

Atlantic Division Board Report

January 2009

2008 was a busy year for the Atlantic Division.

- Vice Director Abernethy and I are excited to be back for our second term and for the opportunity to continue serving the Atlantic Division ARRL membership.
- The Atlantic Division has some very good Section Managers representing the members in their respective sections. Both Vice Director Abernethy and I are very thankful for the excellent working relationship between the division and the sections.
- There were six conventions and 51 hamfests within the Division last year.
- Fifteen webinars of various topics of interest were presented for our members and an invitation extended to other ARRL Division Directors for their members to join in these webinars. There are already several webinars scheduled for the future and if any Director would like to have their division included with the webinar presentations, please let me know.
- A number of online meetings were held with Division leadership and Section Managers to keep all in the loop about ongoing activities and to answer questions that came up.
- The Atlantic Division Cabinet meeting was held in April. Division and Section Leadership met in the morning. In the afternoon, amateur radio club officers from within the Division were invited to participate with division and section leadership.
- Our Division convention was held in Rochester, NY. We had a special presentation at the convention awards banquet. Vice President Craigie N3KN was presented with Hiram Percy Maxim's key for its return to the ARRL by the Antique Wireless Association where it had been for some time. I feel it important to acknowledge that this presentation came about through our COO, Harold Kramer WJ1B bringing this to light. Atlantic Division Assistant Director Ed Gable K2MP and Antique Wireless Association Curator; and the Antique Wireless Association Board worked on their end to make sure that the Old Man's key came back home.
- Several online surveys for Division leadership were set up to learn the desires and needs of our members. Most notably was the Kosovo DXpedition incident in which ARRL officers and Directors were sent cards by participants who worked the Kosovo DXpedition requesting that we grant DXCC country status to Kosovo. Overwhelmingly, our members who responded to that survey said, "No!"
- The Division Director and Vice Director traveled over 1,000 miles visiting field days sites and kudos to staff for the Field Day locator site. It made our travels easier and put a big plug in for clubs to list their field day activities on the site.
- We are pleased to announce that in December, Pennsylvania's Governor Rendell, signed into law, Act 88, which is a PRB-1 type law. It guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit. I

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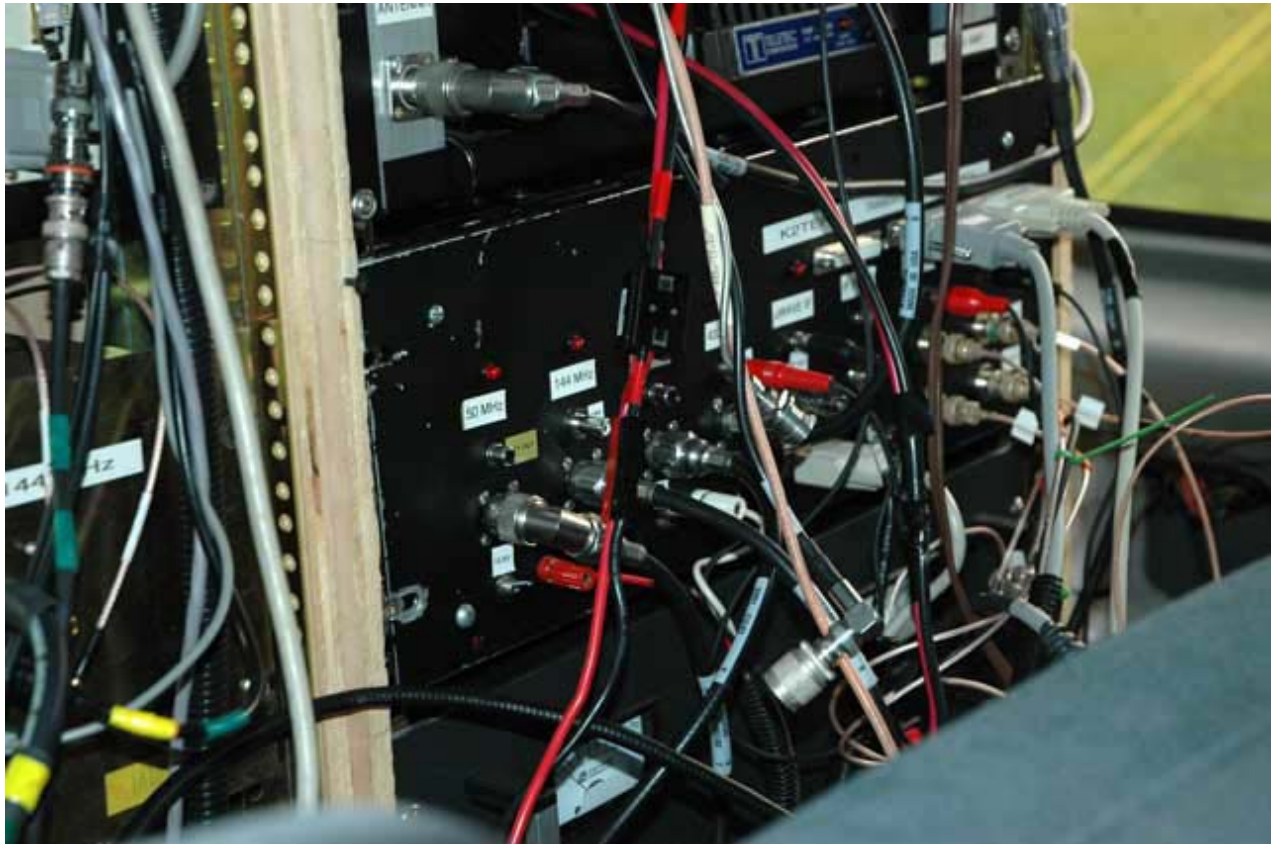
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would like to acknowledge the outstanding support that ARRL Counsel, Chris Imlay W3KD provided to the sponsoring PA state senator's aid in support of this issue.

- Last fall, an offer of an appointment as an Atlantic Division Assistant Director was made to and accepted by a gentleman whose had a little bit of exposure on the national amateur radio level. We are especially pleased to announce that Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH is our newest Assistant Director. We've got some projects within the division that we are excited to have his talents and assistance.
- The annual Atlantic Division Awards continue to draw interest and some exceptional nominations. On April 13th, The Division had the distinct pleasure to present our Atlantic Division Grand Ol' Ham Award to Keith Freeberg N2BEL in a special presentation at his home due to a terminal illness. Keith spent countless hours over the years teaching amateur radio to young people in licensing classes, and also in mentoring these young hams when they got their license. Keith was also very much involved with his club being a strong advocate and participant in the Radio Coaches program. We talked for several hours about amateur radio and how much he enjoyed working with his students and young hams. When I left, Keith had me really pumped up on amateur radio and I'm pretty upbeat about amateur radio regardless. Keith passed away the following day. The Atlantic Division created a new award in tribute to Keith's devotion to amateur radio education and mentoring:
 - **KEITH FREEBERG N2BEL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR Award**
 - This award is named after Keith Freeberg N2BEL who was very involved in amateur radio and amateur radio training in the Western New York Section. Keith had a unique ability to teach amateur radio to people of all ages. He had an affinity for working with young people and was very involved with one of the few Radio Coaches programs. It is very fitting that this award is dedicated to his memory and that the successful candidate demonstrate an ability to successfully train people in amateur radio. The emphasis is on quality of training and not pure number of people trained.
- Below are some photographs of our Field Day travels
 - Photos 1 & 2 – a mobile contester's set up and his mobile antenna
 - Photo 3 – young people operating on Field Day
 - Photo 4 – a Syracuse radio club Field Day set up and staff
 - Photo 5 – a PVC device made to shoot the ends of a dipole antenna rope over trees so that the dipole antenna can be hoisted up for operation. We were amazed to see how accurate this device was.

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