

**New England Division Cabinet Meeting
Portland, Maine
July 16, 2006**

- I. Intro
 - A. Board of Directors topics this next meeting include
 - 1. a day of strategic planning
 - 2. Grassroots effort will be big
 - 3. Political action
 - 4. Finances – projections may be off due to failure of the FCC to act on rules change
 - 5. Possible change to conflict of interest rules – considerable conversation ensued on this point
- II. Licensing
 - A. ham population continues to slide slowly
 - B. overall, we need about 25,000 new hams per year in the US to maintain ham population; we're getting about 15,000
 - C. classes seem to be a major way of getting new hams licensed – League web site now has a listing of classes
 - D. Some people have had trouble getting Volunteer Exam information and materials from HQ lately
 - E. Why is online technician course so expensive?
(the price has been reduced, new signups will start in August)
 - F. Boosting membership – is the key getting existing hams to join, or getting new hams
 - G. Bulletin manager position in limbo
- III. Broadband over Powerlines
 - A. not a big issue in northern New England – but there is some in CT and WMA
 - B. Maine – it seems to not be favored
 - C. ARRL has a version of the Motorola BPL system installed at HQ, and it seems to be OK around ham gear
 - D. Presentation by Leo/N1BOK
 - 1. BPL not cost effective – repeaters every 1K-3K ft, modems for every port
 - 2. Seems the only people profiting are the equipment manufacturers
 - 3. large number of variables in AC wiring makes detailed predicting of BPL performance impossible
 - 4. home network is similar
 - 5. use of BPL would impact powerline service
 - 6. notching ineffective – can't prevent intermod, no "open spectrum"
 - E. note that the FCC finally taking some action in Manassas, VA
- IV. What should the League be doing over the next 10 years?
 - A. Facilitate no-code licensees in learning the code
 - B. Set up data backbone in amateur bands
 - C. League should lay out some technical goals for the hobby

- D. Changes in NTS? Get away from the conventional traffic nets. Standardized message formats with served agencies?
- E. Toughen up enforcement?
- F. Broaden the definition of ham radio? Include SWL and experimenters?
- G. Resolve the ARES-RACES conflicts
- H. How do we get more people to the cabinet meetings?
- I. Lingering concerns about the ARRL web site
- V. Proceeds
 - A. Publications auction - \$186 to go to the Spectrum Defense Fund

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