



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

Advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio

May 22, 2017

ADVOCACY

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC SERVICE

EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY

Cary S. Tepper, Esquire
Tepper Law Firm, LLC
4900 Auburn Avenue
Suite 100
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2632

Re: Trademark Registration for “NTS” and “National Traffic System”

Dear Mr. Tepper:

The undersigned serves as General Counsel for ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, formally known as the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated. Thank you for your efforts to date to cause the above-referenced marks to be registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

You have explained to us that the trademark examiner reviewing our applications for these marks requires a further explanation of the nature of the National Traffic System. ARRL is, as our trade name implies, the national association of amateur, or “ham” radio. This is a two-way, noncommercial radio service regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. For many decades, the Amateur Radio Service has provided public service and emergency communications for served agencies and for individuals at no cost to anyone. Organizationally, ARRL sponsors two major programs: the National Traffic System™ (NTS™) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®).

ARES is the program that ARRL created whereby amateur radio operators participating in the program are trained in and conduct emergency communications through networks of individual amateur stations. The stations conduct emergency communications drills according to protocols and standard practices established by ARRL and when deployed at and after natural emergencies and disasters, ARES members provide restorative emergency communications on a volunteer basis for first responders and served agencies. This is a program of ARRL.

NTS is a virtually identical type of program of ARRL, except that instead of emergency communications, NTS members, organized using ARRL training and using ARRL procedures and protocols receive and relay messages on behalf of third parties, be they individuals or organized event sponsors. This program teaches amateur radio operators the skills in message “traffic” handling that are indispensable in volunteer work by individual amateur radio operators in doing emergency communications and in assisting with local public service events. NTS networks of ARRL-trained radio amateurs, divided into regions and “sections” of the country by ARRL, utilize their home amateur radio stations receive, transmit and relay messages on behalf

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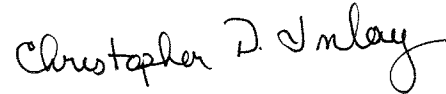
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.— International Secretariat of the International Amateur Radio Union

of others using ARRL-established message formats and templates. The program is for volunteers only; there is no remuneration whatsoever sought or paid and no one is reimbursed for expenses.

NTS is a program of ARRL just as ARES is, and in our view, for purposes of trademark registration and in terms of function and organization, the programs are indistinguishable.

Please let me know if additional information is called for.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher D. Imlay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher D. Imlay
General Counsel, ARRL

By D. H.

Cc: Dan Henderson