

**Contest Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Report**

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

July 2024

**Craig Thompson, K9CT
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Overview

In the last six months, the CAC has forwarded three proposed rule changes to the PSC. All of these were generated within the VHF Subcommittee. These were then vetted by the CAC and approved for forwarding to the PSC.

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 prior actions such as change in limited antennas and self-spotting etc. The general conclusion is that these changes have been favorable and being adopted by other contest groups.

CAC Membership:

The CAC membership has not changed in the last six-month period. Jim, N3BB has resigned but a replacement has not been named.

- 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:

Currently, contacts made in the **ARRL 10GHz & Up** contest may be logged in either local time or in the UTC format. The contester is then required to indicate what time format they used to log with when they are uploading their log. This practice is ripe for errors to occur in either how they actually log their time or in what they report as how they logged their time resulting in problems during log checking. A request has been made to simplify this process by requiring that all logging must be in the UTC format. The subcommittee agrees with this request. In addition, the subcommittee recommends that the operator's time zone be reported during the upload of their log in order to assist in assuring that their contest operating time period has not been exceeded. Regarding contest Start and Stop times, the 10GHz & Up contest is unique in having a strong regional influence. With four time zones across the USA, we do not wish to set a UTC Start or Stop time but instead recommend that we retain the current rule that indicates that the Start time remains at 6 AM local on Saturday and the Stop time remains Midnight local on Sunday.

The ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest is a unique distance-based contest where the majority of participants use portable stations to work participants over distances ranging from several kilometers to hundreds of kilometers. Any or all of the microwave bands from 10 GHz and up may be used. Participants are encouraged to work a station once, then to move a distance of at least 16 km to then work them again. In recent years there has been an increase in the number home based stations participating where some of the home stations have the ability to also be operated remotely. The ability to use a station remotely while also operating a portable station at the same time, both stations using the same call sign (and thus entering one log), creates the scenario where such a contester can effectively be in two different physical locations at nearly the same time. A contester who is operating in such a way has a distinct scoring advantage over those operating with just one station at a time. The subcommittees' two recommended rule changes, while still allowing for the use of a remote station, aims to define their usage when such a remote/portable capable station is working in close proximity to other portable stations.

The EME Contest community has been vocal for several years on their desire to change the EME contest scoring format from S/P/C as multipliers to using a stations four-digit Maidenhead grid square. This proposal would not require any changes to existing digital or contest logging software applications. We recommend that for scoring purposes that the EME

contest multiplier be changed from the current format of States/Provinces/Countries to four-digit Maidenhead grid squares. For example, EN34.

The CAC has informally discussed remote operations during contests, self spotting, real time contesting efforts, attracting new contesters, and AI use during contests. No actions are contemplated currently.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Craig Thompson, CAC Chairman