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ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamvention:

from The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 19 on May 16, 2008

Website: <http://www.arrl.org/>

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ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamvention:

On Saturday, May 17 at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, plans to announce that the League will expand its identity program to include greater emphasis on technology. Harrison explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new fifth pillar." ARRL's other four pillars, the underpinnings of the organization, are Public Service, Advocacy, Education and Membership. "For hams, expanding the four pillars to include technology will reinforce one of the organization's guiding principles -- that ham radio is state-of-the-art, innovative and relevant," he said.

"Radio amateurs have entered a new era. More than a dozen Amateur Radio satellites are presently in orbit with more to come. Software is expanding the capabilities of their radio hardware and communication by digital voice and data is expanding rapidly among hams," Harrison said.

In addition to the new fifth pillar, the ARRL has launched a year-long ham radio recruitment campaign emphasizing the Amateur Radio Service as a scientific national resource. The campaign invites newcomers to discover ham radio in the 21st Century -- where hams are using science, technology and experimentation to explore the radio spectrum. "For more than 90 years, the ARRL has been at the forefront of technology, encouraging experimentation and education through its license training resources, publications and periodicals. ARRL provides its members with top-notch technical information services, trusted product reviews and radio spectrum advocacy," Harrison said. "The ARRL Laboratory is a centerpiece of ham radio technology, contributing to radio electronics experimentation, spectrum development and advocacy, and radio frequency engineering."

Harrison also noted that many hams attribute their affinity to "Amateur" Radio as launching their professional careers in radio engineering, satellite communications, computer science and wireless communications.

"This is less about defining a new course for Amateur Radio, but simply recognizing a course that has always been a precept of radio amateurs and the ARRL," he said. Referring to the federal rules and regulations for Amateur Radio, Harrison

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explained that one of the defining principles of the Service's very creation by the government is the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. Harrison remarked, "Today's technology is nothing new to ham radio!"

Source:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 19 May 16, 2008

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ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamventio

by [KB9RQZ](#) on May 16, 2008

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

good luck

ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamventio

by [KC2WI](#) on May 16, 2008

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Happpy to see it. Technology should be a focus. As in learning about, applying, and even inventing. Otherwise we're just a bunch of glorified appliance operator FRS/CBers.

ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamventio

by [NN4RH](#) on May 17, 2008

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Imagine that - ham radio being "technical". What will they think of next?

All else has failed. And the league is desperate

by [WA4D](#) on May 17, 2008

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

From the low tech rust belt city of Dayton, Ohio the league declared technology as a "Pillar" of amateur radio.

The level of delusion these guys display is ever more stunning.

I have no quarrel with the concept. It's the validity of their claims and it's execution. Further anytime an organization claims it is publicly "relevant", you know they're on the downside.

Further where are the metrics? Actual numbers to verify their vision. They cite the fact that there are a dozen satellites up as if thousands of hams are interacting technically with these devices. I would hazard to guess, that (domestically) it's in the hundreds.

Still the league is trying. They're not creative. They're very poor at marketing. And they haven't had a new idea in many many years. (And offering up new ones is met with arrogant indifference.)

I'd say the next chance to see how successful their methods are will be on Dec. 31, 2008 when we can see the annual

growth numbers.

**RE: All else has failed. And the league is
despera**

by [N7YA](#) on May 18, 2008

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friend!](#)

Wow, i could have sworn i saw "filth" pillar in the title...i need glasses, that settles it.

That was what drew me in, i was wondering what an ARRL Filth Pillar would entail...hmmm, i almost feel a little let down.

**RE: All else has failed. And the league is
despera**

by [W6EM](#) on May 18, 2008

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friend!](#)

Actually, ARRL's Chief Technology Officer, Paul Rinaldo, has been feeling a bit slighted, lately, so they had to do something.

Among notables, he's lost his most important WinStink/PMBO-everywhere battle, Regulation by Bandwidth, and tried to slip it through the IARU Region II, but got caught.

So, Rinaldo's now a chief pillar officer instead of just a p'in post.

**RE: All else has failed. And the league is
despera**

by [K6CRC](#) on May 18, 2008

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friend!](#)

I found this story very confusing. What does the ARRL mean?

1. We all have to buy a \$50,000 spectrum analyzer, and pass a Smith Chart test in our sleep? The hobby is limited enough now. Turning it into a hobby of microwave engineers and DSP programmers, and what will it be? Mayby 10,000 hams?

2. Try new things and grow your technical knowledge? Sounds good. To that end, please review all of your educational materials to see if they are written to support that goal. Some of the stuff is awful, some of it helpful. Hams will be looking to ARRL for guidance.

Just be clear on what you are trying to do. As a marketing professional, I am not sure what to make of these statements. A confused customer doesn't usually buy much.

**RE: All else has failed. And the league is
despera**

by [NN4RH](#) on May 19, 2008

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friend!](#)

[Quote] Actually, ARRL's Chief Technology Officer, Paul Rinaldo, has been feeling a bit slighted, lately, so they had to do something.

Among notables, he's lost his most important WinStink/PMBO-everywhere battle, Regulation by Bandwidth, and tried to slip it through the IARU Region II, but got caught.

So, Rinaldo's now a chief pillar officer instead of just a p'in post. [/Quote]

In the June 2008 QST that just came, there's an announcement that Rinaldo is retiring as of June 2.

So . . . Their Chief Technology Officer decides to retire and simultaneously the ARRL decides that "technology" is going to be their "fifth pillow". What is that about?

RE: ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamve

by [KE4MOB](#) on May 19, 2008

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Yawn.

As I read the responses, it occurs to me that the ARRL is looking to the amateur ranks to resolve a lack of identity.

One person says the hobby is "limited enough now".

Another welcomes technology back in, which will close the ranks of potential amateurs.

And the announcement itself says that it never left...hams have always been current and up to date with respect to modern technology.

Rubbish. Our two most popular modes (SSB and CW) are how old???

Someone was correct to bring up the ill-fated "Bandwidth by Regulation" proposal. It's a fine example of how wide a gulf exists between Newington and the ham at large.

I just can't seem to figure out what the ARRL wants...does it want quality or quantity???

RE: ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamve

by [W9WHE-II](#) on May 19, 2008

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How about a "6th pillar"?

Giving a crap what the average ham thinks. It would be a novel idea, at least for arrl.

W9WHE

RE: ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton Hamve

by [AA5JG](#) on May 20, 2008

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And how about the 7th pillar-actual licensing standards!

73s John AA5JG

**ARRL Introduces 'Fifth Pillar' at Dayton
Hamvention**

by [N0NV](#) on May 21, 2008

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friend!](#)

Instead of the "Fifth Pillar", technology ought to be the
"Foundation".

Jack - N0NV

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