

## ARRL Ad-hoc Committee on Scouting Report to the Board – January 19, 2007

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**ARRL ad-hoc Committee on Scouting charge:** To study the interface between ARRL and scouting organizations and make recommendations for improvement, and survey ARRL and scouting literature for effectiveness and adequacy.

**Members:** Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, Bill Edgar N3LLR, Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, Larry Wolfgang WR1B

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Ham radio and scouting form a near perfect marriage, per se. As the general ham population continues to age, there is a need to involve younger, enthusiastic people to its ranks to secure a healthy future. Likewise, as the scouting community remains active in such activities as backpacking, camping, and public service, ham radio is available to provide not only a measure of safety, but an additional element of excitement. Simply put, the scouting community can benefit the ham community, and vice-versa. Members of the scouting community are active in their communities and the field, generally excited to try new activities thanks in part to merit badges and rank advancement, and enthusiastic. As such, scouts (youth) and scouters (adult volunteers) are a prime audience to target when promoting our wonderful hobby.

The ad-hoc Committee on Scouting has been engaged with reviewing various topics per our charge including ARRL and scouting literature as well as the interface between ARRL and scouting organizations. Since the July 2006 board meeting the committee has achieved one of its recent significant goals through the recruitment of several scout(er)s who are also active in the ham radio community. These individuals from around the nation are serving the committee in an adjunct manner, providing ideas and feedback to the various areas being explored. A number of these volunteers have served on K2BSA staff during Boy Scout National Jamborees held at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. All are current scout(er)s and Hams. They are: Bill Morine N2COP, Frank Krizan KR1ZAN, Mark Abramowicz NT3V, John Pise KX1X, Ray Moyer WD8JKV, Doug Asher KK5DUG, and Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF. We thank them for their willingness to assist the committee.

In the months leading to the January board meeting the committee and its adjunct members progressed with discussion focusing in three areas: ARRL publications pertaining to scouting, scouting's presence on the ARRL website, and the idea of a voluntary Assistant Section Manager for Scouting position. All members provided detailed and valuable suggestions with the ultimate goal of meeting our committee's charge.

The purpose of the brochure would be to draw the attention of scouts to ham radio, provide them with enough information to whet their appetite, and refer them to the ARRL website for more extensive information and content. The brochure would be intended for distribution primarily at scouting events and meetings, as opposed to at hamfests. Incorporating many of the suggestions provided, the committee is in the process of developing at least one draft brochure by February 24 with the goal of making final recommendations shortly thereafter.

The purpose of the web content targeting members of the scouting community would be to provide scouts and scouters detailed information about ham radio as it relates to scouting, beyond what's offered by the brochure. This content should target both youth and adults, be easily accessible to someone who visits the ARRL website, and be organized by theme (What scouts can do with ham radio at scouting events, Radio Merit badge, Girl Scout related content, resources for adults, etc.). Also incorporating many of the suggestions provided, the committee is in the process of developing a flowchart and general sample web content by February 24 with the goal of making final recommendations shortly thereafter.

At the present time it is this committee's intention is to present its findings in full before the Board of Directors at its July meeting. To date the committee has focused on the Boy Scouts of America, and efforts will turn to Girl Scout community in the near future.

Now that it is beginning to complete its work on the brochure, web content and other internal ARRL matters, the committee will focus its efforts over the next several months to examine a better interface and closer relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

The idea of an Assistant Section Manager for Scouting has also been discussed and the committee has agreed that due to issues surrounding the implementation of this position, its roles and its ultimate acceptance within sections more thought would be needed on the feasibility of this idea. It was therefore tabled for later discussion so efforts could be focused on the completing work relating to the brochure, web content and opening channels with BSA National.

As mentioned in this committee's previous report to the board, achieving the goals of improving the interface between ARRL and scouting organizations as well as making ARRL's scouting literature more effective and adequate will no doubt benefit the ham radio and scouting communities alike. The coming months will serve as an opportunity for us to focus on our findings and formulate specific recommendations to present to the ARRL board for potential adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Edgar N3LLR*

*Jim Fenstermaker K9JF*

*Larry Wolfgang WR1B*

*Brian Mileschosky N5ZGT, Chairman*