



Region 1 News

International Amateur Radio Union

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

March 2003

Dear friends

As this is the first Region 1 News after the San Marino Region 1 Conference and the election of the new EC, I would like to use the opportunity to thank you all for the confidence you showed in me when electing me Chairman of Region 1. I am proud of chairing such an enthusiastic and dedicated new EC-team.

The new EC took office at the beginning of this year and as such has just started, but we have already had our first 2 1/2 day long EC-meeting and a report from this meeting is to be found in this Region 1 News. I leave it to you to study this in detail yourself, but there are one or two items that I would like to emphasise. The first is of course WRC-03. Preparations are now into their final phase and the EC sees these preparations as so important that a separate letter with the latest status as well as action points has been sent each member society for immediate action.

Apart from the very important defence of our amateur radio bands and privileges, the EC is also highly focused on improving the two-way communication with our member societies. In the following months you will see some results of this focus, the main one will probably be the web, but also Region 1 News may be in for changes. But to fulfil this task, we strongly depend on you, our member societies. Without you and your feedback, no two-way communication can exist. We do not only need feedback on what we are doing, but would welcome other ideas and suggestions from you. We would also like you to bring to our attention fields where you need help and where you think our common work in IARU and especially Region 1, can help. I am not saying we can help on all occasions, but let us hear about them.

The second item I would like to draw your attention to, is the Region 1 office. As you will see from the report of our February EC

meeting, the EC has decided to make some changes to the arrangements for the Region 1 office. Until the end of 2002, the region had a dedicated office and a contract with Audrey Jefcoate to manage this office. Audrey's contract ended at the end of 2002 and she informed the EC that she was no longer available for a new contract except for providing help in a transition to a new Secretary. The EC therefore decided to use the opportunity to try out a new kind of office arrangement for Region 1, the reason for this being some practical considerations, but mainly to save money without losing out on efficiency and response time. A heartfelt word of appreciation goes to Audrey for her long and dedicated work for IARU Region 1.

The official IARU Region 1 office and the role of the Region 1 Secretary has now been combined and the office is actually at G3BJ's address. This means that you as member societies should have the Secretary as your communication point for IARU Region 1. The Secretary will handle all office requests like addresses, copies of documents etc., and also the secretarial functions co-ordinating information and communication within our own Region 1 organisation. Below you will find full contact details for the Secretary as well as for all the EC-members and our working group chairmen and co-ordinators. The Secretary is just now completing his update of contact addresses for all our member societies, especially e-mail addresses. Thank you all very much for your feedback in this process and may I remind you to inform the IARU Region 1 office/secretary immediately should these addresses change as they will be our main contact point with you! For the future, our Region 1 web will be used as the primary source for updating of such contact information both to the EC and other IARU officers as well as for all our member societies.

73

Ole, LA2RR, Chairman, IARU Region 1

SAN MARINO

The 2002 General Conference of Region 1 is now over. Some 44 societies were represented at the Conference (four by proxy) and it was a great opportunity for representatives of member societies to renew friendships, discuss important matters facing amateur radio, and to take decisions which will shape aspects of amateur radio into the future. A full summary of the decisions of the Conference is available on the Region 1 Website (www.iau-r1.org). If your Society cannot access this, please ask the Secretary (see address at the end of the Newsletter) for a mailed copy.

At San Marino an almost completely new Executive Committee was elected. Lou, PA0LOU, had been playing a key role in the work of Region 1 for nearly 30 years, and we all thank him for his dedication. Also retiring from the EC were Tim, G3GVV, who took over the secretary role at short notice following the death of G3FKM some five years ago, Karl, DJ9KE, Hans ZS6AKV, Elisee, F6DRV and Wojciech SP5FM. We thank them all most sincerely, for their work. We are very pleased that Wojciech continues to help IARU with his work in ITU and this will be of great value as we approach WRC-03. Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PA7BT, takes over the important role of External Relations Committee Chairman from Wojciech. The ERC is the Committee responsible for working with ITU and other bodies to present the case for amateur radio, and to safeguard and extend its privileges.

The new Executive Committee comprises:

Ole Garpestadt, LA2RR, Chairman
Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, Vice Chairman
Don Beattie, G3BJ, Secretary
Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE, Treasurer
Abdi Razak A.Al-Shahwarzi, A41JT
Hans-Heinrich Ehlers, DF5UG
Panayot Danev, LZ1US
Hans Blondeel Timmerman PA7BT
Max Raicha, 5Z4MR

Full details of how to contact members of the EC are at the end of this Newsletter. More

information is on the Region 1 Website, together with details of all the Region's Working Group Chairmen and Co-ordinators.

Please will member societies note that the former Region 1 office has now been closed, and all communication should be to the Secretary.

EC MEETING - FEBRUARY 2003

The new EC held its first meeting in mid-February, and a summary of the meeting is included in this Newsletter. A full copy of the minutes is available on the Region 1 Website. Again, for a copy by mail, please contact the Secretary.

The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 is the executive body of the Region, elected by member societies at the General Conference. It is charged with directing the affairs of the Region between such conferences, maintaining contact with member societies, the IARU International Secretariat and other IARU Regions and generally carrying through the decisions made at the General Conference. Crucially, it also maintains liaison with the ITU and other international organisations. The EC meets together once a year (with most of the work being done by e-mail in the intervening time). It held its 2003 meeting in mid-February.

The 2003 meeting covered a lot of ground. As is always the case with a new team, time was taken agreeing the way the Committee will work, both in its annual meetings, but more importantly, in between the meetings. The committee also reviewed the position of handover of responsibilities from the previous EC. Within Region 1, there are a number of Working Groups and Committees specialising in specific areas of amateur radio. Chairmen of these bodies are appointed at each General Conference, but at the EC meeting, each Committee member agreed some personal responsibilities for being a link with certain of these Working Groups. EC members had the opportunity to hear first-hand from the HF Chairman and VHF/UHF/ Microwave Chairman (ON7LX and PA0EZ respectively) of progress in their particular areas of responsibility. The

Committee also reviewed written reports from other working groups, including those responsible for EMC issues, ARDF, High Speed Telegraphy, the IARU Monitoring service, the Radio Regulatory Working Group and STARS ("Support for The Amateur Radio Service" - concerning stimulating amateur radio in developing countries).

The Committee developed a set of objectives for IARU Region 1 for the next three years. These covered defence of the amateur radio spectrum, strengthening the relationship between IARU Region 1 and its member societies, promoting amateur radio to administrations and other relevant bodies, improving the flow of newcomers into amateur radio and some internal issues concerning use of the Web and revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. Work was done to develop some detail around these themes, and more is planned in the coming months.

IARU Region 1 is funded by fees from member societies, and part of the meeting was devoted to ensuring that the budget for the Region is properly controlled and spent on the priority areas for action. Most member societies are under financial pressure, and the EC is very conscious of the need to minimise the financial burden of Regional activities. As part of the drive for cost savings, the EC has agreed not to employ any secretarial support. The Regional office will be run from the home of the Secretary, at much reduced cost to the Region.

One area which generated a lot of discussion at the meeting was communication with member societies. Of the 88 member societies in the Region, all but 12 now have an internet connection. This allows the Region to review its communication strategy. We have therefore decided to make significant changes to our Website, to provide a lot more value to member societies. This we will be doing in the near future. At the same time, the EC recognises that some societies may not be able to download large amounts of data from the "Web" and so a postal service will still be available from the Secretary, to ensure that all societies are kept full informed about what is happening the IARU world. Another topic the EC discussed was the future of "Region 1 News".

We concluded that the concept of Region 1 News was now getting outdated. It was not immediate enough (5-6 editions each year) and its role could be taken over by other methods of communication. From later on this year therefore, Region 1 News will cease to be published. Instead, we will e-mail (or post, for those societies without e-mail) news items every few weeks. These same news items will go onto the new Region 1 website, which will also include a reference section, "e-mail us" facility and lots more relevant information about the world of amateur radio. We hope, when you see the new approach to communication, you will feel that it is more effective.

A lot of time was spent at the EC meeting considering further actions needed to support the IARU initiatives for WRC-03 (the World Radio Conference being held in June/July 2003 in Geneva). Much is at stake here for the amateur service, and the last few months before the Conference will involve a lot of activity by those who carry the prime responsibility for advocating the IARU case. But the responsibilities are not limited to just a few people. Each member society has a role to play in encouraging its national administration to support the IARU position, and the EC discussed how member societies might take further actions in support of the IARU strategy.

The EC noted that the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the WRC-03 had brought to Geneva for the last two weeks of November approximately 1,000 participants representing administrations, telecommunications companies and organizations throughout the world. The objective of the CPM had been to complete work on an extensive technical report, called the CPM Report, outlining methods of addressing the more than three dozen items that are on the WRC-03 agenda. Among the agenda items of significance to radio amateurs are 1.23, possible realignment of the 7-MHz amateur and broadcasting allocations, and 1.7, possible revision of the specific rules for the amateur and amateur-satellite services including how call signs are formed.

Agenda item 1.7 is not very controversial. The 7-MHz realignment issue, on the other hand, is one of the most difficult issues facing WRC-03. There are three major interests: amateurs, shortwave broadcasters, and users (principally military) of the fixed and mobile services. Amateurs seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II but that now exists only in the Americas. Achieving this would require the fixed and mobile services to make room for broadcasters and the broadcasters to change their operating frequencies.

The draft CPM Report prepared over a period of more than a year identified three methods of realigning the 7-MHz amateur and broadcasting bands. The CPM itself added two more, plus a "no change" option that would simply preserve the status quo. The five options for change all represent improvements in the amateur band, although two fall short of fulfilling the 300-kHz worldwide requirement.

The EC discussed what further actions were needed to ensure that member societies were encouraged to work with their administrations to present the case for 7 MHz realignment, and to maximise the chance of success in this area. If you are one of the societies whose national administration has yet to determine its position on 7MHz realignment, please contact PA7BT (pa7bt@amsat.org) for details of what you can do.

Also discussed at the EC meeting were the actions necessary to give effect to the many decisions taken by member societies present at the San Marino General Conference of the Region in November 2002. Some 60 decision areas need following up. Some are relatively minor, but others will require a lot of hard work to bring the San Marino decisions to life.

At the EC meeting were representatives from the other two Regions - Tim Ellam, VE6SH, representing Region 2 (the Americas), and Yoshiji Sekido, JJ1OEY, representing Region 3 (Asia-Pacific). Also at the meeting was David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Secretary of the Administrative Council of the IARU. Members of the EC were thus able to review developments elsewhere in the world of

amateur radio, and to hear at first hand of initiatives and plans being taken.

POWER LINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PLT)

A topic of great concern to delegates at the San Marino Conference was the subject of PLT. This technology, which sends wideband data over electrical supply wiring, has the potential to seriously raise the noise floor on many of the amateur HF bands. IARU is active in arguing for some commonsense in adopting standards for emissions from such systems. But the signs are that these arguments have not yet been accepted, and that large parts of the HF spectrum are at risk of serious degradation in the vicinity of electrical supply wiring. Amateur radio is a "small signal" service, and PLT represents a major threat to our survival.

Member societies who are aware of any trials of PLT systems in their country are asked to monitor the trials, and to report any cases where reception on amateur bands is affected by PLT emissions. This is very important. At present, arguments are being used that "no cases of interference to HF services have been reported" and it is of great importance that member societies take action in this area.

More information is available from Hilary, G4JKS (g4jks@btinternet.com) or Christian Verholt, Region 1 EMC Working Group Chairman (cmv@verholt.dk).

NEW WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS AND CHAIRMEN

At the Region 1 Conference, some new faces took up roles as Chairmen and Coordinators, and others stood down after long and valuable service. We said goodbye to Ron Roden, G4GKO, IARU-MS Coordinator, John Bazley, G3HCT, Chairman of the Radio Regulatory Working Group, and Laszlo Weisz, HA3NU, HST Coordinator. We thank them for their dedication to the work of IARU, and wish them well in their "retirement".

Replacing them are Hani Raad, OD5TE for IARU-MS, Bob Whelan, G3PJT, for RRWG and Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO for HST. We wish them all well in their new challenges. A full list of Coordinators and Chairmen can be found later in this Newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

Ole Garpestad, Region 1 Chairman writes:

Dear Amateur Radio Societies and hams all over IARU Region 1,

The Radio Amateur community marks annually the 18th April as a World Amateur Radio Day to honour the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union on that date in 1925. The theme this year is: "Amateur Radio supporting technology education in the classroom." There is no doubt that the future of Amateur Radio belongs to those that are now in the classrooms. In keeping with this theme, I would like to encourage every society in the Region to let our young people know that amateur radio is a unique hobby - simultaneously sport, scientific study, personal pleasure and collective activity. And that radio amateurs today are voluntary and selfless researchers in the technological field of amateur radio, an important resource to every country, and something to be proud of.

But 18th April is not only a day to think about our future, it is our day, a day for celebration. All of us, societies and individuals, can celebrate in our various ways - organising presentations, club meetings, parties, honouring senior radio amateurs who go back to the early years of IARU, or just putting our equipment on the air and making just a single QSO on this day, so realising how large our ham community is.

The IARU Region 1 Executive Committee will be interested to hear of activities which take place on World Amateur Radio Day, and would appreciate reports, information, stories, photos concerning your celebration. Region 1 News will publicise these around the Region.

73, Ole, LA2RR

SPECIALIST NEWSLETTERS

Don't forget that many of the Working Group Chairmen and Coordinators publish Newsletters about their specific areas of responsibility. Before long, all these will be available on the IARU Region 1 web site, but in the meantime if you have an interest in HF, VHF, EUROCOM, ARDF, HST or the IARU Monitoring Service, please contact the relevant person on the list below. There are also sub-groups under a number of these committees, details of which are on the IARU Region 1 Website

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ARDF EVENTS 2003

Official IARU Region 1 ARDF events

June 7th to 11th, 2003 - 4th Youth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 1 (Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia) 2003, Bastheim / Germany

September 7th to 11th, 2003 - 14th ARDF Championships of IARU Region 1 (Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia) 2003 - Cetniewo / Poland

Official IARU ARDF events outside Region 1

July 30th to August 3rd, 2003 - 2nd IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships 2003 - Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

November 28th to December 5th, 2003 - 5th IARU Region 3 ARDF Championship 2003 - Ballarat, Victoria, Australia

The latest news and dates of official IARU ARDF events can be found on the home page of the IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group - www.ardf-r1.org

5th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HIGH SPEED TELEGRAPHY

The 5th World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy will be held in Olympic Sportcomplex "Raubichi", situated a few kilometers from Minsk, the capital of Belarus from 4th to 8th May 2003. Details at <http://hst2003.osto.by/>

IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The IARU HF World Championship contest takes place from 12.00 UTC 12th July to

12.00 UTC 13th July, 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m. Why not consider running a headquarters society station for this event ? Details at www.iaru.org/contest.html

CHAIRMEN/COORDINATORS OF COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Chairman HF Committee - Carine Ramon, ON7LX, ON7TK-ON7LX@amsat.org

Chairman VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee - Arie Dogterom, PA0EZ, pa0ez@amsat.org

Chairman External Relations Committee - Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PA7BT

For details see under Executive Committee below

Chairman ARDF - Rainer Flosser, DL5NBZ, dl5nbz@ardf-r1.org

Chairman, EMC-WG - Christian Verholt, OZ8CY, cmv@verholt.dk or cmv@ds.dk

Chairman EUROCOM WG - Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, gaston.bertels@skynet.be

Chairman Radio Regulatory WG - Bob Whelan, G3PJT, g3pjt@whsmithnet.co.uk

Chairman, STARS WG - Hans Welens, ON6WQ, on6wq@glo.be

Emergency Communications Co-ordinator, Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, g3leq@boltblue.com

IARU-MS Co-ordinator - Hani Raad, OD5TE, hani@od5te.com

International Beacon Programme Co-ordinator - Martin Harrison, G3USF, hf.beacons@rsgb.org.uk

HST Co-ordinator - Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO, z32to@yahoo.com

CONTACTING THE EC

Most contact between member societies and the EC should go via the Secretary:

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Other EC e-mail addresses are:

Chairman: Ole Garpestad, LA2RR,

Vice Chairman: Tafa Diop, 6W1KI,

Treasurer: Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE

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