International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 VHF - UHF - MW Newsletter

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Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU

Sub Working Group Vienna 2007

I do hope that all participants of the Sub Working Group in Vienna had a pleasant and safe trip back home. Let me express my appreciation to all participants for their active co-operation, their proposals and their active role in the discussion. The strict discipline and punctuality of all participants made it possible to cover the whole agenda within the limited time available.

Once more, it turned out that the convening of the Sub Working Group a year prior to the conference proper is an important forum to discuss and harmonise proposals in advance.

Spectrum Policy Document

Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, and Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T presented the IARU Spectrum Policy Document in Vienna. This document is an essential one for future positions to be taken by IARU in international allocation conferences. For this, we need the input, including suggestions, for changes to be sought by Region 1 Societies. These will be collated by me, and further refined at the EC Meeting in April 2007.

The following steps are required:

1. Please read the document published in http://www.iaru.org/ac-spec06.html
2. Submit the desired changes and suggestions in an e-mail,
   using pre-formatted text elements.
3. Send such e-mail to oe1mcu@oevsv.at by 31 MARCH 2007.

Minutes – Vienna 2007

Attached please find the minutes of the sub working group. I herewith wish to commend Georg, OE1GLW, and Jussi, OH5LK, for having taken the minutes. My thanks also goes to Murray, G6JYB, David, G4ASR, and Ivan, OZ7IS, for the reworking of and their input to the minutes.

MINUTES OF THE INTERIM MEETING OF THE
IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE COMMITTEE

VIENNA - 24-25 FEBRUARY 2007

Meeting opened at 0834 hrs by the Chairman, OE1MCU.

LA2RR: would not be available in C5 for the all the meeting. He had received an e-mail that PA0QC is now a silent key. He had chaired the Committee for 25 years. Two items: C4 and C5, have also an outward looking remit, for which competence is needed. We must keep the duality in mind – to look inward and outward. He was happy to be in Vienna and thanked both OE1MCU and OEVSV President OE3MZC for organising and hosting the meeting.

OE3MZC: welcome, outlook into the future, for organisational matters, please see schedule. He was pleased that OE1MCU had done most of the organising.

Present:
OE1MCU, OE3MZC, 9A4FW, LA2RR, PB2T, DF7VX, DK2NH, S53RM, OK2ZI, HB9DTE, LA8KV, OH5LK, OZ7IS, SM7EYW, G3VZV, G6JVB, G4ASR, ON6TI, PA5KM, PA2KW, EA3BRA, SV1JG, HA2VR, OE1WWA, OE5MPL, F6IOC, SP6LB, SP7NJX, OM3EI, SM2ECL, YO3JW, IV3SIX, IW3QYG, OE1GLW
No proxies admitted (since this is an Interim Meeting).

Chair: My report is in document C4. Good work has also been undertaken by Don Beattie G3BJ in updating the IARU Region-1 web pages. Agenda order would be to consider contests first
Swedish proposal B08 on Digital QSOs was withdrawn by SSA
EDR: Beacon presentation requested before B17 - agreed.

4) Chairman's Matters

C4 – Chairman's Report: The Handbook has been updated and digitized. It is now in a single searchable pdf-document. Thanks to SP6LB for reporting mistakes in it, and a further update will occur. Discussion had been noted about the 2m additional Satellite Service frequencies required. An EC meeting in April is scheduled which can handle approval of some matters from the Vienna meeting.

Organisational aspects: If you send and e-mail to OE1MCU, please indicate what to do with it.
OZ7IS: Is it possible directly to mail to the mailing group? Yes it is, even an archive is available. About 85 people are at the moment in the mailing group, all mail will be forwarded automatically. Details will be sent out by e-mail (with instructions). **Action point: OE1MCU.**

C1 – Standing Recommendations: LA2RR introduced the topic of standing recommendations for Committees C4 and C5. In committee C3, theirs are amended every Conference. At the moment, for HF and VHF no filing system for the recommendations is available (although some are incorporated in the handbook).
Current (standing) recommendations should be readily accessible. Where should we put them? A new section in the Handbook? Several members commented that the handbook is the most actively read rather than a separate document, and should be updated.
Chair: A new chapter on handbook will be allocated. - **Approved**

5) Coordinator Reports

Chair: The Allocation and Satellite Coordinators were present. The Beacon Coordinator, G0RDI, was unable to attend. Is there a need for a Propagation Coordinator?

DARC: The Propagation position is not needed now. OZ7IS stated that it was originally for scientific purposes. A specialist is needed, otherwise not useful. DF5AI will be asked, but outcome doubtful. Chair: Job definition required. Position likely to stay vacant. Decision to be made at the next Conference. G4ASR: Will rewrite the propagation chapter, co-ordination of technical expertise required
Action point: G4ASR

Records coordinator's website to be updated. SM6NZB has resigned so the position is vacant.

Allocation coordinator DK2NH reported he is overworked. He noted that last week the EU Commission issued a 12-page letter of intent on more flexible spectrum in the market. Strongly growing pressure due to market forces. Commission's website is a good source for information. RSGB: concept of service neutrality (promoting sharing) is a threat to any amateur allocation on secondary basis, for example on the 3.4 GHz band.

Satellite coordinator G3VZV made a report with overhead slides, received with applause.
Chair: Any Questions? OE3MZC: Frequency usage by cubesats - are cubesats really being used for amateur purposes? There are guidelines for amateur satellites, coordination panel can not prevent a launch of a national project. The IARU Satellite Coordinator's panel works by e-mail and echolink. ZS6AKV is the chairman of this panel, others also cooperate. OE3MZC: Applications like PACSAT have good outreach and are easy to operate.

6) Frequency allocations/international bodies

6.1. IARU spectrum requirements

Hans and Ole present during agenda items 6.1 and 6.2, work with international bodies IARU- CEPT- EU - ITU. IARU must have an agreed policy before approaching international bodies. There is an IARU document on Spectrum requirements of amateur and amateur satellites services available at the IARU website. Give your input! New items: On bands above 275 GHz, we must agree on a Region 1 policy.
Current IARU requirements are on the Internet at http://www.iaru.org/ac-spec06.html

An EC meeting will take place in April 2007. Chair will co-ordinate and ask for comments from national societies. RSGB has a discussion paper on bands above 275 GHz, as well as a satellite spectrum paper. Defending so much shared secondary spectrum in the microwave bands is becoming difficult. It is not easy to justify requesting over a 100 GHz of new spectrum in the bands above 275 GHz.

G3VZV: At the AMSAT-NA Symposium last year a point was made saying that it may take 7 - 15 years to make changes at WRCs. Germany has national allocations above 275GHz that have never been discussed in C5. American papers do not take into account the European situation. We must find a way to handle the situation above 275 GHz, vis a vis our bodies and our administrations. A European approach is called for. LA2RR: We should track amateur experiments on these high bands. Chair will ask for input in this matter.

OZ7IS: On 1-11 GHz national "slicing" is feared unless we concentrate on internationally harmonised segments. This is already starting to happen in UK. OE3MZC: ISM is a big problem, sharing with a licensed radio user is easier.

LA2RR: asks for input for the Spectrum Requirements document. We need to be direct and concrete, and get it moving. Narrowband segments need worldwide coordination. PB2T: CEPT and EC decide in Europe, new developments could be national ones, but real decisions are made in Europe: Chair:

We can contribute our ideas, problem will be included in the minutes, please give your input, chair will prepare it for the EC meeting in April. DARC must discuss this internally, needs time.

6.2 WRC 07 coming up, preparatory meetings going on.
October and November will see the WRC 07 conference. In the WRC 07 agenda point 7.2 sets agenda items for the future conferences. The process may take several years. A "wish list" for the future agenda items is required. 50 MHz is on the list because in Region-1 it is not in the ITU regulations as an amateur radio band. Some countries have it by footnote, but we want it to become an official allocation. On 275 GHz action is required, as it is a current WRC-07 agenda item (7.2).

Hans: What will be our policy? We need to think about the next 10 years in Europe.
Pressure is increasing. Problem: Sharing has become a principle. With the military we can share….

LA2RR is on CEPT Working Group FM, but cannot attend all the meetings. A presence especially at the CEPT short-range maintenance group is most important.
Chair: In Region 1 we need professional managers for lobbying and actively observing, and to keep continuity. The workload to attend to these meetings is high, and we must maintain pressure. We need a budget to support this activity. LA2RR: The financing should not be a problem and can be covered by the budget of the External Relations Committee. Chair: Standardisation processes are slow, but the outcome might be very dangerous for our bands. OE3MZC: EC wants to trade spectrum as a commodity, overriding everything else. This is aligned to the UK Ofcom approach and the EU Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG). RSPG seems to be very influential on decision.

10) Contests

B09 on Omitting Penalization, introduced by S53RM. There is no more need to heavily penalise mistakes in the contest exchange (currently 10 times the nominal points for that contact), just remove the mistake and go on. Computers can cross-check duplicates.
Vote: Unanimous for changing the rules to this effect:

B10, B11, B26 on Contest Logs: Introducing B10, S53RM suggested centralisation of contest entries in Region 1 using a webserver. Chair: VHF to be automated first. It would make contesting more attractive, because the result list would be available much sooner. It could be extended to other UHF/microwaves, and other contests later. YO3JW: Make inventory and standardise names of contests first to consistently tag logs.
Chair: Cooperation with OK (CRC), digital log format .EDI is basis.
Chair: Make this system the official IARU one, first as an option, and leave national societies to join in. REF commented that there are several versions of .EDI in current use. Chair: This must be checked. SP7NJX: offers to help with writing programs for checking, collecting and calculating.
OM3EI: We already have a checker, but our evaluator needs more logs from other countries for precision. We still need manual checking. Chair: Main importance is immediate results. OZ7IS: National peculiarities are foreseen in the format, but how do we handle this? OK has a webpage, but only for collecting the logs. Chair: Start with the VHF and see what's happening. National VHF/UHF manager should have access. Chair: OK system can be used, OK provides mass upload option.
Ad-hoc Sub-working group to convene in the evening to discuss proposals B10, B11and B26.

Pre-lunch presentation
Walter, OE1WWA, gave a presentation about mutual interference between Digital ATV BW and Narrowband working. Discussion on this resumed after lunch

B27 on 6hr contest times, introduced by SP6LB: OZ7IS suggested testing this out before implementing it in the whole region. S53RM said it should be up to the respective country, not in the IARU contest rules. There is a danger of fragmentation. SM7EYW stated they already have it, and are testing this proposal. Discussion was not conclusive. NRRL will also try.
Chair: if successful, reintroduce the discussion at a future conference.

B28 on Single Operator with No Assistance, introduced by SP7NJX: Discussion about the definition of 'assistance'. Some entrants are preparing QSOs with Internet, ON4KST etc. The definition of 'assistance' is problematic. Chair: Make proposal next time.

B24 on ATV Contest Logs, introduced by ON6TI: Excel spreadsheets are being used for ATV contests as EDI was not suitable so far. Discussion: Chair - Could EDI be adapted to ATV, in future perhaps going to something like EDI+.? Should Excel sheets be used for IARU Region I ATV contests?
Vote: In favour: RSGB, UBA, VERON, MRASZ, RAAG, REF, HRS.
Rest: abstention – no objections.

Referring back to B10, 11, 26, OK2ZI noted that Logs were not received within the deadline for the IARU R1 VHF 2006 contest. Should late logs be admitted for evaluation or as check-logs? Decision left to the administrator of IARU R1 VHF 2006 contest. Automatic system should take over in the future. Chair: Be flexible, we are in Vienna!

8) Technical Recommendations

B04 on 12.5kHz BW for 2m band, introduced by G4ASR: 12.5 kHz spacing and reduced bandwidth is now in use in the 145MHz band but problems had been reported, notably on receiver adjacent channel performance After discussion, G4ASR was actioned to provide transceiver specifications for the IARU R1 newsletter, prior to its introduction into the VHF handbook.
Vote: Approved unanimously

Action point for C5 Chairman: To write to IARU-EC to ascertain a method of formally informing transceiver manufacturers and importers when frequency bands and specifications are changed.
Vote: Approved unanimously

Presentation on beacon history and growing numbers was made by OZ7IS prior to B17

B17 on Beacons, introduced by G6JYB: The VHF Handbook has no specifications available for beacons above 23cm. A new Region-1 database is available at http://data.dcc.rsgb.org/ but national societies need to keep this database current to assist co-ordination and frequency planning. Accuracy is now much better, 5 kHz spacing is now current practice and more beacons are expected. RSGB was aware of concerns regarding accuracies for higher frequencies and suggested a modified form of Proposal-1 to the original paper. It was noted by that B17 did not address thresholds for Power co-ordination, which is currently inconsistent in various chapters of the Handbook.

Proposal-1:   That a nominal frequency grid of 5 kHz be adopted in the bands 2.3 to 10 GHz, and of 10 kHz up to and including 47 GHz. Wording to be aligned with VHF handbook.
Vote: Approved unanimously

Proposal-2:   That half the frequency spacing defined above be used as an offset in frequency co-ordination disputes.
Vote: Approved unanimously

Proposals 3 and 4:
      3.   That Societies provide **regular and frequent** updates to the IARU R1 Beacon coordinator
      4.   Beacons or changes to beacons which are not notified to the coordinator forfeit their arbitration rights in any coordination dispute.
Vote: Approved unanimously

Action point for RSGB: RSGB to make a future proposal for coordination of beacon power thresholds
Vote: Approved unanimously

9) Band Planning

B22 & B01 on 2m Satellites allocations: OZ7IS first introduced B22 which suggested use of the terrestrial linear transponder segment for satellites as well as an alternative to B01. Satellite coordinator G3VZV replied that the B22 solution wasn't a worldwide allocation. He reported that misuse of 2m by non-amateurs in various parts of the world causes problems, which makes 145.8MHz not a good idea for uplink frequencies. It is better to use it for downlinks. He highlighted that the B01 request was aimed at future low power LEO satellites which would not be above the horizon for very long.

A discussion ensued on LEO versus GTO satellites and possible co-sharing of the underused 144.000 EME segment (B07) by LEO cubesats. Concerns had been raised about the coexistence of LEO with terrestrial linear transponders, and other narrow-band services (B22, B01).

For long orbit GTOs, continued use of the 145.8-146 MHz segment was proposed. Regarding the EME segment, it was noted that this is a harmonised world-wide allocation that is under-used with 500Hz bandwidth in the current bandplan. (See Paper B07 later)

Action point for the Satellite Coordinator: To review today's discussions, to analyse information from the other regions, and to consider submitting a further paper at the follow-up conference, including full justification for the need to act.

B03 on FSK441, introduced by G4ASR: This proposed that VHF managers to monitor the situation for FSK441 in their countries in 144.160-144.180. This will aid any future decision that may be made at the next Region 1 conference, regarding this alternative allocation for FSK 441.
Vote: Approved unanimously

B02 on Bands above 275GHz, introduced by G6JYB: As discussed earlier, IARU need to seek a common negotiating position on this matter for WRC-07. The chair also requested that a new section be included in the VHF Handbook as a summary. Discussion included the German allocations and the approach to the Austrian regulator by OE3MZC based on B02. The frequency table in the last page of document was approved for further action;
Action: Details to be worked out by ad-hoc group - RSGB, DARC, OEVSV and Chairman of ERC

B13 on 3400MHz Band, introduced by G6JYB. It is important to promote terrestrial and EME/Satellite activity in this band which is threatened by commercial developments. DK2NH will follow up on this and publish his findings in the Internet in co-operation with G6JYB, so that other societies can use this material for lobbying and promotion of activity.
Approved

B19 on Echolink access points in the 145 MHz band, introduced by OZ7IS. As a result of the discussion, DARC and RSGB were asked to elaborate on this matter for the next conference. Also 435 MHz should be kept in mind as a preferred band.

B21 and B05 introduced by G4ASR. Initial experiments (as in B21/B05 digital voice papers) may always be carried out at All-mode sections, for permanent use frequencies need to be sought and could be proposed at the next conference (see also B19).

B05, B19, B21 Action Point: DARC, G4ASR, OZ7ZIS et al to develop a general MGM bandplan proposal for the next full Region-1 conference (See also B25 and Intermar in AoB)

B16 concerning Additional Satellite Spectrum, introduced by G6JYB. Allocations were needed with better flexibility (E-S & S-E), less interference from WiFi and better aligned with terrestrial use etc

(Meeting Adjourned – then resumed on Sunday at 0830. Minutes for the Sunday were kept by OH5LK.)

B16 *(continued from Saturday).* Discussion was restarted by G6JYB.
Vote: Only VERON against, nobody abstained – others presumed in favour.
Proposal to be included into the IARU Spectrum Requirements update.

B02 Working Group (on bands above 275 GHz). RSGB, DARC, OEVSV and the Chairman of ERC convened last night to make a plan on how to proceed on this issue. A proposal needs to be ready by the end of March 2007
Action point: G6JYB. See also B14 on Microwave Spectrum Threats.

B25 on 70cm & 23cm Gateways, introduced by ON6TI: DARC and RSGB already have echolink used on the 435 MHz band. EDR pointed out that the Nordic countries have repeater inputs on 432.600 - 433.375 MHz. RSGB and DARC indicated that their frequencies differ from the B25 table. A broader proposal for the next conference is needed
Action Point: DARC, RSGB, UBA, VERON

B15 on a fallback plan for 23cm, introduced by G6JYB: Changes into the 1296 MHz band plan need to be made as a contingency plan to create a reserve frequency for narrowband/DX activity and to reflect the possible future changes in Primary User applications. DARC mentioned ATV concerns but also the need look forward post-2012. In addition some discussion occurred on DATV BW – 4MHz vs 6MHz.
Paper Approved.
Action point: A more detailed proposal for next conference to be generated by G6JYB et al.

B14 on Microwave Spectrum Threats, introduced by G6JYB: As per Davos recommendation, B14 is largely an information paper about latest threats to the microwave spectrum. RSGB also highlighted the need for better publicity for microwave activities to show bands were in use *– **Paper Accepted.***

B07 on 144.000 EME Band segment, introduced by G4ASR: The Exclusive EME segment of 144.000-144.035MHz in the band plan does not seem to be used any more – activity has moved to 144.100+.
It was commented that this was a waste of a valuable 35kHz. However other Regions need to be consulted via the EC before a decision affecting other Regions can be made. (Also see B01/B22)
Action point OE1MCU.

B06 on change 70.260 MHz calling frequency. Introduced by G4ASR - Withdrawn.

B29 on adding a EME Section to the Handbook, introduced by SP7NJX: PZK volunteers to create an EME section for the VHF Managers´ Handbook. PZK should liaise with RSGB (GM3SEK). Proposal will be published in the VHF Newsletter for comments, and then included in the Handbook.
Action point: David G4ASR to ask GM3SEK for support. PZK to jointly draft Section.

7) Operational Matters

B08 had been withdrawn by SSA before the meeting – but see B18 is related, below.

B18 on Minimum Requirement for a valid QSO, introduced by OZ7ZIS: This considered a definition of a valid contact on bands above 30 MHz. A vote was taken on the following wording (the Idea originally came from DJ5HG)

A definition for a valid QSO on VHF and on higher bands should be:-
A valid contact is one where both operators during the contact have
> *(1) mutually identified each other*
> *(2) received a report, and*
> *(3) received a confirmation of the successful identification and the reception of the report.*

It is emphasized that the responsibility always lies with the operator for the integrity of the contact.

Vote: All in favour. To be included in the Handbook following circulation via the Newsletter.

B23 on Remote Operation in Contests, introduced by OZ7ZIS: Whilst there was general agreement on the 'single-brain criteria' there were differing views on other aspects such as fairness vs innovation.
Action Point: OZ7ZIS to put forward a revised proposal for next conference

B12 on Change of VUCC Operating Area, introduced by SM2ECL:
The paper was considered to be an information paper for Region-1 societies.

B20 on Aircraft Scatter Operating Procedure, introduced by OZ7ZIS: This operating procedure is to be refined by G4ASR and OZ7IS for introduction into the Handbook via the Newsletter and is derived from the Meteorscatter procedure – Principle was approved unanimously
Action Point: G4ASR and OZ7ZIS.

11) AoB

C2 information paper on Intermar, introduced by DK2NH. Paper also discussed by the HF committee. Concern was expressed as to whether this was open access or essentially a substitute for a commercial system. DF7VX indicted their desire for exclusive frequencies. Such development will need to be accounted for in the MGM Bandplan review.

B10, B11 and B26. Report of the contest sub-working group (CRC, ZRS, UBA, REF, SARA).
For the adjudication of the IARU Region I contests, these guidelines should be followed:

Short term solution:
A FTP site will be set up, where the VHF-contest managers (password protected) will be able to upload the logs for their countries. Deadlines must be kept. After the deadline, VHF-contest managers can download all logs for checking purposes. All VHF-contest managers will need to be informed of these procedures. It is also proposed to offer to all contest managers the "LX" software (by SARA) to help them to cross-check logs.

Long term solution:
A robot that makes the contest evaluation automatic. It will need to be able to handle the following:

> a) Contesters to upload their logs
> b) Robot needs to check that a proper format (= IARU defined .EDI) was used in the log
> c) Robot will create a list of claimed scores

d) After the deadline the robot will create a report based on the checking of the received logs (with a possible "error" list to help on point e)

e) The final approval of this report will be done by the organising society

Steps Needed:

    1: Define the exact requirements (judging rules, …)

    2: Solve technical issues (hosting, development, maintenance, evolutions)

    3: Testing phase (new system running in parallel with old system)

    4: Adapt contest rules and adjudication process (is there still a need for a rotating contest organizer ?)

Initially, there is a need for an updated list of national contest managers.

C4 on 75GHz allocations – This RSGB information paper will be included in the Newsletter

Meeting was closed at 12.01pm, 25-Feb-2007.

Document	**C3**
Subject	**75GHz Spectrum Update**
Society	RSGB
Contact	Murray Niman G6JYB
Status	Information Paper

Background – Davos 2005 Recommendation DV05_C5_Rec_08

> I*n accordance with the IARU principle of using Primary and Primary Exclusive allocations in preference to secondary allocations, it is recommended that Amateur and Amateur Satellite weak-signal operation should, wherever possible, use the 500 MHz segment 75.5 GHz to 76.0 GHz as per CEPT Footnote EU35 in the European Frequency Tables. Region 1 societies in CEPT countries should encourage their administrations to implement EU35 as soon as possible. The IARU bandplan should be amended accordingly.*

Information

On February 8th 2007 the UK Regulator, Ofcom, formally implemented EU35 in the UK Amateur Licence, preserving 75GHz band access on a long term basis. The following is a short summary of the latest position:-

a) The next edition of the CEPT European Common Allocation table implements EU35 to show the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services as full Co-Primary at 75.5-76GHz

b) Following an extensive submission by UK Amateurs, Ofcom resolved a coordination issue with new adjacent datalinks on the following basis for both the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services in the UK:-

- 75.500 - 75.875 GHz - Secondary
- 75.875 - 76.000 GHz - PRIMARY

c) As part of the submission RSGB also 'traded in' its entitlement to Secondary spectrum at 81-81.5GHz which was unnecessary and would have also conflicted with the new links.

d) This permits the 75.976GHz centre of activity to continue to be used free of interference.

Discussion

RSGB welcomes discussion on this matter, is willing to provide further information to assist fellow Societies gain/retain Primary allocations at 75GHz, away from the Car Radar, and recommends that all Region 1 Societies press their respective regulatory authorities for similar conditions in this band in order to harmonise the Amateur Services' use of the band throughout IARU Region 1.

References

Ofcom-UK consultation and statement of outcome:
http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/71-86ghz/

Joint submission by RSGB and affiliated Societies:
http://www.microwavers.org/papers/Joint-76GHz-reply.pdf