



International Amateur Union – Region 1

Newsletter 63 – June 2010

Permanent HF Committee



To: Members of IARU R1 HF Committee, IARU R1 Executive Committee, Chairman of R1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee, RRWG Coordinator, IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator, Region 1 Beacon Coordinator, the President of IARU and the Secretary of IARU.

63.1 Committee C4 (HF Matters) Interim Meeting Vienna 2010

Minutes of the Interim Meeting were distributed and can be downloaded from the Documents section at the IARU Region 1 website.

Delegates from 15 societies discussed the input papers which led to these recommendations:

- 1) Subject Internet Gateways & remote Linking for HF Operation
Rec VIE10_C4_01
IARU Region 1 recommends
 - a) *That below 29 MHz Internet Gateways and remote TX operation should be encouraged to follow these guidelines:*
 1. *The callsign of the station operating uses a callsign appropriate for the DXCC country where the TX is located;*
 2. *Where a remote RX is not located in the same DXCC entity as the TX, efforts should be made to indicate its DXCC entity (e.g. QTH RX DL for a receiver in Germany).*
 - b) *Under CEPT T/R 61-01 terms it should be noted that one needs to be physically in the country from where the transmission occurs.*

Recommendations by an Interim Meeting have to be adopted as interim policy by the EC.

The EC at its Sofia meeting did not adopt this recommendation, feeling that regulatory matters have to be further discussed. This subject will be on the agenda of the next IARU Region 1 conference in South Africa.

- 2) Subject Vandalism on our HF Bands
Rec VIE10_C4_02
It was recommended *that an analysis of the “me –me / Intentional” aspects of the problem be undertaken by groups from 3 or 4 member societies using a “continuous improvement” process.* RSGB has provided meanwhile support in terms of training material, but it seems that no interest has been expressed yet for further discussions in a dedicated ‘closed’ discussion group.

3) Subject Multi OP / Single TX

Rec VIE10_C4_03

IARU Region 1 recommends

That within the ,Guidelines for HF Contests chapter of the IARU Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook, the category MOST be reworded: ,MOST – Multi Operator Single Transmitter'. A MOST station is a multi-operator station transmitting no more than one signal and one running frequency at any time.

The EC adopted this recommendation as interim policy.

4) Contest-Free Segments on HF Bands

Rec VIE10_C4_04

IARU Region 1 recommends

That the HF Committee encourage member societies to publish contest segments clearly in the rules of the contest and that those segments are considered with due respect to the IARU band plans.

The EC adopted this recommendation as interim policy.

63.2 IARU HF World Championship

One agenda item at the Vienna Interim Meeting was a discussion about possible changes in the point weighting system. This discussion was superimposed by a statement about the result of the 2009 HF World Championship. Nevertheless it was decided to form a sub-group within the IARU Region1 discussion forum, which shall also include the HQ team leaders to review scoring and rules for the contest and make a proposal back to C4.

There has no discussion taken place in the discussion forum. A reason might be that the administration of such a closed group is rather complicated and not all have been able to make an input. Group members have to register at IARU Region 1 web, a validation is needed and the web administrator has to add these people to a list before they can contribute.

An alternative has now been chosen: another closed group e-mail reflector at Yahoo groups for this purpose (like IARUR1HF).

Send me details (call sign, e-mail address) of those who also want to join the discussion in this new group.

Nevertheless, member societies may also send proposals for changes of rules directly to ARRL. On the other hand it would surely be better to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of proposals on a broad basis with interested groups within Region 1.

A privately owned commercial website has been widely used in the controversy about the 2009 results. May I suggest that involved HQ teams and their societies discuss such a

matter first among themselves and - if necessary - finally with the adjudicator ARRL, as it has been good practice in the past? Private commercial web publishers follow their own interests, e.g. to raise the number of hits on their website by reporting tendentiously. Additionally such controversies provide arguments for those who would like to curb contest activities in general.

Such a kind of discussion in public may damage the amateur radio service as a whole. Besides that it makes no sense to clarify controversial understanding of the contest rules in such media by competitors themselves, especially without talking with each other first and trying to gain a balanced view of the matter.

63.3 40m band situation

The extension of the 40m band by the World Radio Conference 2003 last year gave us the opportunity to implement a new 40m band plan. It was in the interest of the Cavtat conference, by reassigning band segments, to give some additional 5 kHz to the band segment with up to 200 Hz bandwidth which is exclusively to be used by CW operators (7000-7040 kHz) and to boost digimodes activities with up to 500 Hz bandwidth in the segment 7040-7050 kHz, respectively with up to 2700 Hz bandwidth, in the segment 7050-7060 kHz.

There is still a lot of digimode activity below 7040 kHz and there are still many SSB QSOs in the 7040- 7050 kHz segment. There is no excuse to stick to the "old" frequencies used for e.g. PSK31 below 7040 kHz. Nearly all countries should by now have access to the band above 7100 kHz and therefore there is also no excuse to operate SSB in a segment recommended for modes with only up to 500 Hz bandwidth.

Even when Region 2 (which adopted the R1 band plan philosophy and most of the Region 1 band segment divisions) still has allotted 7035-7040 kHz (like in our old 40m band plan) to digimodes with up to 500 Hz bandwidth, a Region 1 station, trying to contact a station in Region 2, can do it on frequencies higher than 7040 kHz since in Region 2 that part of the 40m band may be used by 'all modes' with up to 2700 Hz bandwidth. A digimode station (e.g. PSK31) may work in Region 2 in the 'all modes' segments, simply by taking 'all modes' literally. The bandwidth of a PSK31 signal does not violate the given bandwidth limit of max. 2700 Hz.

May I request that all member societies repeat the information about the changes in the 40m band plan in their magazines and bulletins? There might be non-member amateurs who intentionally ignore the recommended IARU Region 1 band plan, but we should at least try to move those ill-informed.

63.4 160m band

The allocation for amateur service on 160m in Region 1 is different to Region 2 and 3. The ITU allocation table shows a primary allocation of 1810-1850 kHz for Region 1. In Region 2 and 3 the band starts at 1800 kHz. It is necessary to point this out very clearly.

In some countries a footnote does allow the use of an additional secondary allocation up to 2000 kHz. But there are countries in which not even the whole Region 1 primary band is available; a national administration may limit this. It is in the interest of the whole amateur community not to receive any complaints by an administration about out of band operation. If an administration does allow the use of more frequency spectrum on 160m during specific contests, an operator in that country shall not use this spectrum outside these specific contests. A violation regarding the permitted band segment can be prevented by stating contest segments in the rules, see the paragraph below.

63.5 Band segments to be used in HF Contests

Both recommendations Cavtat 2008 CT08_C4_Rec_15 and CT08_C4_Rec_16 recommend with different words to state the contest operating ranges clearly where contest operation may take place. Reason: The contest rules of HF a contest that a member society is organizing should keep free a segment on all HF bands for non-contesters.

With "contest segments" shown in the rules organizers need not expect participants to consult the band plans any more, or become confused with "contest free segments" as sometimes included as an alternative in the rules.

Member societies who still name only the bands to be used for their contest (like saying 160m, 80m, 40m etc.) are encouraged to follow this philosophy. The majority of Region 1 member societies have already implemented specific band segments for contest operation in their national contest rules, but unfortunately not all have adjusted the 40m contest segments according to the new band plan, please check!

63.6 WRC12

At the Informal IARU Meeting a report on the actual status of preparation for the next World Radio Conference WRC 12 will be presented (PB2T, LA2RR, G3PSM).

It is necessary for member societies to be kept informed to ensure support for our interests as much as possible, especially when a European Common Proposal (ECP) is prepared by G3PSM (as CEPT coordinator for WRC12 Agenda Item 1.23) for a new worldwide allocation of a medium wave band to be presented at a next CEPT Project Team meeting in September.

You can't simply wait and expect a support of such an ECP by your administration without your comment and wishes concerning a new 600m band; they have to deal with a lot of other WRC12 agenda items, which - most probably - are much more important for them.

Feel free to ask for (background) information you may need for talks with your national administration to convince them to support this planned ECP.

63.7 HAM RADIO 2010

From 25th – 27th June the 35th HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen and the 61st Lake of Constance Meeting will take place.

General information can be downloaded from:

<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php>

Flyers (EN English version, DE German version) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham/pdf/en/HAM-2010-VisitorInfo-EN.pdf>

<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham/pdf/de/HAM-2010-Besucherprospekt-DE.pdf>

63.8 Informal IARU Meeting

There will be again a meeting of IARU officials and member society representatives

Date: Friday, 25th of June, 2010

Time: 16h

Venue: Room "Liechtenstein"

63.9 Informal Meeting of the C4 HF Committee

HF managers and member society representatives are invited to an informal meeting

Date: Saturday, 26th of June, 2010

Time: 14h – 16h

Venue: Room "Paris"

Please send me a note about issues you want to see listed as agenda item.

I hope to see many of you in Friedrichshafen,

73 Ulli

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