

ARRL Program and Services Committee (PSC) Report to the Board – July 2017

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: Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Field Services Manager Dave Patton NN1N and ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro W3IZ (Staff Liaisons), and Kent Olson, KAØLDG (Chairman)

The Programs and Service Committee (PSC) is pleased to provide this report to highlight activities and accomplishments over the last six months.

The committee gathered formally at ARRL headquarters this past January and via teleconference in February, March and June to conduct business and address a variety of topics. ARRL Assistant Secretary and PSC Secretary Dan Henderson, N1ND, provided much appreciated assistance as recording secretary to the committee.

DX Advisory Committee (DXAC): PSC tasked DXAC with researching the ethics of remote operating and how they relate to DXCC rules, please see their respective report for specifics. Dwayne Allen WY7FD serves as the DXAC board liaison.

Contest Advisory Committee (CAC): Former Chairman George Wagner K5KG held a telecon with the PSC in February to present the CAC's work on "Youth in Contesting". This was a previous PSC tasking which included a survey and follow on report to the PSC. The PSC discussed the survey results and will present our recommendations to the BoD at the July meeting. The committee suggested that one potential way to get youth involved with contesting was to conduct a year-long "Youth Challenge" which includes young amateurs and their elders to mentor them through the year in hope to solidify a life-long passion for contesting. At the end of the telecon, George passed on the chairman position to Dennis Egan, W1UE.

The CAC also undertook a project to consolidate “The General Rules of all ARRL Contests”, the “General Rules for all ARRL contests Below 30 MHz” and individual contest rules into a single rule set for each of the ARRL HF Contests. With help from Mr. Nrom Fusaro, W3IZ, the project should be complete by September 2017. Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, serves as the CAC board liaison.

VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group: Composed of Kermit Carlson W9XA (Chairman), Dave Patton NN1N (Staff liaison), Rod Blocksome KØDAS, and Matt Holden KØBBC, PSC’s VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group continues its thorough review of ARRL’s VHF and above contesting program and development of key recommendations to increase the level and breadth of participation in these contests. They are currently waiting results from the 222 MHz and Above Distance Contest and will have more to report at the January 2018 Board meeting.

Public Service Enhancement Working Group: Composed of Dale Williams WA8EFK (Chairman) Jim Pace K7CEX, Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, Steve Ewald, WV1X, Ken Bailey K1IU and Mike Corey, K1FUG, have met almost weekly via telecon and are progressing. please see the PSEWG report for specifics.

PSC Subcommittee on Education: Composed of Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, (Chairman), Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, David Cockrum Ph.D., N5DO, Tommy Gober, N5DUX, Kevin O’Dell, N0IRW, with consultants Austin Mongillo, N1UIS and Matthew Shea, AA1CT . The group has been busy with these three tasks: Review of the Teacher’s Institute, review of the ARRL’s relationship with the ARISS/AMSAT program, and the creation of new Volunteer Instructor power point programs for Technician and General Class licenses. Please see their report for specifics.

ARRL Award Recommendations: Three nominations for the 2016 ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award were submitted to headquarters and will be presented to the PSC for consideration at the July PSC meeting. The nominees are: Ryan Cutshall, KD9DAB, Skyler Fennell, KDØWHB, and Jacob Nagel, ADØJA. The nominating documents were submitted by the each of the nominee’s respective Section Manager: Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WMØG (for KDØWHB); Indiana Section Manager Brent Walls, N9BA (for KD9DAB); and Missouri Section Manager Cecil Higgins, ACOHA (for ADØJA). Please note that Skyler, KDØWHB, is originally from Colorado. That is the reason his “home” Section Manager, WMØG, is making the official nomination. Skyler is now attending New Mexico Tech University, so that is the reason for his ARRL New Mexico mailing address.

Amateur Auxiliary Program: Vice President Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and his OO modernization working group has been busy studying the future of the OO program and his report is listed separately. Tom Aberbathy, W3TOM, is the PSC’s liaison.

The PSC discussed many issues during our telecons, specifically these were:

Field Day & LOTW: Bonus points for submitting Field Day logs via LOTW. While we agreed that encouraging use of LOTW is beneficial, major concerns were raised. The potential for a large amount of full-time staff involvement with both emails and phone calls was troubling since a vast majority of clubs do not have LOTW accounts. In addition, the fact that logs are not required for Field Day raises the potential problem of staff ending up having to provide basic logging program support queries. After further discussion, the committee decided not to recommend awarding additional bonus points for uploading Field Day logs into LoTW.

ARRL VEC: The PSC discussed the feasibility for the ARRL VEC to implement procedures to expedite the process of getting test results to the FCC. While there is at least one VEC that does this, but the integrity of the ARRL's process was more important to the PSC, thus we recommend we keep our current procedures for now. This topic should be re-visited at some point to see if we can achieve both speed and the utmost integrity of the ARRL VEC.

ARES Mission Statement: After much discussion, the committee voted to approve the Public Service Enhancement Working Group's request for a new ARES mission statement. Specifically; **“The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) is a program of the ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio, which is comprised of organized, trained, qualified, and credentialed Amateur Radio operators who augment and support vital communications on behalf of the public through partner agencies and organizations during emergencies and disasters. The mission of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is to be an effective partner in emergency and disaster response, providing emergency managers and their communities with radio communications expertise, capability and capacity, supplied by volunteer radio communicators”.**

ARISS: ARISS funding and staff involvement was a topic that Dr. Woolweaver & Mr. Gallagher requested we look at. Previously a member of the staff did a large amount of work for ARISS even though it was not in that staff member's statement of work to do so. The recommendation was to provide an annual cash contribution in support of ARISS which would both eliminate a staff member from doing non-tasked duties as well as show support for the ARISS program. This contribution could be used by the ARISS program to acquire support they need for program implementation. The specific dollar amount proposal has been forwarded to the A&F committee for discussion.

Contest rules clarification: We discussed and approved a rules clarification to the ARRL contest rules. The clarification reads: “1.3 Only one signal on a single band is allowed at any time. When two or more transmitters are present on the same band and mode, a lockout function must be implemented that prevents more than one transmitted signal at any one time. Alternating CQs on two or more frequencies on a single band is not permitted.”

Membership badge: The committee discussed and approved the creation of an “ARRL Member” badge. Proposed by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the badge is similar to other official ARRL badges, as there wasn't one just for members. It will be black in color with white lettering.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank all the members of the PSC as well as the hard working headquarters staff! It's great to work with a group of folks who's passion shows in their work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent

Kent Olson, KAØLDG
Chairman, ARRL Programs and Services Committee
ARRL Director, Dakota Division