

**Report of the President  
2009 Second Meeting  
Windsor Locks, CT  
July 17-18, 2009**

It is my pleasure to submit my written report to the ARRL Board. As always, I will be more than happy to discuss any matter with you at any time.

Our schedule for this meeting is aggressive, however if we will focus on policy and the future of ARRL we will complete our work and position ARRL & amateur radio for future growth and presence.

Please allow me to expand on a few topics.

**1. Strategic Planning**

Strategic planning is an on-going activity for an organization like ARRL. It has been a part of our responsibility ever since I came on the board in 1988 and will continue long after I'm gone. How an organization conducts its strategic planning process and implements its subsequent output varies. How we conduct our process may not be the exact process you're accustomed to if you have been involved in strategic planning with another organization. How the process is conducted isn't as important as having a process that works for us by achieving and implementing the desired output. At your direction we have set aside the second day of our meeting solely for the purpose of updating our strategic plan. This session will be facilitated by Bud Couch who has successfully worked with us many times in the past. The Executive Committee spent considerable time in reviewing member comments and preparing a document for us to begin our work with.

Please take this effort seriously. It is important to both ARRL and amateur radio.

**2. Red Cross**

The EC continues to work toward an agreement with the American Red Cross for a new draft MOU that can be presented to you for approval. The process has been long and frustrating at times, however at each step we continue to make progress, albeit small. Many of you have had volunteer involvement with the Red Cross at varying levels, some for many years. I have not but that is simply a personal preference and nothing else. Even so, I believe it is very important for ARRL to maintain a relationship with ARC and to also maintain an MOU. I want to encourage each of you to work toward that end as we continue to resolve the last remaining details.

**3. FCC**

**Enforcement** – In March Chris Imlay and I had a very pleasurable visit with Laura Smith in Gettysburg. A report of that meeting has previously been sent to you and I

believe it is clear that the FCC intends to remain visible in the enforcement of the Part 97 rules.

**BPL** – Having the informed confidence to know our engineering data was right from the very beginning – staff & lab time. Having to fight to prove it in the United States District Court of Appeals - \$300K plus. Forcing the FCC to cough up the facts that they lied and were hiding data that proved we were right? Priceless!

In March General Counsel Imlay and I met with representatives (several of them!) from the FCC's Office of Engineering & Technology (OET) to discuss the Court's decision and to determine when they would respond to it. A report of that meeting has previously been distributed to you.

Yes, "it ain't over till its over", and it isn't over, but the longer we dredge on the more facts come out supportive of our position from the very start. We're waiting to see the results of our Writ to the Court. Chris will have updated information at the meeting.

#### 4. **Capitol Hill**

Our advocacy effort on Capitol Hill continues to be focussed on HR2160. Work is progressing well on the House side and we're working on securing a Senate sponsor for the bill.

It is worth noting Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee once again. We know her desire to introduce our bill in the House was driven by her experience with amateur radio during recent hurricanes in the Houston area. What we didn't know was whether this was a one time impression. Those thoughts were put to rest Field Day weekend when she appeared at a Field Day site and actually operated a GOTA station!

#### 5. **Washington Area Luncheon**

Each year we host a luncheon in Washington for radio amateurs that live and/or work around the Beltway. Many of these hams work in government or private sector jobs that can be (and in fact have been) influential to our efforts. The event this year was held on July 9 at the headquarters of the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington. John Marino, KR1O, is the Vice President, Science & Technology for the NAB and graciously arranged the facilities for us.

This year's luncheon was well attended with about 45 total. Attending on behalf of ARRL other than myself were First Vice President Craigie, CEO Sumner, CTO Rinaldo, General Counsel Imlay and TRO Manager Brennan Price. Brennan updated the group on WRC preparations and Dave presented an HR2160 update.

#### 6. **IARU**

Activity is routine on the IARU front. New IARU President and Vice President VE6SH and LA2RR have officially assumed their duties and are involved in the next WRC preparatory process. IARU President Tim Ellam will be our guest at this meeting.

**7. Conventions**

It was my pleasure to attend the ARRL Mississippi State Convention, the ARRL Idaho State Convention and the ARRL National Convention so far this year as well as a variety of club meetings. My attendance at the Visalia International DX Convention had to be cancelled, thanks to the airline leaving me stranded half way there!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Harrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joel Harrison, W5ZN  
President

**2009 W5ZN Schedule**

July 24-25 Central States VHF Society Conference – Elk Grove, IL

August 7-8 Pacific Northwest DX Convention – Spokane, WA

September 18-19 W9DXCC Convention – Chicago, IL

October 24 Executive Committee Meeting