

**Contest Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Report**

**For the American Radio Relay League
Board of Director's Meeting**

July 2026

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Overview

In the last six months, PSC requested input in several areas. The CAC had many lively discussions on these issues and forwarded four proposed rule changes to the PSC.

Most of our discussions take place online in our discussion group, and via zoom meetings from time to time. Our CAC members report our activities to their respective board members. Our liaison to the PSC is Tom Frenaye K1KI, and he is kept updated, monitors our discussions and updates CAC on PSC actions. PSC Chair, Bill ACOW, attends meetings and helps Tom to keep us updated and communicate information to the PSC.

Tasks:

We have completed tasks asked of us to consider shown here. No other tasks have gone beyond discussion.

- Make recommendations to increase activity in the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, especially CW as the number of submitted logs has been on a decline for years.
- RTTY Round-up off time rules are confusing. We need a rewrite of the rule to simplify and make it easier to understand. The RTTY RU off-time rule, as what is written in the rules, and what is on the website on the RTTY RU page down near the end (<https://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>), do not match. We need something that people understand and need to make sure the website matches the rule. Open to CAC's recommendation.
- PSC & staff requested input from the VHF subcommittee concerning participation levels in VHF and up events. In contests like 10 GHz and EME, are these at a good activity level? 222 MHz, activity levels continue to decline. Please advise what the ARRL should do with this event.
- Another topic, PSC requests CAC to review log submission deadlines of all events.

CAC Membership:

The CAC membership has changed in the last six-month period. Craig, K9CT retired from CAC. Tim, K9WX, took the Central Division CAC representative role. Drew, K3PA, resigned in the past couple days, but a replacement has not been named. Mike, KC7V, was named Chairman in January 2026. The Gulf Division continues to not have representation.

- Atlantic – Jon, AA1K,: jz73@verizon.net
- Central – Tim Gennett, K9WX; timk9wx@gmail.com
- Dakota – Jon Platt, W0ZQ; W0ZQ@AOL.com
- Delta – Stan Stockton, K5GO; wa5rtg@gmail.com
- Great Lakes – Dan Kovatch, W8CAR; w8car@bex.net
- Hudson – Sebastian D. Delmont, KI2D; ki2d@ki2d.net
- Midwest – TBD - K3PA just resigned
- New England – Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ; r_bakalov@yahoo.com
- Northwestern – Jim Cassidy, KI7Y; ki7y@arrl.net
- Pacific – Jim Brown, K9YC; K9YC@arrl.net
- Roanoke - Don Daso, K4ZA; radiok4za.don@gmail.com
- Rocky Mountain – Darryl Hazelgren, K7UT; darryl@hazelgren.net
- Southeastern – Charles Wooten, NF4A; NF4A@knology.net

- Southwestern – Mike Fulcher, KC7V, mikekc7v@gmail.com (Chairman)
- West Gulf – TBD
- Radio Amateurs of Canada – Sam, VE5SF just retired, and his replacement is Tony Osman, VE3RZ; tonyosman2014@gmail.com

VHF CAC Subcommittee

Committee members:

Jon Platt W0ZQ (Subcommittee Chair)
 Mike Fulcher KC7V
 Jeff Ach W2FU
 Rus Healy K2UA
 Steve Kostro N2CEI
 Bob Striegl K2DRH
 John Kalenowsky K9JK
 Jim Duffey KK6MC
 Eric Olson, N7EPD

CAC and VHF Subcommittee work and recommendations:

The CAC has recently discussed the reduced number of logs in the SS Phone and CW contests. It is apparent that we don't have as many operating as before and the Sunday activity is reduced.

We submitted in March a proposal to the PSC for consideration. The CAC committee makes the following recommendations.

Summary of Conclusions, Rule Changes: CAC committee makes the following three recommendations.

1. Multiple Calls: Allow an operator to use two callsigns in the contest. The second callsign must only be used on the second day of the contest, Sunday, starting at 1200z or after. The second call must be used by the same operator as the first call. If a second callsign is used, it requires a separate submission under that callsign. Combining two callsigns in one entry is not allowed.
2. Create a "Rookie Category". In Sweepstakes, a Rookie is defined as having been first licensed in the current calendar year or the previous three calendar years, regardless of license class. If you were licensed before the referenced period, you can also be a Rookie if you haven't made any contest contacts on the contest mode (SSB, CW) before the ARRL Sweepstakes contest. If you qualify as such, send the current year in your exchange and you qualify as a Rookie for just one year. (This matches the ARRL definition already in place for the Rookie Roundup).
3. Amend the both the SS Phone and CW contest rules to add a Sunday overlay operating class. This class allows the operator to spend six hours on the air, between 1200z, or after, and ending at 0300z. Normal off-time requirements apply to this class. The only requirement from ARRL is to add a check box on the submission form for a six-hour entry. There are no awards offered in this category, but scores will be published.
4. A 4th recommendation is better marketing of the event. Send email reminders and other things that other contests have found valuable. CAC reps to do outreach to division directors and division clubs, to promote Sweepstakes activity and CAC asked ARRL to help promote Sweepstakes with whatever resources they can provide.

1. Task, or Objectives, of the Committee: To address
a) clarifying RTTY Roundup off-time rules

2. References: Current Rules off-time rules (see attachment one)

3. Summary of Conclusions, Rule Changes: CAC committee makes the following recommendations in the wording of the off-times requirements special rules. There are no actual changes to the rules.

Special RTTY Roundup Rules

1. Operating Period: 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.
 - 1.1 Single Operator stations may operate up to 24 hours out of the 30-hour operating period. Multi Operator stations may operate the entire 30 hours.
 - 1.2 For Single Operators, operating time is calculated as the time between their first QSO and their last QSO, minus the time of their two longest breaks of 30 minutes or more taken between the first QSO and the last QSO. There is no requirement that Single Operators take two breaks; they may take two breaks, one break, or operate 24 hours straight through between their first and last QSOs if desired. Off-time breaks, past the maximum of two during your operating period, is counted as operating time.
 - 1.3 Single Operator stations may make and log QSOs outside of their 24-hour operating time as calculated under 1.2, but these QSOs will not count toward the operator's final score, there is no penalty for including those contacts in a submitted log, and QSO partners are eligible to receive credit for the contacts. See the ARRL RTTY Roundup web page for more information about the operating time rule.

NOTE* - The same changes can be made on the RTTY Roundup webpage at <http://arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

Attachment One:

Special RTTY Roundup Rules

1. Operating Period: 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.
 - 1.1 Single Operator stations may operate up to 24 hours out of the 30-hour contest period. The operating period begins with the first contact, after which each off time must be at least 30 minutes long until 24 hours have been completed. Multioperator stations may operate the entire 30 hours.
 - 1.2 Off time must be taken in one or two breaks that are at least 30 minutes long.
 - 1.3 After 24 hours of operating time is reached, Single Operator stations may continue to make and log QSOs but they will not count toward the final score, there is no penalty for including those contacts in a submitted log, and the station contacted is eligible to receive credit for the contact. See the ARRL RTTY Roundup web page for more information about the off-time rule.

Task, or Objectives, of the Committee: To address-

- The CAC's VHF+ subcommittee has been asked to provide to the CAC their thoughts on the following.

- PSC & staff requested input from the VHF subcommittee concerning participation levels in VHF and up events. In contests like 10 GHz and EME, are these at a good activity level? 222 MHz, activity levels continue to decline. Please advise what the ARRL should do with this event.

2. References: <https://eme.radio/432-and-above-newsletter>, <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2024/10-GHz-2024-FinalFullResults.pdf>

3. Summary of Conclusions, Rule Changes: CAC committee makes the following recommendations.

- The subcommittee wishes to see the 10GHz and EME contests remain. The 222 & Up Distance Challenge contest has not demonstrated any growth, numbers are low, and it could be sunset. Additional staff workload saving may be accomplished with volunteers doing the log checking as they are already writing the result articles.
 - One suggestion that we have towards reducing staff workload is to move log checking to a volunteer party much like the creation of the QST and Expanded Articles are now. Typically, those volunteers who write these articles are very knowledgeable about the participants and the process.
- 5.** PSC requests CAC to review log submission deadlines of all events.
- CAC recommended to set all HF contests to 5 days.
 - For VHF and above events, deadlines are significantly different between contests. CAC is considering 7 or 10 days to standardize the deadline.

The CAC has informally discussed remote operations during contests, self-spotting, real time contesting efforts, attracting new testers, AI use during contests, and eliminating Single Op Unassisted categories. No actions are contemplated currently.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Mike Fulcher, CAC Chairman