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INTERIM MEETING OF THE IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE COMMITTEE
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Subject	Contest Evaluation Procedure
Society	DARC
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Status	Proposal

Introduction

IARU R1 introduced in 2012 the contest robot for evaluating the IARU R1 VHF/UHF/SHF-contests, due to make results public short after the deadline. The success of the IARU R1 contest robot is very unsatisfying, because there are still no official results, partially there are even no claimed scores. Details are summarized in the attachment.

Background

Several changes were agreed in the last years for evaluating the IARU R1 VHF/UHF/SHF-contests. In 2012 the IARU R1 contest robot was introduced. The results can be summarized as follows:

- In the VHF-Managers Handbook a mixture of old and new procedure is written. The description is no longer consistent and did not meet the past decisions within IARU R1 and the C5 committee.
- Some of the last decisions were not realized or ignored.
- The number of submitted logs has decreased dramatically:
 - September 2011: approx. 1600 logs 2012: approx. 930 logs
 - October 2011: approx. 2200 logs 2012: approx. 960 logs
- C5 decided, that the evaluating society would be responsible for the last decision about the contest results. But for September and October 2012 no society was appointed for duty.
- Currently (January 2013) both results for the October-contest and claimed-scores are still not available, because the results of the Millimeter-group and the over all results are still missing.

The evaluation of the MMC for 2010 and 2011 shows, that the old procedure can work very well, when some preconditions will be met.

Key points and proposal

For providing contemporary and reliable VHF/UHF/SHF-contest results, the old procedure (cp. VHF-Managers-Handbook 5.42, 5.2) has to be reestablished with retroactive effect from 2012 with some modifications. The modified old procedure should be used until IARU R1 contest robot work in satisfying matter.

Similar to the MMC one society should be announced for evaluating the contest. All logs have to be sent via email.

Recommendation

The contest evaluation procedure in accordance with VHF-Managers-Handbook 5.42, chapter 5.2 will temporally be reestablished with retroactive effect from 2012 with the following preconditions:

- Articles E and F were no longer used, because they are no longer up to date.
- One society will be appointed for evaluation the June-, September- and October-contest (starting in 2012) for the next years, until the society will resign.
- The temporally period ends when the agreed improvements are implemented in the IARU R1 contest robot and the robot works in a satisfying matter.

Attachment

Decision	Result in 2012
<p>2010: Significant change of the contest evaluation procedure. <i>Vienna 2010: Document B16 (Raification of Paper SC11_C5_09 in the year 2011)</i></p> <p>Meeting Minutes Document B16, SC11_C5_09 PROCEDURE FOR ORGANISING IARU REGION 1 CONTESTS</p> <p><i>“HA2VR proposed a compromise whereby the server remains restricted to national contest managers during 2010, and during that period national contest managers have the opportunity to compare results from the IARU robot with their own procedures. If they are happy, then the new procedure may be taken to the 2011 conference.”</i></p>	<p>There was no test/test period. Server was not restricted to contest managers. Logs from iaru.oevsv.at are not available for contest managers, so a comparison of iaru.oevsv.at with the national procedure was impossible.</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 (C) <i>The organizing society shall use any suitable means to announce the contest and invite all the amateur radio operators to participate in the contest.</i></p>	<p>No organizing society was appointed.</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 (E) <i>Logs from each participant must be sent to their own, nationally agreed, address not later than the second Monday after the end of the contest.</i></p>	<p>The server iaru.oevsv.at accepted logs for a period of about four weeks. So the first national results are available before this dead line. Participants are able to correct their logs based on the national evaluation.</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 (F) [...] <i>It is envisioned that national collection of contest logs will be made automatic via national contest log servers. Those servers would have an autonomous connection with the IARU R1 VHF&up Contest Robot for automatic (two way) exchange of the contest logs. [...]</i></p>	<p>There is no upload path for an automated submission of logs to the iaru log robot.</p> <p>Log exchange is not possible (two way exchange). Downloading the logs from the IARU log robot for national evaluation is not possible.</p>

<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 between uploading of the log and the log submission deadline: <i>(I) [...] Only the call sign and the upload date and time shall be published - the list shall not contain any other data. [...]</i></p>	<p>Callsigns and locators are visible, so participants could check and correct received callsigns and/or locators.</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(J) The IARU R1 VHF&up Contest Robot shall publish results based on claimed scores not later than third Wednesday after the end of the contest. The list must contain: place, callsign, locator, claimed and recalculated scores, number of QSOs, ODX Call, ODX locator, ODX QRB.[...]</i></p>	<p>IARU robot is not able to publish recalculated claimed scores.</p> <p>No claimed score result were published at this time (log submission was still open).</p> <p>Actually (December 2012, January 2013):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is sometimes no result for the VHF contest - There is no result and no claimed score result for the Millimeter-Group¹ and the Overall² section of the October contest. - Some logs are listed with higher score, but no „Rang“. - There are duplicate calls with „Rang“ 1 (but different points) - Some logs (even with a high score) are neither evaluated nor listed as checklog (or something like this).
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(J) [...] All the logs shall be made available to all national VHF/Contest managers for their national crosscheck purposes.</i></p>	<p>Logs are not available for national contest managers</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(L) The IARU R1 VHF&up Contest Robot shall publish the unofficial results not later than the third Thursday after the end of the contest.</i></p>	<p>Actually (January 2013) there is no result and no claimed score result for the Millimeter-Group and the Overall section of the October contest 2012. The results of some other sections are strange (for example: duplicate Rang 1 entries for 435MHz single operator)</p>

1 The scoring of the sections 24GHz and up is combined in the Millimeter-Group (5.3.9, Handbook V6.00)

2 The scoring for 435MHz, 1.2GHz, 2.4GHz, 5.7GHz 10GHz section and the Millimeter-Group is combined by an adaptive multiplier system (5.3.12, Handbook V6.00)

<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(L) The list of results, separated by band and by section, shall include at least the following data: callsign, locator, score, number of QSOs, number of deleted QSOs, percentage of deleted QSOs, ODX call sign, ODX Locator and ODX QRB.</i></p>	<p>Data of the (valid) ODX QSO is not listed at iaruo.evsv.at</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(O) The organising society shall publish the official results not later than the eighth Friday after the end of the contest. [...]</i></p>	<p>Because there is no organizing society, there are still no official results available.</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(O) [...] The list of stations with unreliable logs together with comment on unreliability should also be published. [...]</i></p>	<p>It seems, that all logs are used for evaluation - even all unreliable logs (even logs with lots of missing QSOs). There seems to be no procedure to identify unreliable logs like logs from wrong sections or wrong contests, logs with wrong callsign or locator etc.)</p>
<p>2010: Document B16, SC11_C5_09 <i>(P) The organizing society will receive the certificates from the chairman of the VHF/UHF/Microwaves committee [...] Optionally, certificates for all participants may be provided by the Robot in pdf format.</i></p>	<p>Because there are no results, there are also no certificates available.</p>
<p>Document SC11_C5_49 Contest Robot (Ratification in the year 2011)</p> <p><i>[...] The final evaluation is the responsibility of the organizing society. [...]</i></p>	<p>Because there is no organizing society, there are no final results for September 2012 and October 2012.</p> <p>This sentence was important to get vote for this paper, but it is not possible to make a final evaluation for the organizing society. There are no tools available to make major modifications/changes.</p>