

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 497
Denver, Colorado – September 29, 2012

Pursuant to due notice, the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM MDT Saturday, September 29, 2012 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, 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 Cliff Ahrens, KØCA, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, George R. Isely, W9GIG, Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Second Vice President Bruce Frahm, KØBJ and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

President Craigie led the meeting in a moment of silence in remembrance of Joel Kleinman, N1BKE, Michael Owen, VK3KI, and Sid May, ET3SID.

1. On motion of Dr. Woolweaver, the agenda for the meeting was adopted as distributed in draft form. The main items listed 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. *International matters*
 8. *Organizational matters*
 9. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
 10. *Approval of conventions*
 11. *Affiliation of clubs*
 12. *Recognition of new Life Members*
 13. *Other business*

2. President Craigie summarized her recent activities on behalf of the ARRL. She has attended three ARRL conventions since the July Board Meeting and is looking forward to the National Convention in October. She will participate in an experimental Atlantic Division electronic "virtual convention" on November 10.

3. Mr. Sumner reported on the severe loss that Amateur Radio has suffered with the sudden death of IARU Region 3 Chairman and Wireless Institute of Australia President Michael Owen, VK3KI, just six weeks prior to the Region 3 Conference to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He noted that International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB was unable to be in Denver because of his obligation to attend a meeting of the IARU Region 2 Executive Committee as a Director of the regional organization. Mr. Sumner also reported on upcoming retirements from the Headquarters staff. He distributed a strawman draft of legislative objectives for the 113th Congress for

consideration by the Executive Committee in the coming weeks; a recommended set of objectives is to be offered to the Board for consideration at its January 2013 meeting.

4. FCC/Regulatory items

4.1. Action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay led a discussion of needed improvements in the visibility of FCC enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio Service. For example, the list of enforcement actions on the new FCC website has not been updated since the website went live in April 2011. Curiously, the list on the old website was updated after that although it has not been updated since March 2012. The problem repeatedly has been called to the attention of the Enforcement Bureau leadership who say they are also frustrated that this has not been corrected. It was agreed that fact-finding and contact with the Enforcement Bureau will continue, with resort to the Commissioners' offices if there is no improvement.

4.1.2. The committee discussed the FCC report to Congress entitled *Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergency and Disaster Relief* (GN Docket No. 12-91). It was agreed that the next step is to prepare a summary of the extensive document that the ARRL submitted in response to the FCC's request for input, for use in taking our case to Congress after the November elections.

4.1.3. As instructed by the Board at Minute 51 of its January 2012 meeting, the committee reviewed the National Broadband Plan (NBP) Committee Report to consider possible revisions/updates. The amateur allocation that currently appears to be at greatest risk is 3400-3500 MHz. Because the amateur allocation of that band (as well as of others in the frequency range of the greatest interest to mobile broadband interests) is on a secondary basis to federal government radiolocation it was agreed that consultations with the federal government interests should be pursued. It was also agreed that a review of the NBP Committee Report will be a standard agenda item for every Executive Committee. While the review is a responsibility of the full committee it was agreed that a subgroup of the Executive Committee will be formed, to be supplemented by knowledgeable volunteers and staff, with the objective of ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the review on an ongoing basis.

4.1.4. Mr. Imlay presented an early draft of a petition for rule making to seek domestic implementation of the international amateur allocations below 500 kHz. After discussion, on motion of Mr. Isely it was voted to proceed as soon as possible with a petition to implement the 472-479 kHz allocation.

4.1.5. Mr. Imlay informed the committee that the FCC is expected soon to release a Notice of Proposed Rule Making dealing with examination element credit for expired licensees, remote proctoring of examinations, and the ARRL petition (RM-11625) to allow amateur use of Time Domain Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions. The NPRM is expected to raise significant policy questions that will require consideration by the full

Board of Directors. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will prepare an outline of the pros and cons of each item for circulation to the Board as a basis for discussion.

4.2. Status update/reporting items

4.2.1. Mr. Imlay reported that in response to an *ex parte* submission to the FCC by Current Group, LLC regarding the ARRL's petition for reconsideration in the BPL proceeding, ET Docket No. 04-37, the ARRL has submitted its own *ex parte* rebuttal of Current's arguments.

4.2.2. The committee reviewed the status of RM-11666, a petition to permit the operation of unlicensed, short-range vehicular radar systems in the 77-81 GHz band. Except for 77.5-78 GHz, where the amateur and amateur-satellite services are the only primary services, the 77-81 GHz band is already allocated to radiolocation on a primary basis. An agenda item for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference is to consider a worldwide primary allocation to the radiolocation service for automotive applications at 77.5-78 GHz, taking into account incumbent services as well as services operating in the adjacent bands, with the objective of global or regional harmonization.

The committee was in recess for luncheon from 11:52 AM until 1:05 PM.

4.2.3. No new developments have been reported with respect to the PAVE PAWS radar systems operating in the 420-450 MHz band in Northern California and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Amateurs using the 420-440 MHz band may experience brief, intermittent interference from AirMOSS Earth observation radars operating from aircraft.

4.2.4. FCC action is still awaited on three challenges by the ARRL of irregularities related to the ReconRobotics video and audio surveillance device that operates in the 430-448 MHz band. One ARRL complaint that pointed out serious mistakes in the Technical Coordination Body (TCB) grant of equipment authorization to the device has been "under review" by the Office of Engineering and Technology since January 2011.

4.2.5. International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) include provisions mandated by Congress that place US satellite manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage and also prevent amateurs in the US from collaborating on satellite designs with their colleagues in other countries. The ARRL is monitoring developments that may point toward a resolution of the problem.

4.2.6. An FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making to implement the Final Acts of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference is expected to be released soon. It may include other allocation issues and related rule updates.

4.2.7. The FCC's RF exposure regulations have not been reviewed in many years, in part because the FCC does not consider itself to be the expert agency on health effects. The current regulations are based on studies conducted 20 years ago. There is a proceeding, ET Docket No. 03-137, that has been open and pending without action for

almost a decade. A document to advance the proceeding reportedly is on circulation at the FCC and may be released soon.

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

5. Antenna/RFI cases

5.1. Mr. Imlay reported on a case of exorbitant fees being demanded by the Town of LaGrangeville, New York to process an application for an antenna permit.

6. There were no other legal matters to be brought to the attention of the committee.

7. There were no international matters reported to the committee, other than those mentioned in Mr. Sumner's report at agenda item 3.

8. Organizational matters

8.1. Mr. Sumner reported that the first ARRL elections to be conducted by electronic voting would begin on Monday, October 1 in the Hudson and Northwestern Divisions. Full Members in the two divisions with valid email addresses in the ARRL membership records will receive an email instructing them how to vote on a website. The other Full Members will receive a paper ballot but will have the option of voting via the website if they wish to do so. He noted that preparations for the elections have gone smoothly.

8.2. Mr. Sumner distributed a guide to the forums and other activities scheduled for the 2012 ARRL National Convention to be held October 12-14 in Santa Clara, California.

8.3. Mr. Sumner reported the results of extensive research by ARRL Meeting Planner Lisa Kustosik, KA1UFZ, into suitable venues for the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors in New Orleans. The staff recommendation of the Renaissance New Orleans Pere Marquette Hotel was accepted.

8.4. President Craigie reported on the status of discussions with the National Frequency Coordinators Council (NFCC) concerning a new Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations and distributed the latest draft of a possible MOU. On motion of Mr. Isely, the President was authorized to send the draft to NFCC with an appropriate cover letter.

8.5. President Craigie presented the report of the Centennial Celebration Committee. A Centennial logo has been developed by staff and adopted for use. Suggestions for activities have been solicited and a number of ideas have been offered for consideration by the committee. Planning for the Centennial National Convention in Hartford is proceeding. The Executive Committee discussed the timing of the 2014 Second Board Meeting and concluded that it probably would have to be held right after the National

Convention. There are ongoing discussions of how the Centennial might be celebrated at other conventions throughout the year.

9. Mr. Sumner distributed a chart listing past Board actions on which work has been completed since the July Board Meeting, and those on which work is ongoing. There was a discussion of how task assignments are given to Advisory Committees and the need for clear and timely communication. On motion of Mr. Ahrens the Ad Hoc Microwave Band Planning Committee, which had completed its work, was given a new task of reviewing the band plans for the 5 GHz and 10 GHz bands with a target date for completion of July 2013.

10. On motion of Mr. Fenstermaker the holding of the following ARRL conventions was approved:

2012

Connecticut State, October 7, Meriden, CT

Microwave Update (Specialty), October 18-21, Santa Clara, CA

Atlantic Division (Virtual), November 10

2013

Quartzfest (Specialty), January 15-25, Quartzsite, AZ

Georgia ARES (Specialty), January 19, Forsyth, GA

Mississippi State, January 25-26, Jackson, MS

Oklahoma Section, March 8-9, Claremore, OK

Louisiana State, April 20, Monroe, LA

Central States VHF Society Conference (Specialty), July 25-27, Elk Grove Village, IL

W9DXCC (Specialty), September 20-21, Elk Grove Village, IL

11. On motion of Mr. Isely the affiliation of the following clubs was approved (Category 1 unless otherwise indicated):

Allied Auxiliary Forces Communications Group NFP, Decatur, IL

Central Virginia Repeater Association, Barboursville, VA

Franklin Township Emcom Operators Club, Franklinville, NJ

Georgia Contest Group, Stockbridge, GA (Category 2)

HacDC Amateur Radio Club, Washington, DC

KL7NWR Amateur Radio Club, Homer, AK

New Mexico Search & Rescue Support Team, Albuquerque, NM

Suwannee Amateur Radio Club, Live Oak, FL

Texas Adventist Emergency Communication, Keene, TX

The ARRL now has 2,314 active affiliated clubs. Category 1: 2,107; Category 2: 59; Category 3: 134; Category 4, 14.

12. On motion of Mr. Ahrens the committee recognized 199 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to list their names in *QST*.

13. In other business, the committee discussed possible approaches to legislative representation for the 113th Congress and tasked Mr. Sumner with negotiating a one-year agreement with Chwat & Company. Options for legislative representation, including how increased activity might be funded, will be explored in 2013. Budgeting of division expenses was also discussed briefly.

There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Woolweaver the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully,

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary