



# ARRL Spectrum Defense Matters

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## A Note from the Chief Executive Officer

As we put this final issue of ARRL Spectrum Defense Matters for 2010 to bed, the end of the year is just a few weeks away. If you have not done so already I hope you will consider making a contribution to the Spectrum Defense Fund before flipping the calendar over to 2011. At this point we are well short of our 2010 goal for the Defense Fund. Please help us close the gap.

Will the ARRL cut back on its spectrum defense program if you don't contribute? Of course not. We will do what's necessary, no matter what. And we will continue to be careful stewards of the funds you make available to us, either through your membership dues or additional voluntary contributions. We don't spend money on this or any other program just because it's there.

So, why should you contribute? To tell us you agree that defending your access to the radio spectrum is as important to you as we think it is. To be a part of a team that includes volunteers in dozens of countries who work through the IARU to protect and even expand your operating privileges. To relieve the stress on other parts of the ARRL's operating budget that may not be as key to the survival of Amateur Radio but that are essential to the richness of our experience and our ability to serve the public. Perhaps most important, to pay back the investment that previous generations of ARRL members made in securing the frequency privileges you enjoy today.

The coming year will see the completion of preparations for the next World Radiocommunication Conference, to be held in Geneva in January and February 2012. We hope for favorable outcomes on the agenda items we care about—but that will not be the end of it. This WRC will recommend an agenda for the next one, later in the decade. Will that agenda pose serious threats to amateur spectrum? Will it include the possibility of new or expanded amateur allocations? The answers will depend in part on work being done on your behalf today, in Geneva and within regional telecommunications organizations that cover the globe.

Be part of the solution. Contribute today. Thanks for your consideration and support.

David Sumner, K1ZZ  
Chief Executive Officer



## Our IARU Partners



By a wide margin the ARRL is the largest national Amateur Radio association in the world, with the largest professional staff. We have resources that our colleagues in other countries do not, so we are able to devote more resources to the protection and expansion of Amateur Radio spectrum access. But we could never do the job alone. Fortunately, for decades there has been a global team of radio amateurs, most of them volunteers, who have been willing to devote their time—sometimes at great personal sacrifice—to preserving and expanding the amateur bands. Their work is coordinated through the International Amateur Radio Union, the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations.

The ARRL may devote the most resources in absolute terms, but others do their fair share and more. IARU member-societies pay annual dues to their regional IARU organizations based on formulas that are approved by the member-societies themselves at regional conferences—in effect, a self-imposed tax. Each of the three regional organizations is different. For example, member-societies in Region 1—Europe, Africa, northern Asia and the Middle East—pay 1.80 Swiss francs per licensed member of IARU Region 1 per year, or about \$1.80 at current exchange rates. Region 2 (the Americas) calculates its dues based on the number of licensed amateurs in each country and assesses \$.07 per licensed amateur, a figure that has not changed since 1986.

### Preparations for international radio regulatory meetings

But that's not all. In addition to their IARU dues, a number of member-societies fund the participation of representatives—occasionally staff but mainly volunteers—in the domestic preparations in their own countries for international radio regulatory meetings. ARRL staff does this within the United States, but of course we could never perform the same function in another country. There is more to this than showing up for an occasional meeting in the national capital. It also involves serving on national delegations to international meetings of the International Telecommunication Union (usually in Geneva) and of a regional telecommunications organization.

The role of regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs)—not to be confused with the IARU regional organizations—has grown in recent years. The final decisions with regard to proposed changes in the international Radio Regulations (including but not limited to the Table of Frequency Allocations) are made at World Radiocommunication

*Continued on Page 3*

## In This Issue

A Note from the Chief Executive Officer .....	Page 1
Our IARU Partners .....	Page 1
ARRL Gauges National Broadband Plan Impact on Amateur Radio .....	Page 2
The 2010 GAREC Conference .....	Page 3
A Note from the Chief Technology Officer .....	Page 4
A Note from the Chief Development Officer .....	Page 4



## ARRL Carefully Gauges National Broadband Plan Impact on Amateur Radio

Users of radio spectrum in the United States are watching regulatory developments related to the FCC and NTIA initiatives to make 500 MHz of spectrum available for wireless broadband use. Amateurs are no exception, and anxiety is understandable, particularly when FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and others continue to release statements like this:

"The future of our mobile economy depends on spectrum, America's invisible infrastructure. If we don't act to update our spectrum policies for the 21st century, we're going to face a spectrum crunch that will stifle American innovation, economic growth, and job creation."

Radio amateurs are excellent stewards of the spectrum to which they have access, particularly in the range between 225 MHz and 4.4 GHz, which has been the focus of the FCC and NTIA's initial efforts under its National Broadband Plan. With few exceptions, Amateur Radio already shares with other users in its allocated bands in this range, and these sharing arrangements permit Amateur Radio and its sharing partners to credibly argue that our use is maximally efficient.

As a result, Amateur Radio, at least initially, is well situated as the FCC and NTIA begin their work. While ARRL is vigorously contesting (in WT Docket 07-293) a suggestion that amateurs using 2300-2305 MHz will simply have to adapt to any degradation that may occur due to liberalized WCS rules in an adjacent band, there has not yet been a proposal to put an entirely new service in spectrum used by Amateur Radio to reach the objective of 500 MHz for wireless broadband. We are doing well, but as the WCS proceeding shows, it is difficult to come out unscathed from the juggernaut of wireless broadband.

On November 15, the NTIA, regulator for federal spectrum users, identified candidate bands totaling 2200 MHz for consideration for reallocation to wireless broadband. This includes the 280 MHz previously proposed for reallocation within five years by the FCC, as well as another 115 MHz currently occupied by federal users identified for fast-track reallocation. Put together, that's 395 MHz—there is 105 MHz to go, and the 3300-3500 MHz

band is among the candidate bands for that remaining 105 MHz.

At this stage, panic is not warranted, but vigilance is. Speaking of the NTIA's report, Chairman Genachowski noted that it "outlines important short- and long-term approaches for meeting the President's vital goal of 500 MHz of spectrum for broadband by 2020. We will continue to partner with NTIA and other federal agencies to make the best use of our nation's precious spectrum resource." It is difficult to disagree, and ARRL will continue to make the case that Amateur Radio's status quo is an integral part of that best use.

### Work Advanced in Support of Secondary Amateur Allocation at MF

Meeting in Geneva November 8-17, delegates to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (ITU-R) Working Party 5A completed work on technical documentation in support of consideration of a secondary allocation to the Amateur Radio Service of about 15 kHz in the range 415-526.5 kHz. The potential allocation is as listed on the agenda as item 1.23 at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) in Geneva, scheduled for January 23-February 17, 2012.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, attended the meeting in his capacity as lead United States spokesperson for Amateur Radio issues. The United States is supporting a secondary allocation in two distinct ranges totaling 15 kHz: 461-469 kHz, and 471-478 kHz. With the concurrence of United States regulators and maritime interests, Price was able to contribute to the report in a manner designed to maximize the possibility of an affirmative outcome for the agenda item.

"The road to a successful outcome remains difficult, even with United States support," Price said after the meeting. "The International Maritime Organization remains opposed to an allocation anywhere in the range, and although there have been some encouraging developments within some member states of the ITU, softening or countering the opposition of a very well respected UN specialized agency, such as the IMO, is no small task.



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And while we have laid a good groundwork for compatibility with all incumbent operations, including aeronautical non-directional beacons in some parts of the world, persuasively making the case at future conferences will take time, talent, and resources."

Other matters of interest to Amateur Radio, including potential allocations to HF oceanographic radars, space object detection applications at VHF, and potential regulatory provisions regarding software defined and cognitive radio systems, continue to be discussed in parallel meetings monitored by ARRL representatives. All agenda items before the conference will be shaped by the outcome of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, slated for Geneva from February 14-25, 2011.



# Matters

Page 3

## Our IARU Partners *Continued from Page 1*

Conferences (WRCs), held every few years under the auspices of the ITU. Every ITU Member State has the right to submit proposals for consideration at a WRC, but there are 192 Member States and you can imagine the chaos that would result if many of them submitted separate proposals on each of more than two dozen agenda items and then tried—working in six different languages—to reconcile the differences in the space of a four-week conference. So for the past several WRCs, considerable preparatory work has been done through the RTOs to develop coordinated regional proposals. Here in the Americas our RTO is known as CITEL and serves as the coordinator for the Organization of American States in telecommunications matters. The IARU regional organizations are principally responsible for representing our interests to the RTOs in their regions, but it is essential also to have Amateur Radio representatives on some national delegations.

It costs an IARU member-society about the same to support a representative on a national delegation whether they are representing the interests of 700,000 radio amateurs as in the case of the ARRL, or 4,300 as in the case of NZART in New Zealand. Yet, NZART is but one of a number of member-societies that consistently participate in WRC preparations and provide an Amateur Radio representative on their administration's delegation—an important contribution to our overall effort because New Zealand is quite influential in ITU affairs.

We are fortunate to have such good partners in many countries throughout the world.

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ARRL and other IARU Member Societies represented the interests of Amateur Radio at the November 2010 meetings of ITU-R Working Party 5A in Geneva. Work was conducted to support the consideration of a secondary Amateur Radio allocation of about 15 kHz in the range 415-526.5 kHz at WRC-12, scheduled for January-February 2012. Members of the Amateur Radio Working Group are shown during their deliberations. From left to right, they are: Ulrich Mueller, DK4VW, Chairman, IARU Region 1 C4HF Committee; Colin Thomas, G3PSM, RSGB Spectrum & Regulatory Consultant; Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, Chairman, ITU-R Working Group 5A-1 for Amateur Services; Nur Serinken, Research Scientist, Communications Research Centre Canada; Brennan Price, N4QX, ARRL Chief Technology Officer.

Photo by Hans Blondeel-Timmerman, PB2T.

## The 2010 GAREC Conference held in Curaçao

The 2010 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) Conference was held October 10-12 in Curaçao (PJ2). GAREC is an annual conference attended by radio amateurs from around the world who are involved in emergency communications. This year, representatives from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, the United Kingdom, Cuba, India, Japan, South Africa, the United States and Curaçao took part. The ARRL was represented by ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC.

Topics covered included the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, Amateur Radio emergency communication organizations, how emergency messages are handled, and how an emergency communications exercise is designed and organized. Updates on emergency communications activities in each of the three IARU regions were also given.

Throughout the week of the conference, attendees also had a chance to get on the air using the call sign PJ2A. This call has been assigned to VERONA, Curaçao's IARU Member-Society. When not operating from PJ2A, several attendees operated under their home call sign/PJ2. Those who could go on the air as PJ2 were greeted with massive pileups all week long.

GAREC has been held each year since 2005. The meeting location changes each year and is rotated through each IARU region. The 2011 GAREC conference is scheduled to be in Sun City, South Africa in August and will coincide with the 2011 IARU Region 1 Conference.

**LAST  
CHANCE**  
for the 2010  
Spectrum  
Defense Mug and Pin



**We will say thank you for your \$50 contribution with a 2010 pin, and for your \$100 contribution with both the mug and pin.**

To receive your pin or mug, contribute via the ARRL Web site using the ARRL Donation form at [www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form), or make a one-time contribution by mailing the enclosed reply form with your check payable to the **ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund**, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.



# ARRL Spectrum Defense Matters

Page 4

## A Note from the Chief Technology Officer

Spectrum defense requires efforts on numerous fronts: domestic and international; legislative and administrative; legal, political, and technical. ARRL By-Law 37(d) charges me with the task to advocate for the League on technical issues, but I hardly do it alone.

As I write this, I am in Geneva, concluding work in support of a potential secondary allocation at MF at WRC-12. Back home, my colleague, Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, is in final preparations for a meeting in Bogota, Colombia, of an Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) panel that will determine a regional position on this and other WRC agenda items. The United States has made an affirmative proposal on this allocation, but the proposal is only as weighty as the regional support it can garner, and Jon is key to our efforts to garner that support.

While I have been here, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has finished filing pleadings related to ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration in WT Docket 07-293. His work here, as well as his efforts to curtail the misguided allowance of Recon Robotics surveillance devices on the 70 centimeter band, is well thought out, supported by the time and talents of our ARRL Laboratory, and is truly top notch—and it's not just other ARRL staff that has said so.

The schedule of meetings and pleadings is demanding, and the examples above are hardly exhaustive of the staff and volunteers undertaking the cause of spectrum defense every day. But with each other's help, we do our best to keep Amateur Radio healthy by ensuring its continued access to spectrum. In the history of Amateur Radio, we've had wins and losses, but I think we—ARRL members past and present—are doing something right. As ARRL approaches its 100th anniversary, even in the face of significant commercial pressures, Amateur Radio is fortunate to have access to sufficient spectrum to permit experimentation and public service almost unlimited by imagination.

This state of affairs hasn't happened as a fluke of fate. It happened because amateurs like you, time and again, have answered the call. I never forget that in my daily work. And that's why I'm a donor to the Spectrum Defense Fund. I invite you to join me. **Thank you for all you do.**

73,

**Brennan Price, N4QX**  
Chief Technology Officer



**Brennan Price, N4QX**  
Chief Technology Officer

## A Note from the Chief Development Officer

The year has really flown by and it's hard to believe that we are in the final weeks of 2010. This is the time when your contribution to the Spectrum Defense Fund will truly have an impact on ARRL's work on your behalf to protect our operating frequencies and privileges. Certainly efforts in defense of our frequencies are the bedrock of our service to you as an ARRL member.

I hope this third and final 2010 issue of Spectrum Defense Matters will convince you of the importance of your financial support. Your gift in any amount will help us reach the goal of raising \$325,000 in 2010. To make it a bit easier we offer you the option of contributing monthly—\$10, \$15, or \$20 per month.

These few weeks are your final opportunity to make a gift of \$50 to receive the 2010 Defense pin or \$100 to receive the 2010 mug AND pin. Of course, we'll send you a certificate as well if you wish.

And this month, we're adding a 10% bonus! If you make a gift of \$50 or more we'll include a discount coupon that you can use when you order ARRL publications from us on the phone or on the Web.

There are several manageable ways to make your gift....

- Consider contributing \$10, \$15 or \$20 monthly on a credit card.
- Contribute via the ARRL website using the ARRL Donation form at [www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form).
- **NEW!** Arrange with your bank to send an automatic monthly check of \$10, \$15, \$20 or more, payable to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.
- Make a one-time contribution by mailing your check, payable to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111.
- Make a gift of securities. Contact the ARRL Development Office for details on how to transfer stock to the Spectrum Defense Fund.
- Consider including the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund in your estate plans, and become a member of the ARRL Legacy Circle.

The days are flying by and your support is vital. Thank you if you have already made your contribution this year.

**Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and the best for 2011!**

**Mary M. Hobart, K1MMH**  
Chief Development Officer  
ARRL  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111  
Telephone: 860-594-0397  
E-mail: [mhobart@arrl.org](mailto:mhobart@arrl.org)

