

ARRL VUAC Committee Executive Report

To The ARRL Board of Directors

July 2013

Respectfully submitted by:
Steve Clark, AG4V
VUAC Committee Chairman

VUAC Executive Report

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This VUAC was created in 2005 with a limit of 3 years as an advisory committee to the P&SC. Actually established in 2006 the current VUAC is now slated to sunset this month.

Many topics were covered & recommendations made.

In the process we often explored options among conflicting goals where there could be no consensus among the VUAC or the contesting community.

One of the more obvious was that while creating contesting categories aimed for beginners with a limited number of bands, we may begin to reduce the incentive to expand into UHF and microwave bands for all. Another was the issue of "assistance", seen as particularly valuable in V/UHF vs. HF due to the extremely directional antennas often applied, seems to promote activity in general but frowned upon by some seasoned operators.

Another which seems a simple means of contesting validation, Log Checking Reports (LCRs), although good intentioned may need further examination as they apply to V/UHF operation.

There were also conflicting goals with groups of rovers. Although there was an intent to class groups of rovers away from individual rovers, the new class created did not encourage the intended separation nor include Club Scoring.

Another conflicting goal was the consideration of adding 6m to select HF contests in order to encourage HF operators to migrate into VHF. This too had the potential of both good and bad effects considering well established HF contests.

Relaxation of Club Radius rules was a popular subject that needs continued examination.

Alternate scoring means was always a popular subject whether to apply to a single contest or only as an alternate scoring category alone.

We began to recognize that some of the more successful contests tend to be those with the simplest rules that promote what we refer to as the "fun level".

Possibly a lesson for future VUACs.

Feedback from the contesting public only reinforce that VUACs are created out of a need to have active V/UHF operators seated to make recommendations on issues that often vary greatly from HF.

We hope that there will be many future committees and subcommittees with this in mind.

V/UHF and above operations are generally unique to that spectrum requiring specialized attention.

As we close out our term I would like to mention that we lost one of our (16) charter VUAC members recently.

Mark Dabish, K8MD, our Great Lakes Division representative passed away in May.

Mark was a very active V/UHF and microwave operator that brought much experience into our ranks. Our sympathy goes out to his family. He will be missed.

On behalf of the committee members including our 2 former chairmen I would like to say it has been our pleasure to serve the P&SC as well as the V/UHF contesting community.

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