

July 26, 2014

Steven Wood W1SR  
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Mr. David Sumner K1ZZ  
CEO – ARRL  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111-1494

Dear David,

I just returned from the ARRL Centennial and I'm nearly lost for words. It was simply a fabulous event and for this I must say Thank You to the ARRL. I realize how much planning and work goes into these events and everything came together. Everything was spectacular!

When I received my license at age 12, I didn't know at the time what a great hobby I joined. Along with my Dad, myself and my two brothers ham radio was often the most important topic of conversation in our household. During my teenage years my Dad convinced me to part with some of my allowance so as to become an ARRL life member. I'm sure I complained at the time about having my allowance trimmed back, but I am forever grateful to my Dad for giving me such excellent advice. Life membership in the ARRL is something I enjoy every week as I receive various ARRL bulletins via email and every month as I read QST. It's a must for every amateur operator. I can't rationalize why a licensed Amateur Radio Operator would NOT want to become part of the "glue" that binds our hobby together and teaches us so much about so many things associated with the hobby.

When the Centennial Convention was made public, I watched the ARRL website nearly everyday so that I could register and make my plans early. I signed up for the Leadership track so that I could help out my local club the best I could. This was an excellent choice and I really gained some critical knowledge in how to help our club and make it better than what it is today.

The lunch event on Thursday was wonderful. I must admit that a number of times I could feel some tears coming on every-time Rick mentioned the legacy of ham

radio. He was just a delight to have at the podium. (I am hoping I can find a video of his luncheon speech so that I can hear it again)

Friday I needed to clone myself as there were so many good sessions to attend but I just couldn't be in more than one place at a time. I hardly spent an hour walking around the vendor area as the forums were so good.

During the lunch period on Friday I managed to ride the bus to ARRL Headquarters. I've only visited headquarters once in my life and that was many years ago. My main "mission" at headquarters was to find the brick I had ordered for my Dad as he passed away last year. With Carol's help in the office she brought me right outside and pointed to it as though she put it in the ground all by herself. I think I did shed a tear when I saw that brick. Here I was standing at the ARRL Headquarters which I would have never come to know if it wasn't for my Dad's effort to pass along the legacy of ham radio.

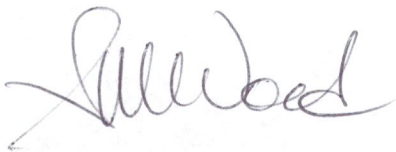
I was really looking forward to Friday night's banquet. Although I was traveling alone, I know that I'd have the opportunity to meet more hams at the dinner table. At table 41, there was a small group of ARRL staff so the conversation was even better. I must compliment the food preparers as well as the dinner was excellent.

Saturday I continued to attend lots of sessions but I also returned to headquarters to operate W1AW. I got a brief timeslot on 30 meter CW which was perfect. I only managed to raise one station but I felt honored to operate W100AW.

Sunday morning came so fast. I wanted this event to continue for another 2 days at least. I learned so much, met so many fellow hams and heard so many positive things about The Best Hobby in Whole World.

Again, many thanks to the ARRL for bringing me the thrill of ham radio and thanks again for allowing me to commemorate my membership in the ARRL at the 2014 Centennial! Well Done!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Steven M. Wood W1SR (formerly WA1QMZ)