



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

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## **Cavtat 2008**

We are looking back to the very well organised IARU conference at Cavtat. I highly appreciate the professional and constructive co-operation of all participants in the C5 working group. The newly introduced structure of co-workers has turned out to be very beneficial, and co-operation is very good. Here is the list of co-workers again:

Contest;	Sine MERMAL,	S53RM s53rm@hamradio.si
Satellite:	Graham Shirville, G3VZV	g3vzv@amsat.org
Spectrum:	Murray Niman, G6JYB	g6jyb@microwavers.org
Handbook	David Butler, G4ASR	g4asr@btinternet.com

## **Handbook**

The new Handbook Version 5.35 has already been distributed, and its successor, Version 5.36 is in the works to eliminate some small mistakes and will be distributed in due course.

## **IARU Contest Evaluation**

Die IARU Contest Evaluation is already being tested. Using [iaru.oevsv.at](http://iaru.oevsv.at), you can upload your logs to the server online. Once the reporting deadline has been reached, they are cross-checked automatically, and the evaluation is displayed online, together with the corrected results and the scores. You also can see the contest statistics and look at the QSOs with the help of Google Maps.

The QSOs of individual participants are also displayed. I was, however, approached not to publish these. The QSOs are confidential, and the QSO data of individual stations are part of their contest equipment, just like antennas. Will you please consider this problem and discuss it in Vienna, so that we can reach a common position how to conduct the evaluation.

## **Vienna 2010**

The Interim Meeting is scheduled to be held in Vienna between **19 and 21 February 2010** (together with the HF working group). Will you please take note of this event, pending further information.

## **Satellite (Graham Shirville, G3VZV)**

Brief Update from the IARU Region-1 Satellite Co-ordinator Graham Shirville G3VZV  
This is an update on the report presented at Cavtat

## **Current active OSCAR satellites**

There are currently 7 satellites carrying voice transponders, 12 other satellites providing beacon and telemetry signals in addition to a variety of different transmissions and activities taking place on the ISS.

OSCAR amateur transponder satellite projects (under construction or at proposal stage) This list shows a number of the active projects underway at this time

- Phase 3E - AMSAT-DL
- Kiwisat - AMSAT-ZL
- SumbandilaSat - AMSAT-ZS - June 2009 launch?
- ESEO - AMSAT-UK (communications package only) - 2011 launch
- Eagle - AMSAT-NA
- EuroDAST - AMSAT Italy with AMSAT-UK

### **Cubesats**

There are currently 21 cubesat projects which have launches identified to take place within the next 12/18 months. These satellites are, in the main, planning to use uplinks in the 145MHz band and downlinks in the 437MHz band.

### **ISS -Columbus**

Work is continuing to define and develop a suitable digital video modulation scheme to allow webcam type pictures to be downlinked from the Columbus module on the ISS on S-Band.

Additionally it is hoped that VHF and UHF antennas may be installed on the outside of Columbus within the next 12 months. This would greatly enhance the operating possibilities in the future.

### **Frequency Coordination**

The IARU satcoord team has continued to be very active and is working to ensure that any satellite project which is intending to use frequencies in the amateur satellite service is actually compliant with the requirements for such use.

### **Education Outreach**

I was invited, by ESA, to present a paper on amateur radio and our space activities to the 2nd European Cubesat Workshop that was held at their ESTEC facility in Holland during January. This event, held over three days, attracted nearly 200 university students from all over Europe and from Canada. A copy of the presentation given is available at :

<http://www.shirville.com/anonymous/vzvcubesat2009.ppt>

### **Spectrum (Murray Niman, G6JYB)**

#### **24GHz and Car Radar**

At the beginning of 2009 it suddenly became clear at short notice that the EU, under pressure from the car industry, was considering a new form of automotive wideband Short Range Radar (SRR) radar (a collision avoidance aid). RSGB and a few other Member Societies responded quickly and the inputs were considered by CEPT WGFM, which met at Cascais in February 2009.

#### **Background**

Previously, narrowband radars had been permitted in the 24.05-24.25GHz ISM section and ultra-wideband Car SRR had controversially been granted a temporary permit with strict conditions to be fitted to new cars until 30-June-2013. The latter operate over 21.65-26.65GHz (called SRR24G), pending a move to the preferred 79GHz band (where unrestricted use is permitted over 77-81GHz) adjacent to current 76-77GHz cruise control radars. Sales of the new 24G SRR had been quite slow, partly due to the restrictions imposed.

## New Threat

The new system is based on a draft ETSI standard that calls for totally unrestricted radars centred further up the band (24.0-29.0GHz, called SRR26G) in order to avoid the passive science allocations just below the Amateur Primary allocation. In its present form this new radar proposal is considered to be a far more significant threat to the 24GHz Amateur Primary allocation. The 24GHz band is increasingly well supported by amateur equipment and beacons. Home and portable operations with reception ranges in the 100s of km now occur. The new SRR26G proposal also overlaps commercial Fixed Link allocations and military users who also have expressed their concerns, leading to some national regulators echoing these concerns at the WGFM meeting.

## Response

Despite the very short notice RSGB managed to submit a detailed response supported by the French (URC) and Swedish societies and gaining acknowledgements in the European Commission summary submitted to WGFM. The various 24GHz concerns have now been relayed to CEPT WGSE who will consider the matter in more detail in May. However it was still disappointing that a better set of responses (including an IARU one) did not occur in time.

The same WGFM meeting also proved to be very disappointing for 500kHz and 5MHz HF amateur interests. The overall experience led to some discussion at the recent March IARU-R1 EC meeting where actions to strengthen the IARU External Relations Committee were discussed.

<b>24.0-24.05 - Primary Amateur &amp; Amateur Satellite Service Centre: 24.048GHz</b>	<b>24.05-24.15 GHz – Amateur Service Secondary  (Not available in some countries)</b>	<b>24.15-24.25 GHz – Amateur Service Secondary  Former Amateur Centre: 24.192</b>
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## Amateur Allocations at 24GHz

*24GHz has a rare microwave Primary allocation – our first above 145MHz. Activity is strongly preferred in this, whilst the 24GHz Secondary allocations, which are no longer preferred for amateur operations, are subject to the new strategy discussed in the Cavtat conference Spectrum Requirements papers*

## References

1. EU SRR Consultation Responses:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/radio\\_spectrum/activities/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/radio_spectrum/activities/consultations/index_en.htm)
2. Amateur Microwave Beacon Reception Reports: <http://www.beaconspot.eu/>

## Spectrum Requirements

At the Cavtat conference, papers on VHF and Microwave Spectrum Requirements were adopted for including in the VHF Handbook. The papers covered a wide variety of allocations and (potentially radical) policy recommendations for achieving them. In practice most of the effort they call for requires a coordinated 'bottom-up' approach by Member Societies forming close relationships with their Administrations. All concerned are encouraged to establish such good relations so that any changes needed (including future CEPT meetings) are well supported.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the Cavtat Spectrum papers, please forward them to Murray G6JYB (g6jyb@microwavers.org) who is working on this issue for a Region-1 submission to the IARU-AC later this year.