



International Fellowship of Rotarians of Amateur Radio

17th March 2017

Letter from the President.

Dear Members

I'm writing to alert you to our forthcoming Annual General meeting at the Atlanta Convention and to highlight some initiatives being pursued by our Officers and Webmaster.

Atlanta:

As notified, Rotary International continues to hold our Fellowship in good standing and has allocated us a booth (number 2735) in the Hall of Friendship. We will showcase our interest in Amateur Radio and meet old and new friends over the course of the event from 10th to the 14th of June. Our AGM will be held at the very start of the Convention in Room A406 on Saturday 10 June 2017 from 12:30 until 13:30.

A successful convention calls for good participation from Members and I'd really welcome advice from those members coming to Atlanta. We'd love to welcome you at the IFROAR Booth and we would also love to see you assist our American Members, lead by President Nominee Ed Tyler (N4EDT), Secretary Phil Fleming (N9HWO) and Ingo Werk (KK6EWB).

So, some action from you please: I'd appreciate an email advising your attendance at Atlanta and whether you'd like to volunteer to assist in the booth for a period of time. There is no such thing as too much help, but without some of it, there is quite a burden on the few who will be putting a great effort into making our presence memorable. An email headed "IFROAR Atlanta" to the President (at) ifroar.org is all it takes!

Current IFROAR Initiatives:

Nets: North America is getting more active and my thanks to the leadership of Ed (N4EDT), Phil (N9HWO), Stephen (KOJUJ), Joe (AF1E) and Ingo KK6EWB) for working together to rejuvenate our net there. Ed has also been looking at a web-based system to help administer IFROAR nets and it certainly has many advantages over the historical "call-in" techniques that most of us are accustomed to. It is described at www.nightwatch.net and works as follows.

For any given net with its published Call Frequency and Time, participants log-on a web-based system and are registered into a queue. The queue is private to the registered group (say, IFROAR) and everyone – including a Net master can see who is on frequency and the order in which they will be called. This is certainly an advantage when propagation is fickle because it encourages contact with everyone and participants avoid the frustration of not being recognised for their efforts to join in the net.

The USA team lead by Ed will trial this system and report on it at Atlanta. I've authorised some modest expenditure to get this initiative started and I look forward to hearing how it goes.

Administration: Past President Bill (VK4ZD) is working with Secretary Phil to upgrade our administrative systems. There has been much frustration handling new membership requests and getting a credible list of members. I, for one, can sympathise with this situation as it is certainly a challenge to administer an International Fellowship that has no administrative centre (IFROAR has several!). Ideally all regions would use such a system and avoid the duplication and insularity that otherwise results. We also need to have a system that can carry the baton of leadership forward and I'd strongly recommend that regions strive to harmonise administration around a central system and help ensure that it is both simple and effective in its functionality. The specification will be conveyed to Regional VP's shortly. Feedback is welcomed.

So, in summary, Atlanta beckons and we want to see you there participating at the Booth; Email me as indicated to let us know you will be there; the American Nets are rebounding, please participate and get in touch with the regional leaders (via www.ifroar.net) if you want more information; work solving the Administration challenge is underway and feedback will shortly be requested.

With kind regards and 73's

Dr John P Moriarty (ZL2JPM)

President, IFROAR