



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



## General Conference, Davos, 11 to 16 September 2005

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>HF Managers Report</b>		
<b>Society</b>	<b>IARU</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Region 1</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>C4</b>	<b>Paper number:</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Colin Thomas, G3PSM</b>	<b>e-mail:</b>	<b>iarur1hfm@g3psm.net</b>

The following report is largely based on information received from the previous Region 1 HF Manager Carine Ramon ON7LX and my thanks go to Carine for the work carried out over the past 6 years.

### Mid-Term Meeting

The interim meeting of HF Managers was held at Friedrichshafen in June 2004 and 17 member societies were represented. These were ARI, BFRA, CRC, DARC, EDR, IARC, LRMD, MRASZ, MRS, NRRL, PZK, REF-Union, RSGB, SSA, UBA, USKA and VERON. Apologies were received from SARA and SARL. The report of this meeting is attached as Annex 1.

### HFC Newsletters

Since the last conference at San Marino in 2002 just 4 HFC Newsletters have been sent out. Although there has been some feedback received more HF Managers are asked to respond to questions asked of them and to provide information about HF developments in your Society.

### WRC-03

I was privileged to be included in the UK delegation at WRC-03 as an advisor on amateur radio matters and to be involved with the working groups and sub-working groups dealing with the 7 MHz issue and the re-writing of Article 25. As you all now know IARU were successful in gaining an additional 100 kHz at 7 MHz in Region 1 and many administrations in the Region have either granted early access or are working towards early access for this part of the band. At the time of writing this report CEPT were in the process of finalising their position regarding early access for the amateur service.

### Bandplan Working Group

After what has proven to be a difficult period of work the final recommendation for a Region 1 Bandplan is submitted for approval at this conference. The Working Group appointed at San Marino originally consisting of DL1VDL (DARC), G3PSM (RSGB) and OM3LU (SARA) was reformed at the 2004 Friedrichshafen meeting and at this time consists of G3PSM (Chairman), DK4VW (DARC), G3PLX (RSGB), LA4LN (NRRL) and OM3LU (SARA). It should be stated that the recommendation reflects a majority opinion amongst those within the working group.

### Contest Working Group

Regretfully there has been no recorded activity within this working group since the last Conference and a number of concerns have been raised regarding the continuance of this group. Concerned Member Societies will have the opportunity to discuss this during the course of this Conference.

## **500 kHz Working Group**

While the work of this group was established as a long-term project work there has been some significant progress. The work of this group continues under the Chairmanship of Rik Strobe ON7YD and a paper has been submitted as a separate agenda item.

## **Region 1 HF Managers Yahoo Group**

A Region 1 HF Managers reflector group has been set up under the Yahoo Groups but unfortunately at the time of writing only 16 Member Societies have signed up to participate. These include BFRA, CARS, DARC, ERAU, FRA, HRS, IARS (Iraq), NRRL, RAL, RSGB, RSK, RSM, SARL, SRAL, TRAC, and UBA. The EC have also signed up to participate.

It is appreciated that some Member Societies will have changed their contact details and email addresses but in these days of fast electronic communications even we as “amateurs” should be able to communicate better between ourselves than we are at the present time.

## **The Future**

The future will bring more challenges – Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) or BPL as it is also known remains a threat to our hobby especially to those that operate the HF bands and it up to you to make sure your National Society takes steps to oppose this threat. There are moves by manufacturers of industrial and medical equipment to increase the power levels used by Short Range Devices (SRDs). Your IARU officials are aware of these threats but they need the support of the Member Societies to carry out the work necessary.

WRC-07 (or 08) provides no immediate threats to the amateur and amateur satellite services but Agenda Item 1.13 will discuss the HF bands between 4 and 10 MHz (excluding 7–7.2MHz). Agenda Item 1.15 will also address the adoption of 136kHz as a worldwide amateur allocation and should this happen the opportunities for experimentation as defined in the Radio Regulations will again be available.

In the short time since I was appointed Interim HF Manager it has only been possible to carry out a small amount of work and much of that concerned with the preparation for this Conference. Should I be elected for a further period of 3 years you can be assured of my support and I will look forward to your support .

Colin J. Thomas  
Interim, HF Manager  
**IARU Region 1**

Enc: Annex A

# **IARU REGION I THE PERMANENT HF COMMITTEE**

**Interim Meeting of the Committee  
Seehotel, Friedrichshafen 27 – 28 June 2004**

## **1. Opening of the HF Committee Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 1410 on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 by the chairman of the HFC, Carine Ramon, ON7LX. Carine welcomed those present, greetings and apologies had been received from SARA and SARL. A proxy from SSA authorized NRRL to act in their place.

## **2. Introduction**

Those present introduced themselves in the customary manner. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Hartmut, DL1VDL, explained, that he had stepped down as HF-manager of DARC after serving DARC for 12 years. He thanked all HFC-members for the good collaboration during that time and he introduced the new HF manager of DARC, Ulrich Mueller, DK4VW.

## **3. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was accepted as read.

## **4. To receive the report of the HFC chairman.**

The report, Doc. C4.2 HFC, was accepted as read.

## **5. Band Planning**

### **5.1 and 5.2. Concerning HF Bandplan**

As band planning is concerned, the following papers had been submitted:

- DOC C4.3: Region-1 HF- bandplan by DARC
- DOC C4.3.1 Bandplan position paper by NRRL

DL1VDL introduced the paper C4.3 and reported that German hams using the new bandwidth-oriented band plan are pleased with it. DL1VDL said that it was important to encourage the use of the lowest possible bandwidth and he agreed that the bandplan should explain both the usage and the bandwidth. We must improve the protection of analog voice versus digital modes. HA5BE, SP2DX, LA4LN, OK1MP, OZ5DX said that we are not in a hurry to adopt a new bandplan, because the present bandplan is known and is working. OZ5DX and others outlined that numerous fundamental aspects need to be discussed and to be clarified before they could accept the new approach. They also reported about difficulties to make changes clear to the members.

LA4LN introduced the paper C4.3.1. He raised fundamental questions and he pointed out numerous aspects that should be considered to create an easy to read bandplan.

Except a for a short break between 1520 and 1540 only bandplan aspects had been discussed on Sunday.

## **Summary of the discussion on HF bandplan matters.**

1. ON7LX remembered that the bandplan working group was founded at the Lillehammer conference (see report of the Lillehammer conference 10.2) and that every society was welcomed to participate. The editorial work had been done by G3PSM, OM3LU and DL1VDL. The motivation to change to a bandwidth – oriented band plan, first proposed in 1992 by DARC, was to overcome the difficulties to implement new types of modulation in the given structure of the band plan.
2. ON7LX remarked that the San Marino Conference had accepted the new principle of bandwidth approach for band planning and had decided to publish the old band plan extended by the bandwidth column in the handbook, chapter 5.1.1, as the first step. This had been done.
3. It was remarked that the Excel table of the Region 1 band plan, published in CQDL and RadCom magazines and distributed by email within HFC by DL1VDL, is only an experimental version to learn from experience and to report to the band plan-WG. This proposal contains further simplifications, e.g. the usage of “all narrow band modes” or “all modes” within some given segment of equal bandwidth. This version considers that “bandwidth” became priority. Users may be confused reading so many remarks, but these are valid standing recommendations and footnotes. Hartmut proposed the usage of the term “contest free segment” on 80 and 20 for those portions of the band, which are not “contest preferred”. The discussion showed that those present were not in favour of this change.
4. After some discussion it was agreed to continue the work of the bandplan working group. Editorial work will be continued by G3PSM, OM3LU, LA4LN and DK4VW. The group should also include Peter Martinez G3PLX who will represent the views of the digital mode user. Every society is asked to contribute and to send suggestions and proposals as soon as possible to the working group. To ensure a continuous work Colin, G3PSM was appointed to chair the bandplan working group .
5. It was also agreed to discuss new aspects and proposals during the IARU Region 1 conference in 2005. New proposals must be circulated in October 2004 within HFC to finish the paper work by the end of the year 2004.
6. It was agreed to forward all suggestions in the discussion to the bandplan working group.

## **Suggestions for the Bandplan W.G.:**

It was expressed by the majority of those present that a new bandplan should consider the principles, given in Doc. C4.3.1, namely:

- CW QSOs are accepted over all bands, except in the IBP segments.
- Telephony is limited to certain telephony segments.
- Digital modes are limited to certain digital segments.

It was expressed that the bandplan should become more simple and easy to read. LA4LN has compared the bandplan listings of all three IARU regions and proposed to think about possibilities to simplify the Region 1 bandplan. The need and validity of standing recommendations, footnotes and remarks should be reviewed carefully.

It was decided that for bandplan matters digitized voice is equivalent to wideband (<2.7 kHz) digital modes. The HFC is accepting wideband digitized modes on HF, but such modes must use bandplan segments assigned for such modes. On a suggestion by LA4LN, it was accepted that such modes use the wideband packet radio segments, because packet radio activity is dwindling. The HF bandplan working group was asked to also find a corresponding small segment for wideband (<2.7 kHz) digital modes in the 15 m band.

It was proposed to contact the other IARU regions and to keep in mind the vision of a worldwide bandplan.

The majority of those present further expressed:

- to have difficulties to explain changes to members,
- to have guidelines,
- that the extension of digital modes into SSB segments may cause local conflicts,
- that because the tradition is based on a mode-oriented bandplan, we should consider that users may have problems to change the principles,
- to be careful when opening all bands for all users of different modes,
- to have a definition how to proceed with "Unattended DigiMode Stations".

### **5.3. Band Plan 7 MHz**

Hans, PB2T introduced the paper Doc. C4.4. "Early access on 7 MHz". DK9MD and G3PSM remarked to keep in mind, that many countries need time to solve reallocating problems. RSGB proposed, and it was agreed that until a majority of societies gained access to the extended band the segment 7,100-7,200 kHz should be used for CW/SSB (2700 Hz bandwidth).

IARU Region 1 will submit a proposal to CEPT about early access to 7.1 - 7.2 MHz, based on the present permissions given by some administrations (Croatia, San Marino, Norway, Iceland).

### **5.4. Band Plan for 10 MHz**

The SARL paper Doc.C4.5. was introduced . There was some discussion on propagation aspects and interference. It was pointed out that radio amateurs have only secondary status in the 10 MHz band, and that is the reason only narrow-band modes (CW + digimodes) are to be permitted. A vote was taken and there was only one society in favour, two abstained. The paper Doc. C4.5 was therefore not accepted by the majority of those present.

### **5.5. Status 5 MHz**

The information paper Doc 4.6 on the status of 5 MHz was accepted as read. It was agreed, that no action will be taken by the HFC at present.

G3PSM reported that 850 permissions for 5 MHz had been given in the UK. He commented however that there was little feedback on 5 MHz propagation matters. Most of the users use 5MHz for rag-chewing, which was not the primary intention. For propagation studies RSGB now has a beacon (GB3RAL) on 5,290 kHz and is planning a further expansion of two timeshared CW beacons for 5290 kHz, which will step their power in 9 steps.

LA4LN asked if IARU would push 5 MHz as a new world-wide amateur radio band. PB2T answered that IARU Region 1 would not do that, with the reason that a further expansion of 7 MHz is more important. He further suggested that it would perhaps be easier to get access to 70 MHz than 5 MHz as a new amateur radio band. G3PSM suggested that a higher priority might be to obtain primary status in the 10 MHz band, and preferably get a wider band there, maybe with a higher priority than an expansion of the 7 MHz band at 7.2 - 7.3 MHz.

The chairman then closed the meeting until the next morning.

The meeting re-convened at 9:00 on Monday 28 June.

## **6. Follow up WRC 2003**

Hans, PB2T, introduced the Doc. C4.7 and gave a very interesting presentation including background information on WRC-2003. He received warm thanks for his work. A longer discussion took place on the following aspects:

- Frequency allocations, especially 7 MHz (see 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in this report).
- 25.3 and 25.9 Third Party Traffic and Disaster Communication

HB9AQS, OE3REB, I2MQP and 4X6KJ reported that emergency communication was an important part of their national defence programs. It was interesting for those present to learn from their experiences. It was agreed to support the emergency co-ordinator of Region 1, G3LEQ and to pay more attention to aspects of disaster traffic. The chapter on emergency communication in the handbook should be rewritten, and PB2T agreed this would be done. It was also agreed, that emergency communication may help to promote amateur radio on a national basis.

- As far as "dropping the CW requirement" is concerned, several delegates reported on national activities of local clubs and CW clubs to educate hams and to develop several activities to promote CW. OZ5DX raised the question: "How would CEPT react on this process?" PB2T stated, that CEPT has not yet decided on this question.
- As far as qualification is concerned, OEVSF reported about their very close co-operation between society and administration. An update of examination documents had been done by the society; it also covers topics on all digital modes.
- Where "transmitter power" is concerned, it was accepted after a short discussion, that the maximum transmitter power shall be stated by national administrations, but this procedure shall depend on qualification.

## **7. WRC-2007**

PB2T introduced the paper Doc. C4.8, and gave a detailed report on the status. It was suggested that more information on all topics relating to the amateur radio service should be available after the EC-meeting in September 2004, when the IARU position will be available. Meanwhile it is necessary to study carefully the topics of paper Doc.4.8. It was also requested, that societies keep close contact with their national administrations.

Concerning item 1.15, PB2T reported that 13 of 28 CEPT countries have already implemented the long-wave allocation into their national documents.

Ingo, DK9MD, reported on the Radio Spectrum Policy of the European Parliament. He asked to keep in mind the permanent danger from power-line communication and the need for action directly in Brussels. There was a discussion on aspects how to represent IARU policy in the European Parliament. PB2T reminded the meeting that we will need a successor for the EUROCOM Chairman, Gaston Bertels, ON4WF. Gaston does an excellent job for IARU. This person must become familiar step by step with all aspects of diplomacy.

## **8. Entry Level Amateur Radio Licence**

Colin, G3PSM, introduced the paper Doc. C4.9. There was a discussion on several aspects. DF5UG proposed that the IARU working group should send proposals to CEPT. It was reported that the entry age for a licence depends on national laws. DK9MD reported that in Germany the Entry Level Licence class is limited to 10 W EIRP. This is because all hams using more than 10 W EIRP must declare their environmental radiation pattern. Other delegates reported on their national situation to declare conformity with national laws. The good news from Croatia is that HRS was able to avoid individual declarations by doing a global declaration for all Hams of Croatia. Many delegates reported about activities with novices and youngsters, using radio days, fun-mobile or school contacts to the space-lab. In general there is a good feeling and movement presently in Region 1. It was agreed to encourage societies and local clubs to continue this work. It was also agreed that a CEPT regulation for a beginners licence would help promote amateur radio. There should preferably be some compatibility between entry licences in the different countries, for instance the 10 W power limit. There should also be possibilities for upgrading the licence.

## **9. Any other business**

Carine, ON7LX asked societies to provide more information for publication in the HFC-Newsletter.

## **10. To close the HF Committee Meeting**

In closing the meeting, Carine, ON7LX thanked all present for their contributions to what had been a productive session. Special thanks were expressed to DARC, who had done a good job in hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1100 on Monday 28 June 2004.

My special thanks to LA4LN and G3PSM for carefully checking the draft minutes.

Minutes: DL1VDL

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: NRRL Position Paper regarding the proposal for a new HF bandplan