

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 499
Aurora, Colorado – October 5, 2013

Pursuant to due notice, the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM MDT Saturday, October 5, 2013 at the Marriott Denver Airport at Gateway Park, Aurora, Colorado. Present were committee members President Kay Craigie, N3KN, in the Chair; First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR; Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Directors Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, George R. Isely, W9GIG, Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Second Vice President Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB, and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees. On motion of Mr. Vallio, the agenda for the meeting was adopted as distributed in draft form. The main agenda items are:

1. *Consideration of agenda for the meeting*
2. *President's report*
3. *Chief Executive Officer's report*
4. *FCC/regulatory items*
5. *Antenna/RFI cases*
6. *Other legal matters*
7. *Legislative matters*
8. *International matters*
9. *Organizational matters*
10. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
11. *Approval of conventions*
12. *Affiliation of clubs*
13. *Recognition of new Life Members*
14. *Other business*

2. President Craigie referred to her written report, which highlighted her recent convention attendance and committee participation as well as ongoing work in her home county toward a favorable Amateur Radio tower zoning ordinance.

3. Mr. Sumner explained that an error had occurred at the July 2013 Board Meeting when the wrong technical award was given to Brian Justin, WA1ZMS. Instead of the Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award it had been intended that Mr. Justin be given the 2013 ARRL Technical Innovation Award. Based on judging by a panel of Technical Advisor appointees, the 2012 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award was to have been given to James Klitzing, W6PQL, for his article "Solid State 1 kW Linear Amplifier for 2 Meters" which was published in the October 2012 issue of *QST*. On motion of Mr. Vallio, the Secretary was instructed to conduct an email vote of the Board to bestow the two awards as had been intended.

Mr. Sumner noted that when the Section Youth Coordinator (SYC) position that was established by the Board at Minute 31 of the July meeting is implemented there will be a conflict with

Standing Order 92-2.66, which “strongly encourages and recommends” that Section Managers appoint an Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities. The Board should consider rescinding the Standing Order when the SYC position is implemented.

Mr. Sumner reported that electronic balloting for Southeastern Division Director and Vice Director has begun and appears to be proceeding smoothly. On October 1, members in the division for whom the ARRL has no valid email address were mailed paper ballots along with instructions on how to vote electronically if they prefer. Voting will conclude on November 15.

Mr. Sumner completed his report with observations on the budget process for 2014 that is underway at Headquarters and the likelihood that a dues increase will be needed in 2015.

4. FCC/Regulatory items

4.1. Action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay referred to a draft Petition for FCC Rule Making that he had prepared in response to Minute 25 of the July Board Meeting and had circulated to the committee earlier in the week. In accordance with the Board’s instruction the draft calls for the deletion of references to symbol rates for data emissions and the substitution of an authorized bandwidth of 2.8 kHz for such emissions in the bands below 30 MHz. The committee discussed alternatives to 2.8 kHz. On motion of Mr. Isely, the General Counsel was authorized to file the petition as drafted subject to final edits.

4.1.2. A draft FCC filing prepared by Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, was reviewed. The filing comments in support of recommendations that were approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference at its meeting on September 19, 2013. On motion of Mr. Vallio, Mr. Price was authorized to file the comments as drafted subject to final edits.

4.1.3. Mr. Imlay reported briefly on ongoing efforts to raise the visibility of FCC enforcement activities related to the Amateur Radio Service.

4.1.4. Reply comments in ET Docket No. 13-84, the FCC’s reexamination of its RF exposure regulations, are due on November 1. While a review of the comments filed in this proceeding has begun, it is not possible to complete the review because the FCC’s website is offline until Congress appropriates funding for the fiscal year that began on October 1. The review will resume as soon as possible and a determination will be made as to whether any of the comments require an ARRL response.

4.1.5. An equipment manufacturer has questioned the need for the requirement in §97.317(a)(2) that amplifiers manufactured for the Amateur Radio Service and operating below 144 MHz be incapable of amplifying the input signal by more than 15 dB. The rule is one of several provisions that are intended to prevent the marketing of CB amplifiers, although it is unclear whether it is either necessary or effective in achieving this objective. The committee’s discussion concluded that while the ARRL will not propose at this time that the rule be deleted,

consideration would be given to supporting such a proposal should one be made by another entity.

4.1.6. Mimoso Networks, Inc. has filed a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC that seeks a mobile allocation in the 10.0-10.5 GHz band, with rules and band plans that it says are intended to provide interference protection for the present and future use of the band by amateurs. However, it is apparent that the protocols being proposed would be unable to detect amateur signals, and thus avoid causing interference, in many cases. In addition, such an allocation would be contrary to the international Table of Frequency Allocations because the band is not allocated to the mobile service in Region 2. Additional uses for the band are being considered in preparations for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference, which may explain why the petition has not been placed on public notice by the FCC.

4.2. Status update/reporting items

Mr. Imlay reported briefly on the status of the following FCC-related matters:

4.2.1. ET Docket No. 12-338. The main purpose of this proceeding is to implement the Final Acts of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference in the FCC Rules. The comment deadlines were more than six months ago; FCC action is awaited.

4.2.2. There has been no FCC action on the ARRL's November 2012 petition to implement the 472-479 kHz allocation. The subject may be considered in a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket No. 12-338.

4.2.3. ET Docket No. 13-44. The FCC has proposed changes to its equipment authorization processes, some of which the ARRL believes are ill-advised in view of the mixed record of the Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs) that certify RF devices.

4.2.4. ET Docket No. 13-101. The FCC sought comments on a white paper prepared by its Technological Advisory Council that proposes the use of "harm claim thresholds" in determining whether the victim of RF interference can seek a remedy from the FCC. The ARRL's comments argue that the concept is ill-suited to the Amateur Radio Service but that there is a great need for minimum performance standards for receivers in home electronic equipment to make them less susceptible to RF signals that the equipment should be capable of rejecting.

4.2.5. Two years ago the Lockheed Martin Corporation petitioned the FCC to reduce the restrictions on RFID tags in the 433 MHz frequency range. FCC has taken no action on the petition other than to assign a file number, RM-11651, and to open it for comment. Since that time Lockheed Martin has sold Savi Technology, the company the petition was intended to benefit.

4.2.6. WT Docket Nos. 12-283 and 09-209. FCC action is expected soon on this docket, in which several proposals to amend the rules governing the Amateur Radio examination system are being considered. The ARRL has argued strongly against reducing the number of Volunteer Examiners required to proctor an exam session from three to two.

4.2.7. RM-11699, a petition by Don Rolph, AB1PH, to permit encryption of Amateur Radio communications in some circumstances, has been dismissed by the FCC on the grounds that it did not provide a sufficient justification for the rules change being sought. The committee asked Mr. Imlay to investigate whether The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act may have some bearing on the issue.

4.3. Mr. Imlay reviewed briefly several FCC proceedings on which there has been no action since the July Board meeting.

5. Antenna/RFI cases

5.1. The ARRL is providing some funding from the Legal Research and Resource Fund in support of the effort by Myles Landstein, N2EHG to gain reasonable accommodation of his antenna system from the Town of LaGrange, NY.

5.2. There have been no recent developments in the case of John Bush, KH6DLK, whose homeowners' association in Hilo, Hawaii has exceeded its authority in acting against his amateur operation.

6. Other legal matters

A pending application for ARRL affiliation from a club that requires background checks of its members was discussed. It was agreed that such a requirement is not a bar to ARRL affiliation.

The committee was in recess for lunch from 11:55 AM to 1:00 PM.

7. Legislative matters

7.1. Mr. Imlay reported that since the July Board meeting there had been no progress toward the introduction of the bill being sought by the ARRL instructing the FCC to extend its limited preemption of antenna regulations to property that is subject to private land use restrictions. Efforts are underway to improve the training of grassroots legislative volunteers.

7.2. Several responses to a Request for Proposal for legislative relations services are being reviewed. Results of the review will be reported to the Executive Committee following a series of in-person meetings in mid-October.

8. International matters

President Craigie reported on the IARU Region 2 Conference held in late September in Mexico. Messrs. Roderick, Bellows, and Sumner offered comment as they also had participated, along with Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA. Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K11U, helped organize a Regional Emergency Communications Workshop that was held at the same time and place. Both events were deemed to be successful.

9. Organizational matters

9.1. President Craigie reported on behalf of the Centennial Celebration Committee. Plans for a yearlong QSO Party have been announced. Efforts are underway to secure permission to use the callsign W100AW during 2014.

9.2. A draft document aimed at protecting the ARRL from liability for actions of its volunteers was discussed. Refinement of the document will continue with the objective of reaching committee consensus on a recommendation to the full Board.

9.3. Mr. Sumner explained a plan developed by staff to improve the accuracy of listings in the *ARRL Repeater Directory*. Recognized repeater coordinators will continue to be the primary resource.

10. Mr. Sumner distributed a chart of Board actions on which action has not yet been completed. Satisfactory progress is being made on most items.

11. Approval of conventions

11.1. Regional ARRL Centennial Events

A proposal for ARRL-sanctioned regional centennial events prepared by ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R was considered. The funding of participation by Section Managers was discussed. On motion of Mr. Isely the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, will celebrate in 2014 the 100th anniversary of its founding, and

WHEREAS ARRL has engaged members, radio clubs and officials in developing a variety of ways to celebrate the ARRL Centennial, and

WHEREAS the centerpiece of this planning includes the 2014 ARRL National Convention to be held in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014, and

WHEREAS ARRL wants to encourage even greater awareness for the ARRL Centennial through radio clubs and locally organized events,

THEREFORE be it RESOLVED that, per the recommendation of ARRL's ad-hoc Centennial Celebration Committee, the following ARRL-sanctioned 2014 conventions receive additional sanctioning as "Regional ARRL Centennial Events":

Orlando Hamcation—Orlando, Florida, February 7-9, 2014

Dayton Hamvention®—Dayton, Ohio, May 16-18, 2014

SEA-PAC—Seaside, Oregon, June 6-8, 2014

Ham-Com—Plano, Texas, June 13-14, 2014

Huntsville Hamfest—Huntsville, Alabama, August 16-17, 2014

Pacificon—Santa Clara, California, October 10-12, 2014

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff be directed to organize ARRL's promotion of, and participation at, these events including consideration for supporting an ARRL Centennial booth and speaker at each event.

11.2. On motion of Mr. Vallio the holding of the following ARRL conventions was also approved:

- Atlantic Division, November 9, 2013 (Webinar Virtual Convention)
- NYC/LI Section, January 5, 2014, Bethpage, NY
- North Texas Section, January 17-18, 2014, Fort Worth, TX
- Alabama Section, March 1-2, 2014, Birmingham, AL
- Communications Academy (Operating Specialty Convention), March 22-23, 2014, Seattle, WA
- Southeastern Division, August 16-17, 2014, Huntsville, AL
- Pacific Division, October 10-12, 2014, Santa Clara, CA
- Southwestern Division, September 11-13, 2015, Torrance, CA

12. On motion of Mr. Fenstermaker the affiliation of the following clubs was approved (all Category 1):

- Digital Amateur Radio Club, Little Falls, MN
- Foothills Amateur Radio Club, North Wilksboro, NC
- Mon County Radio Club, Dellslow, WV
- Niagara Frontier Radiosport, North Tonawanda, NY
- Susquehanna County Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Montrose, PA
- Watauga Amateur Radio Club, Boone, NC

With the removal of inactive clubs since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee, the ARRL now has 2,234 active affiliated clubs. Category 1: 2,039; Category 2: 57; Category 3: 125; Category 4: 13.

13. On motion of Mr. Milesosky the committee recognized 170 recently elected Life Members. The list includes James L. Morton, KB8KPJ, who unfortunately became a Silent Key shortly thereafter. The Secretary was instructed to publish the list in *QST*.

14. Other business

Mr. Fenstermaker asked what material the ARRL is currently sending to new licensees. Mr. Sumner will provide copies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary