**DRAFT MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE**

**ARRL PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**March 29, 2012**

The teleconference was called to order at 8:30 PM EDT by Chairman David Norris, K5UZ. All other committee members were present on the call: Jim Weaver, K8JE, Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Dick Norton, N6AA, and Kent Olson, KAØLDG. Also present were Membership & Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. Mr. Sumner volunteered to take notes and prepare minutes.

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no items of old business brought up.

Under New Business, the Chairman asked for reports from the Advisory Committee Liaisons.

Mr. Norton reported that the Contest Advisory Committee is discussing a preliminary draft report that he believes will recommend organizing contest results and write-ups by zones around the country rather than on a “Top Ten” basis along with the issuance of more certificates. He expressed his “old school” view that more certificates will not necessarily improve the contest. Contesting is a mature activity with events scheduled almost every weekend that compete with one another for participants.

Mr. Vallio said that the Pacific Division CAC member had lost interest and he was having a hard time finding a replacement. He went on to report that there were no problems currently with the DXAC.

Mr. Olson mentioned that he was addressing some communications problems with the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee. Mr. Norris added that he was monitoring a couple of ECAC issues and would inform the PSC as he gets more information. Dr. Weaver added that a new Great Lakes Division representative had been appointed to replace Dale Williams, WA8EFK, who was “kicked upstairs” to Vice Director.

Ms. Birmingham said she had not been contacted by VUAC Chairman Steve Clark, AG4V, but that she was receiving some fallout from the January PSC decision to drop 6 meters from the Rookie Roundup for lack of activity. Mr. Norris added that he had talked to Steve about the committee’s interest in promoting a mobile category and what it might mean for rovers.

***Subcommittee Reports:*** Ms. Birmingham said she is in regular email contact with Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, regarding the open position in the department and the department’s workload. She is looking for help with Girl Scout liaison. Vice Director Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM and former Vice Director Twila Greenheck, NØJPH have expressed interest in assisting with outreach to women and girls.

***Face to face meeting plans:*** The Chairman asked for comments on plans for a face-to-face meeting, for which the date of April 28 had been tentatively selected. He suggested consideration of either an airline hub such as Memphis or HQ in Newington as possible locations.

Mr. Norton said he was not available April 28 and questioned whether the committee’s agenda warranted the time and expense of an in-person meeting. Based on the proposed topics he did not see the need for an in-person meeting before July.

Mr. Vallio had mixed feelings; more gets done at an in-person meeting but it’s expensive. Based on his past experience on other committees there did not seem to be as much need for PSC to meet between Board meetings as for the Executive Committee, whose meetings are mandated, and the A&F Committee. On balance he would prefer to meet but could be convinced there is a better use for the money.

Mr. Olson had no preference as to a location but as a new member was inclined to defer to others and to abstain on the question of an in-person meeting.

Ms. Birmingham said an in-person meeting was better for the exchange of ideas. She is available April 28 and either Newington or a hub city would be fine.

Mr. Sumner was asked for his view. He said there was not much on the committee’s agenda right now and reinforced Mr. Norton’s point, although if there were more to discuss that would change the equation. Mr. Norton added that he would be in Visalia April 21 if the committee wished to meet there.

Dr. Weaver observed that based on the strength of the agenda right now, there was no need to meet. If there is a need to meet he liked Memphis if the meeting would not be held in Newington.

Mr. Patton said he was not available April 28. Mr. Sumner added that Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, also was not available on that date.

Mr. Norris said it appeared April 28 was off the table and raised the possibility of meeting in Dayton. Mr. Sumner suggested touching base with President Craigie regarding the Board policy with regard to meetings held in conjunction with conventions. Mr. Norris summarized by saying that if committee members came up with additional substantive agenda items over the weekend he would entertain the possibility of an in-person meeting sometime after April 28, possibly in Dayton, but that otherwise would schedule another teleconference approximately a month from now.

***VUAC Tasking:*** The Chairman noted his previous comment about a mobile category. Mr. Patton said that none of the Advisory Committees had been formally advised of their new taskings and suggested that the Advisory Committee Chairmen should be asked now to help draft them.

***ECAC Status:*** Mr. Norris said the Delta Division ECAC representative, Jim Coleman, AI5B, was about to become Louisiana Section Manager, moving up from SEC. The outgoing SM, Gary Stratton, K5GLS, will be an Assistant Director. He asked the PSC members to contact their ECAC representatives about where the ECAC should be going before being sunsetted. He said ARES membership lists compiled through the Field Organization are a popular topic.

***160 Meter DXCC field checking:*** The committee reviewed a proposal from Mr. Patton to allow Card Checkers who have achieved DXCC on 160 meters to check 160 meter cards in the field, provided they note the QSO time shown on the card on the application sheet. He also proposed to allow all Card Checkers to checked Deleted Entity QSLs with provision for Headquarters to verify the accuracy of the claimed entity, if needed, via certified images of both sides of the QSL card. The committee discussed various ways of increasing the number of Card Checkers who could check 160 meter cards but concluded that the existing rules for appointing Card Checkers should not be changed at this time.

On motion of Dr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Norton, the committee unanimously voted to authorize staff to amend the DXCC rules as proposed but with no change in how Card Checkers are appointed, i.e. with the last two sentences of the proposal deleted.

There being no further business, the teleconference was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sumner, K1ZZ

Secretary