham radio club that was founded in 1954. See the BARA website at:

W8MAI.ORG

BARA club president, Tim KD8NOH and MCRN manager, Harry N9CQX organized the KI8BQ memorial event as a combined effort of both organizations. BARA member, Michelle KA8IYO was the liaison to the Five Pines location as she is the Office Coordinator for the Five Pines organization.

[Five Pines Ministries](#)

Click [HERE](#) for video of the 2024 KI8BQ memorial get-together

[2024 KI8BQ 2nd annual Memorial AM get together Hamfest cool vintage ham shortwave radios electronics \(youtube.com\)](#)