

Report of the Program and Services Committee July 2024

The Program and Services Committee met twice during the first half of 2024. What follows is a summary of action taken during those meetings.

- Proposed New DXCC Award
 - Reviewed a proposal from then Vice Director Tharp for a new DXCC Award to be called the Triple Crown or Trident Award. The requirement is to work 100 DXCC entities on Phone, 100 on CW and 100 on Digital. Staff are working on details to implement.

- CAC
 - PSC approved recommended change to 10 GHz start time and logging time format to standardize using UTC time in logs. This simplifies the log checking process and adjudication.

 - Closed many items on CAC task list as complete. CAC reported being satisfied with the results of their changes. Currently there are only 3 open items on their list.

 - CAC is still reviewing EME Contest exchange and use of remote stations in the 10 GHZ and other UHF/VHF contests. The goal is to have recommendations for the July PSC meeting.

 - The CAC did review alternate dates for the 10 GHz contest due to a request from a few people experiencing extremely high temperature on one weekend in 2023. CAC's research revealed that historically the current weekend is typically cooler than the suggested weekend. Appears some areas of the country saw unusual extreme temperatures which lead to the request. The other concern CAC had was that making the change would result in placing several VHF/UHF events back-to-back for several weekends without a break.

- DXAC
 - The committee reviewed the request concerning Jarvis Island a couple of times. After each request the committee found no justification to assign DXCC entity status to Jarvis Island based on DXCC rules.

 - More information is accumulating to justify a full review of the DXCC rules to make sure they are current to the times and accomplishing what is intended. This currently is being targeted for 2025 some time.

- Field Day
 - Reviewed and agreed for staff to include a bonus point to help Field Day sites be more welcoming to visitors and guests. This will be reviewed to see how successful it was and whether revisions or adjustments need to be made.

- Discussed the need for a slow speed CW area of the CW sub bands. Agreed to follow what the contest community has been using where slow speed CW is toward the upper end of the sub band but below where most digital stations are. This is typically above the 50 kHz point in the band, for example above 14050.
- Power Level Definitions
 - Reviewed definition of what constitutes the different power categories. There was a request to define QRP Phone at 10 watts instead of the current 5 watts. After discussion the committee confirmed the below:
 - QRP \leq 5 watts
 - Low power \leq 100 watts
 - High power $>$ 100 watts and \leq 1500 watts or maximum limit as specified by the country
- LOTW
 - Learned with the continuing development of various digital modes that each new mode needs to be individually programmed into LOTW for acceptance of that mode. The other challenge is determining whether a particular digital mode will result in acceptable contacts for awards purposes. “Green cube” satellite contacts that use “store and forward” technology do not qualify as a QSO that can be used for award purposes. Additionally, VARA technology is making it difficult to determine if communications are strictly via the air waves or include communication partially via the internet and partially via the air waves. Then there are times communication is completely via the internet. Staff will be developing a policy for committee review that all communications are peer to peer via the air waves in real time.
- CEPT Licensing Misuse
 - Staff is starting to disqualify individuals from contest results and DXCC who improperly use CEPT agreements. CEPT agreements require the person to be a citizen of the country for the license they are using to operate in a foreign country. Example is a citizen of Italy properly obtains a U.S. license through the exam process. This individual now improperly uses that US FCC license to operate in French St. Martin via the CEPT agreement. As the individual is not a US citizen this is not legal. For the person to legally operate in French St. Martin they need to file for permission from the French government to operate using their Italian license and sign FS7/Ixxxxxx.
- PSC Awards Guideline Subcommittee
 - The subcommittee is reviewing the various awards the Board approves and issues to groups and individuals. The purpose is to see if we can standardize, simplify the process and possibly even sunset some awards. The feeling is the awards may be underutilized due to the complexity of the process. So far, the committee has discovered 22 different awards the Board or departments issue. The next step is to gather more information about the process for each of these awards to see if standardization or simplification is possible.
- President’s Volunteer Service Award
 - Bob Naumann, former ARRL Director of Operations, reported the requirements for implementing are complex requiring resources that the ARRL does not currently have available, including programming time for tracking volunteer hours. PSC tabled further work on this to be reviewed later when we may have the available staff time and IT resources for further development of this award.

The changes PSC made in how we utilize the advisory committees (CAC & DXAC) a few years ago have re-energized those committees. The committee members now feel they are making important contributions to the ARRL programs. It is a pleasure working with those committees and being able to implement or stand by their recommendations.

For the Committee:

Bill Lippert, ACØW
Chair
PSC Committee

PSC Committee Members:

Director Lippert, AC0W, (Chair & Board CAC Liaison)
Director Baker, N4MB
Director Boehner, N2ZZ
Director Luetzelschwab, (Board DXAC Liaison)
Director Marcin, W7XM
Vice Director Hook, W8REH
Vice Director Nelson, W0ND
Vice Director Pittinger, KB3MXM
Vice Director Propper, K2DP
Vice Director Sterba, KG7HQ
2nd Vice Pres Ritz, W7VO (Officer Liaison, voting)
Mr. Jahnke, W9JJ (Radiosport & Regulatory Mgr plus Staff Liaison)