SUBJECT		COMMITTEE C5 – Minutes of Meeting 02 (revised)		
Society		IARU Region 1	Country:	
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	CT08_C5_meeting 2 Minutes	

Notes of the second meeting of Committee C5 – 18 November 2008

Chairman: Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU
Minutes Secretary, Don Field G3XTT

29 present at the commencement of the meeting, including one observer.

One correction to Day 1 Minutes – in the list of attendees LA5KV should read LA8KV.

Actions from Day 1

Paper CT08_C5_36 .Beacon Coordination

This paper had been referred out to a sub-group (see Minutes of Day 1 - CT08_C5 Meeting 1 Minutes). G6JYB reported back on the work by the sub-group and presented a set of words to be used in the VHF Managers' Handbook. These were agreed.

CT08_C5_Rec18
The following changes to be made to the VHF Managers Handbook in respect of beacons:
New general footnote in those bandplans that have beacon subbands defined:
"Refer to Chapter-10 for coordination of beacons in the beacon sub-band"
Second paragraph in Chapter-10 to be replaced with:-
Definition for a beacon:
"Beacon - a station in the Amateur Service or Amateur-Satellite Service that autonomously transmits in a defined format, which may include repetitive data or information, for the study of propagation, determination of frequency or bearing or for other experimental purposes including construction."
It is not intended that this document should specify the exact purpose of any individual beacon, its power level or the number of beacons in any country, as this should be agreed within the national society concerned.
It is also not intended to be applied rigorously to experimental beacons or beacons with a special purpose.
It should however apply to the vast majority of VHF/UHF/Microwave beacons for propagation monitoring purposes, as designated by the beacon sections of the bandplans.

Agenda Item 10 (continued from Day 1)

Paper CT08_C5_28 (Revised) - Transitory Weak Signal Procedure for VHF Contacts

G4ASR introduced a revised version of his paper, based on input from the previous day's discussion. A vote was taken:

Against - None
Abstentions - EDR, FRA, SRAL
All others in favour

The paper was therefore adopted in its revised form.

CT08_C5_Rec19
That the procedure described in the Paper CT08_C5_28 (Revised) be adopted as an aid to weak signal tropospheric contacts on the VHF bands and added to the VHF Managers Handbook.

Paper CT08_C5_07 - Frequencies for Digital Voice communication in the IARU, Region 1, VHF/UHF band plans

The meeting felt that digital voice would eventually replace analogue voice and that it was therefore sensible to designate frequencies for dual-use rather than specify new channels specifically for digital voice. It was also felt helpful that there be a designated calling channel / centre of activity which would be most useful in the early days of digital voice and in countries with a low density amateur population.

The following recommendation was agreed with no abstentions and one vote against (NRRL):

CT08_C5_Rec20
The VHF Managers' Handbook to be amended as follows:

FM simplex voice channels in 50MHz, 145MHz, 435MHz and 1296MHz bands to be redesignated to be FM/DV in the bandplan mode column. DV users should check that the channel is not in use by other modes. Also, to change the mode column to add DV alongside FM
Bandplans be amended to show calling frequencies for digital voice as follows

50MHz: 50.630MHz
145MHz: 145.375MHz
435MHz: 433.450MHz
1296MHz: 1297.725MHz

In each case, these to be annotated with the following footnote:

"This segment is for simplex use only with no DV gateways. Embedded data traffic is allowed along with digital voice".

It was agreed for consistency that Recommendation CT08_C5_Rec17 from Day 1 should be amended to refer to "Embedded data" rather than "Additional data".

CT08_C5_Rec17 (revised)
It is recommended that all VHF/UHF/Microwave band plans in the voice repeater section are revised to allow for new digital voice in addition to FM in the "Mode" column of the band plans and to add the following footnote to the band plan: "*Embedded* data traffic is allowed along with digital voice".

Paper CT08_C5_I_14 The 70 MHz band in IARU Region 1

This paper was introduced by G4ASR. EI7CD also spoke about some of the history of trying to get 70MHz allocated within CEPT as a recognised band. He emphasised the importance of member societies encouraging their regulators to support proposals such as those related to

70MHz. One problem had been trying to contact society officials via email – many of the addresses on the IARU Region 1 web page appeared to be out of date. Even when the messages got through, very few Societies responded to this important matter and failed to contact their regulators. This is something which needs to be dealt with before similar situations arise with 5MHz and 500kHz.

Paper CT08_C5_08 Frequencies for (simplex) Internet voice gateways

This paper was assigned to a sub-working group, consisting of those societies who felt this paper was worth pursuing. The group will consist of representatives from EDR SSA USKA DARC HRS UBA and they will report back at the beginning of Day 3.

Paper CT08_C5_15 VHF Managers' Handbook – changes
Paper CT08_C5_22 A change to the exclusive usage of EME communication between 144.000 – 144.035MHz

These papers were taken together. The following combined recommendation was agreed unanimously.

CT08_C5_Rec21

To delete from the USAGE column of the IARU Region 1 145MHz Band Plan the 'EME EXCLUSIVE' comment between 144.000 – 144.035MHz.

To delete from the VHF Managers Handbook in the USAGE column of the 145MHz Band Plan
144.120 - 144.150MHz FAI & EME MGM (JT65)
144.150 - 144.160MHz FAI & EME activity SSB

To delete from the Footnotes of the 145MHz Band Plan, in Section 2, "Usage", the reference to 144.140 – 144.160MHz as a proposed alternative band for EME operation.

To add in the Footnotes of the 144-146MHz Band Plan, in Section 2, "Usage",
EME activity using MGM is commonly practised between 144.110-144.160MHz,

To change the 145MHz bandplan to show to show a single band segment from 144.000 – 144.110MHz with the USAGE column showing CW (including EME CW) in addition to the existing references to the Telegraphy and Random MS frequencies.

Paper CT08_C5_16 Increased Amateur Satellite Service 2 Metre Usage

G3VZV presented his paper. There was concern by a number of delegates at the prospect of satellite downlinks in the bottom part of the 145MHz band, where there is a significant amount of CW activity, often to 144.020MHz or below.

The two recommendations were taken separately. The first was rejected, the second adopted, as below:

Recommendation 1

Against: FRR SARA REF ZRS CRC VERON LRMD DARC ARRSM ARABiH OeVSV UBA NRRL SSA EDR (15)
Abstain: IRA FRA SRAL PZK (4)
For: SARL RSGB ARI RAAG CARS HRS USKA AFVL IRTS (9)

Recommendation 2 - Agreed unanimously.

CT08_C5_Rec22
The presence of interfering non-amateur signals in the 145.80-146.00MHz part of this band, in many parts of the world, is well documented. To prevent the retransmission of interfering terrestrial signals, satellites in the Amateur Satellite Service that plan to use the 145MHz Amateur band for transponders, are encouraged to use this band for downlink (satellite to ground) modes only, regardless of modulation type

CT08_C5_23 Deletion to the usage of FSK441 communication between 144.160 – 144.180MHz

The paper's recommendation was adopted unanimously.

CT08_C5_Rec23
To delete from the USAGE column of the IARU Region 1 145MHz Band Plan:
(i) the alternative MGM allocation 144.160-144.180MHz,
(ii) the alternative MGM calling frequency 144.170MHz.

CT08_C5_40 Narrow frequency band on 2 m for an automatic reporting beacons network

The recommendation was agreed but the suggestion was made that it might be helpful to assign frequencies on 50MHz and 70MHz for similar purposes. 70.030MHz is already allocated for personal beacons and may be suitable. 50.001 +/- 500Hz would also be suitable. G4ASR will check the suitability of the suggested frequencies and report back, at which time a revised recommendation will be proposed, covering all three bands.

In addition, an **action** was placed on **F6ETI** to gather information by way of explanation of the procedures adopted in France for the gathering and analysis of data, as referred to in the paper, for publication via the C5 newsletter.

CT08_C5_06 Change of spacing for all "narrow" 435 MHz repeaters, from 1.6 to 2.0 MHz

There was concern at the cost of implementing the recommendation, given the substantial investment in equipment, both radios and repeaters. There was also a question as to whether the manufacturers would support the change. Thirdly, there was concern that such a move would send the wrong message to the authorities, in that amateurs would be seen to be capitulating to problems from SRD/ISM equipment.

The recommendation in the paper was rejected unanimously.

CT_C5_I_31 APRS Frequency on the 435 MHz Band

An **action** was placed on **OH5LK** to convene a small working group to discuss the issues raised in the paper, to bring this back to the meeting on Day 3.

CT08_C5_13 23cms Narrowband Image and Data

A vote was taken after a discussion.

Against EDR
Abstain FRA NRRL SSA URE URA ZRS SRAL SARA IRA PZK CRC MRASZ ARABiH (13)
For RSGB ARI VERON LRMD REF RAAG CARS DARC ARRSM HRS USKA AFVL IRTS OeVSV UBA (15)

The recommendation was therefore adopted.

CT08_C5_Rec24
The meeting recommended consideration of the matters raised in paper CT08_C5_13 23cms Narrowband Image and Data and to amend the 23cm bandplan usage notes as follows:-
a) 1296.500 Image Mode Centre of Activity (SSTV, Fax etc)
b) 1296.600 Narrowband Data Centre of Activity (MGM, RTTY, etc.)
c) 1296.600-1296.700 Linear Transponder output
2. To permit 1296.700-1296.800 to be used for alternative purposes

CT08_C5_17 3400MHz Amateur Satellite Allocation

Abstain MRASZ
Otherwise carried unanimously

CT08_C5_Rec25
1) National Societies should take all necessary steps in seeking 3400-3410MHz allocations on a Secondary non-interference basis as quickly as possible.
2) All Societies should explicitly include the Amateur Satellite Service (both S-E and E-S) in such requests on the basis that many years of terrestrial and EME operations (notably in the CEPT area) have not resulted in interference reports from other users.
3) National Societies and IARU–R1 should collaborate more closely to assist those Societies who in the past have not been able to achieve such allocations.
4) Societies should collectively obtain a critical mass of national allocations so that footnotes in regional allocation tables can be extended or acquired that include the Amateur Satellite Service
5) IARU-R1 to prioritise this band and to take active steps in support of these goals

CT08_C5_18 3400 MHz EME developments

A recommendation was put forward by RSGB. It was endorsed unanimously.

CT08_C5_Rec26
The VHF Managers' Handbook to be amended as follows:
Bandplan to show beacon section at 3400.8-3400.995, Usage:Propagation Beacons Only
Bandplan (all modes section) to be split at 3402-3410 Usage: Amateur Satellite Downlinks Planned
Footnotes
a) CEPT Footnote EU17 permits Amateur Service in 3400-3410MHz
b) EME Centre of Activity has migrated from 3456 to 3400.1MHz to promote harmonised usage and activity
c) Amateur Satellite Service is allocated in 3400-3410MHz in Regions 2&3 and in some countries of Region-1.
d) 3400.750-3400.800MHz may be designated for Local Beacon use (10W ERP max) by National Societies. (Cavtat CT08_C5_25)
References
Vienna-2007 C5 Paper-B13: Allocations at 3400MHz
Cavtat-2008 Paper CT08_C5_17: 3400MHz Amateur Satellite Allocation
Cavtat-2008 Paper CT08_C5_18: 3400MHz EME developments
Cavtat-2008 Paper CT08_C5_25: Microwave Beacon Bands

CT08_C5_19 A New Vision for 23 cm

A show of hands was taken after discussion.

Against: REF, Abstain: ZRS, Otherwise carried.

The recommendation was therefore adopted.

CT08_C5_Rec27
The following recommendation is made:
1. That a usage note regarding an alternative or reserve narrowband centre of activity is agreed and added to the 23cm bandplan.
2. That the band 1240.0-1240.75MHz is designated as that alternative centre, based on 500kHz for operators and 250kHz for beacons. Our reasoning is that its position at the bottom of 23cms would match other bandplans, would not obstruct flexibility, is outside of the 'Galileo zone' (1260-1300) and would keep harmonics below the valuable new 3/4G mobile radio band at 2500-2690MHz.
3. That assignments for existing/other uses in this centre be made on a flexible basis to minimise any disruption should it be necessary to activate the reserve frequency and for them to be retuned.
4. That the VHF Handbook and 23cm Bandplan take account of new developments in DATV (which may for example use between ~2-6MHz BW in future), by being more flexible. For example a particular modulation should not be assumed.
5. To accommodate and describe flexible bandwidth use, especially for DATV applications, we propose that the 'block' method commonly used by CEPT and other regulators is adopted:-
5.1. That the available spectrum for DATV is divided into regular discrete blocks
5.2. An operator/repeater may merge a number of the blocks together for their required bandwidth and then use a simple designator for what is actually being used.
5.3. A block edge-mask is used to specify out of band emissions. This is useful as it can describe spectrum re-growth due to power amplifier non-linearity. This is an important issue that can affect adjacent channels and can often occur with digital Tx modes.
5.4. That an agreed method of labelling blocks and merged usage is developed and added to the VHF Handbook.
6. That as ATV increasingly uses digital techniques and less bandwidth than analogue FMATV, that opportunities are explored for accommodating additional services such as digital voice and data to provide a modern attractive overall offering.
7. As 6) gradually occurs, to move from the original analogue centre frequencies as illustrated in the example attached. This maximises the creation of space for extra channels.
8. As DATV repeater inputs will take time to develop, it is important to recognise the need for careful coordination to protect 1248/9 analogue FMATV inputs, prior to releasing 1248-1249 for other applications.

CT08_C5_25 Microwave Beacon Bands

A vote was taken, with no Society against, and the following abstentions: EDR FRA MRASZ SRAL NRRL OeVSV VERON LRMD ZRS PZK (10).

The paper is therefore adopted and the recommendations go forward.

CT08_C5_Rec28
The following recommendation is made to conference:

1. ***In the bands 23cms to 24GHz, the range x.750-x.800MHz of each narrowband segment may be designated for Local Beacon use (10W ERP max) by National Societies.***
2. ***To note the use of x.800-x.995 MHz for propagation beacons in the usage columns of the narrowband sections of the 3.4, 5.7, 10 and 24GHz IARU bandplans. For example:-***

3400.800-3400.995 MHz - Propagation Beacons Only

3. ***To formally incorporate 1) into the IARU-R1 bandplans as usage notes similar to 2) as per example below***

10,368.750-10368.800 MHz - Local Beacons, 10W ERP max
10,368.800-10368.995 MHz - Propagation Beacons only

4. ***Local beacons need not be IARU-coordinated, but National societies should inform the IARU R1 Beacon coordinator of such local beacons and bandplan use.***
5. ***That Section 10 of the IARU-R1 VHF Handbook has the text of Proposal a) in paper CT08_C5_25 added to document the guidance for local beacons***

CT08_C5_04 Scoring of VHF Contests

This paper was agreed in Vienna, but not unanimously and therefore needs to be brought to the final plenary at Cavtat. However, there is no requirement to discuss it within Committee C5.

CT08_C5_10 How can we increase contest activity about central Europe?

This information paper was noted.

CT08_C5_11 Acceptance of remote controlled VUSHF stations

OZ7IS to set up a sub-working group to discuss this issue and report back to the Committee.

CT08_C5_29 Contest Logs Exchange

The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

CT08_C5_Rec29
National VHF Managers or properly nominated Contest Committees should send the electronic contest log data entries from IARU R1 contests to a special web page to allow an exchange of logs for more accurate national evaluation.

Committee C5 to reconvene at 0830 on Wednesday 19 November.