

Amateur Radio Club

Next year the ARRL will mark its 100'th anniversary. Better known as the Amateur Radio Relay League, it is the sole organization that presides over 600,000 Licensed Amateur Radio Operators in the United States.

To Quote from their Website:

“Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for Amateur Radio in the US. Today, with more than 160,000 members, ARRL is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the world. ARRL's mission is based on five pillars: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.”

100 years ago radio communication was in its infancy; it was not possible to communicate large distances as we can today; thus radio stations were relays, passing information to the next radio station. The Internet started in the same manner. In its desire to facilitate information exchange from various experiments in Cern, Switzerland, to researchers around the world, contact was made to a wired station to pass information. This was the original concept of E mail. Next came ARPANET which transformed the information into packets of information, utilizing a new protocol called TCP/IP. This simple concept was rapidly transformed into the robust E mail system we have today.

While the ARRL is not a regulatory entity, it has positioned itself to lobbying the FCC to insure the integrity of the airwaves, assist in providing its expertise in radio technology for congressional action, and provides vital information to augment military radio. The ARRL now has 15 major divisions and 71 Administrative sections. It is a vast, efficiently run organization.

The ARRL is the mainstay in publishing several magazines of interest to Amateur Radio operators and developers of radio technology and equipment: QST, QEX magazines publish information of interest; anyone can submit an article for publication.

The ARRL initiated and supports several Emergency organizations, ARES and R.A.C.E.S. ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and R.A.C.E.S – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. These organizations actively

participate in Emergency preparedness and respond to emergencies. In addition, R.A.C.E.S is associated with FEMA.

Recently, the ARRL was instrumental in activating the ARES and R.A.C.E.S amateur radio organizations to provide assisted voluntary aid in the large Rim Fire in Yosemite Park.

Take a few minutes and browse their website: <http://arrl.org> Much is available to the public and be careful, it may stimulate your interests in getting involved.

Our website is w6fsb.com, our meetings are on the last Friday of the month at 10AM -- in the Lodge Ballroom. See you there!

Dick Van Bree, W6RVB, President