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# Endurance

“*International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Emeritus Richard L. Baldwin, W1RU, died on June 21 at the age of 92.*”

Dick Baldwin, then known as W1IKE, joined the ARRL Headquarters staff in September 1948 armed with a brand new master's degree in physics, wartime combat experience as a Navy Communications Officer, and more than a decade as a licensed radio amateur. Except for a brief sojourn in the telecommunications industry in the '50s he remained on the staff until 1982, capping his professional career with seven years as General Manager of the ARRL after serving as Assistant Secretary, Managing Editor and Assistant General Manager.

In the '60s Dick became heavily involved in the international arena. Amateur Radio was facing many challenges at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) stemming from the onset of the Space Age and the resulting creation of new satellite services, Cold War pressures for access to the radio spectrum for military and propaganda purposes, and the emergence of newly independent African nations. A new approach to defending amateur access to the spectrum was needed.

While he would have been the last person to claim personal credit, during the 15 years leading up to the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79) Dick Baldwin was involved in every major initiative that contributed to Amateur Radio's success at that all-important event. He invigorated the Intruder Watch, the network of volunteers now known as the IARU Monitoring System that challenges the use of the amateur bands by non-amateur stations in violation of the international Radio Regulations. He provided staff support for what amounted to a reinventing of the IARU, developing strong ties to the IARU Region 1 organization that already existed for Europe and Africa and helping to build complementary regional IARU organizations in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific area. He helped establish the International Amateur Radio Club, 4U1ITU, right inside ITU Headquarters in Geneva. He traveled extensively in parts of the world where Amateur Radio was not well developed, explaining its benefits and seeking friends who might be of assistance in the future.

In 1973, as the United States began its preparations for WARC-79 Dick served as the only non-government member of a four-man study group that defined amateur spectrum requirements, including an audacious proposal for new bands at 10.1, 18.1 and 24 MHz. Recognizing the desirability of new amateur allocations is one thing; achieving the vision is quite another. Working with IARU officials throughout the world, Dick helped put together a team that accomplished just that. Assuming overall responsibility for ARRL Headquarters operations as General Manager in 1975 did

not distract him from the WARC-79 mission, which he correctly saw as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Dick's seven-year tenure as General Manager was one of rapid change and continuing challenges for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Much of the first year was spent on the planning and redesign of *QST* to the larger page size to which we are now accustomed. The initial plan was for 128-page issues, but the journal soon grew and has remained well above that size ever since. Then came the CB boom and the perception of an enormous opportunity to expand our ranks. Taking advantage of that opportunity required an addition to the Headquarters building to house the needed staff. The CB boom came and went, but the ARRL has benefited greatly from the building expansion ever since.

When Dick Baldwin retired from paid employment in 1982 his legacy to the Amateur Radio community already was substantial. Had he spent his later years simply sailing his beloved 35-foot ketch *Endurance* along the coast of Maine and operating on the bands he had worked so hard to defend and expand, he would be long remembered for his contributions. But Dick didn't stop there. He accepted the volunteer post of IARU President and — at great cost to the time he might otherwise have spent on the water and on the air — proceeded to guide the organization through a transition to a new Constitution that recognized the regional organizations and formally incorporated them into the governance structure. He continued in that office for 17 years, ensuring the health of the IARU while making him its longest serving President in history. From the day he first reported for work at ARRL Headquarters until his retirement from Amateur Radio's premiere volunteer post in 1999, Dick's service to Amateur Radio spanned more than a half-century.

As much as he loved Amateur Radio, Dick Baldwin's greatest passion — other than for Phyl, his wife of 63 years — was for the sea. Dick's last note to me, sent about three months before he died, described the progression of Parkinson's Disease and his adjustment to the loss of handwriting skills and the use of his legs. In spite of that my mental image of Dick will always be of him at the helm of *Endurance*, with his gaze — as always — fixed firmly on the far horizon.