

**Contest Advisory Committee  
Semi-Annual Report**

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

**July 2012**

**Submitted by  
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### 1. Executive Summary

During the last six months, the CAC completed its tasking on recommendations related to the ARRL DX Contest. A final report with the CAC's recommendations was submitted to the PSC on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. A number of specific recommendations were made including replacing the W/VE Top Ten boxes for Single Operator results with reporting of results by region. To date, the CAC is not aware of the PSC acting on any of these recommendations.

A member of the CAC has made a comprehensive proposal for revamping the contest awards program specifically as it relates to plaques. This proposal has considerable merit but relies heavily on extensive fund raising and administrative efforts by the League. The Chairman felt that these types of administrative matters were beyond the scope of tasks considered by the CAC. This proposal has been sent directly to Dave Patton, NN1N for consideration.

Several informal discussions on the CAC reflector as well as informal face-to-face meetings at the Dayton Hamvention were held. A number of specific issues for particular ARRL contests were identified but, to date, none of these have resulted in a recommendation for a specific tasking.

### 2. Completion of ARRL DX Tasking

In the January, 2012 report to the Board, it was reported that the CAC had resumed work on the tasking related to recommendations for the ARRL DX Contest. At that time, the only item which had been officially resolved by the CAC was that the distance based scoring and DX to DX contacts would not be recommended. Since the January, 2012 Board Meeting, the CAC has completed its work on the ARRL DX Contest Tasking. A final report to the Board with its recommendations on this tasking was issued on April 9, 2012. The following is a summary of the recommendations related to the ARRL DX Contest made in this report:

1. ARRL DX Contest results in *QST* magazine for all W/VE Single Operator categories should be reported by Region instead of Top Ten boxes.
2. W/VE should be divided into a minimum of 10 (and a maximum of 16) regions for reporting all Single Operator category scores.

3. A Clean Sweep Award should be introduced for all DX participants who work all States and Provinces during the contest.
4. Promote the availability of a special award, in the form of either certificates or purchasable pins, for all W/VE participants who make a minimum number of 100, 250, or 500 contacts in the ARRL DX Contest.
5. Single Operator winners (including the new proposed Region winners) should continue to be sent certificates and/or sponsored plaques in the mail. The CAC believes it is acceptable for winners in some of the minor categories (such as Section / Province winners in Single Band categories) to be sent printable e-certificates via the web.

In addition to the above recommendations, the CAC discussed and recommended **against** the following changes to the ARRL DX Contest:

1. Allowing DX to DX Contacts
2. Implementing a distanced based scoring method
3. Reducing the maximum allowable 48 hour operating time for Single Operators.
4. Adding a 24 hour category for Single Operators
5. Changing contest exchange from State / Province to ARRL Section
6. Reporting W and VE results separately
7. Adding multipliers for XE states
8. Adding a high band / low band category

The CAC had not yet been informed by the PSC of any action on these recommendations.

### **3. Contest Awards Program**

Bob Neece, KØKR (Rocky Mountain CAC representative) proposed a substantial overhaul of the ARRL Contest Awards program including major changes and enhancements to the ways in which funds to sponsor plaques are obtained. This proposal includes a number of innovative ways in which funds for contest plaques could be raised. Although this proposal had considerable merit, it recommended a number of financial and administrative initiatives at the League to be implemented. Because of this, the chairman felt that this proposal was beyond the scope of issues over which the CAC is tasked to make recommendations. As a result, the proposal has been send directly to Dave Patton, NN1N for consideration.

#### **4. Additional Topics**

Upon the completion of the DX Tasking, a number of topics were discussed informally on the CAC reflector as well as at several brief face-to-face meetings at the Dayton Hamvention. These topics are identified in Appendix A of this report. The chairman also discussed these topics with NN1N at Dayton. To date, none of the issues on this list have risen to the status of an official CAC task from the PSC. However, the chairman and NN1N agreed to resume discussions in July on these and other topics with the objective of recommending one or more additional taskings for the Contest Advisory Committee.

#### **5. Administrative Notes**

Since the January, 2012 report to the Board, there have been two changes to the CAC Roster. The first change is the resignation of Michael Gibson, KH6ND as the Pacific area CAC representative. That position remains unfilled. The second change is that Dennis Egan, W1UE has been appointed as the New England CAC representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Dewey, KØAD  
Dakota Division Representative  
CAC Chair

## **Appendix A - POSSIBLE CAC TASKINGS**

- 1) Should Single Ops Using Assistance continue to be put in Multi-Operator Class (i.e. as opposed to Unlimited)?**
- 2) Should ARRL Contests continue to award a 2X multiplier for CW Qs over SSB Qs in events that support mixed mode operation like the 10 meter contest.**
- 3) Contest Awards Changes**
  - a) Awards recognizing participation in multiple ARRL contests
  - b) Awards recognizing achievement over multiple years in the same ARRL contest
- 4) ARRL RTTY Contest Change**
  - a) Clarify (not necessarily change) Off-Time Rule
    - “2.1. Operate no more than 24 hours.
    - 2.2. The six hours of off time must be taken in no more than two blocks.”
  - b) Should Multi-Ops (including Single Ops using spotting) be limited to 6 band changes per hour.
- 5) Multipliers**
  - a) Consistency on MAR Multiplier (i.e One Multiplier like SS or Three like ARRL RTTY (NF, LB, PEI).
  - b) Should KP2, KV4, and KL7 be DX rather than domestic multipliers?
- 6) Should Regional Score Reporting (Only) be expanded beyond just ARRL DX (as recently proposed)?**

**Contest Advisory Committee**  
**July 2012**

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