

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

July 2017

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 Dr. Siwiak replied to the concerns of a ham regarding compliance distances from small HF loop antennas. The ham was concerned because of an example that Dr. Siwiak had authored in FCC OET Bulletin 65 and conflicting discussions on Internet. Dr. Siwiak referenced a more detailed analysis of that type of antenna in his Technical Correspondence in the May 2017 issue of QST and gave some tips about customizing calculations for specific antennas and operating conditions. Dr. Siwiak noted that there is not a better exposure reference than OET 65 available to hams since the ARRL book, *RF Exposure and You*, went out of print. The RF Safety Committee is discussing possible alternatives to provide better educational alternatives to hams about RF exposure.

2 Monitoring Scientific Studies

- 2.1 The Italian supreme court has ruled that a telephone company employee's non-cancerous brain tumor was caused by his use of his company cellular telephone, entitling him to a \$7000 per year social security payment. This ruling was flawed by the court's refusal to consider any scientific evidence that was financed by the telecom industry. However, other groups are taking this as license to bring class-action lawsuits and create regulations about labeling cellular telephones with health warnings.
- 2.2 The press in Bangladesh has begun publishing articles about the health dangers of electromagnetic radiation from mobile phone towers. The author of the articles describes himself as an "Environmental Analyst" and seems to be oblivious to similar discussions that were held in the press in the rest of the world.

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. 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 4.2 The Committee welcomes Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, as its new liaison from the ARRL Board of Directors.

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Chair, ARRL RF Safety Committee

The ARRL RF Safety Committee

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