General Announcement on APRS Working Group Meeting

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, Steve Dimse, K4HG, Keith Sproul, WU2Z, Greg Jones, WD5IVD, and John Ackermann, N8UR met near Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd to hold an in-person meeting concerning the recent issues of importance related to the future of APRS.

The main issues discussed were:

* Determine process to open APRS development.
* Determine the management process for the APRS protocols.
* Determine the publication process for the APRS protocol standard.
* Determine and publish a certification/validation process for APRS items and programs.

The meeting was very productive with substantial and positive progress made on these issues. The group developed a working plan and a task list for continued discussion and closure before Dayton. Deliberation on the working plan will occur this week to allow the participants who were not available (Authors Mark Sproul, KB2ICI, will be out of town, Brent Hildebrand, KH2Z, and Mike Musick, N0QBF) to have input on the working plan as developed at the meeting.

All involved were pleased with the outcome of the meeting and the working plan that resolved outstanding issues. The group is now focused on the positive and growing aspects of APRS and creating a process that will open the development of APRS hardware and software.

Over the next 10 days the group will finalize the remaining details and will make a formal announcement on substantive decisions and plans before Dayton HamVention.

Greg Jones, WD5IVD
for the APRS Working Group