

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION, REGION I PERMANENT HF COMMITTEE



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To: All HF Committee representatives
Members of IARU Region 1 Executive Committee
Chairman of Region 1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee
Editor of "Region 1 News"

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50.1 Silent Key Alf Almedal LA5QK

It is with great sadness that I have to announce you the passing away of Alf Almedal LA5QK on Saturday 11th November 2000. Alf has been active in the IARU as a member of the EC and we all know him as IARU HF Chairman for many years.

I met Alf for the first time in the "De Haan Conference" conference in Belgium. He really was a truly admirable Gentleman.

He will surely be missed by all who had the privilege to know him. May his memory be blessed.

50.2 No IARU Interim meeting in Vienna

As of today, 10 December 2000, I have received some contributions for the planned meeting, but not enough to make it worthwhile to set up that meeting with all the related expenses.

Moreover those contributions come from only very few member societies (South-Africa, Denmark and the Netherlands). I will exam the possibility to have the proposals available on the IARU web-site, so that we can discuss them via electronic way.

DARC proposed to have an interim meeting just before Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen. I did told them that the reason why we have no interim meeting in Vienna also valid is for Friedrichshafen. However I would like very much to receive your opinion on this subject.

50.3 THE HF MANAGERS HANDBOOK

The new release of the HF Managers Handbook is now in a final phase. I do foreseen it will be ready end of this year. I hope it will be available on the IARU web-site end of January 2001. Everybody will receive a copy.

50.4 Europe moves on Morse code (info from ON4WF)

The next big step towards world-wide adoption of 5wpm as the amateur licence Morse code test speed for full HF band access is occurring in the European Community. In a feature article "Global trend to lower code speed" in the May issue of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) journal, Amateur Radio magazine, Jim Linton VK3PC says that in late June this year radio societies in Europe will vote on adopting 5wpm as the standard for full HF band access amateur licences.

"The forum will be the EUROCOM working group meeting in Friedrichshafen, Germany on the 23rd of June," says Jim VK3PC, the WIA Victoria President and also author of "Morse code watch" at www.tbsa.com.au/~wiavic. He says, "The Deutscher Amateur-Radio Club (DARC) is taking a lead

position on the code issue and the EUROCOM meeting agenda includes a proposal by DARC for a modification of CEPT T/R 61-02, to lower the Morse code examination speed from 12wpm to 5wpm." EUROCOM has a membership of those countries (radio societies) within the European Community, and it has influence over the widely-spread European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) licensing system.

Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in Nederland (VERNON), the IARU member society for The Netherlands, at its board meeting on 16 April, voted to support the DARC motion at EURCOM. Other European radio societies are expected to make or announce their decisions soon.

Jim Linton VK3PC says, "Several European radio societies, including Germany, have been reluctant to seek unilateral decisions of 5wpm in their countries, and depart from the unified CEPT approach.

"Clearly a modification to the CEPT system to implement 5wpm, as proposed by DARC, if approved, will result in a virtual world-wide adoption of the lower speed."

The CEPT system also applies for visitor licensing to various non-European nations including Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States.

The WIA Amateur Radio magazine article also reports on the anticipated change in Australia that will only require the passing of 5wpm Morse code telegraphy test for full HF band access is part of an expanding global trend.

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) after advising the WIA of its "in principle" agreement that the 5wpm standard should be adopted, is now re-writing a Licence Conditions Determination document to make it law.

The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) has received a similar "in principle" agreement from its radio administration, and while switch to 5wpm should occur in Australia before August, a definite timing for New Zealand has not been announced.

Nations that already have 5wpm for full HF band access include Britain, Sweden, the United States, Gibraltar, and South Africa. The Papua New Guinea Amateur Radio Society is also considering the issue, and other countries - Canada, Finland, India, Israel, Norway, Pakistan, are in various stages of policy making or discussion with their radio administrations.

The issue is also to be discussed at the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 Conference, in Darwin in August, to be hosted by the WIA, and attended by 100 delegates from countries in the Asia and Pacific regions.

Jim Linton VK3PC concludes: "We are experiencing the unfolding of an historic event for the Amateur Service, as its original licensing requirement established early last century when Morse telegraphy was the only mode of transmission, now being overturned."

For further information - "Morse code watch" at www.tbsa.com.au/~wiavic which is being regularly updated.

50.5 HB90 on air

The USKA exploited already several years the station HB90 in the Museum of transports. For different reasons the station had lost more and more of his attraction. At the moment Radio-amateur is part of several discussions. Is there still an interest in our hobby, in the history of amateur radio and do we have a change to survive? USKA believes that HB90 gives us the opportunity to present our unique hobby to a larger public. The museum of transport is one of the most visited museums in Switzerland. A new working group has set up to modernise the station. They need to invest 95.000,- CHF for the new station HB90. Part of the money is done by USKA and the rest has to be donated. All donations over 50,- CHF are published on the internet site of USKA (www.dplantet.ch/users/hb90). If you want to donate to this project you can find all information on the web-site or send your donation to USKA "Sponsoring HB90-2001" on account 00922 04180.

50.6 Final

I want to send to you and your family the best of season greetings.

73 de

Carine Ramon - ON7LX

Chairperson.