

ARRL New England Cabinet Meeting
Springfield MA
January 7, 2006

- I. Introduction
 - A. request for topics
 - 1. how to get more people into ham radio
 - 2. entry level license
 - 3. spreading ARRL nonprofit status to affiliated clubs
 - 4. W6 proposal for ARES management
 - B. Goings on
 - 1. BPL
 - a. note Motorola system – much more ham friendly than the other schemes
 - b. problems with access to BPL rollout database
 - c. enforcement a big problem – FCC not acting to protect hams
 - d. Agawam system update – very small (4 subscribers?)
 - e. Getting hams to file complaints is a big problem
 - f. VT – the power company has mostly rejected BPL
 - g. ARRL filings with FCC are pretty pointed (some concern)
 - 2. Refarming (Novice bands)
 - a. not a lot happening – Amateur Radio actions stalled
 - b. proposal is to take some of the old novice bands and use parts for digital
 - 3. Morse code requirements
 - a. FCC NPRM ignored ARRL, calls for complete drop of code
 - b. Proposal seems to be “least work” based
 - C. Bandwidth petition
 - a. NH – a lot of pushback, partly because many people don’t understand it
 - b. If passed, band planning will need to get stronger
 - D. New hams
 - a. NE used to be around 100 new hams per month, now closer to 60
 - b. Individual acts (ex., one day license class) can make noticeable differences in a month
 - c. Is cost of online courses a factor?
 - d. ME – has a 6 tape video course that can be run on public access TV
 - E. Washington lobbying
 - 1. Chwat & Co. is our consultant
 - 2. Always looking for hams with contacts in Congress
 - 3. is our bill co-sponsorship activity really effective?
 - 4. is any of our lobbying effective? Congress hasn’t passed anything on ham radio in some time. How do we evaluate it?
- II. Public Relations at the League - W1AGP – Alan Pitts
 - A. Dayton ARRL event was a great success
 - B. We’re looking for relationships with the public
 - C. PR is not marketing, it is establishing relationships with people and organizations
 - D. Florida toy drive in 2004 a great success
 - E. ARRL website a problem
 - 1. search engine has now been updated !!
 - F. Swiss Army Knife CD a success
 - 1. current version contains stuff for PIO’s
 - 2. consider putting an image of it on the web site?
 - G. Katrina got huge publicity
 - H. Note the importance of big stations OUTSIDE of emergency areas
 - I. BPL – make sure we look friendly and trustworthy to the media

- J. Planning for a real PR campaign – to be discussed at the board meeting
 - 1. first voice radio communication Christmas Eve 1906 – 100th coming up
 - 2. will pump up “you don’t need Morse code”
 - 3. “Hello” campaign in 2006 – a REALLY big push
 - 4. special unifying publication, 50,000 of them!! – for non-hams
 - 5. MOU’s with a number of groups
 - 6. will require MUCH active participation from all hams
- III. HQ activities
 - A. headcount down – fat is out – and they are stretched
 - B. membership basically flat
 - C. looking to analyze programs
 - 1. do we need them all?
 - 2. can we get rid of some?
 - D. New VE question pools in the works
- IV. MA governor anti-ham problems
 - A. Governor made a serious gaff
 - B. State MEMA director covered well for us
 - C. W1MPN/KD1CY did well in major damage control
 - D. Meeting has been set up with the governor – may get some positive PR from this
- V. Collections
 - A. Lunch \$525 collected (out of \$1300 actual cost)
 - B. Auction \$195 - to go to Education fund in member of KC1WH
- VI. Division News
 - A. in 2005, all NE sections except RI went down in ham population
 - B. Nationwide about 660,000 hams, peak was about 687,000
 - C. League membership down about 15% from peak
- VII. Board meeting items
 - A. Jim Haynie probably not running
 - B. Technically, all Board officers are up for election
- VIII. IRS status for affiliated clubs
 - A. Can ARRL’s 501©(3) status be made to rub off on affiliated clubs?
 - B. We’ll bring it up at Board committee meetings
- IX. KC6VJY ARES restructure proposal - K1EIC
 - A. Has a board of SM’s to advise on ARES issues
 - B. Adds a number of EC assistant roles
- X. VOIP initiatives
 - A. VOIP hurricane net – could help in situations where no hf propagation
 - B. IRLP/Echolink interlinks