



SUBJECT	Beacon Definition		
Society	RSGB	Country:	UK
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	CT08_C5_21
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Introduction

An RSGB paper (by John Gould G3WKL) has been submitted to Committee C4 that provides a definition of a beacon.

It has been developed with the help of many contributors to the UK Beacon reflector.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uk_beacons/

The paper is as applicable to VHF/UHF/Microwaves as it is to HF and is presented in its entirety with the exception that references to HF have been changed to VHF.

The question of what constitutes an amateur beacon needs addressing.

Background

During the discussion on the issue of Beacons below 14MHz, OeVSV requested that C4 defines what constitutes a beacon and that the definition should not be too restrictive in terms of future usage and should take account of national definitions in their radio regulations.

Ideally, a definition ought to work for C5 as well as C4, and the wording as OeVSV suggested ought not to restrict the future development of beacons.

Beacons fulfil a range of functions, from propagation study, DX and anomalous propagation operating aides, to receiver and aerial testing and other experimental purposes as well as activities such as DF hunts.

The words "attended" and "unattended" were not included in the definition as it was thought that these could be added as qualifiers to a more generic definition.

Recommendation

That the following definition for a beacon be included in the VHF Manager's Handbook:

Beacon - a station in the Amateur Service or Amateur-Satellite Service that autonomously transmits in a defined format, which may include repeated data or information, for the study of propagation, determination of frequency or bearing or for other experimental purposes including construction.