



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Working for the future of amateur radio

VHF – UHF - μ Wave Newsletter

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Dick Harms PA2DW

Editorial

Dear radiofriends,

With pleasure we send you our new IARU-C5 Newsletter. It will be the first one in my new role as manager of C5, so a little introduction may be useful.

Introduction Dick PA2DW

Originally I was educated on the University of Applied Science in Amsterdam, to be a radio-officer on the Merchant marine. I sailed in a great part of the seven seas in the early 80-ies.

In the last 11 years of my daily life, I have been a director of a specialized school for fine mechanical engineering, the Leidse instrumentmaker School (LiS). This school was emerged from the laboratories of the University of Leiden and was being established in 1901 by prof. Kamerlingh Onnes. In 1908 it has been briefly the “coldest place on earth” when Kamerlingh Onnes succeeded in liquifying Helium. The last gas that was never being made liquid before.

The discovery of superconductivity was a big achievement of Kamerlingh Onnes, in close collaboration with the practical hands of the students of the LiS, whom Kamerlingh Onnes called “thinking workers”. Later the discovery of superconductivity appeared important for making the huge magnet coils used in MRI-technology and the Hydron-collider at CERN in Geneva, and many other applications where superconductivity is being required.

It was my privilege to have worked in this school, but as for all of us, the moment of retirement comes and for me that was December 2019. And since I liked to remain as active as possible, I thought it to be a good idea to step in the tracks of my elmer Arie Dogterom, PA0EZ.

Ever since I got my first license, in 1976, I have been active on VHF. The only HF bands that I found attractive, are 160 and 40 meters, due the special propagation and the difficulty of making real DX on those bands. But 144 MHz was my choice for many years, with homebrew gear I made numerous QSO's on Meteor Scatter and EME.

Later, in 2008, I started my activity on 1296 MHz EME, mainly inspired by the project at the 25m dish in Dwingeloo, in which I got involved as chairman of VERON in 2005. I still enjoy being active on both 144 and 1296.

Our challenges for the years to come

From what I can see now, our hobby is likely (going to be) under a lot of pressure and various positive and negative influences. Not only from outside, but certainly also from within our own circles.

Besides the fact that the average age of the group of radio amateurs is only getting higher and higher, we have to face pressure on our spectrum and new developments in the way we make radio contacts, such as WSJT and its never ending row of Machine Generated Modes.

I think these developments call for a drastic overhaul of our bandplanning, especially concerning the frequency's under 1 GHz, but certainly not restricted to that. Because on the one hand we have large portions of our spectrum that are hardly in use and on the other hand we need to find a good place for all these new emerging ways of use of the radio waves, such as WSJT and digital ATV.

We should be brave enough to review all our bandplanning and make choices that will help us in the

future. Also we have to review the procedures in order to allow for making rapid adaptations to our bandplans if required. The way we organize it now is way too conservative. Also, we should not be scared to share portions of the allocated spectrum, with second or even more users, provided we can live next to each other. That does not mean we should give up our rights, but showing our willingness to investigate the possibilities and gain goodwill.

My prediction is, that on the upcoming General Conference we will have lots of these issues +-on the menu, so proposals and suggestions are now certainly important to start thinking about!

I am looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with you all. Together we make sure the future looks bright again!

Dick W. Harms PA2DW
Chairman IARU-C5 (VHF↑)

New contest rules

Following the decision of the Virtual General Conference the C5 Contest Working Group prepared the new Contest Calendar and amended the contest rules.

The VHF Handbook will be updated with those new contest rules. This will be communicated when done

New Contest Calendar

It has been introduced two new dates for the 50 and 70 MHz MGM Contests and the 50/70 MHz contest are separated. The new dates are:

- IARU Region 1 50 MHz MGM Contest will begin on the third Saturday of April
- IARU Region 1 70 MHz MGM Contest will begin on the third Saturday of May
- IARU Region 1 50 MHz (CW-SSB Only) Contest will begin on the third Saturday of June
- IARU Region 1 70 MHz (CW-SSB Only) Contest will begin on the third Saturday of July
- The IARU Region 1 145 MHz contest will begin on the first Saturday of September
- The IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves contest will begin on the first Saturday of October.

Each contest will start at 14:00 UTC on the Saturday and end at 14:00 UTC on Sunday.

MGM Contests on 50 and 70 MHz

About the new MGM contest the basic rules can be summarized in this way :

Modes:

All Machine Generated Modes (MGM) are valid:

- MGM recognized MGM modes are e.g. FT4, FT8, FSK441, ISCAT, JT65, RTTY, PSK.
- CW is not an MGM mod
- EME (moon bounce) QSOs are not permitted

Sections :

- 50 MHz band:
 - SINGLE (SO-MGM): single operator entries MGM
 - MULTI (MO-MGM): multi operator entries MGM
 - 6HOURS (6H-MGM): 6 hours entries MGM
- 70 MHz band:
 - SINGLE (SO-MGM): single operator entries MGM
 - MULTI (MO-MGM): multi operator entries MGM

Contacts:

- Only one scoring contact may be made with a given station

Exchange:

- Report (as appropriate for the mode in use) and 4-character Locator (e.g. IO91). Serial number is not required

Scoring:

- One point per kilometre.
- Score is total kilometres worked multiplied by the number of large Locator Squares (e.g. IO91) worked. Distance is calculated to the centre of the large Locator Square (e.g. IO84MM to IO91MM). A QSO between stations in the same large Locator Square will count for 50 points.
- Stations taking part in the contest must not simultaneously TX on more than one frequency and/or on more than one FT8 channel (per band). Fox/Hound mode is not permitted.

Logs:

- For the 2021 year, ADIF files can be directly uploaded to the entry robot at <https://iarulogs.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/vhfenter.pl> (thanks to RSGB)

Stations eligible to win a prize

It is asked to all the VHF & Up contest managers to inform participants about this new rule:

In every category of all the IARU Region 1 Contests the stations willing to win their categories must submit their logs individually to the IARU R1 Contest Robot within the 23:59 UTC of the Monday after the contest (34 hours); only these stations will be eligible to the victory and prizes.

If the first station in the classification did not send his log before the deadline to be eligible for the victory (34 hours), then the first station which sent his log within the 34 hours deadline will be the winner. (VGC 2020).

IARU VHF & Up Trophy

C5CWG decided to use 2021 year to start to collect all the information needed, prepare the contest robot, then start with the official IARU Reg. 1 VHF & Up Trophy in 2022.

The following contests are valid for the Trophy :

- 1st weekend of March : 1st Subregional contest 145 MHz & Up
- 1st weekend of May: 2nd Subregional contest 145 MHz & Up
- 1st weekend of June : Microwave Subregional Contest 1296 MHz and up
- 1st weekend of July: 3rd Subregional contest 144 MHz & Up
- 1st weekend of September : IARU Region 1 145 MHz contest
- 1st weekend of October : IARU Region 1 UHF & Up Contest (435 MHz & up)
- 1st weekend of November : Marconi Memorial Contest 145 MHz (Only CW)

The normal rules like described in the contest rules of the IARU Region 1 VHF Handbook (Part 3, Section 1) are applicable.

If participating in the one of the contests in the list in multiple bands, a different log is needed per band.

The categories are the same as used in IARU Region 1 145 MHz (September) and UHF/Microwave (October) Contests. In the IARU R1 Trophy the Overall category is not included.

You need to participate on the same band and category on at least all the contests in the calendar except one.

The final score is the sum of the points of each contest where the station participated.

All those changes will be published in a new VHF handbook (version 9.01) and on the IARU-R1 website as soon as possible.

Useful Information

C5 Chairman: Dick Harms, PA2DW
C5 Vice chairman: Jann Traszewski, DG8NGN
Contest co-ordinator: Alex Carletti , IV3KKW
Beacons co-ordinator: Mathias Klug, DH4FAJ
Satellite co-ordinator: Graham Shirville, G3VZV
Spectrum specialist: Murray Niman, G6JYB
Secretary: Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ

- Website: <https://www.iaru-r1.org/about-us/committees-and-working-groups/vhf-uhf-shf-committee-c5/>
- Handbook: Current Edition: v9.0: https://www.iaru-r1.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/VHF_Handbook_V9.00.pdf
- Newsletters: <https://www.iaru-r1.org/about-us/committees-and-working-groups/vhf-uhf-shf-committee-c5/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.