

Hot Tips

Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory



Why you should consider joining the ARRL

The [ARRL \(American Radio Relay League\)](#) is the primary representative organization of radio amateurs to the US government. It's a non-government, non-profit body of radio amateurs who advance and advocate the interests of amateur radio operators and enthusiasts, and provide technical advice and assistance on amateur radio issues to those who request it.

On 30 October 2009, after having had his antenna tower up on his property for over six years, John Ripley, KD5WFT, received an order from the City of Mustang, Oklahoma, to remove his antenna tower, because of a newly proposed city ordinance, which prohibits amateur radio towers and transmissions by amateur radio antennas. As you can imagine, John was quite concerned about this development, and contacted the City right away. Sure enough, after talking with the City Manager, John felt like he was out of options, and didn't have the resources to legally fight City Hall.

Remembering that he's a member, John contacted ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, and explained his predicament. In response, the ARRL assigned Chris Imlay, ARRL General Counsel, to address the matter. Chris and his legal team drew up a [letter of complaint](#) against the City of Mustang, citing applicable city ordinances and federal law. After eight months of going back-and-forth, the City of Mustang, Oklahoma, rescinded proposed ordinance 122-886.

Now for the hard questions. What would *you* have done in John's shoes? Do you have the financial or legal backing to fight the gubmit on your own? Do you have any rich family members? Do you belong to a large, wealthy club or other organization that understands amateur radio needs, and will stand behind your principles all the way to court? Don't look at UVARC; we believe in you and the amateur community, but we as a club don't have the money to hire an attorney.

The ARRL is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to [protect amateur radio frequen-](#)

[cies](#) from the grasp of government overreach, and to represent the needs of the radio amateur to the federal government, municipal governments, and commercial interests.

On 02 February 2004, the Department of Commerce proposed annexing several sections of radio frequencies allocated to amateur bands. Problem was we, the little guys, knew nothing about this until months later. But the ARRL was monitoring the entire fiasco, and immediately filed a [federal injunction](#) to prevent the overreach. The action resulted in the Commerce Department withdrawing its plans to annex the amateur frequencies.

And what about transmitting from your vehicle? Will you get cited for using a ham radio while driving? Two states had lawmakers who believed you can. But when members appealed to the ARRL, the [State of Georgia](#) and the [State of New York](#) were forced by federal law to reverse the ordinance or amend the language.

As a club, we encourage you to consider becoming a member of the ARRL. The cost is \$49 per year. Or, you can become a lifetime member for \$1225. And if you pay [through the club](#), UVARC will also receive a monetary benefit from them, at no extra cost to you.

By becoming a member of ARRL, you're helping to further the cause of amateur radio in yet another way. In the short term, you might not see a lot of immediate benefit, but in the long run, you'll help make amateur radio available to the common folk for years to come. For us as a club, the ARRL provides low-cost liability insurance, makes each ARRL product available to you at a discount, and helps promote amateur radio events. Thank you!