



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 VHF - UHF - μ W Newsletter

Edition 76
7 January 2018
Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ

Dear Friends,

First of all my best wishes for 2018 for you, your family and friends and hope you will enjoy the use of our frequencies this year. During the last months of 2017 we did a lot of work and this newsletter will give you some information about it.

New on the IARU-R1 website

The VHF pages on the IARU website were reorganised so that the contest working group has now the necessary place to put new rules, contest results etc.

We are also planning a new website in the future where there will be more places for specific interests in VHF & up (beacons, band planning, digital modes,...)

Contest News

We decided in Landshut that the contest matters should be handled by a working group: the C5 Contest Working Group (C5CWG). This working group is coordinated by Robert S53WW. They had three Skype meetings to prepare the contest survey and discuss the new contest rules.

VHF Contest Survey

The newly established C5 Contest Working Group decided to start its work with a survey about VHF&Up contests. The survey was the first of its kind in the 61 years history of IARU R1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves competition, and had a key aim to better understand the view of contest participants on the contests matters. The C5WG was seeking the inputs about contest organisation, rule changes and introduction of new sections. The response was way above our expectations. During the 37 days the survey was open (from 25th October to 30th November 2017), we had 1277 respondents answering the survey questions.

[You can find the full report on the IARU-R1 website.](#)

New Contest rules 2018

They are published on de IARU-R1 website:

<http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf/contest-matters/contest-rules-for-2018>

The new contest rules were discussed after analysing the contest survey results. The most important changes/clarifications are:

- Merging Single and Multi operator in the 6H category
- New Low Power category with antenna restrictions
- New rules about self-spotting
- Definition of a valid QSO
- The use of MGM during the 50/70 MHz contest
- Changes in the header of the EDI contest file

You can find more comments in the document:

“Commentary to the [“RULES IARU R1 50/70 MHz, 145 MHz and UHF/MICROWAVES CONTESTS”](#)”

Important

The original contest rules in the current VHF Handbook (version 8.01) are NO LONGER VALID. The new contest rules will be integrated in the next edition of the Handbook.

Contest results

From now on you can find the contest results of the IARU-R1 VHF contests on our webpage.

For the moment the official results of the 50/70 MHz contest and the 144 MHz contest are published.

The UHF/ μ Wave contest will follow soon.

Here is the link for the results: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf/contest-matters/cr>

Beacon coordination

Our new VHF/Microwave beacon coordinator Mathias, DH4FAJ, is very active and keen to get a real view about the actual situation about the beacons. The old beacon database was not accurate. So we need to build a new reference database and webpage. You can all see a preview at www.iaru-r1-c5-beacons.org

After the next Region-1 EC meeting (in February), Mathias will ask for an update. One of the main objectives is to delete obsolete beacons that are not active anymore during years.

Survey of frequencies above 148 MHz

The IARU Administrative Council (IARU-AC) asked us to make an inventory of the use of our frequencies above 148 MHz. With the cooperation of DARC the survey was online from 15th November until 17th December. Overall, 24 Member Societies filled in this survey. I want to thank them for their cooperation.

Most of those member societies were from countries of CEPT, so this give us a quiet good view about the use of our frequencies above 148 MHz.

For the moment we have the raw results in an Excel file. This will be processed in to a report for the IARU-R1 EC and the IARU-AC. You will be informed about this report after the EC meeting.

5GHz Updates

As we discussed at Landshut, the 5GHz band is of importance for narrowband, wideband and satellite applications. Paper LA17_C5_32 covered this and one result was recommendation LA17_C5_Rec_13:-

It is proposed to amend the 5.7 GHz Band Plan in the VHF Managers Handbook to more clearly designate the 5760 – 5762 MHz range as ‘preferred’ and to remove the 2.7 kHz bandwidth restriction at 5650 – 5668 MHz

Unfortunately this was overlooked when updating v8.01 of the Handbook and will be incorporated in the next edition. The result will be to clarify that 5760 will be ‘preferred narrowband’; 5668-5670 will

be 'alternative narrowband', and the unnecessary bandwidth restriction on ground and satellite uplink applications will be deleted from 5650-5668.

It was also mentioned in the paper that opportunities be found to improve CEPT footnote ECA17 regarding protection of 5760 MHz. It is therefore pleasing to report that this has been undertaken and achieved. ECA17 footnote in the European Common Allocation table has now been updated so that its 5GHz range now covers the preferred 5760 narrowband segment as follows:-

***ECA17:** In the sub-bands 3400 – 3410 MHz, **5755 – 5765 MHz**, 10.36 – 10.37 GHz, 10.45 – 10.46 GHz the amateur service operates on a secondary basis. In making assignments to other services, CEPT administrations are requested wherever possible to maintain these sub-bands in such a way as to facilitate the reception of amateur emissions with minimal power flux densities.*

The change in the footnote is from the old incorrect 5660 – 5670 MHz range, and now aligns with our globally harmonized and preferred narrowband and EME frequencies around 5760 MHz.

Finally it is worth noting that IARU has recently coordinated frequencies for 5GHz uplinks and downlinks for five Chinese amateur satellites which we hear are due for launch soon. Details at: http://www.amsatuk.me.uk/iaru/finished_detail.php?serialnum=556

New Handbook

As we decided during the latest conference in Landshut, we will re-organise the Handbook in to a Contest part and other parts. This work will be done by a project team.

There will be no changes in the policy content, with exception of the contest rules. The task will however enable some editorial updates, including from both the recent surveys.

We hope that this version will be ready in the second half of 2018. It will be version 8.10

Useful Information

C5 Chairman: Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ
C5 Vice chairman: Jann Traszewski, DG8NGN
Contest co-ordinator: Robert Vilhar, S53WW
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: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/downloads/func-startdown/991//>

Current Edition: v8.01

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

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

Contest robot http://iaru.oevsv.at/v_upld/prg_list.php

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.