*Minutes of the ARRL Program and Services Committee*

*21 November 2013*

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The Program and Services Committee was called to order by Mr. David A. Norris, K5UZ, via Telephone Bridge at 1933 hours Eastern Standard Time, November 21st, 2013.

The Roll was called; present were Delta Division Director, Mr. David A. Norris, K5UZ; Great Lakes Division Director Dr. James Weaver, K8JE; Atlantic Division Vice Director, Mr. Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Hudson Division Director, Mr. Mike Lisenco, N2YBB; Southwest Division Director, Mr. Richard Norton, N6AA; and Central Division Vice Director, Mr. Kermit Carlson, W9XA, scribe for the meeting.

Mr. Norris noted that the Committee was awaiting the arrival of Southeast Division Director, Mr. Sarratt, W4OZK who had informed the Chair that he would be a late arrival due to work related obligations.

The Agenda for the meeting was accepted as previously posted by the PSC Chairman.

The newly introduced HF Digital Bandwidth proposal was discussed. Mr. Norris noted some feedback from the Magnolia and Delta DX groups about concerns for the possibility of wide signals in the CW segments. Discussion was untaken; it was noted that the real change is from 2.4 to 2.8 kHz of occupied bandwidth.

The ECAC Recommendations, which are lengthy and need to be discussed, were introduced but given the volume of material it was unanimously decided to table discussion of the recommendations for a separate meeting to be scheduled for a future date.

The topic of reestablishing the Radiosport Subcommittee which would report to the ARRL Board was discussed. Mr. Norton expressed the sentiment that it was just another name for the Contest Advisory Committee; Dr Weaver stated that he would like to ask ARRL MVP Department Manager, Mr. Patton, NN1N, about Radiosport worldwide.

Mr. Harold Kramer, ARRL COO joins the teleconference at 2030 Hours.

Mr. Kramer related that Mr. Patton was on vacation and unable to attend the teleconference. Dr. Weaver moved to table discussion on the topic of reestablishing the Radiosport Subcommittee tabled with no action taken, and that it be set for the Agenda at a future meeting when Mr. Patton could attend. Mr. Abernethy seconded. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Mr. Norris introduced the topic of Mobile categories in ARRL contest. Mr. Kramer related that adding mobile categories would be difficult in short-term and that MVP operations was looking at adding it to various awards. Mr. Kramer estimated that it would cost about $25,000 to have IT make the necessary changes and that he felt that the various IT issues on contest problems should be solved before adding more categories. Mr. Abernethy noted that adding mobile categories is needed in the current environment of overly strict Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions. Dr. Weaver made the motion that the topic of mobile operation in ARRL Contests should be sent to the Contest Advisory Committee. The CAC will be directed to create recommendations which contests should have a mobile category and how the new category would be implemented. Mr. Abernethy seconded, after short discussion a vote was held; the motion to forward the topic of mobile operation in HF Contest to the Contest Advisory Committee passed unanimously.

The topic of how do ARRL Contests compare to CQ new Rules was discussed. It was generally felt that this topic should be held when Mr. Patton would be able to attend the PSC Meeting.

After short discussion on the merits of the ECAC report, it was moved by Mr. Norris that a resolution would be drafted by the Programs and Services Committee to thank the members of the ECAC Advisory Committee for their hard work and diligence in creating the ECAC report. This motion was seconded by Mr. Abernathy, after a further short discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The ECAC report was briefly discussed and tabled by unanimous consensus after it was decided that it would be recommended reading in preparation for the next PSC meeting when Mr. Patton and Mr. Cory could attend.

The time for the next ARRL Program and Services Committee meeting was tentatively set as 21 December 2013 at 20:30 Eastern time.

Section Youth Coordinator tasking was set for the Agenda at the meeting to be held 21 December 2013, or other date when the Rocky Mountain Director, Mr. Mileshosky, would be able to attend.

The topic of assisted categories in VHF Contests was introduced, after a short discussion Mr. Norton made the motion to table for the meeting in Newington on January 16th. Seconded by Mr. Lisenco, motion to table passed unanimously.

The PSC Chairman, Mr. Norris, noted that the end of the published Agenda had been reached and asked for business from the floor.

Mr. Lisenco asked Mr. Kramer about the status of the “Club Report”. Mr. Kramer reported that there was no room in the budget to support the recommendations in the Club Report; and, that Norm was busy. Mr. Lisenco inquired if it was tasked, and the Mr. Kramer responded that it had not been tasked. Mr. Lisenco inquired about the club forum; specifically the areas of moderation and a lack of web-based tools to find local clubs. Specifically, he mentioned that the present club search function was inadequate.

There being no further items of business for consideration, Mr. Norris entertained the motion to adjourn. Mr. Lisenco moved, Mr. Abernethy seconded, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 21:50 Eastern time.