**July 2015 ARRL Board Meeting Actions**

* Approved the creation of the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event for 2016 in celebration of the centennial of the National Park Service.
* Agreed to furnish a complimentary Special Service Club pennant to every ARRL affiliated club that achieves SSC status.
* Selected Anna Veal, W0ANT, as the recipient of the 2014 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for youth in recognition of her involvement, service, and leadership throughout the Amateur Radio community.
* Bestowed the 2014 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award on David L. Hershberger, W9GR, for his work in reducing audio distortion in single sideband (SSB) transmission as described in his article “Controlled Envelope Single Sideband” in the November/December 2014 issue of *QEX*.
* Recognized the principals and developers of Broadband-Hamnet™ for their contributions to microwave mesh networking with the 2014 ARRL Microwave Development Award.
* Awarded Randy Thompson, K5ZD, the 2014 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award for outstanding volunteer public relations success over many years, and especially for achieving national media coverage of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship.
* Set the basic dues rate for ARRL membership at $49.00 per year effective January 1, 2016.
* Adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan as recommended in the July 2015 report of the HF Band Planning Committee. (The only major change from the proposals in the April 2015 *QST* article is to set the upper RTTY/data limit at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.)
* Authorized the preparation of a petition for FCC rulemaking to effect the following changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands, consistent with majority opinion among more than 1,000 responses to an online survey:
  + Shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz;
  + Restore frequency privileges at 3600 – 3650 kHz to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees;
  + Shift the automatically controlled digital station (ACDS) band segment from 3585 – 3600 kHz to 3600 – 3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and Region 2 band plans; and
  + Authorize Technician and Novice licensees to use RTTY/data emissions in their 15 and (contingent on expansion of the band) 80 meter band segments.
* In view of Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, having set a target date for retirement of May 1, 2016, approved an initial notice of the employment opportunity for his successor including a summary of the position. Additional information will be forthcoming.
* Approved the preliminary recommendations of the ARRL Strategic Planning Working Group and authorized the continuation of the group’s activities with final recommendations due at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Board.
* Instructed the Secretary to cast an affirmative vote on IARU Proposal No. 254 for the admission to the IARU of Shoqata e Radio Amatoreve te Kosoves (SHRAK). (An earlier vote on the admission of this society to represent Kosovo in the IARU failed by a narrow margin and would have passed had votes that arrived after the deadline been counted. Accordingly, IARU Region 1 requested a reballoting.)
* Authorized the holding of an ARRL National Convention in Orlando, Florida, February 12-14, 2016, in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of Orlando HamCation.
* Directed the CEO, staff and General Counsel to develop and, under the supervision of the Executive Committee, execute a plan to improve timely and visible enforcement in the Amateur Radio Service, most notably in the areas of RF interference from power lines and Part 15 and 18 lighting devices and malicious interference to HF net operations and VHF/UHF repeaters.