



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

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Editorial

Dear Friends,

In less than a year we will have our interim meeting about the use of the spectrum above 30 MHz. We have to face some challenges. I want to invite all Member Societies (MS) to think about how to promote, defend and use our frequencies. They are wanted by others, both government and commercial, users. So this is a wake-up call to be aware that if we not are using those bands we will lose them.

Such a setback will not be the responsibility of IARU(R1), if we lose them, but from the amateur community who often have more commitment to HF, than VHF&up.

I know that this statement will shock some of you, but it is true. Our survey on the use of VHF &up made this clear.

So I want to invite all MS to think creatively (out of the box, as we say now) to think how to improve activity on our dear bands.

Like some OM's said: "use them or lose them" and "HF is not the only bands for Hamradio, but they are the easiest to use".

ON4AVJ

Chairman VHF &up (C5)

Real examples: 50 MHz – 5 GHz

The bandwidth available in the VHF/Microwave bands is home (indeed the birthplace) for most amateur innovation far beyond the more traditional analogue DX modes. However this also makes these frequencies attractive to our competitors for both governmental and commercial use. Here are some real recent examples causing concern:-

- **50 MHz:** The 'magic band' is a key Agenda Item for amateurs at WRC-19 (ideally to harmonise with the 50-54MHz amateur allocation in Regions-2 &3). However some CEPT Administrations calculate we only need a few kHz for most modes and even analyse our contest results. Some of their studies show we are incompatible over 100s of km ranges (despite having existing amateur usage). It would be unfortunate to see a repeat of the WRC15 result for 5MHz/60m, where high hopes and years of hard work actually resulted in a few kHz at 15W max. A small number of volunteers are working very hard, but if the 5MHz experience is repeated at 50 MHz the loss of existing spectrum and future opportunities for digital innovation could be far more devastating.
- **2.3 /3.4GHz:** These bands are highly sought after for commercial wireless (esp 4G-LTE and 5G). Large sections were auctioned recently in the UK for a total of £1.4bn - putting values of - £5m/MHz on 2.3GHz and ~£7m/MHz in 3.4 GHz (which is approx €6-8m/MHz). CEPT has now plans to downgrade our consideration in 3.4GHz (inc removal of from allocation footnote ECA17) threatening significant activities from narrowband/EME to DATV and European Hamnet.

- **5GHz:** This has two WRC-19 agenda items covering Wi-Fi and Intelligent Transport. As a secondary service we face another difficult challenge and have little influence over its direction. The key concern in Region-1 is the extension of Wi-Fi into 5725-5850 MHz and potentially protecting it.
- **Modes & Activity.** A different issue where we have some influence is that our preoccupation with traditional or narrow modes does not justify the amount of spectrum. Likewise outside contests, some activity levels are quite low. Ideas that would encourage development of new modes and their usage optimised for VHF and higher frequencies, where the Doppler, multipath and interference environment is very different to HF, are welcome - and urgently needed! Ideally we need genuine open innovation and to show amateurs leading in the 21st century.

Pressures on amateur bands are nothing new, but we know that the spectrum pressures above are not helped by poor engagement, relationships or lack of a united approach in some MS/countries, with respect to their administrations. So following on from the Editorial which mentioned 'Use or Lose', please also remember 'United-we stand, Divided we fall' and be aware and pro-active

Vienna Interim Meeting 2019

The next Vienna meeting will be held in the weekend from 26-28th April 2019 at the usual Intercity Hotel in Vienna. Details will be sent to the Member Societies as soon as possible, along with the timing to send the discussion papers.

Seeing that we have several challenges I would like to ask the Member Societies to focus on strategic matters, other than on detailed issues.

Seeing the results of our survey about the use of the frequencies above 145 MHz, I think it is most important to focus on strategies how to promote the use of those frequencies, instead of details about contest rules and footnotes about band-planning. I will reserve at least half a day from this meeting for discussing this matter.

So it would be appreciated to have some contributions from the MS to discuss how to promote the use of our frequencies.

I know this is a new approach, but if you have good practices, experiences, proposals...
- you are welcome to present this!

Contest News

Prize giving ceremony 2017

All winners of the IARU VHF/UHF/ μ Wave contests are invited to get their awards at HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen on June 1st at 15.30 at the main stage. If you can not be there, they will send to you your award/certificate by post.

Upcoming IARU-R1 50/70 MHz Contest

IARU-R1 is organising this contest over the weekend of 16/17 June. This year it is most important to promote this activity.

Some of the national regulators want to monitor the activity during contests on the 50 MHz band to measure the need for more spectrum. Remember that one of the agenda points on WRC 19 is the allocation of the 50 MHz band up to 50-54 MHz in Region 1.

I know that measuring activity during a contest is not an argument we can use for the full size of the 50-54 MHz range, but there are other reasons, such as the use of new (future) digital modes. However a massive participation during this contest weekend can prove that we are very active on this band.

So I want to ask to all Member Societies to promote activity on the “Magic Band” and to ask their members to be active that weekend on 50 MHz

Update: IARU-R1 Contest Robot

As you know the General Conference in Landshut created a contest working group in the C5 committee. They have done a lot of work thinking about the new contest rules (see <http://iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf/contest-matters/contest-rules-for-2018>). These rules are now applicable, and will be edited in the upcoming new VHF Handbook.

In the meantime we work to update the contest robot, but this has financial consequences. In view of the decisions about budget priorities taken during the Landshut conference we need to find solutions, without breaching those decisions. This needs some solutions were we are working on to find alternative financing.

But this will not compromise the organisation of the contests.

Like we said in the former points of this Newsletter it is important to promote activity on our bands on VHF/UHF/ μ Wave and contesting is a way to do this.

ATV Contest

The annual IARU International Amateur TV Contest will be held from 1200 UTC on Saturday 9 June until 1800 UTC on Sunday 10 June. ATV contacts on all amateur bands above 432 MHz are valid.

To participate in the contest, ATV stations simply need to exchange a 4-number code by video and then exchange reports and locators by voice. Logs should be submitted to your National ATV contest manager, who will compile the National rankings and then pass the logs to me to compile the international rankings. Certificates will be awarded to the highest scoring station overall and the highest scoring station in each band

Different 4-number codes should be used for each band:

- If a station changes location it should restart its serial numbers from 1, and change all its codes;
- If that station then works another station that he worked from his previous location, it should ask them to send a different code as well.
- A separate set of logs should be submitted for each new location.

Logs should be submitted using the Excel template that can be found here:

https://www.iau-r1.org/images/VHF/atv/ATV_contest_log_-_ATV_yourcall_YYYYMMDD.xls

National Contest Managers are encouraged to help competitors to fill in this form – we should not exclude anyone from the contest just because they can't do Excel!!

The ATV Contest rules are here:

https://www.iau-r1.org/images/VHF/atv/IARU_ATV_contest_rules_version_2015.pdf.

Key ATV dates:

- 9/10 June: ATV Contest
- 25 June: Deadline for submission of Logs to National Contest Manager
- 16 July: National Contest Manager to submit all logs to International Contest Manager e-mail: IARU_ATV@uba.be
- 6 August: International Contest Manager to publish International Results

New master list for Beacon Coordination

The first phase for the new VHF/Microwave Beacon Master List is ready and must now be filled with data. Therefore I would like to ask the national VHF managers to fill the Excel blank format and send it back to me. LA, S5 and DL are already included in the new master list.

I have moved the new IARU R1 C5 beacon list to an external server that offers the freedom to customize the interactive list on demand. The domain transfer is not finished yet, but will be completed within the next days.

At the moment we are setting up different search criteria, also there will be an RSS feed where you can subscribe to the web interface to receive news around the master beacon list. Some other User Interfaces are being considered as further options for using the list, such as updating the list by national VHF managers or beacon co-ordinators and many more.

When I tried to coordinate an LA Beacon, I used the tools available on the Internet. Unfortunately with the result that there are too many wrong entries (QRG, QTH) by the DX Cluster interfaces which make coordination impossible.

The new IARU R1 C5 Beacon Master list should therefore also be a reference for the Internet beacon tools.

Therefore I ask the National VHF Managers and Beacon Coordinators for their help in creating the first master list.

The more precise this is at the beginning, the better for the future. Thus 'new' beginning is closely connected with work for the official start of the beacon list to be announced.

- The empty table is attached and can be filled out and sent back to
- Mathias Klug - DH4FAJ@DARC.de
- You can find the empty table for your country on http://www.iaru-r1.org/images/VHF/Beacons/180521_IARU-R1-C5_Database-empty-Format.xls

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.

Unfortunately we have some delays, but it will be done before the deadline to bring in the documents for the Interim meeting in Vienna 2019.

Useful Information

C5 Chairman: Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ
C5 Vice chairman: Jann Traschewski, 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.