



## Second Century

# Advancing Our Noble Cause

*Nearly 8 years ago, ARRL Headquarters staff took on the monumental task of hosting the 2014 ARRL Centennial Convention here in Hartford. By all accounts, it was a magnificent event, and to this day there are requests for us to consider doing another one! One of the highlights was the keynote address that then-First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, made at the convention banquet. Now, Rick is a great speaker. He has the ability to rouse both excitement and emotion from an audience on all things amateur radio. And this speech was no exception.*

Rick hit upon many of the themes of our hobby to underscore one major point: amateur radio operators, especially the active ones who are members of ARRL, are *elite*. Amateur radio is the greatest hobby in the world. One of the great things about it, as I showcased in last month's column, is its ability to create treasured memories. It is important for us to tell those stories to others, especially newer hams, so that they can understand the texture these contribute to our hobby.

Among those stories, and one I often speak about, is the unique vantage point hams have in the international community. In his 2014 speech, Rick said, "Anywhere in the world we hams go, there's an instant friendship regardless of your background, religious beliefs, or what country you're from. It doesn't matter — even in a country we aren't friendly with, it doesn't matter." And of course he's right. You can go pretty much anywhere in the world, and if you see a tower and an antenna behind a house, there's a great chance there's a couch for you to sleep on that night if you need it. This reinforces the trust and relationship we hams share.

The thing about Rick's speech that resonated most strongly with me is something we're going to check in on today. It was his list of "five things for every ham to do." He asked us to make this our annual checklist of what we must do to support the hobby, grow the hobby, and to look for ways to individually have an impact or give back to the hobby, to pay back the debt we owe to those who came before us that did the heavy lifting of building out amateur radio, and for the enrichment many of us have enjoyed through our lives and careers.

So it's time to check in. How have you done with Rick's list?

1. Go to a club meeting. Support your local club!
2. Help another ham in some way.
3. Get someone new into ham radio. Be a recruiter!

4. Get someone new to join ARRL; this is your association!
5. Create a sign for your shack that says *Legacy*, and put it where you can see it, every day.

The reality is, we all bear the responsibility to promote and protect this hobby that we hold so dear. The noble cause we undertake is manifested in many ways, from inspiring young people to learn about radio fundamentals and techniques, to developing and elevating our skills in dealing with modern emergency communications scenarios, to strengthening and growing our radio clubs where so much of the day-to-day work of amateur radio knowledge-sharing and practice takes place. And most importantly, as Rick said, "You can't be negative... we need to set a positive example...by getting into your clubs and into your community and talking up ham radio."

Each of us has a role with ensuring that amateur radio continues to evolve and grow. One of my favorite phrases is, "if you do what you did, you'll get what you've got." What does your legacy to the hobby look like? How have you made it a better place today than when you found it? As Rick points out, there are so many ways to accomplish that. For instance, each of us helping another ham, new or old, to get on the air will have tremendous impact!

As you look at Rick's list, adopt those challenges as your own. Remember to stay radio active. Be that club member, that ARRL member, that local ham who is taking on the noble cause of building and supporting amateur radio for now and for the years to come.

  
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