

**Contest Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Report
For the American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors Meeting**

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Part 2

Submitted by

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Mobile Contesting Category – CAC SUMMARY

Summary

This document contains a consolidation of the comments offered by all members of the CAC, K4AC, SE Div. Director, and some constituents. Across the board, all CAC members have expressed that having a mobile entry category in an ARRL HF contest is not necessary, and generally is a “bad” idea. Some constituents were in favor of a mobile category, but none of their arguments outweighed the overwhelming arguments against it by the CAC members.

The following are selected comments from CAC members whose positions were **AGAINST a mobile category**:

- Varying laws as to operation while in motion etc., make it pretty unlikely we can come up with a reasonable framework for a competitive category.
- If it is dangerous and illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving, surely tuning a dial fiddling with a computer to log contacts, etc., is way worse.
- Because of the potential risk of operating while driving, it would probably be best if the League did not endorse a mobile category in a contest.
- I don't think the activity level warrants a category or multiple categories for mobile operation.
- One might anticipate that with modern day zoning restrictions mobile activity would be very popular, but that doesn't seem to be the case.
- To quote one CAC member, "A mobile contest is a bad idea, with all the laws against driving while talking or texting on a cell phone that are now in effect, someone getting involved in an accident while operating in a contest would look very bad for amateur radio, it might even kill our privileges to use VHF/UHF in our cars."
- I have conversed with several contesters of the mobile persuasion, and there seems to be little interest in this topic.
- When operating in motion, there are lots of things (not including safety) to consider, most having to do with the re-start on a new log, or other way to designate the location and/or the operator in such a way to keep him/her from being a dupe to the other stations.
- None of the HF contests will see these same benefits for mobiles as the state QSO parties. It is extremely unlikely that these contests will see additional multipliers activated by mobile entries. And all of the ARRL HF contests are big enough that the few hundred (or even a few thousand) QSOs contributed by mobiles will be noticed or even contribute significantly to the on air activity level.

There was some support **FOR a mobile category** in contests, and they are summarized here:

- I think that there are only two reasons for considering adding mobile categories:
 - If the contest itself will benefit from the addition of the mobile categories.

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- If there is a significant demand for mobile categories by the entrants who participate in the contest.
- I suspect one reason is covenants, deed restrictions, etc. which may limit the options for guys with contesting in their blood but no practical way to do it from home.
- Reading between the lines of the tasking, I assume that it was to accommodate stations who really did not have a good home station but could and do operate HF mobile.
- I think the only way that this might work would be a whole new ARRL event specifically designed to take advantage of mobile operation. The 7QP and New England QSO Party do this on a smaller scale in which the State AND County are part of the exchange. Could this be expanded to the national level? Maybe.
- I might be able to support a new ARRL contest that was designed to better accommodate mobile operation (something like an expansion of 7QP or NEQP) but would not push it if there was little interest.
- Most typical YES responses basically said it can't hurt. One responder said, "a mobile category would allow those who live in restricted antenna locations a chance to compete on a level playing field."
- One responder suggested adding a mobile category only to the 10m contest if, "the contest is changed to require a grid square exchange" He further suggested that "the only other sensible possibility I can see would be the creation of a new, all band HF contest with multiplier determined either by grid or county, allowing a Rover entry as above."
- All who responded YES would like to see a separate mobile category listed in the results.
- To be rigorous in our committee duties, though, shouldn't we put forth at least a minimal effort to imagine a best-case scenario for a mobile category? Perhaps we should contemplate a narrowly constructed, one-year experiment with such a category — with a declaration at the outset that the experiment should not be expected to lead to a permanent new category unless, that is, the experiment proves to be a resounding success. [Note: Should this be put on the 2015 tasking list? K5KG]
- The only ARRL HF contest that a mobile category may add some participation benefit is Sweepstakes as it is primarily focused on North America and therefore more practical from a mobile operation perspective. Furthermore, from the contests listed, I recall working mobile stations in Sweepstakes more frequently than any other HF contests.

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