



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2011 Regional Conference – Sun City, South Africa 12 to 19 August 2011



Subject	HF Committee Chairman's Report		
Society	HFC	Country:	Region 1
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	SC11_C4_04
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C4 Interim Meeting Vienna 2010

Thanks to the Austrian society OEVSF for hosting and organizing this meeting of the C4 Committee, which had 21 participants, delegates represented 15 societies.

Thirteen papers were introduced and discussed and it became clear again that Interim Meetings are essential and of high value. HF managers can learn and discuss about the situation on the HF bands there, allowing C4 committee either to react by giving additional information to members of societies or to prepare new recommendations for a following conference. Minutes of the Interim Meeting have been distributed to societies.

C4 Meeting Ham Radio Friedrichshafen 2010

An Informal Meeting of HF Managers was organized for the 2010 Ham Radio event in Friedrichshafen, which had 28 participants. Various issues were addressed: e.g. remote operation, vandalism on the bands, a short presentation of results of the Vienna Interim Meeting, reports by participants about new allocations in their country and a presentation related to ITU and WRC12.

EC Meetings

The C4 Chairman has been invited to meetings of the Executive Committee to give an annual report about the activities of the permanent C4 committee. EC meetings took place in London 2009, in Sofia 2010 and lately in Beirut. Due to the Icelandic volcanic ash in the air and therefore cancelling of the flights, Sofia could not be reached, so a telephone conference was set up instead. Two recommendations of the 2010 Interim Meeting were accepted by the EC as preliminary IARU R1 policy and have to be approved by the upcoming conference.

Discussion and contacts via Internet

The C4 committee does have two facilities to discuss HF matters via the Internet:

- a) Discussion Forums on www.iaru-r1.org
- b) E-mail reflector Yahoo group IARUR1HF

The activity in "Discussion Forums" at the IARU Region 1 website is low; to participate it is necessary to register.

The Yahoo group IARUR1HF, which is a closed group, is quite active. HF Managers

are often sharing experience with colleagues. All societies are encouraged to have at least one person in this group.

Member societies, especially those not represented at the Sun City conference, are encouraged to discuss and comment all C4 conference papers via IARUR1HF before the conference.

This will allow conference delegates to consider the views of these societies during discussions at the conference.

The Chairman is contacted by e-mail from colleagues requesting assistance in case of national problems. This happened again lately when one administration planned to reduce the maximum power allowed on HF to 100 watts. A survey was made and an overview about the situation regarding maximum power in other countries was provided for discussion with that administration.

Members of societies contact the Chairman directly or via IARU Region 1 web on HF matters. If a misunderstanding of an IARU Region 1 recommendation is realized, an appropriate response is given. This also helps to improve the information of the public on that specific issue.

Contest matters

IARU HF World Championship

One paper for the Vienna Interim Conference 2010 proposed to rethink the weighting of QSOs in the IARU HF World Championship. Complaints about the final result of the 2009 contest distracted the discussion on this issue, so the C4 Interim Meeting in Vienna proposed to form a sub-group within the IARU Region 1 discussion forum that should also include the HQ leaders to review the scoring and rules for the contest and make a proposal back to C4. All those HF Managers and HQ team leaders not yet registered at that Region 1 forum were invited to join the group.

When it became clear that no further discussion started in the forum an alternative was set up:

A second Yahoo group e-mail reflector "IARU Region 1 HF Contest Rules" was installed. Again, HF managers and HQ team leaders got an invitation to join; many accepted and started the discussion, which resulted in the distribution of many different ideas via this reflector to all group members.

Since it was already planned to have an Informal C4 Meeting at the Ham Radio Show 2010 in Friedrichshafen, a second meeting was scheduled especially for the HQ contest issue.

This meeting had 36 participants from 13 Region 1 societies, IARU and ARRL representatives plus 2 members of the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation. It was chaired by 9A5K, who became appointed as acting Region 1 contest manager. The Davos conference abolished the contest sub-group, but it became clear that a well-known expert in contest matters would be a good help for C4 to deal with controver-

sial contest matters.

Due to the discussion about the 2009 results, ARRL had announced that it would not adjudicate the HQ stations any more. However, a great number of HQ teams maintained that they were still interested in getting official results of the competition between them, so an adjudication team with amateurs from nine societies was set up at the meeting in Friedrichshafen to do the necessary work in co-operation with ARRL and WWROF. Another mandate for this team was to discuss possible changes of rules.

Meanwhile ARRL has published the final results of the IARU HF World Championship 2010, including those for HQ stations. The discussion on possible rule changes is still going on.

The group could not yet agree in any common proposal for a change of rules.

160 m band contests

The 160 m band allocation differs in the three ITU Regions. Whereas in Region 2 and 3 the band starts at 1 800 kHz, Region 1 may use the band only from 1 810 kHz upwards. It was realized in 2010 in contests organized by CQ that some stations in Region 1 were calling other stations (mostly in Region 2) on frequencies on or very close to the band edge, thus their signal was spreading below 1 810 kHz. Even on much lower frequencies, some “out of band” operation by Region 1 stations was observed. Such misuse was reported to the CQ Contest organizer, to the IARUR1HF reflector and on the IARU Region 1 web site.

In January 2011, again some out of band operation could be observed in the CW CQ 160 m contest. Therefore, the HF managers were again encouraged by the C4 Chairman to make their members aware of such illegal operation. The CQ magazine got an explicit request by the Chairman to take a stronger position against this type of violation of international regulations, which is also contrary to the contest rules. The director of the CQ 160 Contests offered to put an announcement on the CQ Contest reflector before the next contest (i.e. the SSB CQ 160 in February 2011) and to rewrite the rules for the next year to include some stronger wording as to the frequencies allowed as was suggested to him (e.g. by explicitly saying “Band Use 1 800 - 2 000 kHz in Region 2 and Region 3 – 1 810 – 2 000 kHz in Region 1”).

The Chairman started an information campaign via IARUR1HF and in several national contest reflectors. This issue has been discussed intensely before the SSB part of the 2010 CQ 160 m contest started, thus only three European stations from two countries were spotted in the DX cluster net operating below 1 810 kHz, which is a good improvement compared to last year.

The C4 Chairman will contact CQ Magazine on this issue well in advance of their next contests that allow operation on the 160 m band.

160 m band allocations

A new survey about the different 160 m band allocations in Region 1 was made to get interested HF managers and society members informed about the current situa-

tion. This list is available from the Files area at Yahoo group IARUR1HF and will be updated in case of changes.

Contest preferred segments

Several member societies either give the specific range of frequencies to be used in their contests in the rules or they refer to the contest preferred segments of the IARU Region 1 band plan. This helps to balance the interests between contesters and non-contesters.

The C4 Chairman welcomes the rule changes of contests in that respect by member societies (based on Recommendation VIE10_C4_04) and will continue his efforts to encourage other societies to follow this philosophy.

Added Files to IARU Region 1 Web – HF

An article describing the new Russian call sign system was put to the Web pages of the HF Working Group.

An article by the Chairman describing the IARU Region 1 band plan philosophy is available for download at the IARU Region 1 web site. Search on www.iaru-r1.org for “IARU Region 1 band plan – why?” Translation and adaption into national versions is appreciated.

Band plan matters

Via the IARUR1HF reflector HF managers were requested to continue their efforts to move the remaining Digital Mode operation (mostly PSK31) on the 40 m band to frequencies above 7 040 kHz.

It has been realized that some amateurs in Region 1 still do not follow our IARU Region 1 HF band plan in that regard. Several organizers of Digital Mode Contests have been contacted with a proposal to specify the frequency segments to be used in their contests. This should help to get amateurs used to the change on 40 m, which has become effective already in March 2009.

The ROS author was contacted to modify his software to assist in ROS operation according to the band plan. It has been realized that also some other software for digimode operation still contain PSK31 default frequencies below 7 040 kHz. Requests for modification were sent out.

Complaints were received by contest organizers from stations in the US about the actual CW contest preferred segment on 40 m (7 000 – 7 025 kHz), which excludes all US licensees except the extra class, if the contest rules restrict operation only to that segment.

Searching the Internet for the HF band plan quite often yields version 2006. The Chairman urges his HF Manager colleagues to do check themselves and to request web page authors in their country to update the link to the 2009 version of the band plan.

WRC12 Agenda Item 1.23

As a new MF amateur band near 500 kHz will be in the working area of the HF Committee C4, HF managers were informed about the actual status of the preparation process for Agenda Item 1.23.

Several files, like the CPM text of ITU Working Party 5A meeting, the distribution of former Coastal Stations (Maritime Mobile Service) and Non Directional Beacons (NDB, Radio Navigation Service) in Europe within the segment 415 – 526,5 kHz, and the lists of NDBs in different areas (Europe, Africa, Asia, Arabic countries etc.) have been uploaded to the Files Area of Yahoo group IARUR1HF, together with a request to HF managers and member societies to approach their national administration to support a secondary allocation near 500 kHz to the Amateur Service.

Some member societies were directly addressed for this matter. As a German delegate, the Chairman participated at several meetings on national, ITU and CEPT level and used these opportunities to promote the MF issue.