

**Program and Services Committee (PSC)
Report to the Board – January 2016**

ARRL Bylaw 39. The Programs and Services Committee shall: Guide development of service delivery mechanisms, evaluate services, and recommend program priorities; Advise Chief Executive Officer on services provided to individual members other than publications, including but not limited to contests and awards, information services including Logbook of the World and W1AW, and incoming and outgoing QSL bureau services; Advise Chief Executive Officer on volunteer programs, including but not limited to the field organization, affiliated clubs, volunteer examiners, Volunteer Counsel/Consulting Engineers, and educational initiatives; and Evaluate and recommend awards recipients to the Board for outstanding volunteer service or outstanding achievement.

PSC Committee members: Tom Abernethy W3TOM, David Norris K5UZ, Dick Norton N6AA, Doug Rehman K4AC, Art Zygielbaum KOAIZ, ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton NN1N (Staff Liaison), Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Chairman)

The Programs and Service Committee (PSC) is pleased to provide this report to highlight activities and accomplishments over the last six months.

The committee gathered formally at ARRL headquarters last July, via teleconference in August, and again via webinar in December to conduct business and address a variety of topics. PSC also met with Contest Advisory Committee members in November for an informal discussion about CAC ideas. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND provided much appreciated assistance as recording secretary.

DX Advisory Committee (DXAC). PSC tasked DXAC with researching the feasibility of ARRL a potential mobile DXCC award. DXAC delivered its report of findings and recommendations in December and we appreciate their timely work. PSC has asked ARRL staff to scope out such an award (estimate resources, budget, and schedule) for PSC consideration on or before its July meeting.

Contest Advisory Committee (CAC). PSC met CAC chairman George Wagner K5KG and Rocky Mountain Division representative Bob Neece KOKR via teleconference on November 3 to receive a presentation outlining options to streamline the makeup, operations, and effectiveness of the CAC. A number of recommendations were made and are presently under PSC's consideration. At its January meeting, PSC will assign to new projects to CAC: A research effort on the topic of youth and contesting as well as an update and revision to CAC's internal handbook.

National Parks on the Air operating event. Working closely with ARRL staff and the A&F committee, PSC reviewed and approved a well prepared plan to organize and execute the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) operating event in conjunction with the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. Tuning across the HF bands since New Year's Day, NPOTA appears to be off to a strong start.

National Traffic System: ICS-213 integration and NTS Manual rewrite projects. In early 2015, PSC requested that NTS Area Chairmen lead the integration of ICS-213 formatted traffic handling across NTS (as an additional format to the traditional Radiogram), as well as organize and update content that would make up the revised NTS Manual. PSC appreciates the progress NTS leadership continues to make on these fronts and looks forward to their completion.

VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group. Composed of Kermit Carlson W9XA (Chairman), Dave Patton NN1N, Marty Woll N6VI, Doug Rehman K4AC, Rod Blocksome KODAS, and Joel Harrison W5ZN, PSC's VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group continues its thorough review of ARRL's VHF and above contesting program and development of key recommendations to increase the level and breadth of participation in these contests. The working group's first round of rule changes, approved by PSC and the full Board, received great support from the community since being rolled out in 2015's June VHF Contest. The working group is presently conducting its next phase of research and PSC looks forward to considering its findings and recommendations.

DXCC Card Checking Program Modernization working group. Composed of Tom Abernethy W3TOM (Chairman), Dave Norris K5UZ, Dale Williams WA8EFK, and Dave Patton NN1N, PSC's DXCC Card Checking Program Modernization working group is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the League's card checking rules, procedures, etc. and is on track to make recommendations aimed at modernizing and improving this important program.

ARRL Special Service Club pennants. At the recommendation of PSC, the ARRL Board authorized the complementary furnishing of Special Service Club pennants to all current and future ARRL-affiliated organizations which have achieved Special Service Club status. ARRL staff reports that pennants have been shipped to all current Special Service clubs, enabling them to call attention to their achievement at meetings and events. PSC thanks ARRL staff for their speedy execution of this effort.

ARRL Award Recommendations. PSC considered nominations to several ARRL awards and recommended the following recipients to the full Board: Anna Veal W0ANT (2014 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award); Randy Thompson K5ZD

(2015 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award); David Hershberger W9GR (2014 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award); and the principals as well as developers of Broadband-HamNet (2014 ARRL Microwave Development Award).

As Chairman, I personally thanks each member of PSC, its working groups, our League's advisory committees, and ARRL's staff for the dedication and energy they have poured into our many deliberations, research of solutions, and decision-making. *Thank you.*

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT
Chairman, ARRL Programs and Service Committee