

## **Report of the Programs and Services Committee July 2009 ARRL Board Meeting**

The committee welcomes 2009 new members David Woolweaver K5RAV, Mickey Cox K5MC and Greg Widin K0GW. PSC seems to have a good combination of institutional memory and new ideas. With two Gregs, two Daves and a David we tend to refer to each other by call sign at meetings!

### **Advisory Committee Activity**

Our Advisory Committees have all been active and you will find their reports interesting. Only the VUAC is currently untasked. They had a comprehensive study of VHF and EME contest issues and their suggestions have largely been implemented. The EME changes have been well accepted. The VHF changes are somewhat more controversial but are good steps. Neither the Awards Committee nor PSC accepted the VUAC's recommendation to reduce the rover-to-rover QSO cap from 100 to 30 QSOs. Various models designed to handle grid circling have been tried in past, and undoubtedly more will be tried in future. It seems that as one aspect of the problem is solved with new regulations, another comes to the fore. Due to a string of work schedule problems, timing challenges and neglect the VUAC suggestions were not handled in a timely manner, adding to the angst of the stakeholders. We should of course endeavor to avoid such occurrences as much as possible.

### **PSC self-governance**

As mentioned in January PSC finds itself getting more heavily involved in emcomm minutae. Subsequent to its creation the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program has opened many new doors for ARRL and given the amateur radio service new visibility with the Field Organization, served agency partners, media and the general public. Understanding this program will help us better support it. Possibly this increased effort is a bubble that will diminish as the program moves further.

The board used to have both a Volunteer Resources Committee charged with oversight of the Field Organization, and a Membership Services Committee concerned with Awards, Contesting, W1AW etc. Under the current board governance model the tasks of both former groups fall under PSC purview. The PSC's ad hoc Emcomm subcommittee was created to study giving relief to PSC and the ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. The subcommittee has a plan and report, and a dissenting member report, each with models for a new committee to offload some of the emcomm oversight responsibility from the full PSC. This will be an important portion of our deliberations prior to the full board meeting.

### **July Board presentations**

We have the pleasure of presenting motions to the board to recognize hams for their superior instruction, technical excellence, outstanding publicity and other achievements. We may also be bringing a motion to create a new ongoing award recognizing long-term public service communications work. Another committee motion proposes a small change to the Volunteer Consulting Engineer description which would be more inclusive.

An idea we're looking at would establish a national-level field appointment to facilitate radio to VoIP linking in emcomm and drill activities. This model has worked very well in real hurricane situations.

Of course we will entertain your questions and ideas, either during or outside board session time.

### **Information Technology impact**

We are on the verge of realizing big, long-in-the-coming gains on the Info Tech front. Institution-wide the Fathom website project will be a sweeping and worthwhile change. More specific to workareas under PSC purview, many projects are nearing completion. Applicant online entry of field checker-reviewed DXCC submissions, and VE-entered online testing results are about to go live and will save staff time, improve accuracy and please our members. Opening up Logbook of the World applications for VUCC and a CQ award will give much asked-for capabilities and also provide a good revenue stream when in place. Web updating by departments is a great improvement and it bodes well for us to be ever more responsive to our members and facilitate our avocation.

### **Summary**

Despite the lack of sunspots contest and DXCC activity thrive. The PR 101 course is a great new training tool from our Media Relations department. The new Advanced ARECC emcomm course will debut shortly with some innovative delivery mechanisms. The reworked curriculum dovetails with Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and NIMS structure. We continue to see healthy interest in licensing and upgrading. In short the ARRL membership and hams worldwide are actively pursuing the art and science of Amateur Radio, thanks in large measure to the activities of our national society.

PSC met in-person 4 April at Hq. Other business has been conducted via the ps-com reflector. We look forward to a productive pre-board meeting, seeing all of you and facilitating the work of staff and field organization.

## **PSC membership**

Director Bruce Frahm, KØBJ Chair

Director Frank Fallon, N2FF

Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK VUAC liaison

Director Mickey Cox, K5MC

Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV

Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW DXAC liaison

Ex officio Member Vice Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM CAC Liaison

Dave Patton, NN1N Manager, MVP

Harold Kramer, WJ1B Chief Operating Officer

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ Chief Executive Officer