



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Interim Meeting Friedrichshafen 2022

Subject	Minutes of C5 VHF+ Committee		
Committee:	C5 VHF+	Paper number:	
Authors:	Matthias Klug, DH4FAJ Derk Willem Harms PA2DW Alessandro Carletti IV3KKW		

Thursday, 23rd June

09:15 Start of the meeting

1. Opening

The Chairman PA2DW welcomed the delegates to the meeting. All participants are connected via a video conference platform, whether present in the room or from home. It is the first time in the history of an interim meeting, to have such kind of meeting. After some minor technical problems, the meeting started 15 minutes later than planned.

General matters

The chairman explains the procedures and rules of engagement for this special hybrid meeting as written in the document sent out before.

The agenda is explained it is emphasized that the focus is mainly on the RNSS-issue in the 23cm band. Then the chairman gives the floor to the participants who can introduce themselves to all participants one after the other.

2. Spectrum matters Agenda Point 2.a/b/c

Presentation from Barry G4SJH (SRLC Chairman) – “Status for WRC23 on AI 9.1b (Galileo RNSS)”

Main items:

- Description of the Spectrum
- Current situation between primary and secondary users
- The fact that there are no unallocated segments in the 23cm band makes it difficult too
- Description of the protection requirement Galileo and GNSS
- Test description in the laboratory: as an example a model directional antenna in Germany and Italy.
- Measurements and results of different modulations and applications
- How to proceed with proposals, formulations and what could be the reactions to them.

[The slides are available whether on the IARU Region 1 website or on request]

10:55 coffee break

11:10 Continuation of the meeting

Chairman Dick, PA2DW thanks Barry G4SJH for his excellent presentation and emphasizes the importance of this topic and the vital cooperation between Member Societies and the National Authorities.

In the subsequent Q&A session on the presentation, the most important items raised by the participants of the meeting:

- It is important to get all the usable information to strengthen the frame conditions built up so far;
- Question is to focus on structure of messages to go out by the IARU, in order to prevent panic
- Is it wise to create proactive proposals concerning the Bandplans?
- We should proceed carefully, not necessarily make the first move, otherwise it will be a chess game.

Dick, PA2DW, also warns against too much panic, tumult, and speculation. Barry, G4SJH, is the right man for this job and we should trust his work.

Barry, G4SJH, notes that there is a well-functioning team on this topic within IARU Regions 1, 2 and 3.

Verner, OZ5TG, thanks Barry for the very good work and the presentation and asks for a timeline.

Barry, G4JSH, shows a timeline this year up to the WRC23.

Ole, LA2RR, pointed the good work of the Team around Barry. Perfect work and so we are well prepared for this theme.

The C5 Chairman thereupon gave the floor to IARU R1 President Sylvain F4GKR. Sylvain, emphasised three important points:

- Compared to the increasing number of CEPT rules, there are fewer and fewer specialists who can read and understand the technical documents and specifications.
- The importance of the VHF+ Committee. Change of the national Bandplans? IARU will help!
- Relationship Working groups improving the relationship of IARU's Regions.

Keypoint to the secondary Status: Relationship with other spectrum users eg. Weather, Radar....

Dick, PA2DW calls for open and clear communication with the community. No rumours and speculations.

Sylvain, F4GKR, adds at the end that a good communication with the national authorities is important.

Before the lunch break Jann, DG8NGN presents his RFIS tool, Frequency Allocation System. This system looks interesting as a tool for bandplanning and beacon/repeater coordination. We will have to look more detailed into it. Currently, the data of the Radio Regulations Frequency Allocation Table (ITU), the European Table of Frequency Allocations and Applications (ECR Report 25, ECC/CEPT), the frequency plan of the Federal Network Agency and the Amateur Radio Ordinance (Annex 1) are part of this system.

Question from the Chairman about the usefulness of this Tool: Nobody is against.

Lunch Break to 13:15

3. Bandplanning

Disussion about the implementation of new MGM Modes

- the problem are the defaults in the MGM software
- allowing mixing MGM, SSB and CW in contests
- user notes

A discussion begins about changing the band plans, in order to be more general and more flexible and to prevent mixing DX and local traffic as it is mostly all taking place on just one frequency.

Alex, IV3KKW, proposes to create a working group to find solutions and invite Joe Taylor to take Part and can present new bandplans to the next General Conference.

This was widely accepted so the Chairman created the Working-Group MGM and the Members are John G4SWX, Alex IV3KKW, and Thomas, LA3PNA.

4. Contests

Discussion (simplification of) procedures for submitting contest logs

Key points from the discussion:

- In the General Conference it was decided not to mix Analogue and Digital Modes in contests
- Is this recommendation actually been sent out? (Question from Alex, IV3KKW)
- Maybe wise to resend the recommendations (Verner,OZ5TG)
(note from C5-chair: we will emphasize it in the next VHF-Newsletter)
- Norway has actively split the contests in MGM/non-MGM modes (Thomas , LA3PNA)
- Discussion about the use of WSJT clones (i.e. WSJT-Z or similar software) which offers the auto-qso mode. It has been highlighted that their use is not under the radio amateur definition; in contesting is totally unfair too.
- Mixing MGM and SSB/CW is total nonsense, it disrupts the competition (Zdenek, OK1DFC)
This was generally agreed!

Alex, IV3KKW explains the status and work of the IARU R1 Contest working Group

- The March and May Subregional Contests have been already evaluated
- 50 and 70 MHz MGM Contests can now be evaluated in the IARU R1 Contest Robot (Thanks to RSGB for evaluating them on 2021).
- The 2021 prizes will be given out during Ham-Radio 2022 on the main stage
- Alex presented the working group activities

Contesting improves technical skills and creativity! Participants will always try to find ways to pass by the rules, so we need to be very alert and keep the competition fair.

The meeting-participants expressed their appreciation to the Work of Alex. IV3KKW

Discussion about the 34H Rule.

Zdenek, OK1DFC questions the 34-hours rule for sending logs.

Michael, OE1MCU explains why the 34-hours rule has been adopted: we have a long time to submit the logs that is not aligned to the internet era, a real-time and almost immediate logging platform is the future.

Alex, IV3KKW added that the main reason for the 34-hours rule is to limit the opportunity to clean the log after the contest.

The 34-hours rule has been adopted in the Contest rules at the end of 2020, after the Virtual GC, where most of the Member Societies approved it, and it is formally ratified. In 2021 it has been used for the first time ever.

The VHF+ Contest WG is confident that a shorter period for the log submission is now possible for all the entries and in the next GC presents a formal proposal for it.

Verner, OZ5TG, starts a discussion about the standard "59(9)" entry in the contest log. In this way, the competition is too much simplified. We must encourage operators to give the actual report, not always only 59(9).

Chairman Dick, PA2DW, agrees and asks for a proposal about how to regulate 59(9) in the contest logs for the next GC.

Coffee Break 14:37 to 14:54

Kjell, SM7GVF, starts a short discussion about the paper FN22-C5-03 to implement the changes into the VHF Managers Handbook.

The changes are unanimously accepted.

5. VHF-Managers Handbook

Dick, PA2DW, asks whether the format of the VHF-Handbook is ok as it is or whether it could also be changed to a wiki format in order to ease and speed up changes.

Jussi, OH5LK, clarifies that it is the Manager's Handbook and not the Operator's Handbook. Dick, PA2DW, asks if the handbook is good enough as it is? Jussi, OH5LK replies with "YES".

Michael, OE1MCU: it is not practicable to have two formats. Changing to Wiki format takes too much time und blocks resources.

Thomas, LA3PNA : The Handbook should be for the users. These are the important guidelines.

There was not a single vote in favour of an amendment, we leave the Handbook as it is.

6. AOB

Discussion about Succession Plan. Dick, PA2DW, emphasizes that there will be new elections during the General Conference in 2023. He is willing to lead the VHF+ Committee in a new term, but if there is a better candidate, he will kindly handover his tasks. The past years Dick was hampered by his health-condition, but fortunately things look better now.

The Irish representative points out that there was a proposal been sent out, which was not brought under discussion. The chairman explains he did not see that proposal and wonders if it was spread. The proposal was listed on the IARU-VHF+ page, but as not too many participants took notice of it, the chairman proposes the Irish delegate to postpone handling to the General Conference in 2023. This was accepted.

The Chairman thanks all participants, whether present or online, for taking part in the interim meeting in Friedrichshafen 2022. He wishes everyone a lot of fun at the fair and a good journey home. He announced that a dinner would be held at 7 pm in the restaurant "Zeppelin Museum", to which all participants of the IARU Interim Meeting were invited.

15:30 finished

Participants to the meeting, either physically present or on-line:

PA2DW C5-CHAIR (Chairman of meeting)

F4GKR R1-PRESIDENT

LA2RR IARU-VP

G4SJH SRLC-CHAIR

DH4FAJ R1-BEACON (Secretary)

Z32TO R1-EC

F6ETI REF

M1ACB RSGB

G4SWX RSGB

SM7GVF SSA

DG8NGN DARC

IV3KKW ARI/VHF+ Contest WG Chair

OZ5TG EDR

OE1MCU OEVSU

LA3PNA NRRL

5B4AHZ CARS

SV1QVE RAAG

ZS6YZ SARL

OH5LK SRAL

OH8WM SRAL

LY2HQ LRMD

HA3LN MRASZ

CT1END REP

HB9BKT USKA

OK1DFC CRC

At 10:00 connected also S51FB ZRS

At 10:40 connected also EI4HH IRTS