International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia Founded 1950

Committee C4 (HF Matters) Interim Meeting
20-21 April 2013
InterCity Hotel, Vienna

SUBJECT	**Committee C4 Minutes**		
Society	**IARU R1**	**Country:**	**HF Committee**
Committee:	**C4**	**Paper number:**	**VIE13_C4_Minutes**
Contact:	**Ian Greenshields, G4FSU**	**e-mail:**	**ian.greenshields@gmail.com**

Chairman: Ulrich Mueller DK4VW

Secretary: Ian Greenshields G4FSU

1. The meeting was opened by DK4VW at 09:20

Proxies. RSGB holds the proxy for SARL South Africa.

2. Introduction of Delegates

Present at C4: Chairman DK4VW, NRRL LA4LN, OeVSV OE8KDK, MRASZ HA5EA, HRS 9A5K, CRC OK1RI, SARA OM3LU, OeVSV OE1RSA, EDR OZ1ADL, ARI I2VGW, USKA HB9TTQ, ZRS S51FB, SRAL OH2KI, OeVSV OE3MZC, SSA SM6JSM, VERON PB0AOK, VERON PA0SHY, UBA ON7LX, DARC DL8MDW, DARC DJ1YFK, IARU G3PSM, REF F8BPN, RSGB & C4 Secretariat G4FSU

3. Agreement of the Agenda

Agenda agreed with no objections

4. Band Plan Matters

4.1 Paper C4_02 was presented by G4FSU

SARA agreed the downlink only restriction should be removed.
DARC commented that there could be interference from strong unwanted signals on the uplink frequencies at 28MHz, which is why the original restriction was in place, but it was no longer relevant due to improved technology and current band usage.

The meeting voted in favour of adopting the recommendation.

VIE13_C4_REC_01: That the 'downlink only' restriction be removed from the 28MHz amateur satellite service bandplan.

4.2 Paper C4_03 was withdrawn

RSGB stated that this paper has been withdrawn due to lack of agreement but explained that the original purpose was to try and align band plans across regions on the frequencies where propagation occurs for many hours of the day between regions.

OeVSV stated that digital mode operation is increasing and the digimode section should be increased in size.
REF commented that the digimode segment of 30m is not wide enough and CW is allowed anywhere.
DARC noted that there virtually no activity on CW above 10.130MHz.
NRRL commented that we only have secondary status on 30m and that many stations at the top of the band are automatic which could jeopardize the band if we interfere with the primary user.
OeVSV noted there are many APRS systems at the top of the band.
G3PSM pointed out there are primary services, for example the DWD service on 10.1008MHz from Germany, and 10.112MHz from Turkey.
DARC stated we should be careful to restrict wide band data modes and uncoordinated automatic stations.
OeVSV suggested that we ask for more frequency space around 10MHz. Also that there is a trade-off between the occupied bandwidth and the transmission time.

4.3 Paper C4_04 was presented by LA4LN

MRASZ supported the proposal to try and eliminate automatic data stations, except for emergency use.
OeVSV stated we should clearly define what is an automatically controlled station and noted that the number of CW operators is not increasing, but that digimode operation is increasing.
G3PSM stated that CQWW entries indicated that CW usage was increasing, not decreasing.
DARC stated that this is more of a conflict between digimode stations, not CW stations.
MRASZ noted that the band plans are obligatory in Hungary and asked that the comments should be included in the band plan.
NRRL presented a list of automatic data stations on 30m which occupy bandwidth up to 2400Hz whereas the band plan only permits bandwidths up to 500Hz in Region 1.
OeVSV asked the Chairman if there were discussions in the other regions to adjust the 10MHz band plan. The Chairman stated he was unaware of any discussion in Region 2 and that Region 3 do not discuss band planning issues at their conferences.
The Chairman suggested that we monitor activity on 30m and discuss further.
USKA noted that the real difference is whether the station is manned or unmanned.
USKA also stated there should be no beacons on 30m.
G3PSM noted that an expansion to 30m is on the IARU wish-list, but is probably about 2 or 3 conferences ahead.
G3PSM suggested to remove the Winlink/WINMORE reference from the recommendation as modes change quite frequently. Accepted by NRRL.

ARI commented that they had no success in enforcing the band plans via the Italian regulator.
RSGB, NRRL & DARC agreed to work on re-wording the recommendation which was accepted without objection and now reads:

VIE13_C4_REC_02: Member Societies are reminded of the recommendation in the IARU Region 1 HF Band Plan 'that any unmanned transmitting stations on HF shall only be activated under operator control, except for beacons agreed with the IARU Region 1 beacon coordinator'.

Unmanned transmitting stations, and operation involving unmanned transmitting stations, must adhere to the frequency and bandwidth limits of the band plan.

The operator connecting to an automatically unmanned transmitting station is responsible for not causing interference. This is particularly important in the 30m band where the amateur service only has secondary status.

4.4 Paper C4_05 was presented by ON7LX

RSGB noted that CT08-C4-04 discourages beacons below 10MHz
DARC suggested that as WSPR is not a beacon as such, it could be treated differently.
OeVSV noted that we should not over-regulate the band plans or we will create unnecessary confusion with conflicting recommendations.
DK4VW noted that it is not normal to assign frequencies to specific modes as they change over time.
VERON noted that WSPR had proved to be very useful in studies on 472kHz.

UBA agreed to withdraw the paper following the discussion.

4.5 Paper C4_06 was presented by LA4LN

RSGB stated that they support the principle of a band plan, but that it is too early to have a formal plan until the usage is better known.
DARC stated that the usage of the band at the moment doesn't really require a band plan.
DARC introduced a plan "proposed usage" (see Annex 1).
ZRS asked if the CW DX frequency could be moved a little higher up the band.
DARC noted that there are still 4 NDBs in the band. They also asked if the QRSS CW segment could be moved out of the CW part of the band as it is decoded as a digimode. DARC also said there is currently no need for a coordinated beacon segment as we can use the existing NDBs.
OeVSV said we should observe the band usage for a while before deciding on a fixed band plan and suggested that centres of activity could be used also.
UBA stated it is too early to propose a band plan.
It was agreed to show current plan as proposed usage and to review at the next general conference.
CRC stated that we should not show a plan as the current users would not appreciate being told how to use the band.

The meeting agreed to change the wording to a ‘proposed usage’ plan and that frequencies should be referred to as centre of activities.

DARC introduced a plan “proposed usage”.

VIE13_C4_REC_03: That the plan on the proposed usage of the 472-479kHz band be accepted.

5. Operating

5.1 Paper C4_07 was presented by G4FSU

VERON stated that we should put the DX Code of Conduct on all websites.
NRRL suggested adding a comment recommending that DXpedition operators should ‘keep a gentle tone’.

VIE13_C4_REC_04: That member societies endorse and promote the DX Code of Conduct for DXpeditions.

5.2 Paper C4_08 was presented by G4FSU

SSA noted that there legitimate non-amateur stations now authorised on 5MHz from Sweden with special callsigns of the format SC+letter+2 numbers, and that they may be heard contacting Swedish amateur stations.
UBA will ask for access to 5MHz from the administrator in the next few weeks.
DK4VW noted that he had been asked to reassure a delegate from a member country of the CEPT WRC15 preparation group that contests would not be allowed on 5MHz.
NRRL stated that they would not have bulletins on 5MHz.
RSGB stated that GB2RS had operated on 5MHz for over 10 years without problems.

Hans PB2T Region 1 President presented the WRC15 information on 5MHz and the work IARU is doing to support the Agenda Item 1.4 at WRC15.

5.3 Paper C4_14 was withdrawn by DARC

6. Contest Matters

6.1 Paper C4_09 was presented by LA4LN, including a presentation on the JOTA programme.

EDR suggested possibly involving scouts in contest activity and supports the proposal to keep the 3rd weekend in October contest free.
DARC commented that they observe contest-free segments in excess of those recommended by IARU and has worked to ensure free spectrum has been left for the scouts.
DARC stated that if they moved the WAG contest from that weekend, another non-IARU contest would come to take its place, whereas DARC will work to have a peaceful coexistence with JOTA.

OeVSV stated that they observe the contest-free segments and noted that it is now very hard to move the contest and both parties should try & work so that both events can coexist.
SARL statement supporting DARC was given, stating that if one organisation can disrupt an event, it sets a precedent for other to do likewise.
RSGB noted that there are no RSGB contests that weekend and that the RSGB supports keeping the weekend contest free to support JOTA.
SSA supports the recommendation but questions how easy it will be to enforce
SARL also supports the recommendation.
MRASZ asked what disturbance occurs. NRRL said that the RTTY contest from Japan is a nuisance as it makes JOTA RTTY contacts almost impossible. NRRL also stated that the WAG contest limits the band for JOTA activity and interference is particularly difficult for untrained operators such as scouts.
VERON abstains
ZRS abstains
DARC noted that there are many scout operated entries in the WAG contest as that the 2 events can work next to each other. Also noted that WAG is only 24 hours whereas JOTA is a 48 hour activity.
SARA stated that they cannot support the proposal.
NRRL stated that if IARU makes this a contest free weekend, it will be included in contest lists and discourage other contest from using that weekend. Also suggested combining national contests as is done in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

G3PSM stated that agreement will probably not be achieved and suggested that the recommendation be sent to the next General Conference and copies of the arguments for and against be sent to the Executive Committee. Agreed by all.

6.2 Paper C4_10 was presented by F8BPN

NRRL stated that a QSO definition was made in Sun City and that the rules of the contest should be made by the contest organiser and not the IARU
RSGB stated support for the NRRL view that the contest organisers should be responsible for define the rules.
USKA supports the proposal.
REF would like to reword the statement to mean that only the contest exchange should be sent over the air.
CRC stated that this paper is to ban the ON4KST chat system and that the definition of the QSO already covers this.
MRASZ noted that the QSO definition should be treated differently between contests and other QSOs such as via repeaters.
DARC stated that we should not over regulate at the IARU and that this is for the contest organisers to define.

REF accepted that there is limited support for the proposal and withdrew the paper.

7. IARU Position on WRC15

7.1 Paper C4_11 was presented by PB2T

PB2T asked the HF Managers to check the actual status of the 160m allocation in each country, and also to see what activity there is in the 1800-1810kHz segment.

Information on any changes to the current situation should be reported to DK4VW by the 20th May 2013.

7.2 Paper C4_12 was presented by PB2T

8. Publications

8.1 Paper C4_13 was presented by DK4VW

NRRL noted that it is common international practice that the name should be included whenever the article is reprinted (and also according to Norwegian law), and should be included as a paragraph.
DARC commented that we could take some examples of the rules from electronic publications.
PB2T stated that this is an item that should be discussed by C3.

9. AOB

I2VGW of ARI presented the current focus of their society with a summary of projects on ARDF, Nature Radio Signal, Radio in Town Hall, Radio in School and CW as Heritage of Humanity.

DL1YBL presented a paper concerning Digital Voice on HF and the improvements made in recent years.

DK4VW outlined his draft C4 Chairman's report to the EC, specifically related to aligning the 40m band plan across regions.

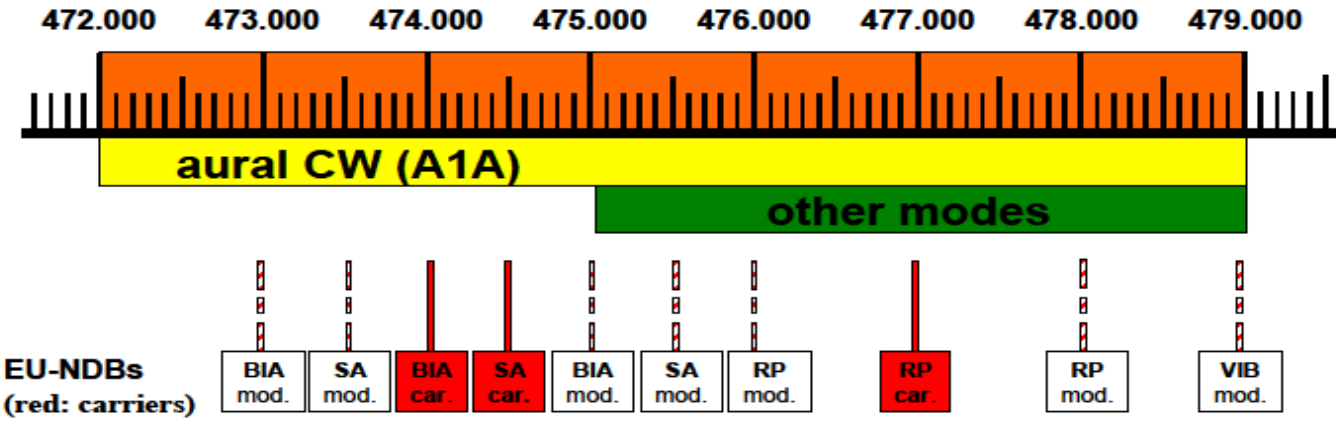
10. Date of Next Meeting

The next C4 meeting will be held at the Region 1 General Conference in 2014 in Varna, Bulgaria.

11. The 2013 C4 Interim Meeting was closed at 10:30 by DK4VW

Annex 1

Proposed Usage for the MF Band
472.000 - 479.000 kHz



EU-NDBs
(red: carriers)

Comments/Observations:

CW - Often around 472.5kHz, though can be heard all over the lower half of the band.
WSPR - Set dial to 474.2kHz USB (for signals between 475.6 and 475.8kHz).
ROS - Set dial to 476kHz USB
QRSS - Around 476.175kHz. Also around 478.900kHz.
WSJTX - Set dial to 477.0kHz USB (for signals between 478.0 and 478.5kHz) [other frequencies may be used]
Opera - Set dial to 477.0 kHz USB (for signals between 478.5 and 478.8kHz).

(source: G3XDV)

April 2013
DK8KW