

Notes and Topics Discussed at the
New England Division Cabinet Meeting
Springfield MA - 4 January 2004

- I. Intro – Tom Frenaye, Director
 - A. Purpose of cabinet meeting
 - B. Changes to board meeting format
 - C. Introductions
- II. Boxboro update - Mike Raisbeck, Vice Director & Boxboro chairman
 - A. Solicitation of comments, speakers
- III. Board meeting plans
 - A. IARU officer selection
 - B. Study standing committee structure
 - 1. Current: Membership Services, Volunteer Resources, Admin&Finance, Executive Committees
 - 2. Workload has been uneven and several new arrangements are being considered
 - C. Board elections (Pres, VPs, etc)
 - D. New survey of amateur radio market completed (Readex)
 - 1. New hams (post '95 licenses) appear to be underserved
 - 2. What do hams define as “ham radio activity”?
 - 3. Does a shift in the sorts of activities hams do indicate changes we should make in serving them?
 - 4. Only 26% of recent hams were licensed through a club, 56% did it on their own
 - E. Strategic planning
 - 1. Results of recent strategic exercise
 - 2. We need to do much more on government action side
 - F. Congress
 - 1. Spectrum Protection act – 77 House sponsors so far, only 4 in New England, 8 in Senate, 2 from New England
 - 2. “Communications Consistency” act - 20 House sponsors, 3 New England
 - 3. 10 – 50 letters per House district seems to do the trick
 - 4. Look for connections – hams who are friends of legislators, etc.
 - G. ARRL membership is even
 - H. Money is very tight which may call for some program cutbacks
 - I. QST
 - 1. Advertising is flat
 - 2. Repeat note in QST about USPS section news
- IV. BPL
 - A. Comments and reply comments have been filed
 - B. Equipment makers claim they have no reports of interference (yet)
 - C. Other users, especially government, beginning to come out against BPL
 - D. NTIA doing some testing now
- V. Other FCC Issues
 - A. 5 GHz changes
 - B. Towers and effects on migratory birds
 - C. Refarming decision done, but not yet released

- VI. CW
 - A. Hams clearly split, but CW will live regardless
 - B. Concern over losing CW spectrum is biggest issue
 - C. Basic options
 - 1. No change
 - 2. No code test at all
 - 3. Code test only for extra
 - 4. Put some code questions into written question pool
- VII. Entry level license
 - A. Privileges should match test
 - B. Going back to old novice formula no good – K1EIC
 - C. League should try to represent the whole hobby on this (and CW), not just the League members – KK1W
 - D. One likely strategy is for the board to pick a path, but delay filing a petition
 - E. Elmering is key – WA1VVB
- VIII. Book auction - \$231 raised for Spectrum Protection and BPL funds
- IX. Presentation on Logbook of the World security - Mark WA1VVB
 - A. QSO's on LOTW protected by strong encryption such as used for electronic funds
 - B. Mark's last project before ARRL was electronic postage
 - C. Client side code is public
- X. July 2003 VRC report fallout
 - A. Committee is in place to deal with NTS questions
 - B. HQ is also making some recommendations
 - C. Some confusion among SM's about the status of STM's
 - D. No more bulletin managers
 - E. Should we have formal ASEC's? – K1EIC
- XI. ARES and Emergency Communications
 - A. Message formats – various non-ham organizations are using different ones - WB1BRE
 - B. ARES paradigm shift – focus is on “emergency communicators”, ie., ham radio not necessary
 - C. Standardization in level 1 training standards important – NN1C
 - D. SEC's don't have access to list of people who have passed the courses - K9HI+K1EIC
- XII. SPAM and arrl.net
- XIII. Citizens Corps funding
 - A. About \$30M being made available to states for ecomm projects
 - B. SM's should work with clubs and be going after this
- XIV. VHF/UHF
 - A. Desire for more VHF/UHF support at league level
 - B. Advisory committee
 - C. Band plans are out of date - K1MAP
- XV. PRB-1
 - A. Soon to be introduced in Vermont