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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

JANUARY, 2013

My travels and events during the second half of 2012 were as follows:

July 27-28 Oklahoma Section Convention, Oklahoma City, OK

August 11 Ohio State Convention, Columbus, OH

August 18-19 Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville, AL

September 29 Executive Committee meeting – Denver, CO

October 12-14 ARRL National Convention (Pacificon), Santa Clara, CA

November 10 Atlantic Division virtual convention

November 17 A&F Committee meeting – Newington, CT

The Atlantic Division’s first virtual convention was an innovative approach to bringing information to members. I hope Director Edgar will tell us more about members’ reactions to the event. I appreciate having been invited to give the keynote presentation.

Shortly after the January Board meeting, I will attend the Puerto Rico State Convention in Hatillo, PR. I am looking forward to meeting our members there and trust that they will be kind about how long ago it was that I took Spanish in school. This event is a good opportunity to reaffirm that we value all our members, whether they live in the 50 states or elsewhere.

Later in the year, I will attend the Great Lakes Division Convention and serve as head of delegation for the ARRL participation in the triennial IARU Region 2 Conference to be held in Mexico.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their good work this year and also express appreciation for the Centennial Celebration Committee members’ work.

On the Washington front, it looks as though we are in for another bitterly-divided Congress that may spend more time snarling than acting. We will pursue follow-on work on the Hill related to CC&Rs and the (very inadequate) FCC “study” done last year. Getting where we want to be with CC&Rs will not happen fast and it will not be easy. We were able to get the language mandating the study enacted by slipping it under the radar. There will be opposition to the next phase, and we will need all the good strategy we can muster to achieve our objectives. Early in the process will be a document debunking the FCC study, showing how it absolutely avoided coming to grips with the facts. I would rather not have an adversarial relationship with the FCC, because that can come back to haunt us in all sorts of ways, but I don’t see any alternative to attacking this study and the attitude that produced it.

Also an issue in Washington is enforcement, which is not what it used to be and not what it ought to be. This is true with regard to both misbehavior on the air by hams and power line interference to hams. We had some difficulty getting approval for publication of the not-very-controversial QST interview with Laura Smith. This subject will be carefully monitored as we go forward and pressure will be applied to make it clear to the FCC that they are not living up to their responsibilities.

Another Washington-related item is the National Broadband Plan. Several Board members have stepped up to help the EC fulfill its task of monitoring NBP developments. More information about that will be found in the EC report.

Finally, Mike Corey and I were scheduled to meet with FEMA leadership in Washington late last year, but that was cancelled because of Hurricane Sandy’s demands on the agency. I expect that meeting will be rescheduled this year.

The beginning of the new session of Congress is a good time for members to be encouraged to visit their Members of Congress and educate or remind them about the value of Amateur Radio to the communities they represent. Establishing relationships in as many states and districts as possible will be valuable later on, whether we are fighting bad bills or supporting beneficial ones.

When he was chair of the A&F Committee, Walt Stinson W0CP said in a Board meeting that the Board exists to divide up the resources. Period. Having been brought up in the old Board culture that micro-managed badge colors, it took me a long time to come around to accepting that on the whole, Walt was right. Our vision for Amateur Radio should know no limits, but our resources both human and financial are finite. That’s where vision has to be moderated by perspective. Deciding how to divide up the finite resources is deciding what are the right things to do for the ARRL and Amateur Radio. Sometimes it’s dead easy to figure out what the right things are. Sometimes the right things are what our members are giving us hell about lately. Sometimes not. Sometimes the right things are non-obvious, or unpopular, or unrelated to the current noise level.

In the Board and its committees may we continue to do the right things for the ARRL and Amateur Radio, as the lights of conscience, experience, and reason illumine them for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN

President