The International Amateur Radio Union

Region I

Founded 1925. Representing the radiocommunication services as defined by the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union: The Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service. Member of the International Special Committee on Radio Interference CISPR.

Europe, Africa and part of Asia.
Founded 1950

VHF UHF MW NEWSLETTER

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The VHF Manager's Handbook on the Internet

It took awhile but the IARU Region 1 Handbook finally is accessible via the IARU Region 1 Internet Page at www.iaru-r1.org.. The two latest issues of this Newsletter are accessible at the Handbook site as well. It is planned to have at the Region 1 site a more informative VHF/UHF/SHF section soon. Here IARU News concerning the bands above 50 MHz will be found. As there are many, many amateur sites at the internet, the IARU Page will be of a rather limited nature. But have a look regularly in order to pick up the latest amendments.

All Handbook sections have been converted into PDF files, but the original WP51 files are still available as those files are the content of the down-loadable zip file containing the complete Handbook.

I suppose most of you will only need to download sections which have been updated. You can find out which files have been updated since the latest distribution. That distribution was dated oct. 99. All files having a later date attribute are updates.

Although in some parts of Region 1 access to the internet is common, in many parts, however, fax and classical mail remain the main communications means. But I suppose this will change fast and I expect that non electronic distribution of our information will fade out. Well you now need to print the texts out locally. More work for you, less for the secretariat and for me. Hi

Please let me know how you are perceiving this gradual change to electronic communications. In particular I am interested to hear from those receiving this Newsletter by mail.

In case you received this Newsletter on paper (In that case I am not aware of your e-mail address) but you have e-mail facilities let me know. If you have no e-mail facilities and want to receive the Handbook updates (it mostly concerns address lists) let me know.

ARISS Meeting

Representatives of several national organisations participating in the ARISS (Amateur Radio in the International Space Station) gathered at the end of March in Noordwijk, at the ESA/ESTEC premises in the Netherlands.
I attended part of that meeting.
Below I copy my short report to the IARU R1 EC about this meeting:

""On the request of DF5DP (DARC) I attended on 27 March part of a meeting of the ARISS (Amateur Radio in the International Space Station) team where the frequencies to be used in the 145 MHz band were discussed.
In the US and Canada the IARU Region1 recommended uplink frequency (145.200) appears to be impossible. In Region1, however, the North-American uplink frequency of 144.490 cannot be used. This matter has been on the agenda for some years now. A workable solution could be to use 144.490 only for communications with stations in North-America. Technically this is feasible. The only problem is that the operators in the ISS do not like to switch channels. Regarding this aspect it might be useful to roughly sketch the purpose of those communications in the 145 MHz band. It appears that it is something like the "jamboree on the air", where amateur stations support communications between scouting groups. In the ARISS case amateur stations are set-up to allow for communications between schools and people on the ISS. Due to scheduling problems such communications might be limited to once a week.
ARISS US sees those contacts as a promotion for amateur radio. NASA has supported this as part of their public relations activities.

Although not explicitly stated I got the impression that finally the US part of the ARISS project agrees that using different uplink frequencies in North America and outside North America will have to be accepted. In Region 1 (and I suppose in Region 3 as well) the 145.200/.800 pair can be used as has been done till now (MIR/SAREX).

Note : ARISS have many other activities but those have not

(yet) problems with frequencies outside the satellite segments of the bandplans**. “”**

New Frequency Allocations Coordinator

Heinz-Günter Böttcher, DK2NH, did accept my request to take over the position of Frequency Allocations Coordinator from John Morris, GM4ANB.
(Note: GM4ANB will continue from his current QTH in Region 2 the DX Records task.)
Thank you very much Heinz-Günter!
Many of you know DK2NH as he participated to our meetings for many years as the DARC VHF Manager.

Collecting information about the allocations in the Region 1 countries and distributing this information to the member-societies is very important and one of the building blocks of our struggle for maintaining/extending our allocations.
As DK2NH is not (yet) known having telepathic powers, he needs your **full cooperation**.

Please send him today information about your national amateur allocations concerning current or expected deviations from the ITU amateur(satellite) allocations above 30 MHz.

Other data (maximum power, (im)possibilities of unmanned operations, etc.) are very welcome as well.

His address information is:

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Vacancies

I still need candidates for the functions of Satellite Coordinator and of Tropospheric Propagation Coordinator (microwaves preferred). Please help. There must be people in your society capable and willing to support IARU R1.

Australian amateurs loose frequencies:

The Australian Communications Authority has withdrawn Australian amateur radio access to the frequencies between 2302 and 2400 MHz. This had been shared on a secondary basis with pay-TV distribution systems, among others.
This part of the spectrum will now be allocated by spectrum licensing. In addition, frequencies between 3425 - 3442,5 MHz and between 3475 -3492,5 MHz have been withdrawn in some of the major Australian capitals and regional areas, again for spectrum-licensing purposes. [From RSGB News]

This is a bad message from Region 3, where one would think the pressure on the spectrum would be less than in Europe. But knowing that “spectrum-licensing” means “big money” explains much.

New 24 Ghz World Record

Making contacts over more than 400 km in the 24 Ghz band seemed to be almost impossible. But Radio Revista (the magazine of ARI) of February 2000 brings the story about a telegraphy contact between I3EME and I0LVA (JM68MA to JN62KA) over 444 km.
When will the 1000-km barrier be crossed?

Separation and bandwidth

From some discussions I learned that the distinction between “Channel Separation” and “Channel Bandwidth” is not clear to everyone. The IARU Region 1 NBFM standard calls for a (rx) bandwidth of 12 kHz. This is independent of the channel distance. In the Region 1 NBFM system (at least in the 145 MHz band) the channel distance is 12,5 kHz but the recommended RX bandwidth still is 12 kHz. Adjoining channels cannot be used by nearby stations. But we all know that from the SSB band as well.

Good DX and lots of VHF up activity wishes
PA0EZ