Subject	Report Permanent VHF/UHF Committee		
Society	**VHF/UHF Committee**	**Country:**	**IARU Region 1**
Committee:	**C5**	**Paper number:**	**LA17_C5_03**
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1.   VHF newsletters

In total, we published 9 newsletters between the 2 conferences. Five were published between the Conference in Varna and the interim meeting in Vienna 2016.

After this meeting we published 4 newsletters with the recommendations from this meeting, presenting a new VHF-Handbook and preparing the upcoming conference.

2.   Actions taken after the Vienna Meeting 2016

See the "ToDo list" in attachment. Most of those topics will be addressed in this report.
Two actions need to be started now:
- Letter Region 2 and 3 about APRS (if not done by RSGB)
- List of winners of the VHF contests to be published on the IARU website.

3.   VHF- Handbook

Version 7.00
The new version of the VHF Managers Handbook, version 7.0, was published in January 2015. It contains all changes, decided during the IARU Region 1 conference in Varna 2014.

Version 7.51
All changes recommended during our meeting in Vienna 2016 were approved by the EC and integrated in this new version.

New VHF-Handbook
In Vienna 2016, there were 2 recommendations (25 and 02) to rewrite the VHF-Handbook.

The C5 chairman to review the VHF Managers Handbook and prepare a document for GC 2017 in accordance with all relevant Recommendations of VIE16_C5. The chairman will also prepare a new template/model of the handbook who will consider the actual matters without the loss of historical data.

Reading the former handbook was very confusing, because it was a collection of decisions and recommendations which had different kinds of interest, although they cover the same topic.

So, the new VHF-Handbook is separated in 4 different parts, depending on the interests of a reader:

- **General information**: for the average user of our bands who needs information about band planning, operating procedures and contest rules.
- **Technical references** about frequencies, hard and software,
- **The VHF-Managers**, committees or all interested in the IARU-Region 1 matters
- **Historical data**: a kind of archive to keep track about the history of all the work done by the IARU-Region 1 VHF & up committee.

There are no changes of the content in the current handbook, only the information is arranged in different way.

The rearrangement of the handbook shows, that it is a collection of different, discontinuous documents. This makes it very difficult to read and to understand. This made it clear that we need to define the purpose of our handbook.

I know that this is a new point of view that will need another approach about writing "guidelines" and procedures.

In the first place, we are doing all this work for our "basic customers": the radio amateur himself! So, we need to change the tittle: no more VHF managers handbook, but VHF handbook.

In my opinion the VHF-Handbook should be a general guideline, with the most common sense. The rest can be "regulated" by the national societies it they want and if there is nothing else, this handbook is the guide line.

The task of the VHF-Manager is to translate the most suitable parts of the general rules into "national adaptions", in line with IARU (Region 1) if possible.

So, we will have at least a main discussions for our upcoming conference:
- What is the purpose of our IARU-Region 1 VHF Handbook?

This will be formalised in a proposal for the upcoming interim meeting.

IMPORTANT:
The current version of the handbook (version 7.51) is still the only reference for the upcoming conference in Landshut.

4.   WRC's

WRC 2015 was held in November 2015 in Geneva. This conference resulted in a new Band on HF (5 351.5 - 5 366.5 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/µWave:

- 50 MHz: Allocating 50 - 52 MHz in Region 1 to harmonise with Region 2/3 (including adding an amateur satellite service allocation)
- 3,4 GHz: Harmonisation of amateur microwave bands – with a current focus on a Region-1 allocation of 3 400 - 3 410 MHz to align with Region 2/3

We succeeded to include the 50 MHz agenda item for WRC 19. Unfortunately, we did not get enough support for the 34 GHz item.

There is a lot of pressure on our microwave bands, for commercial usage, especially in the 2,3 GHz 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 A task for the next IARU-Region 1 conference in 2017.

The C5 committee is also involved in the work for WRC 2019 to get an harmonized 50 - 54 MHz allocation in all 3 Regions.

We also need to have attention for upcoming agenda items because many countries and the EU are searching for new frequency allocations between 450 MHz and 40 GHz (5G, IoT, car systems,…)

5.   Beacons

Our beacon coordinator wants to stop his activities, we need to find a new coordinator. I want to thank Iain, G0RDI, for his work in the last years.

6.   Contests

Important changes
During the last conference in Varna the chapter about the IARU Region 1 contests were completely re-written, mainly:

- **Addition of the 70 MHz band**: during the June contest 50 and 70 MHz bands in separate sections.
- **Addition of an extra section for MGM:** in the 50 MHz and 70 MHz 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 6-hour period, instead of just the full 24 hours (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	1 336	1 318	1 034
VHF	1 019	1 090	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.

Martin, DL5NAH, who coordinated the work on the contest robot suddenly quit this function.

7.   Prizing Ceremony

During our meeting in Vienna 2016 we decided that the prizing ceremony would take place during Friedrichshafen event. DARC was so kind to program this for the first time in 2017. There will be an award for the winners.

Jacques, ON4AVJ
02/04/2017

ANNEX: To-do List after Vienna 2016; To-do list after EC meeting

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	**Not agreed**	**Further disc.**	
VIE16_C5_Rec_01: The usage of a controlled cloud solution for collecting and providing relevant information for MS is encouraged.	C5_11	X			OeVSV will do the action
VIE16_C5_Rec_02: To Update the VHF Handbook as per proposal C5_40. The chairman will also prepare a new template/model of the handbook who will consider the actual matters without the loss of historical data. (see also point 8.2). In the meanwhile, the actual handbook (7.x) will be the reference.	C5_40 C5_25			X	Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_03: To remove footnote "III" in the VHF Managers Handbook.	C5_08	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_04: To remove footnote "c", 4th paragraph in the VHF Managers Handbook.	C5_08	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_05: Adopt paper for 144 MHz and to review the band planning in the VHF Managers Handbook and preparing a common document for the General Conference (GC) in 2017. The objective is to create more flexibility in order to provide more opportunities for future experiments (MS to prepare this by using the Wiki).	C5_38			X	No immediate change – but sets direction for 2017
VIE16_C5_Rec_06: To correct the satellite segment the table in chapter 4.9 by deleting	C5_10	X			Done

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	**Not agreed**	**Further disc.**	
"5790", inserting "5830" and adding the footnote: "Any wideband system shall protect narrowband applications". which have priority					
VIE16_C5_Rec_07: To review the contest rules in the Managers Handbook and preparing a common document for the General Conference (GC) in 2017 by using the Wiki. This includes the paragraph 5.2 for organizational aspects and the aspect of disqualification in paragraph 5.3.11, the usage of EDI-format and the missing Appendix 3B.	C5_26			X	Further discussion needed
VIE16_C5_Rec_08: To add in paragraph 5.2.2 that this is applicable for Phone/CW contests (ATV does not use the IARU-Region 1contest robot).	C5_26	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_09: To remove in paragraph 5.3.11 "but these stations may not take part in the contest".	C5_26	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_10: To add further information on the EDI-format in the next Newsletter.	C5_26	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_11A: To discuss an even more extended locator system that is used for ATV (including IARU ATV contest) and for other purposes by using the Wiki and prepares a document for GC 2017 if necessary.	C5_26			X	Further discussion needed

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	Not agreed	Further disc.	
VIE16_C5_Rec_11B: To change paragraph 5.3.10 Entries to, "The entries must be set out in digital/electronic form fulfilling the requirements under rule 5.3.13. Logs shall be sent according to rule 5.2.3 not later than the second Monday following the contest weekend. Late entries will be accepted as check logs. By submitting the contest or check log, an entrant agrees that he / she has: • understood the contest rules and agrees to be bound by them, • operated according to all the rules and regulations that pertain to his and/or station license, • agreed the cross-checked log may be made open to the public, except for the personal data in PAdr1, PAdr2, RName, RAdr1, RAdr2, RPoCo, RCity, RCoun, RPhon and RHBBS lines of EDI file format, • accepted all decisions of the organizing society (contest organizer) as final.	C5_18	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_12: The sub regional contest managers are encouraged to exchange the received contest logs for cross checking purposes on their decision.	C5_19	X			Done

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	Not agreed	Further disc.	
VIE16_C5_Rec_13: To update Section 5.3.6 by adding the acceptable/unacceptable examples of secondary methods as mentioned in the document. Remark: To add "and the QSO starts again" after: "Nothing received, please try again"	C5_39	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_14: To retain the 6-digit Locator system in 50 MHz contest. For stations outside Region 1, four digits can be accepted and such Locators would be assumed to be completed with "MM".	C5_05	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_15: To add in paragraph 5.3.2 in the 6 HOURS section time rule, "Participants are welcome to operate longer than 6 hours and in such case, they shall send their complete log (the contest robot will automatically extract the 6 hours' part from the log, while the rest of the log entries will be used for cross-checking purposes)."	C5_20	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_16: To add to the paragraph 5.3.2 of the VHF Managers Handbook: "Section MULTI: stations operated by multiple operators"	C5_14	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_17: To hold a prize giving ceremony for the first three of each category during Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, starting with the 2016 contest. DARC to support	C5_33	X			Done

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	**Not agreed**	**Further disc.**	
the ceremony itself, C5 to conduct the ceremony and to organise the prizes.					
VIE16_C5_Rec_18: To encourage contesters as well as logging SW programmers to use one of the contest section abbreviations in their submitted contest log (EDI entry line: PSect=): • Section SINGLE (SO, SINGLE, SINGLE-OP) • Section MULTI (MO, MULTI, MULTI-OP) • Section 6 HOURS SINGLE (SO-6H, SINGLE-OP-6H) • Section 6 HOURS MULTI (MO-6H, MULTI-OP-6H) • Section SINGLE with MGM (SO-MGM, SINGLE-OP-MGM) • Section MULTI with MGM (MO-MGM, MULTI-OP-MGM) by publishing in the next Newsletter.	C5_21	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_19: ZRS to lead a Sub Working Group to add paragraph "5.8 Automatic Contest Adjudication Software" to the VHF Managers Handbook by using the Wiki and prepare a document for GC 2017 if necessary.	C5_22	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_20: To use a common template for the final classifications of the IARU Region 1 contests taking the information for each field from the EDI Logs comparable to	C5_28			X	Further discussion needed: we need an agreement on the criteria

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	**Not agreed**	**Further disc.**	
the table used for the Marconi Memorial Contest by ARI.					
VIE16_C5_Rec_21: To enable the Contest Robot to export the results in some other electronic format (e.g. xls, .csv, pdf) for publishing purposes.	C5_29	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_22: To encourage MS and members to use the old beacon segment for CW. (at 50.031-50.100 MHz)	C5_34	X		X	Done (Newsletter 70). What should we do with beacons who want to move? Beacon coordinator resigned
VIE16_C5_Rec_23: The C5 chairman to answer Regions 2 and 3 that: • 144.390 MHz is not suitable for Region 1 and that • To consider an additional 144 MHz frequency (that might be compatible) with Region 2 and 3 • To also consider 435 MHz usage and newer APRS technologies (for the 2017 GC)	C5_41	X			Contacted RSGB Paper has further background detail that will assist with drafting replies to Region-3 and the Region-2 Conference Direct implementation Common frequency needed for APRS Needs to be global Needs to reflect terrestrial use too Redraft objective to at a higher level not freq specific
VIE16_C5_Rec_24: The C5 chairman to set up a new Mailing list on the IARU server for VHF-Managers and IARU-Liaison officers of the MS only.	C5_31	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_25: The C5 chairman to review the VHF Managers Handbook and prepare a document for GC 2017 in accordance with all relevant recommendations of VIE16_C5.	C5_24			X	Done

Recommendation	Doc	EC decisions			Remarks
		Direct action	**Not agreed**	**Further disc.**	
VIE16_C5_Rec_26: The C5 chairman to remove the band plan web pages from the Region 1 Website and point to the VHF Managers Handbook as the master.	C5_24		X		EC not agree
VIE16_C5_Rec_26: VERON will organize the IARU Region 1 ATV contests in 2016 and 2017. DARC will do the same for all other Region 1 contests in 2016 and 2017. MS are encouraged to apply for the following years in the GC 2017.	C5_35	X			Done
VIE16_C5_Rec_27: To remove paragraph 5.11 from the VHF-Managers Handbook and putting the winners table on the website. Remark: The missing results can be found on the OK2KKW-Website or on http://slovhf.net/mednarodni-uradni-rezultati/	C5_36	X			To Do
VIE16_C5_Rec_27: To remove all dedicated WSPR spot frequencies and footnotes from the VHF Managers Handbook	C5_37a	X			Done