

Central Division News & Views

ARRL

American Radio Relay League

Issue #1 - September, 2002

Fellow ARRL Members...

I hope this electronic newsletter will be the first in long series of newsletters from your Central Division Director - long after I have departed from the scene. I plan to do about four of these a year, but this could vary depending on the amount of Central Division ham radio news that develops. The news items that appear on the ARRL website will not be mentioned here unless they are of particular interests to hams in this division. As a general rule, items reported here will be in areas of interest to all hams such as: proposed legislation that could or will affect Amateur Radio, area-wide interference and intruder problems, FCC enforcement activity within our division, large-scale public service or emergency communications activities in this region.

Keeping this criteria in mind, if you have news items that you think qualify for publication here, please mail them to me at my address listed on the Director's Page on this website or email me direct at: dick@pobox.com Photographs (digital- JPG format or paper) are a welcome addition to any submitted item and will enhance the probability of its publication.

New ARES Net Announced - Illinois Section

IL Section Manager Sharon Harlan, N9SH has announced the forming of a new ARES NET in the Illinois Section by recently appointed Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Pat Ryan, KC6VVT of Tonica, IL. Please attend the IL Section ARES Net on 3.905 MHz LSB at 1630 local time on the first and third Sunday. All District ECs (DEC), and local and county Emergency Coordinators (EC), are requested to check in or monitor this ARES net. Pat, KC6VVT will call the net beginning in November, 2002.

Chicago FM Club Gives \$500 To ARRL Foundation

Sunday (22 SEP), the Chicago FM Club (CFMC) presented a \$500 scholarship check to the ARRL Foundation at Radio Expo (the CFMC Hamfest) in Grayslake, IL.



In the photo from left to right is.

CFMC President Phil Amato, N9PA

ARRL Div. Director Dick Isely, W9GIG

IL Section Manager Sharon Harlan, N9SH

CFMC Vice Pres Jerry Spearman, W9EG

CFMC Treasurer Jerry Migely, WA9KXZ

Indianapolis TVI Problem

Note: I made a gross error in the RF power level numbers in the first version of this article.

It has been revised to reflect the true numbers.

The "TVI problem" here is not what you think it is... it's television interference to amateur radio operation on 220 MHz in the Indianapolis, Indiana area. A similar problem arose in the Milwaukee area several years ago when a TV station there installed a new design *Harris* solid state TV transmitter. The transmitter in question met or exceeded all FCC specifications for out-of-band harmonic and spurious emissions. The trouble is these specifications were developed for commercial use in frequency allocations where ambient high noise floors are common and these emissions are not a big problem. The 316 kilowatt Indianapolis TV signal apparently has an FCC-legal 10 milliwatt harmonic or spurious emission that appears in a low noise level Amateur Radio frequency band... and the affected hams are very unhappy.

ARRL RFI specialist, Ed Hare, W1RFI used his extensive knowledge and contacts within the *Harris Corporation* organization to get the Milwaukee problem resolved. It took eighteen months of testing and tweaking before the interfering signals were adequately suppressed. This same type of problem has now appeared in Indianapolis and W1RFI is again working with TV station management (a couple of them are hams) and *Harris* personnel to get this situation cleaned up. Even though the TV transmitters are of the same general design, the frequency band they operate on, and how and where they are installed makes each situation unique. Most major TV stations now operate around the clock and this means transmitter adjustments and reconfiguration are seldom performed - particularly when FCC legal issues are not a factor. I expect the Indianapolis TVI problem will be resolved. But it will take a lot of time... and significant corporate expense. In the meantime, I ask all affected parties to keep their cool.

Without our ARRL technical staff, situations like this would be very much more difficult to resolve. We have this highly qualified staff because enough hams support the ARRL with their dues. Please keep this in mind when you are reluctant to renew your dues, or you hear others complaining about the cost of ARRL dues. This is one of many behind-the-scenes services that only a relative few ever hear about.

Visiting The Chicago Area Weather Forecasting Office

On September 12th, Illinois Section Manager, Sharon Harlan, N9SH, accompanied me on a visit to the Chicago U.S. Weather Forecasting Office (WFO) in Romeoville, Illinois. We were introduced to the Meteorologist In Charge (MIC - the "boss") and had a quick tour of the newly modified facility before we sat down to discuss how hams can better work with the National Weather Service when severe weather is in the area. The tools available to weather forecasters have been greatly improved since the last time I visited such a facility.

Please note the identifications of the people in the photograph taken at the new amateur radio station now in with the weather forecasting positions. You will see that the MIC and the Lead Meteorologist are both hams! They want to really integrate Amateur Radio into severe weather situations. Stay tuned for further developments.



(Picture identifications, from left to right)

Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG
Meteorologist In Charge, Jim Stefkovich,
KD5HLE
Illinois Section Manager, Shari Harlan, N9SH
Lead Meteorologist, Bill Wilson, KB9ZXN
Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Jim Allsopp

That's all for now... please let me know if you find this newsletter worthwhile.

73'

Dick Isely W9GIG
ARRL Central Division Director

(Remember to bookmark the ARRL Central Division Web URL)
(Please pass the word about the new web site)

www.central.arrl.org