

For a few years now, Herb Fiddick, Bill Gery, Larry Staples and I have been discussing the idea of an association consisting of the various amateur radio clubs from around the Kansas City Area. Collectively, we could achieve so much more than we can our own. The success of the WW1USA project is an example of the power of club collaboration.

It's time that we write down our ideas and share them with you. The thoughts and ideas we have here are pretty abstract, and there's nothing here that can't be changed or modified. Perhaps you might also have some ideas to add to make what we've started even better. After we've collected our thoughts and ideas, everyone interested could meet, and perhaps get something rolling. So let me introduce to you...

The Association of Amateur Radio Clubs for the Kansas City Bi-State Region

I. Purpose

- a. Promote, encourage, and participate in the education of the art and science of amateur radio.
- b. Coordinate and foster activities, efforts, and points of the view of the various amateur radio clubs from our region.
- c. Coordinate recognition of individuals from our region who have made notable contributions to amateur radio.
- d. Serve as the combined voice for amateur radio on issues affecting amateur radio within our region.
- e. Create solidarity of purpose for the amateur radio community from our region.

II. Membership

- a. Open to any and all bonafide Amateur Radio Club in the KC Region
 - i. Region defined as within 150 mile radius of I-435 and State Line Road
- b. One vote per member club

III. Meetings

- a. Monthly
- b. Standing Committees
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Recognition Committee
 - iii. Issues Committee

Kansas City is Ham Radio Heaven! We have thirty or so thriving and active Amateur Radio Clubs in our region while similar metro areas have only one. Think of the many great things we do from our local clubs. Some clubs are general in nature, while some of the others specialize in a specific area. These things can and should continue at our local, specialized clubs.

Now, as an added benefit, think of what we can do if we combine our efforts, talents, and ideas together! What if we had a metro-wide event or effort on a QSO party? What if we could coordinate

resources, like towers, generators, etc? Most importantly, what if we could coordinate and share our talents and expertise? We've provided awards and recognition in the past to members from the ham radio community. What if we could formalize that process, and have a body in place to promote such recognition? As you can see, the possibilities are endless!

Q: Would such an organization replace my local Ham Radio Club?

A: Absolutely *NOT*. Such an organization would serve and augment the local clubs and organizations.

Q: Isn't this what the ARRL is all about.

A: No. The ARRL is the *National* Organization for Amateur Radio. What's done at a national level, while very good for all of us, may not necessarily cover or address what we need at a regional or local level. I would propose that such a new organization work with the ARRL, and even obtain an ARRL Affiliation, similar to local clubs.

Q: Is this proposed organization going to order my local club around? Can it tell us what we can or cannot do?

A: No. We would not be a regulatory body or commission. While the proposed regional association may have rules and conditions for membership, it is not intended, nor shall it be involved in the business or governance of the local clubs. The proposed regional association would be there to assist, not to interfere with the local clubs.