

ARRL Central Division Director's Report

January 2008

Controversy, in the Central Division, over amateur radio issues in recent years has been minimal in terms of the number of inquiries, complaints, and "attaboys" I have received. The two biggest issues, regulation by bandwidth and BPL, have each generated about 200-250 emails directly to me as of this date. The most recent ones arrived when the federal appellate court decided in favor of ARRL's appeal of the FCC's ruling on BPL. Amateur radio frequency regulation by bandwidth is still a concern here in the Central Division. A lot of email traffic will be generated when this issue is finally and formally revisited by the ARRL board.

Hamfests and conventions in the Central Division, with a very few exceptions, are dying. I assume the situation in the other ARRL divisions is similar. For several years, I have been privately promoting the idea of multi-sponsor hamfests and now a couple of clubs may be finally moving in this direction.

Based on member input, here are some issues that need attention as soon as possible:

- ◆ Develop precise legal language exempting amateur radio use that can be inserted into proposed legislation that would prohibit cell phone use by vehicle drivers. This is going to be a major threat to amateur radio use in the near future.
- ◆ Update and renew our MOU with the American Red Cross as soon as the issue of mandatory Red Cross background checks is resolved to our satisfaction. This process is taking far too long. Hopefully, this can be resolved before the ground thaws this spring.
- ◆ As soon as the new FCC commissioners are appointed, we should press for resolution of the issues that produced our successful appellate court law suit.
- ◆ If we are going to again try for FCC regulation by bandwidth, we need to more actively pursue amateur radio community participation and "buy-in" of a re-written proposal to the FCC. Without this, we would be wasting ARRL resources if we continue this project.
- ◆ LoTW is starting to generate revenue. LoTW will generate more revenue when it's able to service more radio operating awards such as VUCC, and the CQ equivalent to DXCC, etc.
- ◆ ARRL affiliated and special service clubs should have a higher profile on the ARRL web site. Such a profile must be frequently updated..

I was not going to run for re-election to a 4th term this coming summer. But I do enjoy working with all of you for the betterment of amateur radio and the ARRL... and I would like to see my list (and other's) reduced, if not eliminated, before I leave. This is going to take more than a year, so I plan to run for this job again.

Respectfully Submitted,



George R. Isely, W9GIG
ARRL Central Division Director