



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

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Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU

Digital Voice

The Cavtat conference has already recognised the frequency requirement for digital voice, and the bandplans have been adjusted accordingly. We see, however, further development in this direction, with rising numbers of users. In some countries, this leads to uncoordinated growth, with D-Star repeaters operating even in the 2m satellite segment.

See: <http://www.dstarusers.org/repeaters.php>

The situation is deplorable. We complain about interference in the satellite segment caused by pirates and telephony systems, while blocking the satellite segment ourselves, not to mention interference due to irregular repeater shifts.

Whenever a new D-Star repeater is to be set up, it must operate on a coordinated frequency pair, even if this means that an existing analogue repeater has to be switched off for this purpose. I urgently request all VHF managers to monitor the developments in their countries and to use their influence to redress the situation as required.

IARU Contest Evaluation iaru.oevsv.at

Computer-assisted contest evaluation is evolving, and well received by operators. This tool is constantly being improved, and now the data entries of a QSO can be compared between the logs of the two stations, so that corrections are possible, if needed.

Logs can also be collected and uploaded as a batch. When doing so, please pack them as a ZIP archive before uploading. You may enter any e-mail address for the ZIP upload, because this address is not used by the system.

Will you please publish the iaru.oevsv.at URL in your national journals, so that it can be used as soon as the contest rules have been adapted accordingly.

DGPS in the Netherlands

DGPS is the acronym for Differential Global Positioning System, whereby correction data is sent on a separate frequency in order to increase the accuracy of GPS based navigation systems. In the Netherlands, DGPS equipment is used to position agricultural equipment within one metre, and the correction data is transmitted on frequencies between 438 and 440 MHz.

Talks are underway to clarify the situation and to relocate the DGPS applications to other frequencies. We will keep you posted. Will you please notify me by e-mail oe1mcu@oevsv.at whenever you find such DGPS signals outside the Netherlands.

WRC 2012 (contributed by Murray, G6JYB)

Originally set for late 2011, the next World Radio Conference is now set for 23rd January to 17th February 2012 in Geneva. There are several Agenda Items (AI) that are of interest to Amateurs including these in the VHF & Microwave ranges:-

AI-1.6: Bands above 275GHz

Some countries already permit amateur use at these frequencies including Austria, Germany and the USA. The Agenda Item itself is concerned with a review of the huge amounts of spectrum designated for passive services such as Radio Astronomy under Radio-Regulation RR5.565. There is an opportunity for IARU to highlight our interest in either allocations or licence exempt access to these frequencies, where pioneering equipment and QSOs are already occurring – particularly because there are so few ground-based observatories using them, making sharing easy.

AI 1-14: VHF Radars in the 30-300MHz range

Below 300MHz there is no international allocation to the Radiolocation Service (ie radars). One of the more relevant items is the one for a future allocation for VHF radars of a few MHz bandwidth. Whilst amateur bands are not directly the target, one of the candidate bands is 142-144MHz – right next to our weak-signal long range DX interests.

VHF Radars are being developed for a variety of applications including space object/debris tracking, counter-stealth and airborne sideways looking surveillance. The IARU-R1 ERC is aware that this item poses a real challenge if 142-144 is selected along with some slots in the lower frequency ranges

AI 1.15: Oceanographic Radars in the 3-50MHz Range

HF/VHF Surface wave radars based along a coastline or on larger ships could be also be a problem depending on the bands selected. Whilst their frequency may move, fortunately their bandwidth and the low phase noise that they use to resolve doppler is helpful. However they are of course able to transmit over significant ranges.

IARU is keen to progress other items including a band around 500kHz, a future opportunity to get 50MHz formally allocated, and watches other items that may pose a problem.

OTHER NEWS (contributed by Murray, G6JYB)

New Car Radars

RSGB and IARU-R1 are contributing inputs to CEPT FM47, which is considering two new forms of Car Short Range Radar (SRR) in the 24GHz band. Following the commercial failure of the original 24GHz wideband SRR, some companies have proposed a new totally unrestricted system (SRR26G) over 24-29GHz. RSGB and IARU consider this a much greater threat than the previous system and favour a far less harmful new alternative called 24NB-WLAM which would just use 24.05-24.5GHz, protecting our Primary microwave allocation.

2.3GHz Band

AT WRC-07 whilst other Regions chose this band for 4G LTE/Wimax, Europe did not. However recent events in several places show this is changing, representing a major challenge for Microwave narrowband and ATV users. Recently Ireland had a consultation 'releasing' the band, which was responded to by IRTS and the UK Microwave Group who were keen to keep such new systems away from 2300-2330 in line with the priorities discussed at Cavtat. All Member Societies are asked to be vigilant in case we lose a band with considerable potential for DX and Data/TV

2010 INTERIM MEETING IN VIENNA

The next interim meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee will be convened on 20 and 21 February 2010 at the InterCity Hotel **in Vienna**.

Any contributions for this meeting shall be received by OE1MCU no later than 1 November 2009. The contributions and the draft meeting agenda will be distributed to you and the member societies before 20 November 2010.

DEADLINES:

- 1 November 2009 for contributions.
- 1 December 2009 binding registration for the Sub Working Group.
- 20 January 2010 for all payments.

Please help the organisational committee by observing the deadlines!