



Second Century

A Passion for Learning

When I was first getting into amateur radio, my dad took a special interest in providing me with the basic tools necessary to be successful. One of the first things he gave me as a Christmas present was the 1977 ARRL Handbook. I dove into the book with gusto! Much of it was over my head, but I began putting small bookmarks through the book as reminders of things to go back to, to try for myself! This also led to a love of reading older editions of the Handbook that featured tube transmitter projects.

In November, we brought a similar passion for the *Handbook* to new and beginner-level hams with a YouTube series about this valuable resource. We partnered with a group of YouTube content creators who each gave their view of a section of the 2022 *Handbook*. Their dives into the book made it less intimidating, each covering subjects relevant to projects and activities the viewers may have in mind. The video series was a resounding success, and something we will do again in the future with other topics. We will also be featuring a forum track at the ARRL National Convention in February, called “Hands-On *Handbook*,” which will expand upon the learning from this video series.

Our books, magazines, and digital content make ARRL the leading destination for ham radio learning and information. ARRL has published *QST* for more than 100 years. But did you know that we publish four magazines — *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ* — and that all of them are accessible to members digitally at www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines? I have always subscribed to *NCJ*, ARRL’s *National Contest Journal* — which is celebrating 50 years of publication this year — to support the publication, and also to keep myself aware of and constantly learning from the great work contesters are doing, from station design, to receiving antennas, to operating techniques. It is this passion for learning that drives us at ARRL, and where we’re going as a part of our digital transformation.

We recently launched the ARRL Learning Center, which you can visit at learn.arrl.org. This has been an effort with the creative agency Mintz & Hoke to establish a portal for presenting education and learning content. Some of the learning tracks available at the Learning Center will lead to certificates associated with ARRL programs, such as ARES. We will continue to develop content for the Learning Center and are open to your ideas. Feel free to submit them at arrl.org/ideas.

We are also constantly finding opportunities to create short, focused videos, and are posting them on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/ARRLHQ. We recently licensed the Technician class training videos from Dave Casler, KE0OG, adding these to our YouTube channel, with the General- and Extra-class videos being featured in the Learning Center. As the Learning Center and YouTube channel become destina-

tions for members and potential new hams alike, they will offer plenty of support for getting or upgrading your amateur radio license.

Recently, we had the good fortune to hire Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, to take the helm of our Education & Learning Department. Steve was a schoolteacher who had tremendous success working amateur radio into his curriculum and getting his students licensed and active. Working with ARRL gives Steve the opportunity to do this at a national level. We are now in the beginnings of working with various state Boards of Education on aligning new technology curriculum standards with activities related to amateur radio. We recently had the opportunity to meet with a representative of the Illinois State BOE, and have established a working relationship as we find meaningful ways to incorporate amateur radio into more schools.

Over the past year, I have been very focused on the quality of content in our books. As members purchase these books — sometimes spanning multiple editions as the content changes — it is critical that what we are offering is up to date and free from errors. To that end, I am committed to taking on our next satellite book as my own project. I want to integrate QR codes that link to supplemental content as the reader navigates the book, looking at videos and the most up-to-date information on current satellites. It has always amazed me how quickly out of date satellite information and presentations become. By pursuing this digital immersion that involves print, text, and video, the content can become evergreen and make learning easier and more relevant for the reader!

Passion for radio. Passion for learning. It’s what we’re all about. We’re open minded to approaches and to new content creators, so let us know what has been successful for you! Be radio active, connect those potential or new hams to our content, and let us know what you think.

Very 73,

David A. Minster, NA2AA
Chief Executive Officer