



## Second Century

# Out of the Darkness, Into the Light

*In early June, I delivered the keynote address to the SEA-PAC Convention via Zoom. I hope this is the last time I have to do this virtually. The coast of Oregon is one of the most beautiful areas in the country, and the people are just wonderful. It wasn't possible to come together this year, and the team at SEA-PAC did a great job organizing the event and giving it purpose, right down to the event's theme: coming out of the darkness and into the light.*

It has become cliché to revert attention to the past 18 months and reference the impact the pandemic has had on our lives. As we do come out of the shadows of the lockdowns and fears of getting sick, we cannot diminish the emotional toll many families have paid and the losses that our hobby has endured. Yet it is hard not to get excited about the fact that the country is opening up again. Many states have achieved significant vaccination rates, and the impact of COVID-19 is on a serious decline. People are able to return to a normalcy of life that we have missed for so long.

What does this mean for us? Everything! When you read this, ARRL Field Day will have passed, with many clubs around the country having enjoyed the ability to come together for the event, as they always have. Also, we will likely have announced the official re-opening of ARRL Headquarters and W1AW for visitors! We are so excited at the prospect of our member-volunteers returning to HQ to assist with tours, projects in the ARRL Lab, continued curating of our historical assets, and even operations at W1AW. Members will once again be able to plan their trips to Newington to visit this special place. And speaking of W1AW, visitors to the station can hardly contain their excitement as a pileup evolves while using our iconic and world-renowned call sign.

ARRL will also be taking to the road to meet with members, beginning this month! We'll kick off our return into the light with the Southeastern Division Convention at the Huntsville Hamfest. It is very exciting to think about how large this event is going to be in 2021 as a leading large-scale in-person event. In September, I'll be delivering the keynote address to the W9DXCC Convention, followed by attending the Great Lakes Division Convention at the Vette City Hamfest and the Pacific Division Convention at Pacificon, both in October. You'll see

other ARRL staff members at in-person events, such as the New England Division Convention at the Northeast HamXposition in September. Please visit [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests) to see what events are scheduled in your area.

I want to end this month's column with a sincere thank you to our Section Managers. These elected member-volunteers have a huge job. They have to staff and manage a team, they have to nurture clubs, and they must serve as the enthusiastic leaders and cheerleaders of amateur radio to their members. And to that end, we have reorganized the HQ team that supports them in their mission. I called for a series of Zoom meetings with all the Section Managers, and they showed up. I asked for volunteers to take on a big project in their Section, and the rush to volunteer was inspiring.

We are focused on creating world-class collaboration among the Section Managers, and to extend that environment and culture to club leaders, to ensure the expansion, vitality, and fun of amateur radio. Reach out to your Section Manager with a quick note of thanks and support. They'll appreciate hearing from you.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you as we come back into the light! As always, get on the air! Be radio active. And be that connector, especially with your Section Manager and local clubs.

David A. Minster, NA2AA  
Chief Executive Officer