

**Report on the Programs and Services Committee  
to the ARRL Board of Directors  
July 12, 2012**

The last in person meeting was January 12 with Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, in the Chair the following Programs and Services Committee members were present:

Director David Norris, K5UZ, Delta Division  
Director Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF, Hudson Division  
Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Northwestern Division  
Vice Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, Pacific Division  
Director Dick Norton, N6AA, Southwestern Division

Also present were Vice Director Abernethy, W3TOM, Atlantic Division Vice Director; and David Patton, NN1N, Manager, Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. Other members of the Board joined the meeting as observers throughout the day.

The highlights of the January meeting were as follows:

- The Committee discussed operations on the 30 Meter band and the status of some PSC questions to staff regarding removing the power restriction on the band.
- The Committee voted to task DXAC, VUAC and CAC with the topic of how to integrate mobile operating into ARRL's DXing and contesting programs. The PSC will draft tasking language at its next meeting which we are currently discussing.
- The PSC heard reports from the Standing Committee liaisons for the DXAC, and CAC. After hearing an update on the VUAC's work from Central Division Vice Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, the PSC members discussed the upcoming programmed sunset of the VUAC. The PSC VOTED to make a motion at the Annual Board meeting to continue the VUAC for a period of one year – until July 31, 2013.
- The PSC VOTED unanimously to have staff updated appointment guidelines to allow for OES appointments to be given to clubs and design the criteria for which a club would qualify for such an appointment.
- The PSC unanimously selected Andrey Federov, RW3AH/KL1A, to be presented to the Board as the 2011 International Humanitarian Award winner.
- The PSC deliberated over the nominees for the 2011 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award.

- An ECAC proposal for setting training standards for SEC and DEC appointees was the next discussion topic. The PSC members decided to ask for more information from the authors of the proposal and left further discussion of the issue to what will be the newly seated PSC in July 2012
- The PSC VOTED unanimously to approve some minor changes to the ARRL Rookie Roundup rules, which included removing 6 meters from the event, and allowing for multi-operator entries.

At the 2012 ARRL Annual meeting in January, President Craigie appointed me, Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ as the new chairman of the Programs and Services Committee. It is my intent as the chair to move the agenda of the PSC forward with an emphasis on better service for the ARRL member and an expansion of our programs while maintaining fiscal responsibility towards the organization. A better value program for the membership is the goal of the PSC. While keeping this in mind, the PSC has decided to utilize the tools of technology such as emails, the internet and meeting via teleconference to minimize costs to the membership.

The teleconference has proven to be an effective means to meet and vote on issues. The March 29, 2012 teleconference is a stellar example of cost effective meetings. During this meeting several issues were discussed and one matter was placed as a motion and passed making 160m DXCC card checking in the field a reality.

With Director David Norris, K5UZ calling the meeting to order with all members present:

Director Dick Norton, N6AA Southwestern Division  
 Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG Pacific Division  
 Director Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF Hudson Division  
 Director Jim Weaver, K8JE Great Lakes Division  
 Vice Director Kent Olson, KA0LDG Dakota Division

Also attending the teleconference were Membership Services Manager David Patton, NN1N and serving as Recording Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ

The highlights of the March teleconference per K1ZZ's minutes are as follows:

Under New Business, the Chairman asked for reports from the Advisory Committee Liaisons.

- Mr. Norton reported that the Contest Advisory Committee is discussing a preliminary draft report that he believes will recommend organizing contest results and write-ups by zones around the country rather than on a "Top Ten" basis along with the issuance of more certificates. He expressed his "old school"

view that more certificates will not necessarily improve the contest. Contesting is a mature activity with events scheduled almost every weekend that compete with one another for participants.

- Mr. Vallio stated that he was having a hard time finding a replacement for the Pacific Division CAC member. He went on to report that there were no problems currently with the DXAC
- Mr. Olson reported that he was addressing some communications issues with the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee. Mr. Norris added that he was monitoring a couple of ECAC issues and would inform the PSC as he gets more information. Dr. Weaver added that a new Great Lakes Division representative had been appointed to replace Dale Williams, WA8EFK, who was “kicked upstairs” to Vice Director.
- Ms. Birmingham said she had not been contacted by VUAC Chairman Steve Clark, AG4V, but that she was receiving some fallout from the January PSC decision to drop 6 meters from the Rookie Roundup for lack of activity. Mr. Norris added that he had talked to Steve about the committee’s interest in promoting a mobile category and what it might mean for rovers.
- Ms. Birmingham said she is in regular email contact with Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, regarding the open position in the department and the department’s workload. She is looking for help with Girl Scout liaison. Vice Director Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM and former Vice Director Twila Greenheck, NØJPH have expressed interest in assisting with outreach to women and girls.

The following actions were taken by the Committee at the March 29, 2012 teleconference:

***VUAC Tasking:*** The Chairman noted his previous comment about a mobile category. Mr. Patton said that none of the Advisory Committees had been formally advised of their new taskings and suggested that the Advisory Committee Chairmen should be asked now to help draft them.

***ECAC Status:*** Mr. Norris said the Delta Division ECAC representative, Jim Coleman, AI5B, was about to become Louisiana Section Manager, moving up from SEC. The outgoing SM, Gary Stratton, K5GLS, will be an Assistant Director. He asked the PSC members to contact their ECAC representatives about where the ECAC should be going before being sunsetted. He said ARES membership lists compiled through the Field Organization are a popular topic.

***160 Meter DXCC field checking:*** The committee reviewed a proposal from Mr. Patton to allow Card Checkers who have achieved DXCC on 160 meters to check 160 meter cards in the field, provided they note the QSO time shown on the card on the application sheet. He also proposed to allow all Card Checkers to check Deleted Entity QSLs with provision for Headquarters to verify the accuracy of the claimed entity, if needed, via certified images of both sides of the QSL card. The committee discussed various ways of increasing the number of Card Checkers who

could check 160 meter cards but concluded that the existing rules for appointing Card Checkers should not be changed at this time.

On motion of Dr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Norton, the committee unanimously voted to authorize staff to amend the DXCC rules as proposed but with no change in how Card Checkers are appointed, i.e. with the last two sentences of the proposal deleted.

At approximately 9:40 PM the teleconference was adjourned.

The Programs and Services Committee has an ambitious and somewhat lengthy agenda set for July 2012. It is the intent of the current PSC Chair to get all of the agenda items that have been pending for some time moved out of committee and acted upon or otherwise dropped.

Respectfully submitted this date,

David A. Norris, K5UZ – Director, Delta Division,  
Chairman, Programs and Services Committee.