
CQ BARS

Volume XXIV Issue 07

July 2007

President's Corner

I would like to start off this month by extending a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who helped in any way to make our Hamfest as successful as it was. The one exception might be the guys at the NWS in Romeoville. Hey guys, I distinctly remember checking the box "No" where it said on the application "would you like Rain with that". 8-)

Yes, the rain did hurt the early attendance, but the feedback I have received from those who showed up has been very positive. I have said in the past, that one of the qualities of Amateur radio operators is their ability to adapt to changing conditions, and my hat goes off to Hamfest Chairman Tom Ballard for orchestrating a layout change "on the fly" as outdoor vendors suddenly wanted to become indoor vendors.

I would like to give a special thank you to the American Red Cross, Will County EMA, and the Villages of Bolingbrook, Lemont, and Plainfield for providing equipment for our outdoor display.

Speaking of displays, I thought the new signs from Omni signs and Great Lakes Signs added a more professional touch to the event this year. Look for more Hamfest recap at the August 20th meeting.

Also keep in mind that we will open nominations for officers at the August meeting. For those of you who are new, we open nominations at the August meeting, and close them before voting for each office at the September meeting. If you do not feel you are ready to become an officer, why not consider volunteering to chair a committee?

More hands make the work easier.

See you on the Radio
Dale, KB9LMK

Secretary's Column

This newsletter is a bit longer than usual, but there were several things I wanted to get into it. It's membership time as well as officer nomination time. Nominations will open at the August meeting and remain open



until the September meeting. Elections will take place at the September meeting. I'm going to be sending out membership forms as well as excerpts from the bylaws outlining the descriptions of the officers duties. We need to make sure we choose officers who will lead the club forward for the next year. A reminder that to either vote or hold office you must be a member in good standing with paid up dues or life membership. If I don't receive a membership application we don't consider you a member. This means Life members as well. The nre membership application is going to have a space for you to designate whether you want your personal information to be made available in a roster. With identity theft becoming more and more prevalent I felt this was necessary.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by KB9LMK (Dale). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KC9GHB (Mike()), N9VJV (Don) and KB9JHV (Jason). Also present at the meeting were:

WD9AYR	WD9IWC	NW9V
WA9IL	KC9JQW	K9JTB
N9ZMM	KA9SFW	KC9ERT
WX9WRN	N9LJY	W9KHX
KC9LCY	NB9R	

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by WD9AYR (Ed), seconded by K9JTB (Bill) and carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). No Approval required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that the village still can't get us admission to the tower. Barry was supposed to get us in, but hasn't yet. The 220 machine is still experiencing noise problems.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported good checkins.

2

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that 51 tables have been sold. Wit 21 remaining. There are plenty of speakers. Will need all to help Sat and Sun. Meet at Denny's at 4 AM for breakfast. 5 Am at High School for Set up.

Education: No Report.

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that he will need 9 Extras at the Hamfest for VE Testing.

Field Day: KB9JHV (Jason) reported a total of 603 points with 23 of them being CW. The generator blew a seal. The Village offered to help provide a generator to use next year.

Public Relations/No Report

Skywarn: WX9WRN (Toni) reported that the Fishfar repeater on 442.900+ with a PL of 11408 will be used instead of the Plainfield machine because it has better coverage..

OLD BUSINESS:

NW9V (Phil) reported that N9UEB (Tim) had put out a call for ARES volunteers to assist in the search for the missing Piamifield woman. Thanks for a good turnout.

WA9IL (John) thanked KC9GHB (Mikw) for the towers and light for Field Day.

A motion to close old business was made by WD9IUV (John), seconded by NW9V (Phil) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KC9JQW (AJ) asked what we can do for the community to repay Mayor Claar for his support for BARS. He volunteered to chair a committee to look into it.

N9ZMM (Archie) asked to bring back the 50/50 raffle even though it isn't a money maker.

A motion to close new business was made by KA9SFW (Jim), seconded by K9JTB (Bill), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by NW9V (Phil), seconded by WX9WRN (Toni) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

July 2007

Total Check-ins for July:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
73	82 (9)

Total new check-ins for July:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
4	15 (11)

Total number of Hams to check in from this year and last

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
106	134 (28)

TOP FIVE

KC9GRH, Bryan.....28

KC9ERT, Joe.....28

N9RAT, Bob.....27

KA9BHD, Robert.....22

KA9CCH, Lavert.....21

Host with the MOST

Marianne, KC9JLK.....150

John, WD9IWC.....170

Archie, N9ZMM.....170

This is as of 7/26/2007, numbers do not reflect the host checking in.

I received the following E-Mail:

William J. Ferguson,
Director, Will County EMA

CQ BARS

I attended the Bolingbrook hamfest and ARRL State Convention Sunday, August 5, 2007 in Will County, and wanted to express my personal observations and appreciation for the fine turnout of your EMA volunteer staff and equipment displayed there at the Bolingbrook High School yesterday.

All who turned out for the excellent preparedness and equipment demonstrations from your organization and local EMA/ESDA should be commended for their zeal and obvious teamwork. Also, the turnout and presentations indicated to me that your county EMA organization and the many local agencies, are blessed with many unpaid volunteers who also happen to be amateur radio operators, and this is most encouraging to see.

Certainly the efforts of the Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Club and the surrounding community in Will County in hosting this hamfest, and this state convention for amateur radio operators, is especially noteworthy because it spotlighted all EMA volunteers. Again, this reflects well on the community spirit and emergency preparedness most evident.

Further, while still touring your area after attending this event, I had the good fortune in the late afternoon to listen in to the excellent weather network on amateur radio ran by Toni Hamilton WX9WRN in Skywarn response to the storms. Great watch for all the area and the National Weather Service in nearby Romeoville. The number of trained weather spotters heard indicated to me that training in severe weather spotting is also important in your area, and part of all hazard reporting and mitigation. Thought you should know of the respect and admiration earned here especially for the efforts of Toni and the many trained weather observers and volunteers using amateur radio heard during the weather event this late afternoon.

Will County and its many communities are indeed fortunate to have forged these the excellent relationships, and obviously have partnered well. The evident preparedness for all hazards and emergencies was most obvious, and certainly well presented at the convention, and in the later response to potentially dangerous storm conditions in the area.

Well done to all who volunteered for both the planned, and unplanned response, too. All participants in both events reflected highly on the county and the many local EMA organizations. Well done to all for their exemplary community service and finest examples, and please convey to all area local ESDA as well.

Very best regards,

Pat Ryan KC6VVT

ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator

SEC/IL ARRL Phone: 815-442-3373

P. O. Box 24 e-mail: kc6vvt@arrl.net

Tonica, IL 61370-0024 ARES-IL URL:

<http://www.qsl.net/ares-il/>

Monitor 146.52/446.00 FM APRS KC6VVT-14 on 144.390 pl 100.3

ARRL Files Federal Court of Appeals Reply Brief over BPL

On July 31, the ARRL filed its reply brief at the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This brief follows the FCC's brief that attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 and affirmed by the agency in 2006. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "The FCC's brief does not accurately describe ARRL's arguments concerning harmful interference." The ARRL, in its reply brief, accuses the FCC of, "engaging in misdirection -- rebutting hyperbolic arguments ARRL

never made, refusing to address the precedents ARRL cited and attempting to rewrite the Orders as if they made factual rather than legal determinations."

The League's reply brief, according to Imlay, "focuses largely on the FCC's unprecedented failure to protect mobile stations from interference if the BPL operator reduces its radiated emissions by 20 dB below the Part 15 maxima, even if harmful interference persists thereafter. The reply brief also addresses the inapplicability of the 40 dB per decade of distance extrapolation factor applied to BPL system measurements in the high frequency bands."

The ARRL's reply brief looked at four main points:

- * The FCC's failure to reconcile the Orders with the FCC's decades-old interpretation of Section 301.
- * The FCC's failure to justify its nondisclosures of portions of the studies on which the Orders were expressly based.
- * The FCC's failure to justify its refusal to consider contrary evidence, as well as a proposed alternative to its extrapolation factor for measuring interference.
- * The FCC's failure to justify its summary dismissal of an alternative that could have accommodated BPL without causing the same harmful interference.

The ARRL's brief states that this case "is about an unlicensed operator's legal duty to cease harmful interference once it arises, not the standard for authorizing unlicensed transmissions."

For decades, the FCC has interpreted Section 301 to mandate two restrictions on unlicensed operators: The proposed operations will not have a significant potential for causing harmful interference, and; if harmful interference does occur, the unlicensed operations are to cease immediately. For the first time ever, the FCC excluded mobile operators from the second part of the mandate.

The FCC suggests in its brief that BPL emissions (that are reduced by the 10 or 20 dB that are the minimum notching requirements in the rules) will "never cause harmful interference to licensed mobile users, but there is no evidence to support this," the ARRL's brief states. The ARRL contends the FCC's brief "ignore[s] the express acknowledgement in the Reconsideration Order that 'harmful interference...may occur' even when BPL systems meet the FCC's technical standards and that when it occurs 'we will not provide further protection to mobile operations.'"

The FCC goes on to say, according to the ARRL's brief, that licensed mobile users "do not need the protection of the cease-operations rule because mobile users suffering from interference can move elsewhere." The ARRL contends that the FCC "has never before put the burden on the license-holder to move away from an unlicensed interferer, to the contrary, its rules require the interferer to cease interfering immediately. A BPL system deploys radiation-emitting devices ubiquitously throughout a service area, making it difficult to avoid harmful interference and impossible to conclude that harmful interference will 'never' occur."

The ARRL's brief states that "the FCC cites nothing to defend the Reconsideration Order's ruling that Section 301 is inapplicable to 'unintentional radiators.'" The ARRL's brief points out that the FCC's brief "fails to defend the Reconsideration Order's holding that unintentional radiators like BPL devices 'as such' are outside the scope of Section 301's license requirement. The brief actually admits the contrary -- that unintentional radiators are within Section 301." The FCC's brief mentions "but fails to acknowledge Section 302, which extended the FCC's authority to cover the manufacture and sale of interfering devices, is irrelevant to the scope of Section 301."

In its brief, the FCC failed to justify its "nondisclosure of significant portions of the technical studies on which the Orders rely." Instead, the ARRL said the FCC "attacks a straw man, suggesting that ARRL is after 'every internal document in its entirety that the agency's staff prepares in relating to a rule making proceeding.'"

The ARRL's brief states that the League only sought the full texts of the studies that the FCC "identified and cited as the basis for its conclusions. An agency may not cherry-pick the pages of the studies on which it relies, disclosing the ones that support its conclusions and redacting the others."

The FCC's brief requests that the Court defer to its "technical judgment in adopting an extrapolation factor to measure interference." The ARRL contends that the FCC "is not entitled to deference where it refuses to consider substantial evidence submitted to it -- in this instance, at the agency's invitation -- and fails to consider a responsible alternative proposal."

The ARRL points out three studies conducted by OFCOM, the UK-equivalent to the FCC. Each study reached a conclusion opposite that of the FCC and "plainly were significant to warrant consideration," the League's brief said. "ARRL's proposed sliding-scale extrapolation factor was an alternative entitled to consideration and a reasoned explanation for its rejection."

The ARRL makes the argument in its brief that it proposed a "win-win" solution: Authorize BPL, but "confine it to a generous frequency band that does not present these interference problems." It makes note of the fact that the largest BPL operator has designed its systems this way, and suggests that other operators could follow suit.

Yet the FCC in its brief brushed off these suggestions with a terse, two word sentence: "The other proposed 'solution' -- complete avoidance of all HF frequencies -- would needlessly restrict BPL design and reduce system capacity, without regard to whether there are amateurs that need protection from a particular BPL installation. This would result in a grossly inefficient utilization of Access BPL capacity, reducing the potential benefits of BPL and increasing its costs to the public, without a corresponding benefit or need."

ARRL, therefore, asked the Court in its brief "to enforce the FCC's 'duty to consider responsible alternatives to its chosen policy and to give a reasoned explanation for its rejection of such alternatives.'"

Pointing out the "multiple legal errors in the Orders," the ARRL stated in the brief that the FCC "require[d] a remand. When the Court remands the Orders, it should direct the FCC to give this alternative the careful consideration required by law."

The ARRL's reply brief can be read in its entirety on the ARRL Web site http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/Court_Appeal_ReplyBrief2007july31.pdf.

Prototype Internet device fails FCC test

By DIBYA SARKAR AP BUSINESS WRITER

WASHINGTON -- The government gave a failing grade to a prototype device that Microsoft Corp., Google Inc., Dell Inc. and other technology companies said would beam high-speed Internet service over unused television airwaves.

In a 85-page report, the Federal Communications Commission on July 31 said the devices submitted by the technology coalition could not reliably detect unused TV spectrum, and could also cause interference.

Despite the setback, FCC chairman Kevin Martin said Tuesday the agency still would like to find a way to transmit high-speed Internet service over the unused airwaves.

Edmond Thomas, who represents the technology coalition, said the companies are convinced the spectrum can be used without causing interference to TV and wireless microphone signals.

"We intend to work with the FCC in order to identify the discrepancies in their tests with the tests we've done," Thomas, who is a former chief engineer with the FCC, said Wednesday.

The technology coalition - which also includes Hewlett-Packard Co., Intel Corp., EarthLink Inc. and Philips Electronics North America Corp., a division of Netherlands-based Royal Philips Electronics NV - said it will work with the FCC to resolve any questions.

The technology companies say the unlicensed and unused TV airwaves, also known as "white spaces," would make Internet service accessible and affordable, especially in rural areas and also spur innovation.

However, TV broadcasters oppose usage of white spaces because they fear the device will cause interference with television programming and could cause problems with a federally mandated transition from analog to digital signals in February 2009.

If the device eventually is approved by the FCC, it could adopt rules for operating unlicensed devices in the white-space spectrum by October, according to its own timetable. By December, the agency could start certifying similar devices, which means manufacturers of the devices must show their technology conforms to the agency's technical requirements.

But any such devices would not go on sale until after Feb. 18, 2009 when TV broadcasters switch from analog to digital transmissions.

September Is National Preparedness Month:

September is National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio operators are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the US Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness. Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves. This nationwide effort is to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Free preparedness resources are just a click away in English <<http://www.ready.gov>> and Spanish <<http://www.listo.gov>>.

ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors took action on two pressing matters, background checks and emerging digital technologies, at its second meeting of 2007, held July 20-21 in Windsor,

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Connecticut. Invited guests included IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Radio Amateurs of Canada President Earle Smith, VE6NM.

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

Digital communication was another topic up for discussion at the Board meeting. One question was the extent to which D-STAR systems fall within the FCC definition of "repeater." Some repeater coordinators do not consider D-STAR to be a repeater.

The Board also thanked existing VHF/UHF frequency coordination groups for their efforts "to promote orderly use of amateur frequencies." The Board requested that such groups "extend their efforts to coordinate digital systems such as D-STAR" and consider the bandwidths actually required for successful operation.

In a related action, the Board thanked those involved in digital networks that serve ARES, specifically radio e-mail systems, for creating a system that facilitates Amateur Radio's ability to provide emergency communications. The League affirmed its desire to work with developers of digital systems to improve efficiency, address control issues and enhance compatibility with other users of the Amateur Radio bands.

John Chwat and Janet Worthington, KB3PDS, of Chwat & Company, ARRL's Washington, DC legislative consultant, presented the Legislative Relations report. In this session of Congress, the firm hired Worthington, who with more than three years' experience on Capitol Hill, actively advocates on behalf of the League. Chwat & Company has continuously monitored and reported on congressional legislation and activities to the ARRL, and networks ARRL legislative priorities with House and Senate members and staff. They have also conducted targeted lobbying on the key issues of Broadband over Power Lines and antenna placement, assisted in the grassroots networking of ARRL Officers, Directors and members to contact their elected officials, as well as constant monitoring the legislative activities in all 50 states. Chwat and Worthington also work closely with General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on relevant legislative matters.

The report also discussed the status of two bills pending in the US Congress, HR 462 and S1629.

In January, Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-Arkansas), introduced HR 462, the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." It calls on the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL technology and report its findings back to Congress. It has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

In June, Senator Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas) introduced S1629, "The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." This bill is currently pending in the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

The Board also voted to support HR 2743, "The Military Affiliate Radio System Emergency Communications Act of 2007." This bill would permit the continued use of the MARS and SHARES programs of frequency-stabilized Amateur Radio equipment that meets FCC Part 97 technical standards. Otherwise, volunteers in these programs might be prevented from using their regular station equipment.

Recognizing the significance of recent FCC actions that included the removal of the Morse testing requirement, the Board set a goal of attaining 30,000 new licensees in 2008, increasing in the following years. With approximately 6,000 licensees disappearing from the ranks of amateurs each year through attrition and non-renewal, the Board recognized the importance of striving to create real growth in the Service. The new licensing regime along with the approaching increase in sunspots can provide the motivation and inspiration for all hams to use to increase the numbers of licensees as well as the interest level of all.

The Board decided to ask the Programs and Services Committee to evaluate how the Section Field Organization is governed. In doing so, the Board will request progress reports from the Committee regarding this study, with final results reported to the Board no later than the July 2008 Board meeting.

The Rules and Regulations concerning the League's elections were clarified to and amended with regard to "mass communication" of campaign material during Director, Vice Director and Section Manager elections. The Board prohibited "communications by mail, electronic distribution, posting to a Web site, e-mail, hand delivery or any other means of distribution to League members in the particular Division or Section" involved in an election at League expense during the campaign period if the material might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome of the election.

At the close of the meeting, President Harrison noted that Director Frank Butler, W4RH, after 50 years of elected service to the ARRL (starting out as Western Florida Section Communications Manager in 1957), was not standing for re-election this October. Everyone present gave him a standing ovation in appreciation of his long service.

The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 18-19, 2008

Get Ready for the 2007 ARRL On-line Auction:

Planning for the ARRL On-line auction, scheduled for October 24-November 2, is already in high gear, according to ARRL Business Services Manager Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We have a head start this year, as many of the items used in QST's product review articles will be part of the Auction." In past years, product review items were auctioned off throughout the year via announcements in QST and written bids. QST "Old Radio" columnist John Dilks, K2TQN, started off the donation process when he dropped by ARRL HQ with a Hallicrafters SX-25 Super Defiant receiver and matching speaker. Jahnke commented: "During and after the conclusion of the first ARRL On-Line Auction last year, we were bowled over with the level of interest and the extremely positive feedback from both bidders and our generous donors. We anticipate another terrific turnout and will have even more items to bid on--a large selection of new and vintage equipment, Amateur Radio-related products and services--and a few surprises, too! Our goal is to make this an exciting, fun event for everyone."

Educator Astronaut Barbara Morgan, KD5VNP, Launches into Space

On Wednesday, August 8, the space shuttle Endeavour (STS-118) launched yet again on an 11-day mission into space, the "final frontier." One member of the seven-member crew, Mission Specialist Barbara Morgan, KD5VNP, said she let forth a loud "Woo-hoo!" during the launch. The astronauts assigned to the

mission include a Canadian doctor, a chemist who knows sign language and is a former competitive sprinter and long jumper, as well as a commander whose identical twin brother is also a shuttle pilot.

Morgan is the mission's Educator Astronaut. She was selected for the astronaut corps 22 years after first being selected as Christa McAuliffe's backup in the Teacher in Space Project. McAuliffe and the rest of the seven-member crew on board the space shuttle Challenger

(STS-51-L) perished on January 28, 1986, a mere 73 seconds after launch.

While in space, Morgan plans to answer questions from schoolchildren. She received her Amateur Radio license in March 2003.

Like all shuttle missions, STS-118 is about the future: putting the International Space Station (ISS) a step closer to completion and gathering experience that will help people return to the moon and go on to Mars. "The mission has lots of angles," Matt Abbott, lead shuttle flight director, said. "There's a little bit of assembly; there's some resupply; there's some repairs. And there are some high-visibility education and public affairs events. It's a little bit of everything."

"I'm really excited about going up and doing our jobs and doing them well," Morgan said. "I'm excited about experiencing the whole spaceflight, seeing Earth from space for the very first time and experiencing weightlessness and what that's all about. I am excited about seeing what it's like living and working onboard the International Space Station."

Morgan trained side by side with McAuliffe and witnessed the 1986 Challenger accident in which McAuliffe and her six fellow crew members died. The Teacher in Space Project was suspended then, but Morgan held on to her NASA ties. In the months following that tragedy, she went on the visits McAuliffe would have made, talking to children and teachers all over the country. When she was selected in 1998 to become a full-fledged astronaut, she jumped at the opportunity.

In reminiscing about McAuliffe, Morgan said, "Christa's legacy was open-ended, and is open-ended. Any teacher's legacy is open-ended. I hope, and I know that people will be thinking about Christa and the Challenger crew and that's a good thing and they'll be thinking about many, many teachers and others who have worked very, very hard for 20 years to continue Christa's and the rest of the Challenger crew's work. I am just the next teacher of many to come, we've got three in training right now, and there will be more in the future, teachers who will fly as astronauts, so just, just one of a long step that will continue well into the future."

In 2002, Morgan was chosen as the first educator to become a mission specialist astronaut. The Educator Astronaut Project evolved from the Teacher in Space Project. Both aimed to engage and attract students to explore the excitement and wonder of spaceflight and to inspire and support educators. Morgan's primary duty is the same as it is for the entire crew - to accomplish the planned objectives of the station assembly mission, as well as taking part in several education-related activities. "The educator astronaut is also a fully trained astronaut who does the jobs, does the duties that an astronaut does. Astronauts and teachers learn and share; they explore; they discover and then they go learn and share some more. And that's what this is all about." - Some information from NASA.

More about Endeavour's mission can be found at the NASA Web site

<http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts118/index.html>.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.