

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division

Report to the Board

January 1, 2016

It was exciting to wake up on New Year's Day to HF bands teeming with activity, as the first of many hams across the country wasted no time traveling to and activating national parks, monuments, trails, seashores, preserves and other units for ARRL's National Parks on the Air event. Despite widely varying HF conditions, the enthusiasm on the bands was nevertheless reminiscent of the first hours of ARRL's Centennial QSO Party, which is a real treat to experience again. 2016 is off to a wonderful start for both amateur radio and the League.

It is my pleasure to brief the Board family on the status of ARRL's Rocky Mountain Division:

- Membership continues to climb within the Rocky Mountain Division, thanks to the diligent work and visibility of our volunteers, clubs, and leadership. As of this writing, posted statistics show that membership within the Division is up +4.1% compared to the year prior.
- We continue to take every opportunity to promote H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 to our membership via Division-wide emails, in person at hamfests, and on the air, urging them to write, email, and visit their Representatives and Senators to solicit their support for these crucial pieces of legislation. ARRL's letter generator was front-and-center at the ARRL New Mexico State Convention, Rocky Mountain Division Convention, and other hamfests around the Division and was worth its weight in gold. A hearty thank you to everyone involved, at all levels of the League, for the energy they've put into achieving the milestones we've achieved with these bills so far.
- We continue to strengthen our relationship with the United States Congress's third and newest amateur radio operator, Rep. Steve Pearce KG5KIQ (R-NM2). Pearce reached out to New Mexico Section Manager Ed James KA8JMW and I last July to inquire about many things amateur radio and didn't waste time becoming a member of our amateur radio community. We remain in touch with him about equipment, amateur radio activity around New Mexico, as well as the Amateur Radio Parity Act.
- We are pleased that Rocky Mountain Division member and executive recruiter Gary Buxton K0GVT added substantial value to ARRL's CEO Selection Criteria Committee. The forthcoming retirement of Dave Sumner K1ZZ will no doubt present both great challenge and opportunity for our organization. We, the Board, will soon be responsible for selecting an outstanding chief executive to lead and manage ARRL; equally as important, we will also be responsible for facilitating an effective and smooth transition between Dave and his soon-to-be-named successor. All eyes – those of our members, the greater amateur community, national societies abroad, *and most especially our nearly 100 dedicated and, no doubt, understandably anxious employees at 225 Main Street* – will be on us as we make one of the most significant and

organization-defining decisions to be made while serving on our League's Board. My sincere thanks to the members, consultants, and staff assistants of our CEO Selection Committee who spent many hours on our behalf to review the qualifications of the 70+ individuals who applied, interviewed the top candidates, and are nearing the completion of their work.

- Our Division was fortunate to have hosted a few high-profile amateur radio events in 2015:
 - W1AW/5 was QRV from New Mexico, serving as ARRL's Headquarters station in the 2015 IARU HF World Championships the weekend of July 11;
 - the 2015 Central States VHF Society Conference occurred July 23-26 in Denver, Colorado; and
 - the USA / IARU Region 2 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championships took place on August 24-30 at the 3,300-acre Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch near Elbert, Colorado
- ARRL members in Wyoming elected a new Section Manager last spring, Jack Mitchell N7MJ, who is doing a great job in his new leadership role.
- New Mexico's section manager, Bill Kauffman W5YEJ, resigned last June, citing the need to devote more time to family. Ed James KA8JMW was appointed to fill the remainder of his term. Ed has served as New Mexico Assistant Section Manager for the past three and a half years and serves our Division as an Assistant Director with a focus on emerging technologies. He hit the ground sprinting, quickly accomplishing a number of things that are resulting in greater Section-level visibility and activity across the Land of Enchantment. Ed was elected to a full term as New Mexico's Section Manager, which commenced January 1.
- Vice Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD and I enjoyed every opportunity to be in the field to interact with League members and receive their input/ideas/concerns. On top of numerous club meetings, we attended the following events in 2015:
 - Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Bryce Canyon, UT)
 - Central States VHF Society Conference (Denver, CO)
 - ARRL New Mexico State Convention (Albuquerque, NM)
 - Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs meeting (Denver, CO)
 - Albuquerque Winter Tailgate (Albuquerque, NM)
 - Socorro Hamfest (Socorro, NM)
 - Montrose ARC Tailgate Party (Delta, CO)
 - New Mexico TechFest (Albuquerque, NM)
- Vice-Director Allen and I continue to conduct a joint IRLP/Echolink based monthly Rocky Mountain Division net to provide yet another avenue for us to interact with members, pass pertinent information, and receive input/ideas/concerns from across our large Division. The net continues to grow with Section Managers consistently checking in as well to similarly take advantage of interacting with members on the air.

- We continue to provide monthly Division-wide email updates containing timely information, announcements, calls to action, and recognitions to our membership.
- Our Division website (www.RockyMountainDivision.org) continues to serve as a source for timely information, announcements, calls to action, and recognitions for our members.
- Our 2015 Rocky Mountain Division award recipients, nominated by their peers and judged by our Section Managers and a member of their choosing, were recently announced: George Weber KA0BSA of Broomfield, Colorado (Division Ham of the Year), Devin Conn KD0YZO of Colorado Springs, Colorado (Division Young Ham of the Year), and Jim Andrews KH6HTV of Boulder, Colorado (Division Technical Achievement Award). Each were recognized at the 2015 Rocky Mountain Division Convention.
- The 2015 Rocky Mountain Division Convention was held at Ruby's Inn just outside of Bryce Canyon National Park, hosted by the Utah section. Hosting the convention rotates amongst the Sections within the Division. 2016's convention will be hosted by the Colorado section at Keystone Resort, just a few miles from Breckenridge. Details about this event can be found at <https://hamconcolorado.org>
- We are fortunate to have 271 of our members serving in a variety of appointed Field Organization roles led by their Section Managers. These dedicated individuals are the proverbial rubber and road interface of the League, and do an outstanding job.

It remains an honor and privilege for Vice-Director Dwayne Allen and I to represent and lead our dedicated members, and to serve with each of you on the Board. We wish you a very prosperous New Year, both on and off the air.

Sincere 73,

Brian Mileschosky N5ZGT
Rocky Mountain Division Director