

ARRL New England Division
Cabinet Meeting
7/7/2007
Manchester, NH

I. Introductions

- about 32 people (three more arrived later)

II. Impact of FCC rule changes, especially elimination of Morse

- still seems to be interest in Morse
- still some sentiment for a 5wpm requirement for Extra
- question – is the ARRL getting any more respect from the FCC
- a lot of interest in upgrading to General
- not a lot of licensing classes are showing up on the ARRL website – we need a lot more See <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/courses/> and the link to the right to register a new class – must be done by an ARRL registered Instructor.
- Kudos to the League on handling the increase in licensing activity
- Seeing increases in attendance at VE sessions, and many are new licenses, not upgrades
- Removal of the code requirement has not stopped interesting CW, in fact, it may have increased interest
- Dropping the requirement seems to have encouraged a different bunch of people to become licensed – more engineers, professionals, etc.
- Some misunderstanding about whether code can still be used !!
- In general, a lot of misinformation – people don't always go to the best information sources

III. Publicity, and getting new hams

- More publicity aimed at the general public would be good – sell ham radio to the masses
- How do we improve the quality of new hams? There seem to be a lot of dolts out there
- Better training for new hams is needed
- No presence at Eastern States Exposition (Springfield MA) this year – the exposition people aren't allowing the hams sufficient time and access
- Who are the people coming into the hobby? Who do we want in the hobby? [We need to have more hard data]
- how do we get more classes?
- how about a slow CW beginner portion in the band plans?
- We need better demographic information
- Since Feb – about 100 new licensees per month in NE(same as last year)

- Upgrades have jumped, from about 20/month to 80-100
- Since last year, about 5000 hams lost nationwide
- Note the latest CD and pamphlet from PR Manager Alan Pitts, WIAGP, at the League – passed out a bunch of the CD's – 2007 theme is Emergency Comms

IV. Field Day

- Look at the Field Day presentation done by PART (Westford MA) this year – a great example of the sort of thing that can be done
- Lots of GOTA station activity
- Rules seemed quite complex [GOTA and otherwise]

V. Pave Paws

- Some difference between the Air Force data and repeater coordination data - being worked out
- we're doing Longley-Rice coverage/signal level studies for each repeater
- some target dates had been set, but have passed. Conversations are now underway between the Air Force and the League
- expect some closure by the end of the summer

VI. FCC activities

- not very much happening
- vanity fees were reduced a bit
- response received from FCC on BPL lawsuit this week
- case likely to turn not on technical merits, but on the technical process used and data generated by the FCC
- regulation by bandwidth recalled for further study – the difficulties surrounding automatic digital were among the reasons - sense is that the ARRL didn't engage well in all the discussions that occurred over this issue

VII. Deerfield and Boxboro update

- Next Boxboro will be in 2008 at the same location, first Near-fest in Deerfield was successful – next will be in October.

VIII. Legislative Activities

- Two more states (OK and NC) have signed PRB-1 legislation into law
- Maine and Vermont have enacted laws promoting broadband access to rural areas – so far that has not resulted in BPL activity but bears watching

IX. League activities

- membership is up about 2500 over the last year to over 150,000

- finances are steady
- long term worry is membership as we age and do not get enough newcomers
- advertising, particularly print advertising, is down
- in general, print is losing way to web advertising – sooner or later this will affect QST
- does Newington want hardcopy of club newsletters? How about a place on the League site to post newsletters?
- downloadable brochures from the League are nice, but the local cost to print is substantial

X. Proceeds

- auction \$150 – earmarked for the ARRL Education Project

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