

REPORT OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

July, 2013

The committee discussed having an essay contest for members on the topic of their vision of the future of Amateur Radio but decided instead to stay with the idea of inviting specific articulate members to write Op-Ed type articles for *QST* on this subject. The committee developed a list of prospective authors of these centennial vision essays, most of whom have accepted the invitation to contribute essays. It appears likely that there will be one of the essays in each issue of *QST* in 2014. Some of the authors are well-known Amateurs, while others are not. Clearly, you don't have to be famous to have a vision worth sharing with others.

We discussed the idea of a time capsule but decided not to do it. In the end, we concluded that a box of things was not the ideal way to communicate the first century of the ARRL to those who follow us many years in the future.

Several members of the committee participated in conference calls with the Public Relations Committee, and their enthusiasm and creativity are greatly appreciated. Please see their report for information on what they have been doing.

We received from David Patton an outline of the proposed centennial QSO party operating event. I can best describe it as the Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Party on some serious caffeine. It will be a year-long event in which every member of the ARRL (including present and past Board members!) will have a point value. It looks like fun. I hope all Board family people will participate actively and will encourage the Section Managers and appointment holders in your Divisions to get involved as well, to maximize opportunities for members to work ARRL officials and appointees.

We have no desire to undercut the 2014 National Convention, but realistically not every member will be able to come to Hartford in July. Consequently, several of the largest conventions elsewhere in the country, not close to New England, will have additional ARRL presence keyed to the centennial. I have been in touch with the relevant Directors and passed to them a proposal based on brainstorming with Bob Inderbitzen. This proposal may need to be customized for the specific conventions, depending on their level of interest and their sense of what will be good for their events.

One of our ideas was to get FCC permission to sign W100AW from the Maxim Memorial Station in 2014. The WRTC organizers also had a proposal for special-format call signs for the competitors. Dave Sumner and Chris Imlay presented these two related proposals to the appropriate FCC officials, who turned them down flat. Their rationale was that if they allowed the ARRL and the WRTC to do this, they would have to allow others to use call signs with infixes for their special events, too. Big deal. Since making a regular thing of this could be handled by the same organizations which now successfully coordinate 1x1 call signs, placing no burden whatsoever on the FCC, this reasoning makes no sense. How the welfare of the Amateur Radio Service would falter if, say, you were temporarily and with proper coordination

allowed to replace the digit in your call sign with “90” to mark your grandma’s 90th birthday completely eludes me. The Australian and British regulatory authorities permitted the WIA and the RSGB to use special-format call signs for their centennials. Other administrations have permitted special-format call signs for WRTC events in their countries. What a pity that our FCC lacks the will and the vision to do the same.

Sean Kutzko has been added to the committee roster in light of his new position on the Staff. Allen Pitts remains on the committee for continuity and because he contributes good ideas and good work.

When Dave and I attended the RSGB’s 100th anniversary celebration earlier this month, I mentioned our centennial convention in my remarks at the banquet. I said I hoped it would be possible for us to return the same kind hospitality in July, 2014, that the RSGB had shown to us in 2013. Several people told me later that they are making plans to attend our convention.

I hope you will enjoy seeing the timeline at HQ during your time in Connecticut for the Board meeting. Although this project was not the product of our committee *per se*, we appreciate the work done by many people to make the idea into reality.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN
Chair