



The GroundWire

Laura L. Smith Named to Amateur Radio Enforcement Role

ISSUE 2009—02

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, [retired](#) in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association ([ITA](#)), now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including *Mobile Radio Technology Magazine* and *The Private Wireless Magazine*.

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly success



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Your dues for 2009 are now due. Please mail your check to the PO Box listed on the bottom of this page. Cost is \$25.00 per member and \$10.00 additional for each family member.

Nightstand Radios ... Then & Now



All of us have had one of these next to our bed on a nightstand or dresser for many years. These devices put us to sleep while playing our favorite tunes or giving us the latest news updates, play by play action or the latest sports scores. Some of these devices lull you to sleep to the sound of a waterfall, thunderstorm or ocean surf. Some other models project the current time on the ceiling, while others play compact discs and have interfaces to control your Apple Ipod, Microsoft Zune or San Disk Sansa MP3 player. What am I describing? I'm describing a clock radio of course. The first model that I had as a small child was a Sears Silvertone clock radio that my parents picked up at a garage sale for \$10. I got my first taste of AM DX'ing with this vacuum tube relic. This one had to be manufactured before 1963 because it had the triangle looking CONELRAD marks at 640 Khz and 1240 Khz on the AM dial. I used to lay awake at nights listening to the Top 40 hits of KOMA (1520) in Oklahoma City. The station came in like a local at my suburban Minneapolis home at night. I used to listen until the radio got hot and started distorting. I guess that was the drawback of vacuum tubes in a cheap radio.

I searched all over the internet for a photo of the model that I had and it was similar to this one.



Fast forward about forty or so years and my latest clock radio is this one.



Aluratec Internet clock radio

My wife Jessica snagged this one for me from Amazon.com. This is an Aluratec Internet clock radio. There is no AM band on this one but I can still DX (sort of). This radio uses my broadband internet connection to bring in hundreds of internet radio stations from all over the globe. I am really coming to appreciate the crystal clear sound quality of the internet streams. There are tons of commercial free music streams on the internet. I can listen to shortwave stations from all over the globe with this thing. Sure, I know it's cheating as far as the DX'ing goes but at least there is no QSB, QRM or fading to worry about. I even found a group of local hams that stream their HF QSO's live on the internet. The url for the live HF chat is: <http://www.3819khz.net/>

The radio comes with a wireless remote control as well. I noticed that the FM tuner on this radio isn't too bad. The clock display shows the fm station's RDS display which usually has the song title and artist.



*Nightstand Radios ... Then & Now—continued
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As always, there are some drawbacks but I consider them relatively minor. Since this isn't really a computer, there is no internet browser so you cannot enter web addresses manually. When the radio connects to the internet, it logs into a server. You select what station you want to listen to by selecting the country or state that the internet station is located in. You select the station you want to listen to from a list of stations. It's no big deal to me but it may be a lot of menus to go through for some. Hey, I own an Icom IC-706 so I am well familiar with menus. Also, if you have one of the new WPA encrypted wireless routers, you need to update the firmware by going to the manufacturers website and downloading the firmware update to a thumb drive and plugging it into the radio for an update. The radio also plays MP3 files if you have them stored on a thumb drive. You can also stream music to it wirelessly on your home network from your computer. I will have to try that.

I'm having a lot of fun with this new radio. I like listening to Coast to Coast AM from WERC (960) in Birmingham, Alabama because they start the program earlier than our local affiliate (KLIF 570).

73,

Todd-KB5TMD

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ful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules," said Harrison. "Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

Reprinted from ARRL web-site www.arrl.org

Financial Report for January 2009



General Fund	Income	Expense	Balance
Beginning Balance 1/1/09			\$906.29
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Dues Income-2009	\$87.50		
Transfer From Matl. Property			
Tranfer Petty Cash income			
TOTAL INCOME	\$87.50		
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$87.50	\$0.00	
Ending Balance 1/31/2009			\$993.79
Special Events Fund			
Beginning Balance 1/1/09			\$89.73
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Trans from General Fund			
TOTAL INCOME	0		
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Ending Balance 1/31/2009			\$89.73
Material Property Fund			
Beginning Balance 1/1/09			\$1,891.64
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Dues Income - 2009	\$87.50		
Transfer from General Fund			
TOTAL INCOME	\$87.50		
EXPENSES			
Telephone Ck 576		34.84	
Transfer to General Fund			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$34.84	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$87.50	\$34.84	
Ending Balance 1/31/2009			\$1,944.30
January Totals	\$175.00	\$34.84	\$3,027.82

YouTube Links

Head for the Hills (part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-c7Lax7YKA>

Head for the Hills (part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgJOMx5mnjQ>

OK QSO Party (part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7KgLRctBio>

OK QSO Party (part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7YLQeNUDiA&feature=related>

Technician and General Class

Ben Barber K5NEB will be hosting a Technical and General class on April 19th, 16th and 23rd. The class will be held at the LDS church in Duncanville, 1910 Big Stone Gap.

For more information contact Ben at k5neb@sbcglobal.net.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

AMATEUR RADIO

WWW.ARRL.ORG

Minutes of Board Meeting ... January 2009



Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm and invocation offered by Richard Baker/N5KXA.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were not available for review and approval is pending.

FINANCE: Financial report was presented by Jerry Keltner/KB6OJE. All expenses are caught up with nothing pending at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPEATER – The 2 meter repeater is still experiencing occasions when the repeater shuts off during operations and comes back in a minute or two. The repeater committee is looking into options for locations for an alternate repeater. Paul Dryer/KD5IVP indicated that the Tri-Cities group has offered the use of VHF repeaters that are obsolete for their needs, as well as space to locate them in the DeSoto and Duncanville areas. Johnny Roberson/KJ5LB will look into this.

WEB – Bill Ellis/N5TXN reported that there was a problem with the website displaying double headers on some pages and he is looking into accessing the site and correcting this.

NEWSLETTER – Bill Ellis called for articles: Currently there are no articles for the *Groundwire*. Members are encouraged to write articles and submit to Bill.

MEMBERSHIP – There were no new member applications for the board to act upon.

VE – There was no VE activity in the month of December to report.

OLD BUSINESS The board reviewed the nominations submitted for 2009 club officers. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the January general membership meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Ft. Worth Hamfest, Jan 9th and 10th was discussed.

HamCom 2009 indoor flea market tables become available on February 1st. Rick Ellis/KJ5UY, offered to reserve two tables for the use of club members as he has done in the past. A motion was made by Jerry Keltner and seconded by Don Hickey to reimburse Rick for these tables. The motion was approved by the board.

PROGRAM: The program for the January General Membership meeting will be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ellis/ KJ5UY

2008 Board Members

President

Richard Baker (N5KXA)

Vice-President

Mike Harang (K5MNH)

Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Secretary

Rachel Holt (KE5KMS)

Directors

Bernie McPartland (KC5MQC)

Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC)

Don Hickey (KD5SCZ)

Committee Positions

Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Web Master

Russ Thompson (KX5G)

General Membership Meeting ... January 2009



The meeting was called to order by President Richard Baker N5KXA with an opening prayer. An immediate recess was declared to allow time for a presentation of the new web-site under constructions by Russ Thompson (KX5G). Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC) made the presentation.

Guests: Jerry (KE5YFE) and Bob (call unknown)

REPORTS

Minutes: Approved as posted in the *Groundwire*

Treasurer Report: Approved as posted in the *Groundwire*

Repeater: Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) deferred the report to Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC) who spoke with Dave the repeater guy. There is a standby repeater in service now while the main machine is being worked on. The standby machine does not ID so we need to identify the repeater during our QSOs. It is unknown at this time when the main machine will be back in service.

VE Session: No test takes in January.

OLD BUSINESS

A quick report was given about the Ft. Worth Ham Fest that was held on January 9th & 10th at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area. Larry (KY5S) sold \$745.00 worth of his gear during the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations were opened for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and 3Year Director. No additional nominations were made. The slate of offices for the February elections will be: President Johnny (KJ5LB), VP Mike (K5MMH), Secretary Drena (KK5YC), Treasurer Jerry (KB6OJE) and 3Year Director Scott (KE5NLK).

Club needs a coordinator for the Head For The Hill Bike Rally coming up in March.

Irving Hamfest will be February 21st at the Betcha Bingo Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC) for Rebecca Holt, Secretary

February



**Office and Board Members
Elections**

NCS Schedule

February 2009

02-KB5TMD

09-KC5MQC

16-KX5G

23- KJ5UY

**Net times are Mondays at
8:00PM**

**Primary frequency is
147.060+ (110.9 PL)
with the alternate
frequency being 444.500+**