



ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC)

Report to the Board of Directors – July 2021

The Programs and Services Committee is pleased to present this report to the ARRL Board of Directors covering PSC activities for the first six months of calendar year 2021. The PSC met via Zoom video conferences on Jan 12th, Feb 24th, and April 28th.

ARRL By-law 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.

Voting PSC members for 2021:

Director Lippert, AC0W
Director McIntyre K6WX
Director Norris K5UZ
Director Ritz, W7VO, Chair
Director Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
Vice Director Grady, N2SRK
2nd Vice President Vallio, W6RGG, (Officer Liaison)

Non-Voting PSC members for 2021:

Mr. Fusaro, N3IZ, (Staff Liaison, through June 2021)
Mr. Henderson, N1ND (Secretary, through June 2021)
Mr. Jahnke, W9JJ, Radiosport Manager
Mr. Naumann, W5OV, (Staff Liaison and Secretary, effective July 2021)

The following are highlights from the three PSC meetings during the period:

Awards:

At the January PSC meeting Bill Morine, on behalf of the Public Relations Committee, brought forward their recommendation for the Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional Media Award. The recommendation was approved, and also approved by the full Board at its January 2021 meeting.

At the same meeting, Mr. Morine also brought forth a proposed change to the Philip J. McGann Silver Antenna Award, to bring it in line with other awards. The motion to accept passed, and was also approved by the full Board at its January 2021 meeting.

Finally, at the January meeting, Richard "Skip" Jackson was nominated for the ARRL Knight Distinguished Service Award. The motion passed, and was also passed by the full Board at its January 2021 meeting.

CAC/Contesting:

2021 has brought in a new and invigorated Contest Advisory Committee, (CAC, working with the PSC, under the direction of the new CAC Chair Craig Thompson, K9CT, and CAC Board Liaison Bill Lippert, AC0W.

The CAC group has been very active, and a current status of CAC Taskings is included as Appendix 1 of this document. It is thought that many of these taskings will be closed out in the upcoming July PSC meeting. In that most, if not all, of the current CAC members are HF operators, the CAC also has established their own sub-committee that includes outside subject matter experts related specifically to VHF/UHF/Microwave contest issues. .

In the February PSC meeting it was announced that the new Single Band categories for the 2022 ARRL DX Contests were finalized by staff, along with the reallocation of affiliated club scores for the contests. These were previously approved in 2020.

In the April PSC meeting CAC Tasking 2020.2, changing the "Low Power" categories for ARRL contests to 100 Watts from 150 Watts was approved for the 2022 ARRL DX contests (CW and SSB), and the 2022 IARU Radiosport Contest only at this time. These are the ARRL's big DX contests, and the 100 watt change aligns the ARRL with all the other major DX contest rules.

The CAC is still pushing for the "Low Power" 100 Watt limit enacted for *all* ARRL contests, however that change proposal was sent back to the CAC for further study to ensure there are not unforeseen consequences in doing so.

Field Day:

At the January PSC meeting it was voted to approve a Field Day rule waiver for 2021 Field Day. The waiver was to look just like Field Day 2020, with the exception that Class D (home stations, commercial power), and Class E (home stations on emergency power), would be limited to 150 W PEP output. (ie: "Low Power") This change was done to reduce a problem noted with the 2020 waivers, where members complained that Class D stations pretty much dominated the event due to the use of high power and larger antennas than most Field Day stations use. The PSC will have to decide what to do for FD 2022 fairly soon, and the committee will be considering suggesting that staff be directed to provide a member survey for feedback to the PSC. (This will be discussed at the July PSC meeting).

For example, the second part of the 2020 waiver related to allowing home stations to be able to aggregate their scores with a club portable station for point credit. With the continuing process of “aging out”, or other disability issues keeping some club members from participating with their local club in portable FD activities, the PSC needs to look at whether or not it makes sense to continue this going forward.

DXCC/DXAC:

At the April PSC meeting, the final version of a new Fixed Location DXCC sticker was approved. The final recommendations will be developed after the new sticker is announced and made available for sale by staff.

The only DXAC tasking handled by the PSC during this period was related to having HQ publish a list of DXpedition DXCC credit entities that have been disqualified or otherwise denied so that members will be able to determine if they are valid for credit when submitting for DXCC credit. It was determined by ARRL staff that this was not feasible due to the lack of readily available documentation, so the tasking was closed.

There has been no interaction between the DXAC and the PSC during this period, and they have no current taskings. The Board DXAC Liaison is Director Norris, K5UZ.

LoTW:

No activity in the preceding six months related to LoTW. LoTW is currently under the direction of the separate LoTW Committee under Chair Greg Widin, K0GW

The Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG):

At the January meeting, and by a recommendation of Director Hippisley, W2RU, Chair of the PSEWG, the PSEWG was officially sunset, with committee members thanked with applause for their service. It is expected the PSEWG will be replaced by a new committee at the July Board meeting.

Clean Signal Initiative Working Group:

Due to complaints from members related to poor signal quality noted in ARRL contests, at the February PSC meeting it was decided by the PSC to create a new working group, the *Clean Signal Initiative Working Group*. (The original concept came from a discussion between Director Ritz and Ward Silver, N0AX, who came up with the initiative’s title). This new group is tasked with working with ARRL Lab staff to explore the feasibility of establishing new transmitter spectral emission standards, creating these new standards, directing that the ARRL Lab test new products to these standards, work with staff on developing an educational program related to transmitter emission cleanliness, and possibly adding a program of monitoring/enforcing the quality of spectral emissions of stations participating in ARRL contests. PSC Chair Ritz appointed a working group consisting of Director McIntyre, Director Luetzelschwab, and himself, with other outside “subject matter experts” to follow. Director Ritz will also work with CEO David Minster to obtain ARRL Lab buy-in with the concept, and add Lab staff to the working group. The final establishment of this working group will occur following the July Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Mike Ritz, W7VO, 2021 PSC Chairman

APPENDIX 1- CAC TASKING LIST (as of May 16, 2021)

Contest Advisory Committee Tasking List REVISION: May 19, 2021					
TASK	OP/CL TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DATE	
2020.1	Closed	Multi-Operator Club Scores	Apportionment of club scores for multi-ops	Bart has incorporated into rules for 2022	12/23/2020
2020.2	Closed	Single-Band Scores ARRL DX	Expand ARRL DX contest categories in single band to differentiate by power and assisted/unassisted categories	Bart has incorporated into rules for 2022	12/23/2020
2020.3	Open	New Digital Contest, HF + 6 meters	"Digital Derby" creation	Canceled in Dec 2020, now re-opened, goes along with Tasking 2021.3	12/23/2020
2020.4	Closed	ARRL MS Band Changes	Change band changes for M/S from 8 to 10 band changes per hour	Bart has incorporated into rules for 2022	11/23/2020
2020.5	Open	Social Media During Contesting	Affects HF contests, how to regulate	Use Social media = Unlimited class? Norm to send to CAC for comment	1/12/2021
2020.6	Open	Sweepstakes Operating Time	Add "Stations may start late and end early in less than the 30 minute off time" to rule	Back to CAC November 2020	4/28/2021
2020.7	Open	Family Rule Modification	Change Family Rule to allow multiple call signs per station	Decided that a new rule is needed to handle remotes, leave Family Rule alone. Bart to work with CAC on drafting new rule	4/28/2021
2020.8	Open	Sweepstakes Start Time	Change SS start time from 2100 UTC to 1800 UTC	With the CAC	4/28/2021
2021.1	Open	Time Off Rule for RTTY Roundup	Clarification of time-off rule for RTTY Roundup	With the CAC	4/28/2021
2021.2	Closed	100 Watt limit for Low Power Category	Change Low Power category for contests from 150W to 100W	Approved by PSC 4/28/21 to change to 100W for ARRL DX and JARU contests. Look at others later (Look at changing RTTY Roundup when it is overhauled to change to RTTY only. Reference Task 2021.3)	4/28/2021
2021.3	Open	Make RTTY Roundup "RTTY Only"	Make RTTY Roundup RTTY only, create new contest for other modes (covered in Tasking 2020.3)	With the CAC	4/28/2021
2021.4	Open	Rover defined	Some operations are not covered in the current rules	With the CAC VHF Sub committee	5/18/2021
2021.5	Open	10 GHz changes	Many issues	With the CAC VHF Sub committee	5/18/2021
2021.6	Open	FT8 issues in the VHF Contests	CW and SSB operators are not happy and something needs to be done	With the CAC VHF Sub committee	5/18/2021