

News Release



ARRL The national association for
Amateur Radio®

CENTENNIAL

Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914

For Immediate Release

Press Release for ARRL Centennial Convention 2014

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SUMMARY: ARRL TO HOLD NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT IN JULY 2014: Members and friends of ARRL will gather at the organization's birthplace to celebrate one hundred years of advancing the art and science of radio.

NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT – ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, has announced the organization's plan to hold its national Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-20, 2014. The Convention will mark 100 years of the ARRL's founding in Hartford. ARRL President Kay Craigie has also announced a theme for ARRL's Centennial year: **Advancing the Art and Science of Radio -- since 1914.**

In May 1914, Hiram Percy Maxim (1869-1936), a leading Hartford, Connecticut, inventor and industrialist, founded the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), together with Clarence Tuska, secretary of The Radio Club of Hartford. Today, ARRL serves over 158,000 members, mostly licensed radio amateurs, in the US and around the world.

The decision to hold the ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford was made by the ARRL Board of Directors during its July 2012 meeting. The organization's headquarters has been maintained in the Hartford area since its founding. ARRL's present headquarters is located on Main Street in Newington, Connecticut, a suburb of Hartford, and is visited by nearly 2,000 groups and individuals each year. The site has been home to The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, call sign W1AW, since 1938. ARRL employs around 100 people.

The proposal to host the Centennial Convention in Hartford was reinforced by the organizers of The ARRL New England Division Convention, held every two years in Boxborough, Massachusetts. "Boxborough's organizing sponsor, FEMARA, Inc., has graciously agreed to forgo holding a convention in 2014," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer. "Instead, FEMARA has offered to help share its expertise and volunteers as we prepare to bring this national celebration to Hartford. We will also invite help from ARRL members and radio clubs throughout New England and the region to help." Proceeds from the biennial Boxboro convention help support the FEMARA Scholarship fund, awarded to young radio amateurs who are pursuing higher education. "Since Boxboro will not be held in 2014, a portion of the ticket sales for the Centennial Convention will be donated to the FEMARA Scholarship fund," said Kramer.

“ARRL members should save-the-dates. The 2014 Centennial Convention is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen who explained that the event will have all of the trademark elements of a proper convention and hamfest; presentations and forums, exhibits, vendors, demonstrations, flea market, activities for youth, and banquet. “But, plan on some very special centennial-themed activities,” he added, “including tours of ARRL headquarters and W1AW, guest presenters, some surprises, and lots of celebrating! We want ARRL members to come with all of their experiences from the first one hundred years of Amateur Radio and ARRL, and leave with a shared vision for ARRL’s Second Century.”

The convention organizing team is already making plans to bring the convention to Hartford, including the selection of a venue. The area boasts dozens of attractions and activities, making Connecticut a great destination for members who plan to attend the convention with their family and friends. Nearby attractions include the Connecticut Science Center, Mark Twain House, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and Wadsworth Atheneum. Hartford is served by an international airport (Hartford/Springfield BDL), and is conveniently located between Boston and New York City. Hartford’s centrally located Union Station is serviced by Amtrak and major bus companies.

Interested parties may learn more about ARRL, Amateur Radio and the Centennial Convention at www.arrl.org/expo. A preliminary agenda is below.

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About ARRL and the Amateur Radio Service

Amateur (Ham) Radio provides the broadest and most powerful wireless communications capability available to any private citizen anywhere in the world. The principles of this federally licensed radio service include public service, radio experimentation, and international goodwill.

ARRL is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators in the US. Its mission is “to promote and advance the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.” ARRL members span the globe, supported by the organization’s programs, activities, publications and experts. ARRL publishes books, software, online courses and resources for Amateur Radio licensing, operating, and training. ARRL and its members also provide outreach to schools and teachers, inspiring students to pursue education and careers in the fields of wireless technology (radio, electronics, and computers).

Preliminary Convention Agenda

Thursday, July 17, 2014

- Registration
- All-day seminars and training tracks

Friday, July 18, 2014

- Registration
- Opening General Session
- ARRL EXPO
- Exhibit Hall & flea market
- Forums & presentations
- Dinner banquet
- Wouff Hong Ceremony

Saturday, July 19, 2014

- Registration
- ARRL EXPO
- Exhibit Hall & fleamarket
- Forums & presentations
- Closing General Session

Sunday, July 20, 2014

- TBD

Other Activities:

- Tours of ARRL headquarters/W1AW
- Donor reception
- ARRL National Youth Event
- Spouse/family excursions (area attractions)