

ARRL Programs and Services Committee

Report to Board of Directors for 2025

The Programs and Services Committee (PSC) met three times in 2025 on the following dates:

- January 16, 2025, in person at Marriott in Windsor, CT
- July 17, 2025, in person at Marriott in Windsor, CT
- October 1, 2025, via Zoom

Following is a short summary of some of the discussions and actions of the Committee:

Awards:

Awards approved and recommended to the Board are:

- *Doug DeMaw Technical Excellence Award* – Paul Wade W1GHZ
- *Philip J McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award* – Michah Martin KN6VUT
- *Bill Leonard Professional Media Award Video* – Harry Smith, NBC Today
- *Bill Leonard Professional Media Award Print* – Makena Kelly & Del Cameron, WIRED
- *Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award* – Dennis Simon, KB7UTV
- *Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award* – Alexia Snethen KM6LGG
- *Technical Service Award* – Dean Souleles KK4DAS
- *Technical Innovation Award* – Matthew Wishek NB0X

The Awards subcommittee:

The committee has identified a total of 22 different awards available to be conferred onto an individual or a group of individuals. There is significant variability in the award process between the awards, such as application process, submission dates, approval process, terms/descriptions used. It is clear some standardization is needed. There also appear a few awards that should be removed such as those put-on hold indefinitely or those with no applicants for over a decade.

Responsibility of the awards can be subdivided into the following groups:

- 10 – PSC Directly who recommends to the Board

- 6 – Staff who recommends to PSC and then onto the Board
- 5 – Board
- 1 – ARRL Foundation – Goldwater Scholarship

Next steps for the committee include:

- Removal of awards that no longer deserve merit
- Standardization of the 10 award PSC is directly responsible for
- Once the above is done, work with staff to develop implement standardization of their six awards

The Awards subcommittee has the following individuals on it:

- Vice Director Propper, K2DP – Chair
- Vice Director Nelson, WØND
- Director Lippert, ACØW
- Director Norris
- Director Yonally
- Vice President Ritz
- Steve Ewald – Staff

Contest Advisory Committee (CAC):

The CAC has started discussions on November Sweepstakes Contest about how to increase participation for the event and how to improve activity Sunday afternoons when participation is low. This started after it was noticed that log submissions for the CW event has dropped significantly in the last few years. This discussion will continue into 2026 with members reaching a consensus on some key points.

Other actions by the CAC:

- Reviewed a second request from CAC to create a contest overlay for Sweepstakes for the last 6 hours of the event. An overlay is basically a subset of a category that agrees to operate in a restricted method as defined by the overlay. Having the overlay then allows us to identify scores for this subset separate from the stations in the category. Overlays do not have separate awards; it just provides a way to report their scores. By creating the overlay and not a category, CAC was hoping to collect data if such a category would improve Sunday afternoon activity and improve participation in the event. The challenge for ARRL with overlays is getting the programming done so the reporting can be done. On advice of staff this request was denied by PSC.
- In July, RAC announced they created a new Section, Yukon. This is separated from their Territory Section, which Northwest Territories and Nunavut are the other two territories in the Territory Section. This change impacts contests that use ARRL and RAC sections as multipliers. The biggest concern is by subdividing a section with

very low ham population and contest participation that getting a clean sweep in a contest will become almost impossible. A clean sweep is when all (100%) of the multipliers are worked. There are awards available for purchase when a clean sweep has been achieved. PSC asked CAC to review this and provide a recommendation. Many CAC members polled members in their division for input on this topic. The word came back to protect the clean sweep and keep Territory Section multiplier as the three territories. This was approved by PSC.

- While review the RAC sections change, a review was done of all contests using domestic multipliers. It was discovered we had four different domestic multiplier sets that are not clearly displayed on the website and adds to confusion and extra work for maintenance of the different multiplier files. With a few minor changes it would be easy to reduce our domestic multipliers to two types, one with States & Provinces with a revision, and ARRL plus RAC sections with a revision. This was approved by PSC with staff instructed to implement starting in 2026.
- At the request of PSC, CAC reviewed the changes made last year for remote station use in the 10 GHz contest. PSC felt the rules as worded gave stations supplementing their operation by operating one or more remote stations a scoring advantage. The VHF subcommittee was happy with the rule and it made the event more fun for everyone so recommended no change. PSC accepted this response.

DX Advisory Committee (DXAC):

The past year the DX Advisory Committee has been meeting almost every three weeks to do a thorough review of the DXCC rules to make sure they are still current and meeting today's requirements. See their report for more information concerning that.

The committee had a couple of other meetings to review other topics. First there was a meeting with CEO David Minster and Bart Jahnke Radiosport Manager to review the SV1GA/A Mount Athos operation. After reviewing all the data, the committee gave their opinion, which David and Bart then made their decision to accept the operation. Then they meet to discuss changes with Chagos with the British Government giving Chagos back to Mauritius. For now no changes will be made with the DXCC status of Chagos. However, there are other islands in the Chagos which may have their status changed since they now belong to Mauritius. This will be watched in case future changes are needed.

Field Day:

The only change for Field Day 2025 related to GOTA stations. This change was for Class A stations to eliminate the requirement of the transmitter classification to be two or more transmitters. Several clubs in Class 1A would have a GOTA station if allowed but do not have enough members to operate 2A. While several groups asked for this change, very few 1A stations added a GOTA station in 2025.

Several suggestions were received for rule changes for 2026, most were not accepted by PSC. Many suggestions, while easy to suggest, are challenging to implement. Example is prohibiting Class D to Class D QSO's. Unless a person listens to a couple of exchanges, there is no way for a person to know they are working a Class D station until the exchange is sent. Not the best time to decide you can't work the other station.

At the October meeting, PSC approved two things to be added to the Field Day packet. First is the recommended digital frequencies from the ARRL Digital Contest will be added to the Field Day Packet. This will help reduce the load on the standard digital frequencies that weekend.

The second item is to develop and publish the process on how to log QSO's with the ISS, which includes clarifying the Class the ISS should enter. Appears part of the problem is each ISS operators sends a different Class when operating.

The following statistics show participation continues to slowly grow back to the pre-Covid levels. While the number of Home Stations continues to drop toward Pre-Covid numbers, it appears the Home Station operators are going into the field to participate with a club as club participation numbers continue to improve.

Field Day Statistics:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	COVID 2020	2019
Participants By Class							
Class A - Port/Temp 3 or more people	25,097	24,486	24,153	22,090	18,078	5,965	29,831
Class B - Port/Temp 1 or 2 individuals	779	668	659	729	827	1,278	472
Class C - Mobile/Rovers	52	60	62	76	89	157	55
Class D - Home stations commercial power	2,218	2,263	2,198	2,878	3,959	7,933	977
Class E - Home stations emergency power	1,282	1,254	1,491	1,412	1,695	2,899	1,304
Class F - EOC's	2,491	2,897	2,737	2,494	2,050	654	3,813
Total Participants	31,919	31,628	31,300	29,679	26,698	18,886	36,452
Checklogs	163	123	113	126	102	610	187
CW QSOs	461,289	490,813	478,463	524,900	604,811	821,190	456,346
Phone QSOs	451,662	522,378	481,710	465,088	529,830	661,478	500,775
Digital QSOs	291,801	283,525	289,513	284,529	297,418	380,317	138,848
Total QSOs	1,204,752	1,296,716	1,249,686	1,274,517	1,432,059	1,862,985	1,095,969
Entries By Class							
Class A - Port/Temp 3 or more people	1,261	1,254	1,271	1,209	1,070	611	1,277
Class B - Port/Temp 1 or 2 individuals	671	568	565	621	704	1,086	375
Class C - Mobile/Rovers	46	52	58	58	70	134	44
Class D - Home stations commercial power	1,585	1,612	1,700	2,130	2,979	6,318	769
Class E - Home stations emergency power	647	650	688	754	1,015	1,980	452
Class F - EOC's	163	183	160	157	141	84	196
Total Entries	4,373	4,319	4,442	4,929	5,979	10,213	3,113
DX Entries	35	64	31	31	28	40	18

Committee Members:

- Bill Lippert, ACØW, Dakota Division Director (Chair and Boad CAC Liaison)
- Mike Ritz, W7VO, Second Vice President (Officer Liaison)
- Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Roanoke Division Director
- Tom Frenaye, K1KI, New England Division Director
- Dan Grady, N2SRK, Rocky Mountain Division Vice Director
- Roy Hook, W8REH, Great Lakes Division Vice Director
- Joshua Long, W9HT, Central Division Vice Director
- Lynn Nelson, WØND, Dakota Division Vice Director
- Richard Norton, N6AA, Southwestern Division Director
- Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, Radiosport Manager, Staff

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Lippert, ACØW
Chair Programs and Services Committee
ARRL Director Dakota Division