

Midwest Division Director's Report
The American Radio Relay League
2011 Second Meeting of the Board of Directors – July, 2011

During the past six months, Vice Director Rod Blocksome KØDAS and I traveled to several ARRL events, including the ARRL Nebraska State Convention in Lincoln, the Dayton Hamvention, and the ARRL National Convention in Plano, Texas. In addition, I attended the Ararat Shrine Hambash in Kansas City, and Rod visited the Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association Hamfest in Des Moines, Iowa. Each of us also attended and spoke at a number of Amateur Radio club meetings.

Since the last ARRL Board meeting, we are pleased to welcome four new ARRL Affiliated Clubs in the Midwest Division. Rod and his fellow Iowa hams must be doing something right in their support of ARRL!

- Hiawatha Amateur Radio Club, of Perry, Iowa
- Northwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club, of Sanborn, Iowa
- Tall Corn Amateur Radio Club, of Boone, Iowa
- Rural Iowa Amateur Radio Club, of Oelwein, Iowa

The Midwest Division's ARRL Affiliated Club Competition will end on July 31, 2011. <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/pdfs/clubcompetitionrules2011.pdf>. Since March 15, this "friendly" competition has promoted an increase in the number of new hams, license upgrades, and ARRL membership. Prizes will be awarded to the top club in the Division and in each Section at the Midwest Division Convention in Cedar Rapids on August 6, 2011. This competition is the brainchild of Vice Director Rod KØDAS. And a special thanks to Bob Inderbitzen and Diane Petrilli at ARRL HQ for providing advice and nice gift certificate prizes. As I mentioned in my last report, I believe that as we pursue our Second Century Campaign for ARRL's endowment fund, we should also focus on substantially growing our ARRL membership numbers. Membership is as vital as the endowment to ARRL's success in its Second Century.

I continue to publish a monthly Midwest Division Newsletter, which is posted on the Midwest Division's website at <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/>.

Rod and I are looking forward to attending a number of conventions in the Midwest Division this summer and fall. They include:

- The WØDXCC Operating Specialty Convention on July 23, 2011 in Leavenworth, KS (suburban Kansas City) <http://w0dxcc.com>. First Vice President Rick Roderick K5UR, Vice President Bruce Frahm KØBJ, MVP Manager Dave Patton NN1N, and Past President Joel Harrison W5ZN will be attending.
- The ARRL Midwest Division Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA on August 5-7, 2011. <http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org/>. President Kay Craigie N3KN and Lab Manager Ed Hare W1RFI will attend. President Craigie will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet.
- The ARRL Kansas State Convention in Salina, KS on August 21, 2011. <http://www.centalksarc.com/>. Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, KØBOG will represent ARRL HQ.

- The ARRL Iowa State Convention in Sergeant Bluff, IA, on October 21, 2011.
<http://www.3900club.com/>.
- The ARRL Iowa Section Convention in Davenport, IA on November 6, 2011.
<http://www.arcsupport.com/drac/hamfest.html>.

On a sad note, the spring of 2011 has been particularly devastating in the Midwest Division, with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, and range fires throughout much of the Midwest, including all four states in our ARRL Midwest Division – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Many have suffered loss of lives, injury, and damage to home and businesses. None has been harder hit than Joplin, Missouri, in which 153 people died, countless others were injured, and much of the town was totally destroyed by an EF5 tornado.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club and Radio Amateurs from the Southwest Missouri area and throughout the Midwest answered the call for volunteers to help with emergency communications and relief operations. Hams assisted ARES, SATERN, Red Cross, local, state, and Federal emergency management teams, doctors and emergency medical providers, and other relief agencies, and provided countless hours and days helping this stricken community. A long and difficult road to recovery lies ahead, but the brave citizens of the Joplin area have already begun the task of restoring, rebuilding and looking to the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Ahrens, KØCA
Midwest Division Director

July 7, 2011