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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARRL TO HOLD NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT IN JULY 2014

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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT – ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, has announced the organization’s plan to hold its national Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014. The Convention will mark 100 years of the ARRL’s founding in Hartford. ARRL President Kay Craigie has also announced a theme for ARRL’s Centennial year: **Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914.**

Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) is a popular hobby and service in which licensed Amateur Radio operators (hams) operate communications equipment. In May 1914, Hiram Percy Maxim (1869-1936), a leading Hartford inventor and industrialist, founded the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), together with Clarence Tuska, secretary of The Radio Club of Hartford. ARRL headquarters moved to Newington, Connecticut in 1938 and is visited by nearly 2,000 groups and individuals each year. The site is home to The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, call sign W1AW. ARRL has over 162,000 members and employs approximately 100 people.

“The 2014 ARRL Centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, who explained that the convention will include presentations and forums, exhibits, vendors, demonstrations, flea market, activities for youth, and a banquet. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate, call sign KK4INZ, will be the keynote speaker at the ARRL Centennial Banquet on July 18. “We’ve also planned some very special centennial-themed activities,” Inderbitzen added, “including coach bus trips to ARRL headquarters and W1AW—the Hiram P. Maxim Memorial Station in nearby Newington. We want ARRL members to come with all of their experiences from the first one hundred years of Amateur Radio and ARRL, and leave with a shared vision for ARRL’s second century.”

The region boasts dozens of attractions and activities, making Connecticut a great destination for members who plan to attend the convention with their family and friends. Nearby attractions include the Connecticut Science Center, Mark Twain House, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and Wadsworth Atheneum. Hartford is served by an international airport (Hartford/Springfield BDL), and is conveniently located between Boston and New York City. Hartford’s centrally located Union Station is serviced by Amtrak and major bus companies.

Interested parties may learn more about ARRL and Amateur Radio at www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio. For complete convention details and registration (recommended), visit ARRL2014.org.

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