



INTERIM MEETING OF VHF & up Committee of IARU REGION 1
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VHF newsletters

In the period between October 2014 (Varna Conference) and now 5 VHF newsletters were published with information about different topics described in this report. MS are encouraged to send also some contributions.

VHF managers Handbook

The new version of the VHF managers Handbook, version 7.0, was published in January 2015. It contains all changes, decided during the IARU-R1 conference in Varna 2014.

IARU-R1 website

We made some improvements on the IARU-R1 website. All newsletters are now published on the website and all band plans for VHF & higher are up to date.

WRC's

WRC 2015 was held in November 2015 in Geneva. This conference resulted in a new Band on HF (5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz). However another important issue is that a WRC decides on the agenda items for the next conference (which will be WRC-19). For this latter matter Region-1 currently has proposals in CEPT concerning potential WRC-19 agenda items for VHF/UHF/ μ Wave:

- 50MHz: Allocating 50-54 MHz in Region-1 to harmonise with Region-2/3 (including adding an amateur satellite service allocation)
- 3.4GHz: Harmonisation of amateur microwave bands – with a current focus on a Region-1 allocation of 3400-3410MHz to align with Region-2/3

We succeeded to include the 50MHz agenda item for WRC 19. Unfortunately we did not get enough support for the 3.4 GHz item, it did not even reach the agenda of WRC15.

All MS are invited to discuss with their regulators about the harmonizing from the 50-54 MHz band.

There is a lot of pressure on our microwave bands, for commercial usage, especially in the 2.3GHz band and some parts of 1.2 GHz (Galileo). We need to be prepared to defend our bands and/or find some alternatives if there are changes. For example we may need to raise the option of a *new allocation such as 1300 -1310 MHz in order to mitigate restrictions that are appearing in the existing 23cm band.*

If we want to counter the loss of some bands and/or obtaining new bands we need to prepare WRC 23, like described in paper C5_06. A task for the next IARU-R1 conference in 2017.

Contests

Important changes

During the last conference in Varna the chapter about the IARU-R1 contests were completely re-written.

We want to highlight some important changes:-

- **Addition of the 70 MHz band:** during the June contest you can use the 50 and 70 MHz bands in separate sections.
- **Addition of an extra section for MGM:** in the 50MHz and 70MHz bands you can also use Machine Generated Modes (there are separate sections with and without MGM)
- **Addition of a 6-hour section:** in the 144 and 435 MHz bands there is the possibility to score over a shorter 6hour period, instead of just the full 24hours (single and multi).
- **ATV contest rules were completely rewritten and the date moved to June.**

The main objective was to improve the participation rate of our contests; a little overview for the last 3 years

Participants	2015	2014	2013
UHF	1336	1318	1034
VHF	1019	1090	968
50/70	567	497	441

Contest Robot

The contest robot was improved in different ways, thanks to the work of Martin DL5NAH. The updates were done to match with the new rules. There are still improvements to make, but it need to be within the given budget, so we need to set priorities.

Innovation

When we look at the technical recommendations in the VHF managers handbook it is obvious that this section need to be updated.

A lot of innovative techniques are not covered. The use of digital voice (and specially DMR) gives use huge opportunities to experiment on our bands.

The use of mesh networks and HAMNET gives us a great opportunity to get the attention from the youth for our hobby.

Wiki

Although the Wiki could be a great way to discuss and prepare some recommendations it is not used very often.