

Program and Services Committee (PSC) Report to the Board – January 2015

ARRL Bylaw 39. The Programs and Services Committee shall: Guide development of service delivery mechanisms, evaluate services, and recommend program priorities; Advise Chief Executive Officer on services provided to individual members other than publications, including but not limited to contests and awards, information services including Logbook of the World and W1AW, and incoming and outgoing QSL bureau services; Advise Chief Executive Officer on volunteer programs, including but not limited to the field organization, affiliated clubs, volunteer examiners, Volunteer Counsel/Consulting Engineers, and educational initiatives; and Evaluate and recommend awards recipients to the Board for outstanding volunteer service or outstanding achievement.

PSC Committee members: Jim Boehner N2ZZ, David Norris K5UZ, Dick Norton N6AA, Doug Rehman K4AC, Dale Williams WA8EFK, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton NN1N (Staff Liaison), Brian Mileshosky N5ZGT (Chairman)

The Programs and Service Committee (PSC) is pleased to provide this report outlining progress made during the last six months of our Centennial year.

The committee convened in Hartford last July and again via teleconference last December, with ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND assisting as recording secretary, to address a lengthy list of challenges and opportunities. A brief overview of major topics addressed:

Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) topics. PSC formally tasked CAC to investigate the following topics:

- Investigate potential mobile categories for HF contesting [Currently being studied]
- Investigate parameters CAC would recommend for a possible 24-hour category in the ARRL International DX contest [Final report submitted 04 Oct 2014; PSC due to begin considering at its 15 January meeting]
- Review scoring topics within the ARRL 160-meter contest [Final report submitted 27 Dec 2014; PSC due to begin considering at its 15 January meeting]
- Study the feasibility, pros/cons, etc. of potentially making submitted logs public for ARRL contests [Final report submitted 09 Nov 2014; PSC due to begin considering at its 15 January meeting]
- Rewrite of ARRL HF Contesting (Radiosporting) Guidelines document [Final draft submitted 09 Nov 2014; reviewed by appropriate ARRL staff and original document author, posted at <http://www.arrl.org/hf-contesting-guidelines>]

DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) topics. PSC considered a number of recommendations provided in its final report from tasking issued prior to 2014, the majority of which pertained to language cleanup and other housekeeping. Two additional topics, DXCC entity criteria and remote operations, were also investigated by DXAC. PSC affirmed DXAC's no-change recommendation to the former, and chose not to accept its specific recommendation to the

latter, electing instead to consider the subject of responsible and ethical application of remote operations more comprehensively at a later date. PSC intends to task DXAC with investigating the topic of mobile DXCC once CAC completes its in-progress investigation of potential mobile categories for HF contesting.

ECAC Recommendations. PSC continues to consider recommendations provided within the Emergency Communication's Advisory Committee's (ECAC) final report. We have authorized ARRL staff and a working group composed of SECs and SMs from across the nation to begin reviewing and revising ARRL's Public Service Communications Manual, to be followed by a review and revision of ARRL's Emergency Coordinators handbook.

Ad Hoc Committee on VHF and Above Contest Revitalization. PSC's appointed committee, composed of Kermit Carlson W9XA (Chairman), Dave Patton NN1N, Marty Woll N6VI, Doug Rehman K4AC, and Joel Harrison W5ZN, continues to review and discuss issues and opportunities, as well as solicit specific community feedback, aimed at revitalizing ARRL's VHF and above contest program.

ARRL Awards. PSC recommended the bestowment of the following awards:

- Hiram Percy Maxim Award: Padraig Lysandrou KC9UUS [Conferred by ARRL Board at its July 2014 meeting]
- ARRL Technical Innovation Award: Warren C. Prat, NR0V [Conferred by ARRL Board at its July 2014 meeting]
- Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award: Brad Amacker N5MZ and Bill Finnegan NR8I [Conferred by ARRL Board at its July 2014 meeting]
- ARRL Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award: Brian Short KC0BS [Conferred by ARRL Executive Committee at its October 2014 meeting]
- ARRL George Hart Distinguished Service Award: David Colter WA1ZCN [To be presented to ARRL Board at its January 2015 meeting]

Additional topics.

- Electronic administration of ARRL VE exams. We are pleased to hear of ARRL's progress towards electronic VE exam administration and grading.
- 160-meter DXCC card checking. PSC discussed possible revisions to the DXCC rules regarding qualifications for an individual to serve as a 160-meter DXCC card checker, and will continue discussion on this topic at its January 2015 meeting.
- Assistant Section Traffic Manager position. The committee approved the creation of the position of Assistant Section Traffic Manager within the Field Organization.

I thank each member of the PSC, as well as its advisory and ad-hoc committees for their dedication to addressing a number of important issues and opportunities during our League's special and historic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Milesbosky N5ZGT (Chairman)