

EmComm Report – Exciting News for January

I was really excited about this month's EmComm topic. Unfortunately, due to things beyond my control, the topic will need to be delayed until February. Now you must wait until February to find out what had me so excited! Instead, I'm going to encourage you to check the news on the ARRL website and to consider joining the ARRL if you are not already a member.

The ARRL website is a good source for finding out what is happening in the world of Ham Radio. I recommend that you periodically check the website: <https://www.arrl.org/news-features>

There were two topics that caught my attention.

- A bill was introduced on Dec 22nd to eliminate private land use restrictions on amateur radio (<https://www.arrl.org/news/rep-bill-johnson-introduces-bill-to-eliminate-private-land-use-restrictions-on-amateur-radio>). This is good news for those of us that live in areas that prohibit the ability of a ham to install antennas on our own property. This is an ongoing battle, but we appreciate Representative Bill Johnson for introducing this bill to the House of Representatives.

How is this related to EmComm? Limitations on antennas and on operating amateur radio stations at our homes handicap some of us that would like to be prepared to assist in a disaster. It may also discourage some potential hams from pursuing the hobby.

Thank you Curt N6ATC for pointing this story out to me.

- Another bill was introduced on Dec 21st by Debbie Lesko to replace the HF digital symbol rate limit with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit (<https://www.arrl.org/news/rep-lesko-introduces-bill-to-replace-symbol-rate-limit-with-bandwidth-limit>). This change could promote the development of additional digital protocols useful in an EmComm event. Sometimes, voice traffic is not sufficient when communicating needs. A reliable and fast digital communication allows transmission of lists that could be tedious by voice (i.e., drug names can be hard to spell & pronounce).

If you are not already a member of the ARRL, consider joining it if your budget allows. The ARRL does a lot to encourage the development of the Amateur Radio hobby and provides learning opportunities. There are several options for renewing as low as \$49 for a year. Lifetime memberships are also available and there is a discount if you are over 70 years old. Check out the website <https://www.arrl.org/membership> for more information and the full spectrum of benefits of membership.