

**Report of the President  
2007 Second Meeting  
Windsor, CT  
July, 2007**

I am pleased to submit this report detailing my view of our future direction, observations and activity during the first half of 2007. I'll be happy to address any part of this report during, or prior to our meeting. As always, I'm honored to serve as your President and I welcome any input or comments you may have.

**1. Advocacy**

**Congress** – Our advocacy effort in Washington is focused around working key congressional representatives that serve on the House Energy & Commerce Committee, the group that will be tasked with taking initial action on our bill. To date, we have been successful in raising the level of understanding of HR462, thanks primarily to letters of support from our grassroots effort as a preliminary or follow up to in-person meetings by Chwat & Co.

On May 9 Dave and I met with John Chwat at the office of Chwat & Co. in Arlington, VA to review and discuss our legislative agenda. We outlined a 60-day plan for the May 15 to July 15 time frame to build on our plan developed in January for our BPL bill as well as our antenna legislation. The intent was to focus an increased effort to obtain additional co-sponsors for HR 462, but also concentrate on key Representatives that sit on the House Energy & Commerce Committee.

Later that afternoon Dave, John, Janet and I made the very short trip from Chwat & Company to the Hill where I had a previously scheduled meeting with Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor. My purpose was to further discuss the Senator's introduction of a Senate version of HR 462. We had been working with the Senator's staff for a few weeks, and progress had stalled. I spoke briefly with Senator Pryor and his Chief of Staff, Bob Russell but spent the majority of our 20 minutes with Senator Pryor's legislative assistant.

In June, Senator Pryor filed our BPL bill in the Senate, S.1629. This was the successful completion of an effort that had been ongoing for a little over four months that has involved the activity of a variety of people. Another important fact about Senator Pryor's involvement is that Entergy, the major utility in Arkansas and many parts of the U.S., operates a BPL system to collect electric usage data (no subscriber base) and has been very cooperative with radio amateurs from the very beginning about preventing interference to amateur radio stations and actually bought off and supports the language of the bill.

Earlier this week, Senator Crapo (R-ID) has become our first cosponsor of S. 1629 – which is great because the bill now is officially “bipartisan.”

**FCC** – Cant’ live with ‘em, can’t live without ‘em!

Really, no more needs to be said. While I understand everyone’s frustration with the Commission, I can assure you no one becomes more furious and upset than I do. With that understanding, you should know I understand your dissatisfaction with the Wireless Bureau over our regulation by bandwidth petition and subsequent ex-parte meeting and the events that led to our withdrawal of the petition. The event in January that prompted our effort to attempt a resolution in this matter was an honest offering by the FCC. You may disagree with that, but it is a fact. How we handled the matter and the resulting outcome was unfortunate, as our intent was noble, honest and undertaken with the best interest of Amateur Radio at heart. Regardless, it became a disaster. That’s not the FCC’s fault. We shouldn’t expect anything proactive from them in today’s regulatory environment outside the good faith offer they made. The failed effort is my fault. In hindsight it most certainly could have been handled much better, but that did not become clear until the matter was out of control and we were mired in quicksand. I continue to believe in this effort as it is good for Amateur Radio, but I must sincerely apologize to the Board for my mishandling of the situation as your President.

Aside from this specific matter, issues on the FCC front have been quite in the post 04-140/05-235 days aside from our BPL issue. That will be addressed separately by Chris in his report.

## **2. International**

International matters have taken a much larger part of my time so far this year due to the timing of a number of related items.

**IARU** – I am currently working on two IARU matters:

**IARU Officer Nominations** - On May 14-15 I attended the IARU Administrative Council (AC) meeting in Boston, MA as reported to you on May 22 via arrl-odv. The IARU AC is comprised of the IARU President, Vice President, Secretary and two representatives from each IARU region, usually the Region President/Chairman and one other officer. The AC meeting deals with a number of international matters, including preparation and work at WRC’s.

My purpose in attending was, as President of the society serving as the International Secretariat, to open the consultative process for the next round of IARU officer elections. IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, will be retiring at the end of this term.

The current term expires on May 9, 2009. The preferred period for the initiation of discussions (between 18 and 14 months prior) is November 2007 to March 2008. However, because no meeting of the Administrative Council is scheduled

or anticipated to be scheduled during that period, and because the 2008 meeting may well not be held prior to 9 May 2008, the initiation of discussions had to take place in Boston.

So, the process is now open and discussion has already started with many of the member societies within IARU.

While the nominations won't be firm for at least another year, I will tell you that the current "front runner" for President is IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH. You will have an opportunity to meet Tim, if you haven't already, at our meeting as he will be present to give you an update on WRC-07 preparations.

In addition to the AC meeting, I had the opportunity to discuss the process further with representatives of our sister societies present at Ham Radio 2007 in Friedrichshafen, Germany in June.

**IARU Region II Conference** - In September, IARU Region II will hold its triennial conference in Brasilia, Brazil. ARRL is the major society in Region II. I will head the ARRL delegation to the conference that will consist of First Vice President Craigie and Director Frank Butler. International Affairs Vice President Stafford will attend in his capacity as IARU Region II President. Executive Vice President Sumner and Chief Technology Officer Rinaldo will attend as support staff and Dave will also have responsibilities as IARU Secretary. Technical Relations Specialist John Siverling will attend for staff support for a couple of reasons. John speaks fluent Spanish which is always beneficial and one of his responsibilities in the Technical Relations Office is to interface with CITEL, the communications arm of the Organization of American States, the area contained in IARU Region II.

A regional conference is a week long occurrence. Sunday is usually a day for arrivals and registration. The meeting officially opens on Monday morning with a plenary session that includes "general" business and speeches from various local political figures, Amateur Radio representatives and sometimes an ITU representative.

The conference then allows each representative society to assign its delegates to committees. There are four standing committees at an IARU conference; Committee A, B, C and an Election Committee. Committee A deals with administrative and financial matters, Committee B is for HF matters and Committee C addresses VHF/UHF topics. The Election Committee conducts and oversees the nomination and election process for IARU Region II Directors and Officers.

Prior to the conference each society may submit papers on various topics that will later be assigned to a committee. The committees conduct their business on Tuesday & Wednesday.

Thursday is considered a “day off” for everyone except the committee chairperson and secretary! This day is reserved for completion and distribution of committee reports and recommendations. This is not a simple task, as each report must be prepared in English and Spanish and getting the translation right can sometimes be time consuming.

On Friday the conference convenes once again in plenary session to receive the reports of the committees and take action on any recommendations.

The election is a week long process. Nominations are submitted in writing to the Election Committee from the societies. Region II is divided into seven areas with a Director elected from each Area. The geographical content of each Area is:

Area A	Canada & Bermuda
Area B	United States
Area C	Mexico & Western Caribbean
Area D	Central America
Area E	Northern South America & Eastern Caribbean
Area F	Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador & Peru
Area G	Argentina, Chile, Paraguay & Uruguay

A society may nominate any person for an Officer position; however a society may only nominate a person for Director from within their respective Area. This gives ARRL the luxury, since we are the only member society in Area B, of deciding who our Director will be. For many years Frank Butler served as the Area B Director. In recent years we decided the responsibility could be handled by the ARRL International Affairs Vice President, therefore Rod Stafford has been the Area B Director for several years now.

After the nomination process is complete, the Election Committee will hold an open meeting to provide those nominated an opportunity to submit a written statement or CV to the delegates or to speak to the group. Those nominated are then free to solicit votes from the member societies for the election which is held on Friday during the open plenary session by secret ballot, just like our ARRL Officer and EC election is held.

Each Society present has one vote. Even though ARRL may officially have three or four delegates present we are only permitted one vote in the plenary session that is cast by the head of the delegation. Delegates in a committee, however, are free to vote and actively participate in the development of committee recommendations.

One topic that always receives considerable attention is emergency communications. With Region II's location being in an extremely active hurricane

zone our need to have adequate communications networks in place is always of great concern.

The future of Amateur Radio is also a focus. Some of the countries in Region II are suffering great hardship due to a decline in Amateur Radio activity.

International Affairs Vice President Stafford will of course update you on other international matters as well as IARU Vice President Tim Ellam who will speak to us about the ITU and WRC07 preparations.

### **3. Conventions**

It has been my pleasure to attend a number of conventions at your invitation. Since January 2007 I attended the following conventions:

1. February 10-11 Orlando Hamfest - Orlando, FL
2. March 30-31 AES Superfest – Milwaukee, WI
3. April 27-28 Southeast VHF Society Conference – Atlanta, GA
4. May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention – Dayton, OH
5. June 1-3 Atlantic Division Convention – Rochester, NY

A brief report on each of the above trips has previously been reported to you via the ODV reflector. My current radio related schedule is attached at the end of this report for your information.

### **4. Committees**

In addition to the Executive Committee meeting in March, I attended the Programs & Services Committee meeting in April. Chairman Bellows and the committee have been working a heavy agenda and bringing a number of items to conclusion. Their work will of course be presented in the committee report.

A lot of activity on our ad-hoc committees takes place in between board meetings, yet we hear nothing until the board meeting. Why is this? If you are the Chairman of an ad-hoc committee and have a meeting or teleconference in between board meetings, type up a brief report and send it to ODV. There's no reason for this not to happen.

### **7. Personal Observations**

Regulation by Bandwidth is an issue whose time is right, will be good for Amateur Radio's future, and will work well for all involved. Unfortunately, getting that message to the general amateur population has been quite difficult for a number of reasons. One problem is some hams just simply resist change. They view any proposal of this nature as a means to disrupt their little corner of amateur radio as they know it. Others believe the promotion of new technology is fine, just "not in my backyard." They support the development of new technology as long as it is "somewhere else". Others just simply misunderstood the entire concept for a number of reasons; they felt we were promoting one particular mode over another, either by perceiving we were promoting Winlink or by

thinking we were “furthering the elimination of CW”. Some of the comments and perceptions that exist are just ludicrous and unfounded.

Yet, at in-person events and forums this has not been an issue. I have heard no comments at all, not even at Dayton. I brought the subject up to a pack room with around 150 people during the forum at the AES Superfest and not one negative voice was spoken.

The FCC’s public record, however, cannot be overlooked. There has been vocal opposition to this issue. The reasoning for the negative comments varies. Some believe we didn’t or don’t do a good job at marketing our proposals. Others believe the process was flawed. Whatever your belief, you cannot contend that we did not take time with this petition and provide an opportunity to obtain as much input as possible. Regardless of what you believe we did or did not due from an Officer level or from the staff at HQ, it is your responsibility as a Director to inform, educate and solicit input from the members in your division. To be honest, some of you did an excellent job of this but sadly others did absolutely nothing! One thing is for sure; the entire evolution we have been through the past seven months has raised public awareness of the issue and those who weren’t aware of it before, are now.

So where does that leave us?

We now have a much better understanding of what the concerns are surrounding regulation by bandwidth. When we withdrew our petition, we made it clear that we wanted to resubmit it sometime in the future. On May 9, Dave, Chris, Paul and I met at our Fairfax office to review the matter and develop a new draft. We spent most of the day reviewing the opposition, looking at options and preparing a draft on how to proceed. We all believe it is an excellent proposal that addresses all of the concerns that have been voiced.

At that time, it was my intention to prepare the document, send it to the Officers and the EC for comment and then to the board. As time went on, every time I would sit down to prepare the draft there was something in my mind that kept saying “don’t rush this. Its good, but don’t rush”. I would sit at my desk and just couldn’t get started with it. Time moved on and a number of you called and discussed a time line with me. Dave and I discussed it on a number of occasions as well. My delay in typing it up and sending it to you was in no way an intent keep it from you. There was just an overwhelming thought presence that kept telling me not to rush this issue.

I’ll be very frank with you. What kept bugging me about pushing forward with this is the timing. Things are going very well at the moment with ARRL and Amateur Radio. I’m quite sensitive about stirring up a controversial issue that might impact that positive movement. Don’t misunderstand me; I’m not afraid of moving forward with this, I’m just struggling with the right timeline.

So, after much thought on this matter, including a few sleepless nights, I believe our best timeline is to review the new draft at this meeting. I do not want any action on the draft.

We will present it to you; we can discuss it, debate it, ask questions, etc. and take as much time as we need at this meeting to talk about it to make sure **we all understand it**, but not do anything formal with it. I would like for you to take it home, talk to your members and cabinets about it, present it at forums, etc. and answer any and all questions they may have. At the January 2008 meeting, we will allow time to formally decide what to do with this matter. If at that time you are not ready to move forward, we won't.

Dave, Chris, Paul and I believe you will like the draft, but there is no rush, requirement, or expectation whatsoever that you take any formal action at this meeting other than to fully understand the issue. What we do is totally up to you, the ARRL Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Harrison, W5ZN  
President

### **W5ZN Current Schedule**

#### **2007**

July 27-29 Central States VHF Society Conference – San Antonio, TX

August 11-12 ARRL UHF Contest – W5ZN

August 11-16 Unavailable - Vacation

August 17-19 ARRL National Convention – Huntsville, AL

September 9-15 IARU Region II Conference – Brasilia, Brazil

September 22-23 Great Lakes Division Convention - Cleveland, OH

September 29-30 RAC Special Event – Signal Hill, St. Johns, Newfoundland

October 6 EC Meeting – Location TBD

October 18-20 FMRE 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, Acapulco, Mexico

November 3-4 ARRL Sweepstakes CW – W5ZN

November 9-11 Midwest Division Convention – Lebanon, MO

December 1-2 ARRL 160 Meter Contest – W5ZN

December 15 – January 12, 2008 – **NO PUBLIC EVENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED**

#### **2008**

January 17-20 ARRL Board Meeting

February 8-10 Orlando Hamcation

February 16-17 ARRL International DX Contest, CW – W5ZN

April 3-7 Unavailable - vacation

June 14-15 ARRL VHF Contest – W5ZN

July 16-20 ARRL Board Meeting

July 25-27 Central States VHF Society Conference – Wichita, KS

Sept 26-28 Unavailable – Personal Commitment