



International Amateur Radio Union – Region 1

Newsletter No 62

Permanent HF Committee



To: Members of IARU R1 HF Committee, members of IARU R1 Executive Committee, the Chairman of R1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee, the President of IARU and the secretary of IARU.

62.1 Introduction

At the end of the year 2008 I took over the post as C4 Chairman from Colin, G4PSM. Since the last conference was only a few months ago there has been little business to be done so far, but having the next Interim Meeting (see below) in mind, this will probably change. I am looking forward to working together with you in all IARU Region 1 HF matters.

62.2 2010 INTERIM MEETING IN VIENNA

The Austrian society, OEVSFV, has kindly invited us to have our next Interim Meeting in Vienna again.

The next Interim Meeting of the IARU Region 1 HF Committee will convene at the InterCity Hotel in Vienna on 20th and 21st February 2010.

Any contributions for this meeting shall be received by the C4 Chairman, DK4VW, not later than 1st November 2009.

The contributions and a draft of the meeting agenda will be distributed to you and to all member societies before 20th November 2009.

The following schedule has been drafted:

Friday, 19 February 2010:

2000 - 2030 hrs: Welcome Drinks at the hotel

2030 - 2200 hrs: Dinner

Saturday, 20 February 2010:

0800 - 0900 hrs: Breakfast

0900 - 1200 hrs: C4 Committee meeting

1200 - 1400 hrs: Lunch

1400 - 1800 hrs: C4 Committee meeting

20:00 hrs: Dinner

Sunday, 21 February 2010:

0800 - 0900 hrs: Breakfast

0900 - 1200 hrs: C4 Committee meeting

1200 - 1400 hrs: Lunch

Venue: InterCity Hotel Wien

(<http://www.intercityhotel.com>)

The InterCity Hotel is a 4 star hotel. It has comfortable and quiet meeting rooms and we will enjoy the good catering provided by the hotel.

The hotel is located within walking distance (3 minutes) of a main line railway station (Westbahnhof) and an underground station, so the city centre (e.g. St. Stephan's Cathedral) can be reached within a few minutes.

To reach the Headquarter of OEVSV it takes an eight minutes walk from the hotel.

Costs:

The Conference Package price of EUR 279.00 includes:

- Accommodation incl. breakfast in a single room from Friday to Sunday
- Refreshments during breaks.
- Meals (1x dinner, 2x lunch)

Additional information:

- Welcome Drinks on Friday and Saturday evening are sponsored by OEVSV.
- We will have Dinner on Saturday evening in a typical Viennese restaurant (casual).
- At the OEVSV-HQ you are invited to use their internet access (WLAN) and other office facilities as required.
- The transfer from and to the airport is not included.
Please visit: www.cityairporttrain.com or www.airportservices-vie.com
- Additional night in a single room: EUR 87.00

Registration and Reservation:

- Please mail your registration to dk4vw@darc.de
- Please mail your hotel reservation and any other questions about accommodation to: oe1mcu@oevsv.at
- Please mail questions about the meeting to dk4vw@darc.de

DEADLINES:

- 1st November 2009 for any contributions
- 1st December 2009 for a binding registration
- 20th January 2010 for all payments

62.3 Contests on HF bands – For some it is a maximum of fun – for others it is a nuisance

Already in 1983 our predecessors had to deal with the problem that contest activity is a way to improve the technique of transmitting, receiving and building of antennas and not at least the skills of operators, but that contest traffic is very often spreading all over the bands and therefore harming tests and conversations of non-contesters.

A classification of contests has been made, limiting contest periods to certain hours dependant on importance (local, national, region wide, worldwide). It was in 1983 when for the first time the IARU Region 1 recommended certain parts of the 80 m and 20 m band to be “contest preferred” for CW resp. Phone contest operation.

Not only the number of contest participants has increased, but also the number of amateurs not interested in contests. IARU agreed that no contest activity shall take place on WARC bands (12 m, 17 m, 30 m). Due to several limitations there (e. g. propagation depending on skip, solar cycle, no SSB on 30m) the requirements of non-contesters cannot be sufficiently satisfied regarding the WARC bands and still result in complaints. It is our role as HF Managers to try to achieve some balance of interests.

Therefore a number of societies do not only rely on the recommendations of contest preferred segments as given in the IARU Region 1 bandplan alone, but have made it mandatory by their contest rules to use only specified parts of the bands for contest operation.

A quick, though not full survey before the last conference (Cavtat) showed that this policy was followed by e. g. UBA, Scandinavian societies, USKA, OEVSV, VERON, DARC and even by IOTA. The phrasing used to do so is quite different, but the results are promising.

This led to two proposals for the Cavtat conference that were finally adopted.

They read:

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_15

That within the chapter “Guidelines for HF Contest Work” of the IARU Region 1 HF Manager’s Handbook, a distinct recommendation to incorporate contest free segments in the rules of contests organized by national societies and its subdivisions shall be given and made well known.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_16

The Committee recommends that Region 1 Member Societies check and put into effect rules that relate to frequency usage for the HF contests that they organise, and that The Region 1 Executive considers encouraging other Regions to adopt a similar approach.

The objective of both recommendations is to leave parts of each HF band free of contest activity by:

Naming those parts of the bands either to be used only or not allowed to use by contest rules; not only for bands which have the indication “contest preferred” in the bandplan, but for all bands used in the contest.

All member societies are encouraged to check the situation with their contests and to follow the recommendations.

How it can be achieved, e.g. how wide the segments allowed (or not allowed), is up to each society itself, preferably linked to the bandplan recommendations and dependant on the number of participants.

How to cope with violations of the rules is also up to the national contest rule maker.

All this should finally lead to a better understanding of the bandplan, a better co-operation of all parties involved and to keep the IARU Region 1 off the frontline of complaints.

62.4 Actual situation on the 40 m band

Most of us anticipated that it would be too optimistic to have the new part of the 40m band (7100 – 7200 kHz) free of any broadcast stations immediately after 29th March. If you follow the reports of our Monitoring Service (IARUMS), you will find several broadcast station still listed.

Something else, which is in our hands, can be observed:

Contrary to our own band planning a lot of digital traffic (e. g. PSK31) still takes place around 7037 kHz, although the exclusive CW band with up to 200 Hz bandwidth is now from 7000 to 7040 kHz (formerly 7035 kHz).

According to the new bandplan all digital modes with a maximum bandwidth of up to 500 Hz should be used in the new segment from 7040 to 7050 kHz. Digital modes, as preferred modes with up to 2700 Hz bandwidth should be used in the segment from 7050 to 7060 kHz, although it is also labelled “All Modes”.

It is expected that with increasing digital activity other operation (SSB) will move upwards in frequency - above 7060 kHz.

Keep in mind that 7050 kHz \pm 3 kHz is reserved for automatically controlled data stations. This part of the band should better be avoided when direct contacts between individuals are desired to be established.

It would be best that from time to time societies publish some information about the new 40m bandplan situation in their bulletins and magazines, until the facts are sufficiently well known by their members.

62.5 New IARU Region 1 Web Presentation

<http://www.iaru-r1.org/>

Everyone is reminded that the IARU Region 1 website has been rebuilt and is under a “new management” now. This site is being built up as the centre of Region 1 activity and will store vital documents as well as host specialist forums. Take the opportunity to check the site and register. To be able to take part in the various work going on you have to register. Without being registered once and a log-in you are able only to read.

From the “Home” page you will have access to various areas. There is a “Main Menu” leading you among other things to “Documents” and “Discussion Forums”. For all the different “Working Groups” easy access is being offered from there.

For the Forum area you have to log-in a second time at the start-page of the Forum.

For a creative discussion within our C4 committee your contribution is very much appreciated. You are welcome to start new discussion items yourself.

At the moment there are 15 public forums plus some private ones (e.g. 500 kHz Working Group, participation by invitation only).

62.6 The HF Managers and Liaison Officers Reflector

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IARUR1HF>

This E-Mail reflector has been used in the past to discuss various items related to HF, for announcements etc. by electronic means. Many papers are stored in a Files area. It will run further although in the future it might be superseded by the Discussion Forum described above.

Any Society, Liaison Officer or HF Manager not participating in this reflector and wishing to do so - please let me know.

62.7 Language problem

Most of us are not native English speakers and might be afraid to participate with written contributions to the Discussion Forum or to the E-Mail reflector. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome, in case you need some language assistance, don't hesitate to ask me. I can refer you to somebody willing to give support.

62.8 Contribution papers for Interims Meeting Vienna 2010

Member societies are encouraged to use the time until the deadline of **1st November 2009** for input of papers to gather ideas, material and to develop their proposals.

73 Ulli

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