

**REPORT OF THE ADHOC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING
TO THE
ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The committee was initiated per Minute 39, of the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. The committee is composed of: Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN (Chair), Director Rev Morton, WS7W; Vice Directors Bill Edgar, N3LLR; Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF and Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT and Dave Patton, NT1N (Staff Liaison)

The appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Scouting is a follow-on of the motion made at the Second Meeting of the Board of Directors, July 21-22, 2000, to wit: “ on motion of Mr. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Butler, it was unanimously voted that the ARRL will expand its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America reaffirming the League’s commitment to the youth of America.”

The initial efforts of the Committee were directed toward three components of the introduction of Amateur Radio and the ARRL to the Scouting community. The models for the initial assessment were derived from material from the ARRL Website; brochures produced by the ARRL for distribution to Scouts; and appropriate Merit Badge Pamphlets of the Boy Scouts of America.

These Merit Badge pamphlets were analyzed: Radio; Emergency Preparedness; Electronics and Electricity. The Radio Merit Badge pamphlet was subjected to the most detailed examination using these criteria:

1. Is it up-to-date?
2. Is the material relevant?
3. Would you change anything in the book?
4. Does it provide enough information to cause a Scout to want to be involved in Amateur Radio?
5. Does it dovetail with the handout material we (ARRL) have available?

Each of the other Merit Badge booklets was subjected to similar scrutiny.

It was determined that all of these pamphlets serve their purpose for the Scouts, and are designed to provide a broad introduction to their subjects. We especially commend the individuals on the ARRL staff who have contributed to each revision of the Radio Merit Badge pamphlet.

The ARRL brochure entitled “Scouts On-the-Air” has been examined in detail. These criteria were used in our analysis:

1. Is it up-to-date?
2. Is it telling the story that we want to convey?
3. Who is the target audience?
4. Does it direct the reader to appropriate resources to further excite their interest?
5. How can it be improved?

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The Committee continues to look at that brochure in detail. Suffice it to say at this juncture that we generally feel that it is in need of total re-write to bring it in line with the needs of today's scouts. The Committee will provide a recommended revamping of the brochure prior to the 2006 Annual Meeting. Coordination will be conducted with the appropriate ARRL staff department.

The ARRL Website provides a great deal of outdated material perhaps included to provide a historical perspective of what has been done to support the Boy and Girls Scouts. Nothing gives the youth who would search the website the impression that there truly is a relationship between ARRL and BSA/GSA. Further study of the web material and make-up will be required for the Committee to make concrete recommendations. The material on the web must go well beyond simply regurgitating essentially the same Jamboree-on-the-Air information year after year. The Committee will subject the web content to microscopic examination in the coming months.

Are we (ARRL) doing all we can to introduce Amateur Radio to the millions of Boy and Girl Scouts? No, but a beginning has been made. Further effort is required if we are to make significant strides to tap this vast resource of young people and their leaders.

Where do we go from here? The Committee will continue to provide new material and ideas to the Board of Directors and the staff of ARRL throughout the coming months. Follow-on action will incorporate a detailed look at the Amateur Radio needs of the Girl Scouts of America.

The Committee appreciates the monumental effort put forth by ARRL's Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, at the National Jamborees of the Boy Scouts of America. His presence has introduced thousands of Scouts to the wonders of Amateur Radio.

Respectfully submitted:

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN (Chair)
Rev Morton, WS7W
Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF
Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT