ARRL and IARU have been preparing for this conference, and to protect Amateur Radio spectrum. Because of this critically important service that IARU provides, it has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. These regions are organized to roughly mirror the structure of the ITU and its related regional telecommunications organizations. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 comprises Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. According to the IARU, there are about 3 million hams worldwide. There are about 700,000 hams in the US. ARRL has about 157,000 members.

Tell the World About Amateur Radio
What are you doing to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day? What are you doing to celebrate Amateur Radio’s contributions to society? Visit www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day.html to see what your fellow hams around the world are doing this year.

I have given a challenge to ARRL staff. April 18, 2020 will be the 95th anniversary of the founding of the IARU. Let’s create a worldwide event — a non-competitive “contest” — to publicize Amateur Radio. I can imagine an operation similar to ARRL Field Day. Clubs or ad hoc teams operate from schools, shopping centers, parks, or other highly visible locations. Stations get multipliers for social criteria, like having someone under the age of 20 make a contact. Let’s have multipliers for press coverage, both in traditional media and on social media, and the number of placements or “likes” received. And another multiplier for demonstrating all aspects of Amateur Radio — contesting, DXing, emergency communications, homebrew equipment, and more — at your event. The goal of the contest is not to make as many contacts as possible, but to make the biggest impact enticing the next generation of hams into Amateur Radio.

These details are only my suggestions. As always, I invite your comments to me at wb2itx@arrl.org. Let’s take advantage of this event to show the world what Amateur Radio is!