

The International Amateur Radio Union

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VHF UHF MW NEWSLETTER

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Region I

Europe, Africa and part of Asia.
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BANDPLAN CHANGES

This year two important bandplan changes are to be prepared. One is the change in the 435 MHz band, the other is the shift of the 24 GHz Narrow Band segment.

435 MHz

The most complex here is the move of all beacons. Our beacon coordinator, G0RDI, has started the work by proposing the new frequencies for the beacons in your country.

Please react as soon as possible to his messages. He really needs your cooperation.

24 GHz

Although G0RDI will look at the move of the 24 GHz beacons as well, the main issue is different here.

In fact the only change for everybody, including the beacon keepers, is shifting the frequencies down by 144 MHz.

But experience in the past has shown that such a change in the bandplan will fail if you are not working at it. In the magazines I have access to the VHF Managers/Editors have not published convincingly the change per 1-1-2004. Please contact the microwave community in your country.

If you need more information about the need for this change, please let me know. In order to make changing easy I propose that **all beacons shift their frequency 144 MHz down in the month of November this year**. This will help all stations within reach of a beacon to test their station on the new QRG in December.

WRC03

This probably will be the last Newsletter before WRC03 which will be in Geneva during the month of June 2003.

For VHF and up the main agenda item is 1.38 dealing with an 6 MHz wide allocation for an Earth Exploration Satellite somewhere between 430 and 470 MHz.

As far as I can see now there is a fair chance that this allocation will be between 432 and 438 MHz. The CEPT position is that existing services will not be unduly interfered with. But it is not clear what will happen if many more satellites than the two currently planned will use "our" segment.

The requirements of a NATO long distance radar system will forbid the EES to be active when over the US and most of Europe.

But this does not help amateurs in Africa and South-America. A pity that 435 MHz activities in those areas still are relatively low.

Another item is a proposal from the Dutch administration to put on the agenda of the next WRC a proposal to amend footnote 5.282 in order to allow amateur satellite downlinks in the 1260-1270 MHz segment. Within CEPT such a proposal has been supported by many administrations. A few administrations, however, are afraid of the possibility that amateur satellite activities might interfere with the Galileo satellite which uses the 1260-1300 MHz segment although calculations show that this is very improbable. Please ask your administration to support this proposal.

Action Points

Did you carefully read the San Marino minutes and are you following up the action points??

50 MHz contest

Those of you attending the C.5 meeting in San Marino will remember that we discussed changing the 50 MHz contest date to the third weekend in June. We agreed to that, but I remember that some people wished to change to that date only from 2004 onwards.

In the conference decisions, however, 2004 was not mentioned so that this change would become effective already in 2003.

SSA already has distributed the invitation for the 2003 contest. Please be aware of the new date !