

ARRL Ad-hoc Committee on Scouting Report to the Board – July 20, 2007

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

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 January 2007 board meeting the committee has continued to work with certain individuals serving in an adjunct manner: 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 continued willingness to assist the committee.

Progress over the past six months has been lighter than expected, however we have discussed the following topics:

- The feasibility of ARRL targeting scout groups (i.e. at council level, or specially targeted units). This program might serve as ARRL's vehicle for promoting the League and hobby to the scouting community in the field, while utilizing the flyers and website previously discussed on this committee.
- Whether JOTA (and perhaps Kid's Day, though not directly Scouting related) could become part of the contesting soapbox database to promote and discuss past events. Though JOTA is not a contest or solely organized by ARRL, its usage of the contesting soapbox database might allow participants to interact a bit more, creating another means of promoting future events.
- The feasibility of ARRL taking on a larger role in promoting JOTA, perhaps via handouts to BSA's council offices with points of contact and links to further information for inquiring scouts? The "further information" would include mentioning of a JOTA webpage (part of the ARRL scouting webpage we've been discussing) with all pertinent information, ideas, links to the ARRL club database, etc.
- The extent of ARRL involvement, as the national association for amateur radio, in K2BSA operations at National Jamborees, the premier national scouting event which occurs every four years (next one being in 2010 to coincide with Scouting's 100th anniversary). The committee is investigating if further involvement, of any fashion, might assist with the promotion of ham radio and the success of K2BSA.
- Ongoing: Drafting a version of the Scouting flyer we've discussed previously, including attributes that committee members have suggested. Jim Fenstermaker K9JF is completing a draft flyer.

- Ongoing: Drafting a potential ARRL scouting website structure as we've discussed previously. Brian Mileschosky N5ZGT is completing flowchart.
- Ongoing: Exploring ways to forge a (more) formal relationship with BSA national, including the idea of establishing an MOU between both organizations following Board approval.

It was this committee's intention to present its findings in full before the Board of Directors at the July meeting; however we've not completed discussing some of the topics above. The committee has committed itself to complete all work with regard to BSA and present its findings and recommendations in full to the Board at its January 2008 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.

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,

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