



International Amateur Union – Region 1

Newsletter 60 – December 2006



Permanent HF Committee



To: Members of IARU R1 HF Committee, IARU R1 Executive Committee, Chairman of R1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee, RRWG Coordinator, IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator, Region 1 Beacon Coordinator, the President of IARU and the Secretary of IARU.

Wishing you and your families' peace and goodwill for the holidays and for the New Year 2007.

60.1 Introduction

It has been 12 months since the last Newsletter but it has been quite a busy time. Your Chairman and members of the EC have been attending CEPT meeting throughout the year to prepare for the forthcoming WRC-07, in particular the possibility of a 5 MHz allocation for the Amateur Service. More on this later.

A subject for concern has been the lack of discipline by European operators during some of the recent DXpeditions. This was discussed at Friedrichshafen this year and a paper has been prepared for the Interim meeting in Vienna. The practice of anonymous name-calling and similar activities should not be condoned or encouraged by replying to these stations. It is likely that by replying to such stations that you are breaking the terms of your licence in doing so

60.2 Terms of Reference

The new Terms of Reference of the Permanent HF Committee was approved during the last Region 1 EC meeting and hard copies were sent out to Member Societies. This agreement will need ratifying at the next Region 1 Conference. Any one needing a copy should contact either the Region 1 Secretary or myself.

60.3 The HF Managers & Liaison Officers Reflector

I am a little disappointed in the participation of this group. Although we have almost half of the Member Societies subscribed we only see input from perhaps 6 or 7 of these Societies. I realise in some cases there are language problems but it would be nice to receive an acknowledgment that relevant emails are being received and read! I had one HF Manager complain this week that he didn't know about the meeting in Vienna. If he subscribed to the reflector or even read the Region 1 Website it might help!

Any Society not participating in this reflector and wish to do so please let me know. A number of HF Managers and Liaison Officers have shown interest in taking part but didn't actually sign up. Contact me for more details at iarur1hfm@g3psm.net.

60.4 Euroloop

A recent consultation from the European Communications Committee (ECC Report 98) was on the subject of the possibility of using HF frequencies for railway signaling. The frequencies concerned are between 9.5 and 17.5 MHz and if the system were to be introduced radio amateurs living alongside railway tracks in a number of European countries, mainly those in the Benelux area would be affected.

Fortunately IARU Region 1 was represented by Dr John Gould G3WKL in the CEPT Working Group dealing with this subject. John is the RSGB HF Manager. As a result of detailed discussions, simulations and analysis the final agreed figure is 12dB better than the figures originally proposed by the railway companies. Only DARC and RSGB submitted responses to this consultation by the closing date of 15th December 2006. Copies of these responses should be available for download on the Region 1 website soon.

60.5 500 kHz

As I type this I have heard that SM6BHZ in Gothenburg has been granted a 20W erp permit to use 505.0 – 505.2 kHz. In addition it is expected that the UK will be permitted to use 502–504 kHz in the near future.

60.6 New UK Licence(s)

From 1st December 2006 a new lifetime on-line licence became available in the UK. Although there are some early problems the system does appear to work. This licence is free providing it is downloaded from the Ofcom website and is valid for life as long as it is revalidated every five years or when you change address.

60.7 WRC-07

WRC-07 will start in Geneva on October 22nd 2007. As mentioned earlier IARU Region 1 continues to be represented at Conference Preparatory Group Project Team 4 (CPG PT4) which is the group dealing with HF agenda items. Agenda items of particular interest are 1.13 and 1.15. Agenda Item 1.13 and the various interpretations of the wording of the agenda item is causing problems, especially between the Fixed and Mobile Services and the Broadcasting Service.

Agenda item 1.13: “taking into account Resolutions 729 (WRC-97), 351 (WRC-03) and 544 (WRC-03), to review the allocations to all services in the HF bands between 4 MHz and 10 MHz, excluding those allocations to services in the frequency range 7 000-7 200 kHz and those bands whose allotment plans are in Appendices 25, 26 and 27 and whose channelling arrangements are in Appendix 17,taking account of the impact of new modulation techniques, adaptive control techniques and the spectrum requirements for HF broadcasting;”

While these two major users are arguing between themselves IARU is working towards achieving a small frequency segment at 5 MHz. The attitude within CEPT administrations is generally one of agreement with the idea, although there are some objections at this stage.

Of course whenever possible the outstanding matter of a further 100 kHz at 7 MHz continues to be mentioned but CEPT have already stated that they would not support such a move.

Agenda item 1.15 is “**to consider a secondary allocation to the Amateur Service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz**”.

All indications are that this agenda item will be agreed and that this LF band will be adopted on a global basis. The only discussions that seem to be taking place within the CEPT group is whether it should be placed in the frequency table itself or as a footnote to the table.

Those of you talking to your administrations are asked to seek support for the 5 MHz position both before and during WRC-07.

Advice on the IARU positions for both these agenda items is available from Hans PB2T who is the Chairman of the External Relations Committee. Hans can be contacted at PB2T@planet.nl and more information will be forthcoming at the HF Managers Interim Meeting in Vienna.

60.8 HF Managers Handbook

The HF Managers Handbook will be available in time for the Interim Meeting in Vienna in February. It has been quite a long job to revise this document and it is still not yet finished. The section on contesting was very out of date and my friends in RSGB agreed to get together and make it simpler and up to date. This revised chapter is one of the papers submitted to the Vienna meeting for discussion.

60.9 Beacons on 7 and 10 MHz

Recommendation DV05_C4_20 agreed at Davos states that Region 1 member societies “should discourage the operation of unmanned beacon stations at 7 and 10 MHz”. Further discussion has taken place regarding this subject and a paper has been submitted to the Vienna meeting. In addition to this a number of APRS stations have started operating in the 40 metre band and these are of course classed as beacons. Apart from causing QRM in what is still a very narrow band for data modes there would not appear to be any real reason for these stations to be operating on this band.

60.10 Finally

Yet again I must repeat the requests that are made year after year – please send me news from your Society, especially that with a HF interest. I have to thank Dennis ZS4BS in particular for his weekly input to the reflector, but I guess even Dennis struggles from time to time to find material.

Last year there were newsletters from Namibia and Malta but nothing at all this year!

The Seasons greetings to you all with hope for a QRM free 2007.

73

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