

**Report of the President
2010 Second Meeting
Windsor Locks, CT
July 15-16, 2010**

It is my pleasure to submit my written report to the ARRL Board. As always, I will be more than happy to discuss any matter with you at any time.

2009 was a year filled with a lot of success for ARRL but as is always the case it was also met with a number of challenges. The most prominent one is at the heart of amateur radio and one that was the driving force for many to obtain a license. Emergency communication has been an area where we not only have fulfilled one of our purposes but have saved property and, more importantly, lives in pursuit of a desire many of us share. Whether the Amateur Radio Service should be primarily an emergency communication service is one of intense debate but one we must manage effectively in order to remain "amateur" and non-commercial while still providing the same level of public service we have for many years. In your debate for consideration of ARRL's position regarding the Part 97 rules, I urge you to proceed cautiously and most important fair to all sides to ensure we remain a separate, unique radio service that won't become absorbed into another service in the future. Amateur radio has many facets and many people obtained licenses for a wide range of reasons, and the impact on all interests must be weighed in your final decision.

It is obvious, contrary to the soap box of the doom & gloom crowd, that interest in Amateur Radio is still in great shape. 2009 was a year where we exceeded our goal of 30,000 new licensees and ARRL membership grew right at 1500 members. Our publication & advertising sales were strong for the year and provided for a solid financial result that will allow us to continue to fund a number of initiatives that support and defend the Amateur Radio Service. I would be remiss if I didn't give this credit to the staff that works daily in Newington to implement the policy of the Board but most importantly recognizes that in order to achieve a successful financial year costs must be watched very closely. Staff has worked this year to reduce our operating cost significantly in a number of areas and they are to be commended for that. There is one area, however, that deserves mention that they have no control over. That area is Board level expenses and mandated programs. The money we spend as a board in our divisions and for board meetings, or programs we implement as a Board, are beyond their control and we must continue to be prudent in our spending decisions. We must also continue to allow the staff to be creative in their thinking and ability to try new things without fear of micro-management from our policy level Board. We have done well in this area over the past four years and the results are proof of its success!

Please allow me to expand on a few topics.

1. Red Cross

The EC has continued to work on the American Red Cross draft MOU. The EC, unfortunately, has been unable to reach agreement on a document that could be sent

to you with a recommendation for approval. The document will be sent to the Board, without an EC recommendation, in order for you to discuss the matter and decide how you want to move forward.

Many of you have had volunteer involvement with the Red Cross at varying levels, some for many years. I have not but that is simply a personal preference and nothing else. Even so, I believe it is very important for ARRL to maintain a relationship with ARC and to also maintain an MOU. I want to encourage each of you to work toward that end in your debate and come to the best agreement possible for amateur radio.

2. FCC

With the exception of the debate on 97.113, things have been relatively quiet at the FCC and there is nothing to report beyond the previous email in December detailing the meetings that occurred late last year.

3. Capitol Hill

We have been very successful on the Hill during this Congress in pursuing our bill in the House and in the Senate. Thanks to the efforts of Chwat & Co., and your support in generating constituent letters, we have moved the bills forward. Chwat will continue to work daily on the hill to bring these bills to adoption and I urge you to continue to be responsive to his requests for support when needed.

4. IARU

The new IARU officer team has now been in place for over seven months and continues to stay on top of international activity. This year ARRL attended, with delegate status, the IARU Region 3 conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. Daily reports plus an extensive final report was sent to you via ODV in October at the conclusion of the conference. It is quite pleasing to see the positive change that has occurred in that region in the three years since their last conference. They now have a very active and productive board and are making improvements in many countries in the region. One such place is Viet Nam. Amateur radio activity there has been sparse, and the level of government support has been lacking. JARL has been hard at work behind the scenes to change that, and the Region 3 conference this year selected, after a formal presentation by the Viet Nam society (with the government's support), Ho Chi Minh City as the location of the next Region 3 Conference. You may also have noticed an increase in on-the-air activity from Viet Nam as well. A DXpedition just concluded and another large, well organized DXpedition is scheduled for April. This is a very positive move in a geographic region where the Amateur Radio Service needs support, and ARRL's support of this effort must continue as it benefits our members and the radio amateurs in the United States in gaining support for our initiatives at World Radio Conferences.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of ARRL's roll internationally. Until you are directly involved in the international arena you cannot really grasp the respect ARRL's has from our sister societies for supporting IARU and leading the work they do. They all recognize it would be impossible without our involvement. Why is this

important to radio amateurs here at home? It is very simple with just one of many examples. The Amateur Radio Service could have very easily lost the 40 meter band at WRC-03 to commercial broadcast or government interests. That would not have set well at all with ANY radio amateur in the U.S. and probably would have triggered a revolt like we haven't seen before (even with incentive licensing). It was ONLY through the world wide coordinated effort, led by ARRL, that a successful outcome was produced. You didn't see any of our naysayers working here, you didn't see any of the anti-ARRL crowd supporting this and you most certainly didn't see any of the other organizations that criticize us supporting this work. You saw the IARU, led by ARRL, work tirelessly, with an effort that began long ago, in order to be successful.

NEVER forget that!

5. **Final Thoughts**

Kim and I are looking forward to a number of things we've dreamed of doing for several years that we now have the opportunity to pursue. We're both excited about it.

My email to you on October 25 advised you of my decision to retire and the reason behind it. 27 years of volunteer service to ARRL is a long time. When I began, it was with the thought that when it came time to retire I would recognize it and do so without any regrets. That time has arrived and I am extremely pleased with what we have done over that time, especially the past four years I have served as President. I would be remiss to leave you with the impression that the entire 27 years was filled with fun & excitement. It was not. There were many times where frustration, disappointment and disgust took hold but in recollection those times were few and the great times and success stories exceed them exponentially!

One of my favorite movies is the mini-series "Lonesome Dove". What an adventure! Near the end of the movie when Gus McCrae's (Robert DuVall's character) time is up, his last comment to his life long buddy Woodrow Call (Tommy Lee Jones) is "It was a hell of a party!" And so have been the past 27 years. I'm only retiring from the ARRL Board, though, and not leaving amateur radio. As I said in my October 25 email, I will still be active on the air and I will still see you at hamfests. I have had the honor of being asked by Tim Duffy, K3LR, to be the VHF Contest Professor at this year's Contest University and I am extremely excited about it. I have also been asked to present, at the Dayton Hamvention® Antenna Forum, the paper I co-authored with my good friend Bob McGwier, N4HY, on the 8 Circle Vertical Array for Low Band Receiving which will also appear in the March/April issue of QEX. I still have a number of great, fun things to do and I am excited about them and I am excited about the future of amateur radio.

In my report to you as First Vice President for the 2006 Annual Meeting, which also appeared in the March 2006 QST "*It Seems to Us...*" I shared with you the passion I have for amateur radio and wireless communication. I still have that passion...it hasn't waned one bit! As I said in my October 25 email to you, if I can ever be of assistance to you in anyway, all you have to do is ask.

I will leave you with one bit of advice, the same bit I have given on many occasions from HPM, to make sure everything we undertake is 100% for the general good!

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Harrison, W5ZN
President

The Reason Why

By Hiram Percy Maxim, President, A.R.R.L.

(Reprinted from QST for September, 1927)

Sitting back in the old armchair, with the last issue of QST read from cover to cover and with everybody else in the house asleep hours ago, I fell to thinking of amateur radio today and amateur radio of other days. As the blue smoke curls slowly upward from the old pipe, visions of early A.R.R.L. Directors' Meetings float before me. I see those old-timers grappling with problems of organization, with QRM, with trunk-line traffic and rival amateur leagues. I see sinister commercial and government interests at work seeking to exterminate amateur radio. They were dark days, those early ones.

To-day I see Amateur Radio an institution, recognized by our American government and on the road to recognitions by the other governments of the world. I see a fine, loyal A.R.R.L. membership of 20,000 standing shoulder to shoulder and believing in each other and still blazing the way in radio communication. I see a rapidly developing world-wide brotherhood taking shape, in the form of our I.A.R.U.

And as the last embers of the old pipe turn to grey ash, I ask how it all came about; that the A.R.R.L. should have succeeded and all its opponents failed. The answer is clear. It is because with our opponents there was always some kind of a selfish motive to be served for someone, whereas in our A.R.R.L. we insisted from the beginning that no selfish motive for anybody or anything should ever prevail. Everything that A.R.R.L. undertakes must be 100% for the general good. That policy bred loyalty and confidence. With those two things an organization can prosper forever.