

# AD8BC & KC8TSX

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20 September 2008

Mr. Joel Harrison, President  
ARRL  
528 Miller Rd  
Judsonia, AR 72081

Mr. Harrison,

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator since the age of 14, when I received my Novice license in December, 1989. I was, at the time, a member of the ARRL for a few years, until ham radio was placed on the back burner when I went to college. Since then, I have become more and more active, and I re-joined the ARRL a number of years ago. At the time, the primary reason that I re-joined was QST Magazine, a fine publication which I enjoy reading every month. In fact, QST was really all that the ARRL was about to me.

However, beginning in 2002, my views of the ARRL changed. For the better. In 2002, I visited ARRL Headquarters and operated W1AW for the first time, which was a lot of fun. The ARRL tour was eye-opening, as I learned more and more about what the ARRL was all about. I have since visited HQ two more times. In 2005 I attended my first Dayton Hamvention (which was way overdue for me, I might add), and I had the opportunity to visit the first ARRL Expo. At that time, I became very impressed with all of the ARRL staff and departments that were represented. I have since attended Dayton and visited the ARRL Expo each year, and each time I learn more and become more impressed with the job that the ARRL staff does every day. I have also appreciated being able to talk with you face-to-face about a few issues of importance to me.

I know that there are many dissenters out there that claim that the ARRL does not represent amateur radio in the US. I disagree with them. I feel very lucky that there is a national organization that I can *join and* donate to that will go to the government and the courts and fight for the avocation that I love. Not every amateur may agree with what the ARRL on all fronts, but it is better to have one organization that meets most expectations than it would be to have multiple organizations that disagree about trivial issues and cannot provide a unified front to the government.

Mr. Harrison, when I first joined the ARRL in 1989, the only thing that I saw was the magazine, it was my once monthly look that took me beyond my local radio club, beyond my local repeater. As the Internet has evolved, the ARRL has evolved accordingly, using it to provide near-instant access to all ARRL departments, current amateur radio news, and information vital to all hams. The ARRL staff has done an excellent job in using the internet to complement our monthly journal QST. And now, the average ham radio operator can easily discover all about what the ARRL can do for them, other than just publishing a magazine. And since I have discovered what the ARRL has accomplished, from defending us against interference from BPL systems, to fighting for our spectrum, I have decided that I would like to give more.

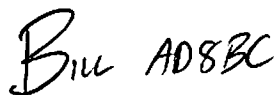
Member of  
the following:



So, I am honored to tell you that today, under separate cover to the ARRL Membership department, I have applied for Life Membership for myself, and Family Life Membership for my wife Kellie, KC8TSX. If the ARRL were merely a "big club" or just a magazine, I would not have done this. I don't take writing a check for this much money lightly. The ARRL has come to mean a lot to me, and I am glad to do this.

Joel, thanks to you and your staff and volunteers for a job well done. I look forward to seeing you once again next May in Dayton.

Sincere 73s,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill AD8BC". The word "Bill" is written in a cursive style, while "AD8BC" is in a more blocky, slightly cursive font.

Bill Cahill, AD8BC