



International Amateur Radio Union

Region 1

VHF - UHF - μ W Newsletter

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Editorial

If I read my Editorial again from the former Newsletter I think I will repeat myself. In a few months we will get an answer about one of the most important agenda items for us about the 6m band. But also important is to be aware of future threats to our bands from proposed Agenda Items for WRC 2023, and apparently not only above 1GHz. Even our traditional 2 meter band is a target for some regulators.

So it is most important for us to defend our bands with all what we have:

- First of all to take initiatives to increase activity on all our bands by promoting our passion for technic and our knowledge about propagation
- Secondly to have a good relations with our regulators and explain to them what we are doing and that our activities are an added value for our society, by promoting technology and science.

After our Interim meeting in Vienna there is a new update of the VHF Handbook (version 8.50), you will find it on our IARU website, who will be fully renewed in a few months.

We are now preparing our General Conference in Novi Sad 2020. We want to get the discussions in C5 to have a more strategic view about activities on VHF and higher. We started this process in Vienna 2019 and in this (and the coming) newsletters you will see this.

VHF Handbook 8.50

The recommendations that were voted during our Interim Meeting in Vienna 2019, and approved by the EC are now integrated in this new version of the handbook. You will find it on our IARU-R1 website on <https://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/downloads/Documents/VHF/VHF-Handbook-v8.50/>

WRC 2019 -50 MHz

"Alea iacta est". We are in the final stages as we approach WRC 2019. Like we mentioned over the last few years, we are hoping for a positive outcome about the future of this band for radio amateurs. However hope is not enough – action is required. As with the 144 MHz issue below, it is important that all Member Societies contact their regulator to not only support the item, but also the opportunity for part of it to be Primary. CEPT-CPG will decide their position in August – do not delay!

In Vienna 2019 we decided to have a future review of the bandplanning of this band. Once we know the outcome of this agenda item at WRC-19, a working group will then be started up who will make a proposal for revised bandplanning that will be discussed during our General Conference in Novi Sad 2020. If you or your Member Society want to propose a candidate for this working group, please inform me.

144 MHz: “Houston... we have a problem”

The French regulator proposed a new agenda point for WRC 2023 which would study a range of possible frequencies to provide access by the aeronautical mobile service, including a direct and deliberate request for our important primary amateur and amateur satellite at the 144-146 MHz band.

As IARU, not only Region1 are opposed to include 144-146 MHz in the frequency ranges to be studied in this proposal. This is because the outcome of any such study (which would take four years) can be predicted now, as protection distances and path losses are such that harmful interference from air to ground stations is inevitable and would seriously restrict the use of this band for the amateur service.

The 2m band is the most used band of the VHF bands. We have a lots of users, radios, repeaters, digital applications worldwide (DMR, D-STAR, etc), satellite communications, ISS contacts, etc. For some communications we also need a lot of power and very sensitive receivers(contests, DX, EME, MS, ..). This wide variety of activity is not compatible with the sharing those frequencies with “commercial air communication” between planes and ground stations.

The proposal doesn't want to change our Primary status and wants only to study it...¹

There is a trend by searching frequencies for commercial use, which may also give a financial profit for the national authorities.

However frequencies are not only a commercial issue, they are also important for social and humanitarian reasons, and the 144-146 MHz band is one of them.

So I'm urgently asking all readers to ask their Member Society to contact their regulator so that this agenda point will not be accepted for WRC2023. Time is short - the CEPT-CPG meeting in August will decide on this.

There are already MS who have done this, such as RSGB, DARC, SARL, REP, ... and even in other regions such as Australia, but we need more so that there are enough votes to strongly oppose it in CEPT as well as other regional bodies where it may appear.

We need to ensure that all Member Societies urgently express their views to the regulators. On 28th June, the Region 1 President provided full guidance to enable MS to take action. Please encourage your MS to take that action quickly and to publicise what they have done. You can also see background to this issue on the front page of the Region 1 website or via direct links to <https://iaru-r1.org/index.php/88-news/1864-wrc-23-agenda-items> and <https://iaru-r1.org/index.php/174-news/latest-news/1868-wrc23-agenda-items-update-from-cept-2>

¹ personally I think that this study is a waste of money and time, seen our activities on this band. if the proposal really wants to keep us primary it is crystal clear that the proposed use is incompatible with our activities on the 2m band. But maybe there is a hidden agenda?

This is my personal opinion and does not implicate the IARU. I just want to communicate this (ON4AVJ)

Contest logging exchanges

More than 15 years ago SP7NJX, Andrzej, started a server in Poland who was collecting contest logs all over Europe. The goal was to facilitate log exchanges for cross checking.

Unfortunately Andrzej past away too soon and his server could not follow the evolution. Until now many of our VHF contest managers are using this server to exchange logs. But now the way it works is outdated and not compatible anymore with the actual privacy legislation (GDPR).

In name of IARU-R1 and the testers I want to thank our Polish friends for the way they maintained the work of SP7NJX.

In the meanwhile IARU-R1 invested many efforts to implement a contest robot. This work is now in a final phase.

But our IARU-R1 robot will not only evaluate the 3 IARU contests, but also serve as an exchange of contest logs for all sub regional contests and maybe other contests, if they are compliant with de EDI format.

So our interim meeting in Vienna 2019 decided that from now on the IARU-R1 server will be the place for exchanging logs.

This means that all contest files will be checked if they are compatible with the EDI standard and that contest evaluation will be a lot easier for the VHF contest managers.

Therefore we encourage all VHF contest managers to upload their local EDI files to our IARU-R1 server. Also the individual tester can upload his log!

This is also a way to promote VHF contesting!

If you should have any problem to upload individual or in bulk(VHF managers) please contact us!

Useful Information

Chairman VHF/UHF/SHF committee: Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ
Vice chairman VHF/UHF/SHF committee: Jann Traschewski, DG8NGN
Contest co-ordinator: Alex Carletti , IV3KKW
Beacons co-ordinator: Mathias Klug, DH4FAJ
Satellite co-ordinator: Graham Shirville, G3VZV
Spectrum specialist: Murray Niman, G6JYB

Website: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf>

Handbook: Current Edition: v8.50: <https://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/downloads/Documents/VHF/VHF-Handbook-v8.50/>

Newsletters: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/documents/Documents/Newsletters/VHF-Newsletters>

Wiki <http://iaruwiki.oevsv.at>

Contest robot <http://iaru.oevsv.at/>

Mailing list VHF managers and liaison officers

If you are not on this mailing list and you are a VHF manager of your country please send a mail to ON4AVJ@uba.be

Use of the IARU R1 C5 Wiki

If you are an official Member Society representative, but have no login and you want to participate to the discussions on the Wiki, please write a mail to ON4AVJ@uba.be.