

**VHF/UHF Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Report**

**For the American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors Meeting**

January 2007

Submitted by

Lauren D. Libby W0LD, Chairman
6166 Del Paz Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-331-7051 (M)
719-593-9861 (H)
w0ld@pcisys.net

A Report to the Board of Directors of the ARRL From the VUAC Committee

Executive Summary:

Since the last report in July the VUAC Committee has surfaced a number of topics and one voted item has been concluded for submission by the committee.

The voted upon proposal is:

“The VUAC committee recommends that the use of 144.200 MHz (SSB) and 146.520 MHz (FM), known as the “calling frequencies” not be restricted during ARRL VHF/UHF contests. The committee recommends that a FAQ statement be included in the rules section on “best practices” regarding using calling frequencies during ARRL sponsored VHF/UHF contests.”

The motion carried without dissent. The intent of the proposal is to promote as much activity as possible in the ARRL VHF/UHF contests.

Other topics have been brought forward for potential discussion and action. These include:

1. A discussion of the rover categories, with a look at grid circling, captive rovers, rover scoring, an entry level rover class and adding rover scores to club scoring.
2. Contest growth. This could include the possibility of a new class for ‘entry level stations.’ This could be a 100-watt category that would cover 6 meters, 2 meters and 432 MHz, tailored to those who own multi-mode radios that operate these bands. The idea would be to grow the number of participants.
3. The topic of contest log checking software in VHF/UHF contests is a current discussion item. This recognizes that the environments of VHF/UHF contests are different than HF contests due to propagation and operating practices.
4. A look at the unique changes that are occurring in the ARRL EME contest. With the introduction of WSJT digital modes into the EME operating scene, how should these new digital modes be recognized and incorporated into the ARRL EME contest? Since this is an emerging event there is vigorous debate on how to accommodate both CW and Digital modes into the contest.

As chairman, I would like to propose that a “working group” of the committee be sanctioned to address the unique EME contest issues. I would propose that the “working group” be chaired by W5LUA. The group would be comprised of a broad based group of people who are very active in EME. Kermit Carlson, W9XA; Ned Stearns, AA7A; and Lauren Libby WOLD be included as VUAC liaisons to the working group. The group would report back to the VUAC Committee, then the VUAC would work through the potential proposal and submit a final recommendation. This would create a forum for specific input and still provide the broad based feedback from the whole VUAC committee.

The most pressing issue of the four issues outlined above is addressing the EME contest rules and modes. I would suggest that would be the next piece of work for the VUAC Committee.

The committee has certainly begun a spirited discussion on the part of the membership regarding the ARRL VHF/UHF contests. So the committee has had a successful start.

As chairman, I am asking the Program and Services Committee to speak into the priority of the topics listed. As soon as I hear from you I will proceed to engage the VUAC with a view toward reaching reasonable consensus.

Thank you for the chance to have a part in, hopefully, increasing the participation in and commitment to the ARRL VHF/UHF contests the League sponsors so well.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Libby WOLD