

**Contest Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Report**

**For the American Radio Relay League
Board of Director's Meeting**

January 2025

**Craig Thompson, K9CT
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Overview

In the last six months, the CAC has been having sporadic discussions about various contesting topics. Nothing has evolved until the recent ARRL SS and ARRL 10 Meter Contests.

Most of our discussions take place online in our discussion group. Our CAC members report our activities to their respective board members. Our liaison to the PSC is Bill, AC0W and he is kept updated, monitors our discussions and updates CAC on PSC actions.

Tasks:

We have completed tasks asked of us to consider. No other tasks have gone beyond discussion.

CAC has been observing the discussions on the internet discussion groups for issues related to all contests in general. Both the ARRL contest group and the CQ contest group are the most active. We also get input from our respective contests groups that the CAC members belong.

CAC Membership:

The CAC membership has not changed in the last six-month period. We still need a representative for the West Gulf Division.

- Atlantic – Jon, AA1K,: jz73@verizon.net
- Central – Craig Thompson, K9CT; Craig@k9ct.us (Chairman)
- Dakota – Jon Platt, W0ZQ; W0ZQ@AOL.com
- Delta – Stan Stockton, K5GO; wa5rtg@gmail.com
- Great Lakes – Dan Kovatch, W8CAR; w8car@bex.net
- Hudson – Zev Darack, N2WKS; zevdarack@gmail.com
- Midwest – Dr. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ; w0gj@arrl.net
- New England – Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ; r_bakalov@yahoo.com
- Northwestern – Jim Cassidy, KI7Y; ki7y@arrl.net
- Pacific – Jim Brown, K9YC; K9YC@arrl.net
- Roanoke - Don Daso, K4ZA; k4zadondaso@juno.com
- Rocky Mountain – Darryl Hazelgren, K7UT; darryl@hazelgren.net
- Southeastern – Charles Wooten, NF4A; NF4A@knology.net
- Southwestern – Mike Fulcher, KC7V, mikekc7v@gmail.com
- West Gulf – TBD
- Radio Amateurs of Canada – Samuel A. Ferris, VE5SF; ve5sf@sasktel.net

VHF CAC Subcommittee

Committee members:

Jon Platt W0ZQ (Subcommittee Chair)

Craig Thompson K9CT

Jeff Ach W2FU

Rus Healy K2UA

Steve Kostro N2CEI

Bob Striegl K2DRH

John Kalenowsky K9JK

Jim Duffey KK6MC

Eric Olson, N7EPD

CAC and VHF Subcommittee work and recommendations:

The CAC has recently discussed the reduced number of logs in the SS Phone and CW contests. It is apparent that we don't have as many operating as before and the Sunday activity is reduced. We brainstormed and decided to try an overlay for the last 6 hours of the 2025 SS weekends. The reasoning is that some don't want to operate the entire 24 hours and that 6 hours might attract those with less time at the same time that 24-hour operators are looking for contacts.

We are submitting a proposal to the PSC for consideration in January, 2025. The CAC committee makes the following recommendations.

☐ Amend the SS Phone and CW contest rules to add a Sunday afternoon overlay operating class that includes just the last six hours of each contest.

In addition the CAC discussed the use of cut numbers in the cw contests. This issue was raised in the contest group discussions. We were not going to make a rule but a recommendation to be added to the rules. Ultimately, we did not have consensus and are letting the matter drop.

A couple of the CAC members mentioned that we might want to look at the rules for SS to see if we can attract more contesters. Some suggestions for time changes and operating time were proposed. We will be taking these up in 2025.

CAC discussed the aging of SS and how a new contester might not be connected to the message format and history of the contest. It is a more difficult contest and not easy to explain to a casual operator. We had no answers but reflected on the marketing of SS and attraction to hams as a whole. More to be discussed!

For 2025, the CAC's VHF+ subcommittee will:

1. Continue to monitor the EME communities reactions to the recent EME contest changes. No further recommendations are planned at this time.
2. Regarding the 10GHz & Up contest and the use of remote stations, we have received the PSCs discussion points & questions and will be responding.

Beyond the above planned actions the CAC;s VHF+ subcommittee is also concerned about the falling activity in the September VHF contest. For some time we have been informally discussing potential changes to increase activity and the fun factor in this event. Those informal discussions have ranged from significant changes that would affect several VHF contests to more limited changes just within the September VHF contest itself. The subcommittee would be welcoming of any comments and/or directions the PSC may have in support of this.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Craig Thompson, CAC Chairman