

Central Division News & Views

Issue #4 - April, 2003

Indiana PRB-1 Legislation Passed!

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The last four weeks have seen many twists and turns on the road to the passage of Indiana's PRB-1 bill (SB-103). At one or more points in the legislative process, it looked like SB-103 was going to be left to die in committee. ARRL SGL (State Government Liaison), David Spoolstra, N9KT became a political casualty before the dust finally settled. However the bill has now passed both the Indiana House and Senate (without the 75 ft. limit) and it's expected the Governor will sign it into law no later than July 1st. My congratulations to N9KT, Indiana SM, Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, and the many Indiana hams who worked many hours to get this bill passed.

This leaves only one Central Division Section - Illinois - without a state PRB-1 law on the books. Illinois does not currently have an SGL. If you know a good candidate (a ham with lots of state political expertise who lives in the Springfield area or is willing to spend a lot of time there) please contact Illinois SM, Sharon Harlan, N9SH - or me - right away.

WRC-2003 Getting Close

In about six weeks, the **ITU World Radio Conference 2003** will be under way. The ARRL wants to restore the Amateur Radio 40 meter spectrum allocation to what it was prior to WWII. For ITU Region 2 amateurs, this would mean the end of HF broadcast interference from Regions 1 and 3. For hams in those regions, they would have a 40 meter allocation that matches what now exists in Region 2. However, this issue has yet to be decided and any changes approved at WRC-2003 might not completely restore what we lost almost 60 years ago.

These conferences are many days of public and private deliberations and deal-making. It's an intense political process and I believe it was Mark Twain who said that political agreements are a lot like sausage-making; best kept from public scrutiny. Oddly enough, we apparently have more domestic resistance to the "harmonization" of 40 meters this time around. In addition to HF broadcasters' desires for ever more spectrum, some sections of our federal government are not too happy over the prospect of losing some 40 meter spectrum in the shuffling of allocations. This could happen as a way of keeping HF broadcasters from losing spectrum.

This situation is made even more uncertain because (as of Easter) the White House has not yet signed off on the members of our WRC-2003 delegation. Delegates have been recommended and they will probably be approved. But until this process is completed, it's very hard to sort out the strategies and tactics that might be used to gain support for our positions within our own U.S. delegation. Sort of like musical chairs... hopefully, we will not end up with the same chair we have had for many years. Hopefully we will have a far better one.

Regardless of what changes - if any - are made; it will probably take several years for them to take effect. It all depends on how long it takes the worlds' governments to ratify the treaty changes, and how long any resulting allocation "transition periods" will be.

Most of the time, the ARRL Affiliation Certificate is mailed directly to the club. But sometimes, either the Section Manager or I am able to present these certificates in person. Fortunately, this has recently happened two times as the pictures below illustrate. If your club is not yet affiliated with the ARRL, you should ask your club to look into it.



Taken at the AES Superfest on Saturday, April 5, 2003

LEFT to RIGHT:
Milwaukee Repeater Club
President Napoleon Hardy, N0XXL
receives MRC's
ARRL Certificate of Affiliation from
Dick Isely, W9GIG

Background, LEFT to RIGHT:
MRC Vice President Bob Alpert,
AB9FB
MRC Activities Mgr Janet
Wojciechowski, KB9ZAG
Former MRC President Gary
Bargholz, N9UUR



Taken at the Madison, WI Swapfest on Sunday, April 13, 2003

ARRL Certificate of Affiliation for:
**Dave, Jim, and Ken's Pretty Good
Ham Club**, was presented at the
Madison, WI Swapfest.
Yes, that's really the name of this
club...

LEFT to RIGHT:
Wisconsin SM Don Michalski,
W9IXG
Jim Homuth, KG9DN
Dave Nelson, K9TY
Dick Isely, W9GIG

Hamfest & Club Visits

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As many of you know, I receive a lot of requests to visit hamfests and radio clubs. As your ARRL Director I am reimbursed for reasonable, documented personal expenses incurred in making these visits. However, no director is going to spend virtually all of his weekends visiting hamfests as we all have family, sometimes job requirements, and other interests that consume many weekends every year. I am also very reluctant to spend ARRL funds traveling overnight to a hamfest that has an attendance of less than 500 people, or a club meeting of less than 60 to 80 people. To do so is not an efficient use of ARRL funds or my time.

However, there is a way for small clubs to meet these limits. Last June, several groups in southern Illinois put together a pair of joint meetings that were scheduled the two days following the Egyptian Radio Club Hamfest. None of these events alone would justify the long trip. But combined into a three day itinerary, attending them became practical. This was not a last-minute project; it took about three months to set up. If there are radio clubs in northern Wisconsin or southern Indiana that want to explore this possibility, please contact me.

Right now, I'm planning on attending the following conventions, hamfests and ARRL meetings in the next four months.

May 3	Ozaukee ARC Hamfest	Cedarburg, WI
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH
May 31	Sangamon Valley RC Hamfest	Springfield, IL
June 1	Starved Rock RC Hamfest	Princeton, IL
June 8	Six Meter Club Hamfest	Wheaton, IL
June 20-22	ARRL National Convention	Arlington, TX
July 6	Kankakee ARS Hamfest	Peotone, IL
July 12	Indianapolis Hamfest	Indianapolis, IN
July 17-19	ARRL Board Meeting	Windsor Locks, CT
Aug 10	Hamfesters Hamfest	Peotone, IL
Peotone, IL	Bolingbrook ARS Hamfest	Joliet, IL

I hope to see many of you at these gatherings. In addition to shopping for new and used equipment, they are a great way to renew friendships and to meet some of the voices you have heard on your radios.

73 - George R. (Dick) Isely, W9GIG
Central Division Director