

Central Division News & Views

Issue #12 - June, 2005

A Very Busy Year So Far

The year 2005, for me, started right off with a crowded, sometimes conflicted, schedule. The January board meeting ended up being a direct conflict with the big Wheaton (IL) hamfest that is held in St. Charles. Then my trip turned out to be much longer than planned. We were all there for New England's "Blizzard of 05". Instead of returning home Sunday afternoon, it was Monday night by the airport limo finally delivered me back home. My plan to return home Sunday morning, April 10th, from the Denver, CO Executive Committee meeting was delayed by their "Blizzard of 05". Again, I was a day late in getting home. Hopefully, the weather in Connecticut will be more cooperative for the July board meeting. I feel pretty confident saying that heavy snow should not be a problem.

Added to this mix was an unplanned family business trip to LaCrosse, WI; my wife's high school reunion in Kansas City, MO; and five sets of house guests in the first five months. Normally, we average about one set of house guests every two years. Perhaps now you will understand why it's been five months since my last division newsletter and I have missed a few hamfests that I usually attend.

Amateur radio-wise, the highlight of this period was the **2005 ARRL National Convention** held in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association donated the floor space and we committed the resources to put on **ARRL Expo**: an exhibit that put a real face on all the member services, programs, and advocacy work. Eighty-four people - staff members, officers and directors, and other unpaid volunteers - manned this exhibition. As far as I know, all the comments we have received have been positive with the request that we do this again. Merchandise sales and new and renewed memberships greatly exceeded all previous numbers for this venue.

If you missed **ARRL Expo** this year, you missed a real opportunity to learn a lot more about the ARRL. Hopefully, this type of an exhibition will be done again. However, the number of projected attendees will ultimately determine the size and scope of future **ARRL Expos**. Dayton's 20,000 plus attendance makes this financially feasible. Smaller hamfests cannot justify an exhibit of this size unless a sizable part of the direct cost is underwritten by the hamfest sponsor.

BPL Struggle Continues

While our legal research is proceeding, there has been action on the political front in congress. **House Resolution 230** (Hres 230) sponsored by Representative Mike Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas was introduced on April 21st. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says House Resolution 230 represents "a fair request" to the FCC and deserves the support of the US House of Representatives.

HRes 230 calls on the FCC to comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," then to "reconsider and review" its new BPL rules in the light of that public input. Renewing his call for League members to contact their congressional representatives to sign on as cosponsors of the non-binding measure, Haynie said Ross's resolution only asks the FCC to do what it should have done in the first place regarding BPL.

The full text of HRes 230 is available on the ARRL web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf>

A sample letter is also available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230-SampleLtr.doc>

Disappointing Member Response

Hres 230 is an important resolution. Granted it is not binding on the FCC. But as a “sense of the House of Representatives”, it does carry a lot of weight and will help us to build our arguments in federal appellate court. As of two weeks ago, according to the information gathered by our lobbyist, **nobody from the Central Division has requested their congressional representative to support Hres 230.** Some of you may have already done this, but we don’t know it.

A great many of you have expressed your opposition to BPL to me and the FCC during the various comment filing periods. I am disappointed that possibly none of you have responded to the ARRL president’s appeal for action. Right now is the time to contact your congressional representative.

To expedite delivery of your comments, send all correspondence bound for Members of Congress - preferably as an email attachment - to: **hres230@arrl.org** or fax it to 703-684-7594. The ARRL will bundle correspondence addressed to each Member of Congress for hand delivery and we can track the number of comments made.

Regulation By Bandwidth - Part 2

Since I last wrote about this issue, the ARRL board of directors, at it’s January 2005 meeting, again returned this proposal to the Executive Committee (EC) for its analysis and consideration of specific items. In April, the EC met in Denver, CO and recommended further changes to the proposed petition. This has been covered in the ARRL Newsletter and I will not go into the details here. The primary issue appears to be about allowing or not allowing transmissions greater than 3 KHz. AM users are provided for in the notes attached to the proposed HF spectrum sub-bands. This leaves the controversy with Winlink (Pactor 3) users and those opposed to it.

This issue, in my mind at least, distills down to the argument of having relatively few wide-bandwidth users vs more narrow-band users on a given HF band allocation. There is no question that all HF communications will eventually evolve into digital modes. The question is how do we encourage technical innovation while preventing, or at least reducing the interference, between these newer wide-band digital modes and our current analog modes.

Hamfest Visits & Meetings

Here is my ARRL travel schedule for the next three months. It is subject to change if required ARRL meeting dates are changed or there are last minute transportation problems.

Jul 9	Indianapolis Hamfest	Indianapolis, IN
Jul 10	Fox River Radio League Hamfest	Aurora, IL
Jul 14-17	ARRL Board Meeting	Hartford, CT
Aug 14	Hamfesters Hamfest	Peotone, IL
Aug 21	Bolingbrook ARS Hamfest	Joliet, IL

Sep 16-17 W9XCC Convention
Sep 18 Radio Expo

Elk Grove Village, IL
Grays Lake, IL

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

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