DOCUMENT 2

PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July, 2013

In the first half of the year I attended two conventions, in Puerto Rico and Dayton. Also, I participated in a meeting with FEMA leadership in Washington, DC, which was summarized in ODV:21639. I signed the new Memorandum of Understanding with the National Frequency Coordinators Council following its approval by the Board. I participated in the work of the Executive Committee and the Centennial Celebration Committee and attended the spring meeting of the Administration & Finance Committee.

The triennial conference of IARU Region 2 will be held in Cancun, Mexico, in September. The ARRL delegation to this conference will consist of Mr. Sumner, First Vice President Roderick, and me. IAVP Bellows will also attend in his capacity as IARU Region 2 Area B Director. I would like to thank Vice President Frahm and the members of the *Ad Hoc* HF Band Planning Committee for reviewing an extensive input document submitted by the national society of Brazil. Although we do not follow the IARU band plan in the United States, the ARRL participates in the band plan revision process and may comment on items of interest to our members. On the advice of the committee, I have filed a comment on a section of the Brazilian document which – although it did not propose to ban them from the band plan – nevertheless strongly disparaged proprietary digital codes. Mr. Sumner played a key role in developing the comment by drawing upon an earlier IARU Administrative Council resolution which recommended a balanced and moderate view of the role of both open-source and proprietary digital codes in Amateur Radio experimentation.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Mr. Sumner and I were invited to take part in the centenary day ceremonies on July 5 at Bletchley Park in Bletchley, England, home of the RSGB’s National Radio Centre and the site of Britain’s World War II super-secret activity that resulted in breaking the Enigma machine code. The property is now a museum, having been narrowly saved from being demolished and turned into a housing development.

The National Radio Centre (http://www.nationalradiocentre.com/) is an attractive and informative introduction to radio in general and Amateur Radio in particular, and the ham station there was on the air during our visit. I was not able to visit as much of the code-breaking museum as I would have liked, owing to responsibilities to our hosts. Two plaques were formally unveiled in honor of the RSGB and in honor of a group of British hams called Volunteer Interceptors (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-23162846) who copied enemy traffic for Military Intelligence. These plaques were to have been unveiled by Prince Philip, but he had to cancel because of ill health.

The day ended with a banquet, during which I presented RSGB President Bob Whelan G3PJT with a plaque designed by our outstanding ARRL graphic artists and bearing the words of the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee earlier this year. The DARC, which was the only other national society represented at the event, also presented a gift to President Whelan.

The morning after the centenary day, President Whelan invited several leadership officials to join him for a working breakfast. Dave and I were there, along with a representative of the DARC, the President of IARU Region 1, and the Vice President of IARU. The President of IARU was invited but had to leave early to return to Canada. The main topic of conversation was spectrum protection in the era of wireless broadband. European national societies have to contend not only with their national situations but also with European Union positions. We also touched on financial issues. The RSGB is having difficulty dealing with the huge volume of QSL cards coming in from Germany, overwhelming their financial resources for their incoming QSL service. The DARC is very proud of their QSL service benefit for their members. That is going to be a thorny issue for the two societies to work out between them.

All of us agreed that such informal small group conversations are very worthwhile in furthering constructive relations among our societies, and we agreed to seek future opportunities to talk. In that regard, to my mind the opportunities for informal conversations and relationship-building with fellow national society officials at the IARU Region 2 conferences are at least as important as the work done in the formal sessions.

On the nomination of Director Widin and with the approval of the Executive Committee, I have recently conferred the ARRL President’s Award on Michael Sigelman K0BUD, from Golden Valley, Minnesota. He is a long-time ARRL member, a diligent volunteer, and in declining health. Although I spoke with Mike on the phone to notify him of the honor and to thank and congratulate him, the award will actually be presented to him in person by Director Widin and other ARRL leaders in the Dakota Division.

As part of the EC’s discussion of this proposed action, it was pointed out that not all Directors may be especially aware of the President’s Award as a means of recognizing outstanding ARRL members. Including K0BUD, the award has been conferred only six times since the Board created it in 2003. We do not want to dilute the prestige of the award by handing them out like cocktail peanuts, yet conferring it just six times in ten years indicates that we probably have not recognized as many truly deserving people as we might have done. My personal preference is not to confer the award on the obvious ham radio celebrities who have already received every other star in the sky but rather to show appreciation to the people like most of the ones already on the President’s Award list, who have consistently put service first, often outside the public spotlight. That is just my opinion, for what it’s worth. Your nominations for the President’s Award are welcome. To stimulate your thinking, the award terms of reference appear as Appendix A to this report. It is Section 12.18 in the Director Workbook. Please note that nominees do not have to be elderly or in failing health.

In addition to the IARU Region 2 conference, my travel for the remainder of the year includes the EC meeting in Denver plus visits to the New Mexico State Convention and the West Virginia State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN

President

DOCUMENT 2, APPENDIX A

**President’s Award**

The ARRL President's Award was created by the Board in July 2003.

This award is presented to ARRL members who have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio, and whose support of individual programs and/or goals has been above and beyond the normal efforts of ARRL members. It is presented only to those whose truly outstanding efforts have benefited ARRL and/or Amateur Radio operators in the state, the region, or the nation.

1.      Need not be awarded each year.

2.      No more than five awards in any calendar year.

3.      Cost paid from the division budget of the recipient. No travel budget is provided for the award recipient.

4.      Recipient must be nominated by the Director, and approved by the ARRL President and the Executive Committee.

5.      When feasible the ARRL President will present the award at an appropriate national or regional venue.

6.      An individual may receive the award only once.

7.      The award will consist of a plaque and will involve Web and *QST* coverage.

Previous recipients

2004 – Jerry Agliata, W2GLA

2005 – Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD

2005 – Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP

2009 – Frank Bauer, KA3HDO

2012 – Vic Poor, W5SMM

2013 – Michael Sigelman, K0BUD