

ARRL Programs and Services Committee

Report to Board of Directors for 2024

The Programs and Services Committee (PSC) meet four times in 2024 on the following dates:

- January 18, 2024, in person at Marriott in Windsor, CT
- April 1, 2024, via Zoom
- July 18, 2024, in person at Marriott in Windsor, CT
- October 7, 2024, via Zoom

Following is a short summary of some of the discussions and actions of the Committee:

Awards:

Awards approved and recommended to the Board are:

- *Doug DeMaw Technical Excellence Award* – Dennis Sweeny WA4LPR
- *Technical Service Award* – Ed Menasian N8LPQ
- *Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award* – Kees Van Oosbree WØAAE
- *Technical Innovation Award* – Hans Summers GØUPL

The Awards subcommittee:

The Awards subcommittee has the following individuals on it:

- Vice Director Propper, K2DP – Chair
- Vice Director Nelson, WØND
- Director Lippert, ACØW
- Steve Ewald – Staff
- Director Zygielbaum, KØAIZ

The committee has identified a total of 22 different awards available to be conferred onto an individual or a group of individuals. There is significant variability in the award process between the awards, such as application process, submission dates, approval process, terms/descriptions used. It is clear some standardization is needed. There also appear a few awards that should be removed such as those put on hold indefinitely or those with no applicants for over a decade.

Responsibility of the awards can be subdivided into the following groups:

- 10 – PSC Directly who recommends to the Board
- 6 – Staff who recommends to PSC and then onto the Board
- 5 – Board
- 1 – ARRL Foundation – Goldwater Scholarship

Next steps for the committee include:

- Removal of awards that no longer deserve merit
- Standardization of the 10 award PSC is directly responsible for
- Once the above is done, work with staff to develop implement standardization of their six awards

Contest Advisory Committee (CAC):

Recommendations the PSC approved from the CAC include the following:

- RTTY Roundup is now only RTTY with ARRL Digital Contest in June that is very successful.
- Determined that any use of AI during contests will place the station in the “assisted” or unlimited category. With so little known about using AI in contests it is impossible to develop rules concerning the use of AI coupled with those rules will mostly be unenforceable.
- Closed several items related to use of FT8 in VHF/UHF contests. Changes to date have reduced some of the issues and have provided more opportunities for those with a strong interest in the analog modes. While some concerns remain, most of those center around likes and dislikes of modes, which occurs even on HF contest. On HF contests you can find groups the have a strong favor for CW and a vocal negative opinion of the SSB mode.
- Made several changes to the 10 GHz contest, some to facilitate improved log receiving and log checking. Set a standard start time regardless of time zone and required time format to be in UTC. Also changed the exchange and multiplier to be grid square, which simplifies multiplier determination. Made some changes to the use of remote stations to reduce some abuses. PSC felt more work was needed on the remote station issue so sent this back to CAC to discuss further.

DX Advisory Committee (DXAC):

The DXAC met several times concerning the request to designate Jarvis as a new DX Entity. After considerable research and discussion, the request was denied. They also had some preliminary discussion concerning DXCC-2025 where the complete DXCC program would be reviewed.

LOTW:

PSC discussed several times various digital modes and what consists of an “award qualifying digital contact”. One thing driving this is VARA and the many requests to allow VARA to be an “award qualifying” mode. Even after discussion with VARA “experts”, we are no closer to having a way to verify whether a VARA contact was strictly peer to peer “100% over the air waves” or whether part of the communication path was via the internet. Another challenge is “green cube” satellite contacts which use “store and forward” technology. Staff was to draft a statement to define “award qualifying digital contacts” as being strictly peer to peer over the airwave, not using and “store and forward” technology and not permitting use of the internet as part of the communications path. The statement has been delayed due to the IT issues.

Some individuals have been discovered to improperly use the CEPT license privilege. For U.S. call sign for the individual to use the CEPT license privilege in another country, the individual MUST be a U.S. citizen. They cannot be a foreign citizen with a FCC issued call. Starting early 2024 the citizen requirement will be put into place for use of CEPT license privilege for the contact to count for awards. Individuals found abusing this will not have their LOTW callsign certificates renewed.

There was a request to create DXCC QRP Honor Roll. ARRL currently does not have the resources to develop and implement such an award. Individuals can request their DXCC award be printed with the designation “QRP” but that’s it.

IARU 100th Anniversary

With the IARU 100th Anniversary in 2025 plans were made for two special operating events in 2025 centered on the IARU Anniversary. First is the IARU 100th Anniversary Centennial QSO Party to be held from April 12 through April 20 which includes World Amateur Radio Day. The second will occur as part of the IARU HF World Championship on July 12.

Field Day:

The only change for Field Day 2024 was to add a new Field Day Responsibilities Bonus of 50 points. The goal of the bonus is to make the Field Day sight more welcoming and friendly to visitors. 354 clubs submitted for the bonus. The check list needs to be revised to eliminate some of the duplication of items on the Safety Officer Bonus.

Rules for Field Day 2025 are still being reviewed and discussed. One possible change in the GOTA station rules is to eliminate the requirement of the transmitter classification to be two or more transmitters. Several clubs in Class 1A would have a GOTA station if allowed but do not have enough members to operate 2A.

Field Day Statistics:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	COVID 2020	2019	2018
Participants By Class							
Class A - Port/Temp 3 or more people	24,486	24,153	22,090	18,078	5,965	29,831	28,946
Class B - Port/Temp 1 or 2 individuals	668	659	729	827	1,278	472	440
Class C - Mobile/Rovers	60	62	76	89	157	55	83
Class D - Home stations commercial power	2,263	2,198	2,878	3,959	7,933	977	837
Class E - Home stations emergency power	1,254	1,491	1,412	1,695	2,899	1,304	1,263
Class F - EOC's	2,897	2,737	2,494	2,050	654	3,813	2,566
Total Participants	31,628	31,300	29,679	26,698	18,886	36,452	34,135
Checklogs							
Checklogs	123	113	126	102	610	187	22
CW QSOs							
CW QSOs	490,813	478,463	524,900	604,811	821,190	456,346	501,223
Phone QSOs							
Phone QSOs	522,378	481,710	465,088	529,830	661,478	500,775	622,351
Digital QSOs							
Digital QSOs	283,525	289,513	284,529	297,418	380,317	138,848	56,532
Total QSOs	1,296,716	1,249,686	1,274,517	1,432,059	1,862,985	1,095,969	1,180,106
Entries By Class							
Class A - Port/Temp 3 or more people	1,254	1,271	1,209	1,070	611	1,277	1,253
Class B - Port/Temp 1 or 2 individuals	568	565	621	704	1,086	375	352
Class C - Mobile/Rovers	52	58	58	70	134	44	45
Class D - Home stations commercial power	1,612	1,700	2,130	2,979	6,318	769	648
Class E - Home stations emergency power	650	688	754	1,015	1,980	452	419
Class F - EOC's	183	160	157	141	84	196	186
Total Entries	4,319	4,442	4,929	5,979	10,213	3,113	2,903
DX Entries	64	31	31	28	40	18	4

Committee Members:

- Bill Lippert, ACØW, Dakota Division Director (Chair and Boad CAC Liaison)
- Mike Ritz, W7VO, Second Vice President (Officer Liaison)
- Mickey Baker, N4MB, Southeastern Division Director
- Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Roanoke Division Director
- Anthony Marcin, W7XM, Pacific Division Director
- Lynn Nelson, WØND, Dakota Division Vice Director
- Michael Sterba, KG7HQ, Northwestern Division Vice Director
- Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM, Atlantic Division Vice Director
- Dave Propper, K2DP, Midwest Division Vice Director
- Roy Hook, W8REH, Great Lakes Division Vice Director
- Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, Staff

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Lippert, ACØW
 Chair Programs and Services Committee
 ARRL Director Dakota Division