



BYOB?

Logically, with gas at \$3.00/gallon the best thing to do on a Saturday is to take off on a road trip. Washington State is building a new suspension bridge across the Tacoma Narrows and the wife and I decided that it was time for us to inspect their progress. We decided to stop for lunch in Tacoma at the Cloverleaf Tavern where they serve the absolutely, without question best pizza in the world, then cross the old Narrows bridge to the Kitsap Peninsula and see some old friends. A nice afternoon drive.

The pizza – a monster without anchovies – was outstanding and filling as usual. We then hopped on Highway 16 to cross the narrows. The new bridge is being built alongside the old one. We got to inspect the new one as we drove onto the bridge approach. Traffic on the old bridge is thick and fast. My wife was examining the new bridge as I merged onto the old one. I noticed a classic Rolls Royce Silver Cloud about two cars ahead of us. As I mentioned to her that I think it is the same one that was used at her cousin's wedding, the Rolls changed lanes and smashed into a "dually" pickup alongside of us. The drive at that point became a game of roller derby as I shot past the Rolls and the pickup as blockers to a clear lane.

We no sooner hit the highway than nature called. There are no rest stops on Highway 16 but we knew of a store that had a restroom. While we were there I bought a bunch of bananas. On the drive back we had the choice to go back across the bridge or take the long way around the Narrows through Shelton. When we got to Shelton, we decided to stop for supper. My wife mentioned that her brother had a relative that operated a diner in Shelton and we decided to stop there. As we studied the menu I mentioned that I was not too hungry from all the pizza we ate earlier and was going to hold to a slice of pie and a glass of milk. My wife opted for a banana split. The server took our orders and went off. She returned shortly to announce that she could not make a banana split because she was out of bananas.



Some of you are probably wondering what Russ is doing now that he has retired. He's going to sea or is that to seed?



Trying to be helpful I mentioned that I had bananas in my car and she could use one of mine. "Great", she said. I got up to get it. Apparently, when she discovered she did not have bananas she dispatched one of the kitchen staff to go buy a bunch of bananas. I returned about the same time as the other person. Applause erupted in the dining area as I walked my banana back to the kitchen. Shortly, the server came to us with our pie and a banana split. I asked her if I

could see the menu again. I told her I wanted to see where it said BYOB – bring your own banana.

Welcome Stephanie Fraser

Stephanie Fraser has joined the NARTE headquarters staff as our administrative assistant. She is probably the first voice you will encounter when you call us. She comes to us from Fraser Fish Ltd. where she did general office work, including delivery of fish to various restaurants in the Boston area. Stephanie studied criminal justice at Massachusetts Bay Community College and worked for several years at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office.

KEC Japan Product Safety

On June 23, we held the first-ever product safety examination in Japan. We had 12 applicants – 11 engineers and 1 technician. All examinees passed. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Jeff Soga for his diligent work in translating the examination into Japanese in time for the examination. Please keep in mind that he had to translate 192 questions along with up to four possible answers. The problem was further complicated by the original author writing the questions and distracters in British English that we translated into American English for Jeff to translate again into Japanese.



Dayton Ohio Hamvention

This was our second year of participation in the Dayton Hamvention in partnership with the American Radio Relay League. Our thanks to Garry Gorr for his assistance in staffing the booth. Our purpose was twofold: to conduct FCC commercial license testing and to expand awareness of NARTE amongst the radio amateur community. We had excellent traffic by our booth. We gave away a bunch of maracas, pencils and pens. We also sold FCC examination study guides. We had 10 people pre-register for examinations and three sign up on site. We had six sign up at the Hamvention. Of those, two did not make it to the examination and 13 passed.

Installation of Computer Upgrade Complete

NARTE has been limping along for years with an antiquated DOS-based computer system. We purchased an update to Sales Control and began installation. This upgrade got us away from DOS and the cumbersome and inefficient processes. We now have up-to-date workstations with high speed Internet access. We do have one Neanderthal holdout. Our membership card printer does not have a driver compatible with the Terminal Services. We have to mechanically transport label lists to a stand-alone machine that still has the old driver on it and print from there. Replacement of the printer is a bit pricey so we are waiting a while to do it.

