

**REPORT OF THE RF SAFETY COMMITTEE
TO THE
ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 2018

The RF Safety Committee participated in the following areas over the past six months:

1. RF Safety Committee Activities.
2. Monitoring recent scientific studies regarding RF Safety.
3. Participation in the scientific RF Safety community.
4. Administrative issues.

1 RF Safety Committee Activities

- 1.1 The Committee discussed appropriate educational materials related to RF safety. We were informed that “RF Safety and You” is out of print and were considering what documentation should be used to replace it.

2 Monitoring Scientific Studies

- 2.1 The Committee discussed the website of the “Environmental Working Group,” that included electromagnetic exposure as one of the dangers to the environment, along with air and water pollution and global warming. The Committee felt that it was unfortunate that they were conflating such unrelated topics, in addition to their misrepresentation of the current state of the science related to EM exposure.
- 2.2 The Committee discussed an article that reviewed the 10-year 3000 rat study of RF exposure by the National Toxicology Program. This study was discussed by the Committee a year ago when preliminary results were leaked to the press in an alarming fashion. This article presented the results in much more balanced way, with a quote by the head of the study: “I think everybody would classify radiofrequency radiation as a weak carcinogen, if in fact, it is a carcinogen.” In addition, the head of the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health commented: “Even with frequent daily use by the vast majority of adults, we have not seen an increase in events like brain tumors. Based on this current information, we believe the current safety limits for cellphones are acceptable for protecting the public health.”
- 2.3 The Committee reviewed an article that appeared in The Nation saying that the telecommunications industry had been hiding the dangers of wireless radiation for years. The article centered on the CTIA and the leader of their research branch, George Carlo in the 1990s. In trying to present a shocking exposé of the way the research was handled it said that Carlo had taken on the task of coordinating research for the industry organization and had been censored and then fired when he turned up dangers that the industry did not want publicized. Several members of the Committee were involved with that research effort and know that what happened behind the scenes was not at all like the article stated; the research program had not resulted in any examples of danger to health that were from well performed science that could be replicated. Carlo only changed his tune after the

CTIA decided to end funding for the research effort, and they did so because the program was not producing enough scientific results and not because of the type of results.

3 Participation in the Scientific RF Safety Community

- 3.1 Mr. Hare continues to serve on the ICES (IEEE) SCC-28 RF Safety Standards Committee.
- 3.2 Dr. Lapin continues to serve as a member of the IEEE Committee on Man and Radiation, COMAR.
- 3.3 Dr. Lapin has testified in zoning hearings to explain the exposure of the population to cellular telephone base stations and what science has shown about the potential for danger to human health.
- 3.4 Dr. Siwiak serves as a consultant to the Q-Track Corporation on matters of RF exposure related to body mounted small MF and HF transmitting loops.
- 3.5 Dr. Siwiak developed the accredited continuing education course, “Cell Phone and RF Exposure Awareness,” which is offered online by SunCam Corporation.

4 Administrative Issues

- 4.1 Dr. Siwiak is a contributing editor for QST and Editor of QEX, and he shares any submitted RF Safety-related articles with the Committee.

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Chair, ARRL RF Safety Committee

The ARRL RF Safety Committee

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