



SUBJECT	CT08 C4 meeting minutes_v2		
Society	IARU	Country:	Region 1
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	CT08_C4_02
Author:	Ian Greenshields G4FSU		

1 Opening of the HF Committee Meeting

Opened by Colin Thomas G3PSM

2 Introduction of delegates and observers

Attendees:

ARA 7X2RO, **ARI** I2MQP, IV3FSG, **ARTJ** TJ3NT, **ARM** 3A2LF, **CAST** DL1BDF, **CRC** OK1PI, **DARC** DK4VW, **EARS** A61M, **EDR** OZ5DX, **HRS** 9A5K, 9A5K, **IARC** 4X1DF, **IRTS** EI7CD, **MARL** 9H1M, **MRASZ** HA5EA, **NRRL** LA1BR, LA4LN, **OeVSV** OE8KDK, OE3MZC, **PZK** SP2DX, SP5HS, **RAAG** SV1IW, **RAL** OD5RI, OD5TE, **REF** F8BPN, **ROARS** A41KB A41LK, **RSGB** G0TWW, G3WKL, MM1CCR, **SARA** OM3LU, **SARL** ZS4BS, **SRAL** OH2BR, **SRS** YT1AD, **SSA** SM5XGJ, **UBA** ON4UN ON7LX, **USKA** HB9IQY, HB9TTQ, **URE** EA3BRA, **URA** C31US, **VERON** PA3DZU, PA0SHY, **ZRS** S50XX, **IARU AC** K1ZZ, VE6SH, **IARU IS** W6ROD, IARU R2 XE1KK, YV5AMH, **IARU R3** VK3KI,.

C4 Chair: IARU G3PSM
 C4 Secretariat: IARU G4FSU

3 Approval of the Agenda

01

Proposed that item 7.2 to be moved to C3. Carried.

Agenda approved.

4 To receive the report from the HF Committee Chairman

03

HFC

Presented by Colin Thomas G3PSM.

MRASZ proposed the report be accepted. Carried.

5 Reports

5.1 To receive the report from the HF Beacon Coordinator

04

G3USF

G3USF was unable to attend through illness and the report was presented by Colin Thomas G3PSM.

DARC mentioned proposal for a beacon project in the Antarctic. OeVSV expressed concern of possible interference to other digital modes on adjacent frequencies. DARC stated that discussions and coordination with NCDXF were also taking place.

ROARS proposed the report be accepted. Carried.

5.2 To receive the report of the 500 kHz Working Group

05 ON7YD

Presented by John Gould G3WKL.

EDR asked which specific frequencies should be requested from the relevant administration. G3WKL and DARC suggested frequencies close to the existing agreements in other countries with due consideration to the existing users.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_01:

That the 500 kHz Working Group, enhanced with representation from Regions 2 and 3, be re-tasked with work that relates to supporting the proposal and related technical studies required in the preparatory work for WRC-11 Agenda Item 1.23.

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by UBA. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_02:

That Member Societies consider approaching their Administrations for experimental access to frequencies near to 500 kHz, with a view to supporting the IARU task by familiarising their Administrations on the issues surrounding Agenda Item 1.23.

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by SARL. Carried.

6 Ratification of Vienna 2007 Interim Meeting Decisions

6.1 VIE07/C4/05 HF Manager Handbook - Guidelines for HF Contests

23 HF Chair

OeVSV requested that the SWL category in clause 7 be amended to delete all after 'A single person using only one receiver'. K1ZZ suggested deleting paragraph 11 on page 5. Both amendments were agreed.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_03:

That paper VIE07_C4_05 'Guidelines for HF Contests' be added to the HF Manager's Handbook, but with the SWL category in clause 7 amended to delete all after 'A single person using only one receiver' and paragraph 11 on page 5 is deleted.

6.2 VIE07/C4/06 Beacons Below 14 MHz

06 HF Chair

Proposed by REF, seconded by MRASZ. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_04:

That operation of unmanned beacons apart from those already approved by the IARU Region 1 Beacon Coordinator is discouraged on all Amateur bands below 14MHz, except where coordinated by the IARU Region 1 Beacon Coordinator under one or more of the following conditions:

a) Beacons are related to scientific study, experiment or specific propagation requirements;

b) Experimental and operating at very low power;

6.3 VIE07/C4/07 Preserving the HF Noise Floor

26 HF Chair

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_05:

That the Conference agrees:

a) More effort should to be made to find and support volunteers who can address the general trend of liberalisation in spectrum management through:

1. Technically competent input and advice on HF radio propagation to professional groups who are sometime only versed in short-range EMC matters;

2. Setting up of a scientifically valid long-term assessment of the noise floor on Amateur Bands below 30MHz with the intent to raise complaint over general loss of spectrum effectiveness for the Amateur service,

and

b) that the HF Committee suggest to the other spectrum committees that a similar proposal and recommendation be considered for their spectrum areas.

Proposed by DARC, seconded by CAST. Carried.

6.4 VIE07/C4/09r2 QSL Direct Only 07 HF Chair

NRRL suggested that the text of the recommendation be modified to include 'voluntary support for DXpeditions should be encouraged'. This was agreed.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_06:

That the QSL managers of DX expedition, DXCC, IOTA or other stations respect the “Code of Practice for QSL Management” as described in the IARU Region 1 HF Managers Handbook, Chapter 7.5. It is encouraged that DXpeditions should respond to bureau QSLs in addition to direct requests. When this is difficult to arrange, then the DXpedition organisers are recommended to appoint a QSL Manager in a country where this would be possible. Voluntary support for DXpeditions should be encouraged

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by RAAG. Carried.

6.5 VIE07/C4/13r1 Contest Activity 08 HF Chair

Discussion on this paper was deferred to the discussion on paper 29, agenda item 9.4, at which point it was agreed that a sub-working group is formed to discuss this topic and would report to the next C4 Interim Meeting.

6.6 VIE07/C4/15r1 500 kHz Secondary Allocation 21 HF Chair

DARC suggested the frequency range 425 - 510kHz be requested. K1ZZ stated this paper would cause confusion to existing recommendations for 500kHz & proposed the paper be withdrawn. RSGB also noted that this was now water under the bridge. The chairman recommended the paper be withdrawn. Approved.

7 Band usage:

7.1 80M AM Centre of Activity 18 REF

Presented by REF.

MRASZ commented that attempting to move existing activity from 3550kHz may not be successful as operation is already in violation of an existing agreement. DARC asked why these particular AM stations were adopting a hard line view & operating in the CW section and also stated that they had not shown willingness to move in the past. RSGB proposed that a 10kHz segment around 3615kHz be recommended as a centre of activity for 6kHz bandwidth modes. NRRL stated support for the REF paper. VERON also

stated support for the REF proposal. REF expressed willingness to change the proposed frequency. DARC commented that there is already a footnote in the current IARU band plan allowing AM & that assigning a centre of activity is therefore unnecessary & may not be effective. The HF Manager's Handbook, chapter 3.1, does specifically state that AM operation may be used providing consideration is given to adjacent channel users. PZK commented that this is an issue of finding a clear frequency on 80m and is therefore a matter for the hams in question with the relevant administration, not the C4 committee.

Proposed REF, seconded VERON. Votes: 2 in favour, 6 against. Not carried.

7.2 HF Beacon Definition 24 RSGB

Presented by RSGB who also noted that this has already been approved by C5. Following discussion on the exact wording, the word 'repeated' was replaced by 'repetitive'.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_07:

That the following definition for a beacon be included in the HF Manager's Handbook:

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.

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by ROARS. Carried.

7.3 HMO 30M Beacons i27 SARL

Presented by SARL.

7.4 SSB on 30M 28 SARL

Presented by SARL.

RSGB supports the proposal but stated it should not be limited to south of the equator and that there is already demand for non-contest SSB activity on frequencies below 14MHz and counter proposed that SSB activity be allowed in Region 1 from 10125 - 10140kHz. DARC and NRRL noted that the 10MHz allocation is a secondary allocation and this proposal is in violation of existing recommendations on 10MHz use from the AC Resolution 88-2 (1988, 1990, 1999). MRASZ expressed concern that activity from Africa would still be audible in the evenings in Europe, EDR strongly opposes any change to the existing arrangement on 10MHz. PZK asked REF to comment on existing French speaking SSB activity on 10MHz. REF noted that there is nothing in the administrative regulations that forbids SSB on 30m, but REF does not condone this activity. OeVSV stated Austria is allowed SSB activity on 10MHz once per year for emergency use. SARA agreed with EDR not to support SSB activity. RSGB noted in light of AC Resolution 88-2 to withdraw their suggestion.

Proposed by SARL, no seconder. Not carried.

8 Band planning:

It was agreed that RSGB, REF, DARC, EDR and OeVSV will form a separate working group covering all papers referring to 40m band planning. NRRL will chair this sub working group to discuss papers 10, 11, 16, 17, 19.

8.1 HF Bandplan 14 NRRL

Presented by NRRL.

8.1.1. Agreed that the 137kHz proposal will be dealt with in the RSGB paper 20 which discusses the same issue and reaches the same conclusion.

8.1.2. 160m. SARA suggested the implementation of a dynamic band plan for 160m during contests. Following discussion, the consensus is that the current situation be allowed to continue due to the relatively small amount of time SSB contests dominate 160m.

8.1.3. 80m centres of activity. PZK noted that the current centres of activity are used and should remain. FRR agreed with PZK. DARC stated a wish to retain current QRP centres of activity. Ramon XE1KK noted that the Region 2 bandplan needs to be consistent with Region 1 where possible. OeVSV suggested two emergency frequencies on 80m. RSGB suggested no change. Final consensus was to make no changes to the existing footnotes.

8.1.4. 7.1-7.2MHz. OeVSV supports the proposal to allocate more space to digital modes on 40m. ARI agreed. HRS also expressed support. This will be addressed by the 40m band planning subgroup.

8.1.5. 10MHz. RSGB expressed concern at possible increased digimode activity on 10MHz which may increase the potential for interference to primary user and potentially jeopardise the allocation.

8.1.6. SSB DXpedition window 14190-14200kHz. ARI stated the authorities will take no action concerning band planning inside the amateur allocations. Consensus is that it is best just to ignore the particular person in question. RAAG noted that the band plan will be included in the license requirements in Greece. OeVSV advised caution that having band plan as a part of the license requirement could limit amateur radio's ability to self police and may restrict future developments.

8.1.7. QRP SSB 17m Centre of Activity.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_08:

NRRL proposes that 18130kHz should be adopted as QRP SSB Activity Center by IARU Region 1.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by SARL. Carried.

8.1.8. QRP SSB 12m Centre of Activity.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_09:

NRRL proposes that 24950kHz should be adopted as QRP SSB Activity Center by IARU Region 1.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by SARL. Carried.

8.1.9. Centres of Activity for Digitized Speech

DARC expressed support for the proposal.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_10:

NRRL proposes that 3630 kHz, 7070 kHz, 14130 kHz, 21180 kHz, and 28330 kHz be adopted as digitized speech Activity Centers by IARU Region 1, in order to harmonize these between Region 1 and Region 2.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by DARC. Carried.

8.1.10. Centres of Activity for Digitized Speech

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_11:

NRRL proposes that 18150 kHz and 24960 kHz be adopted as digitized speech Activity Centers by IARU Region 1, and that IARU Region 1 proposes vs. the other two IARU Regions that these frequencies be adopted and thereby harmonized.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by DARC. Carried.

8.1.11

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_12:

NRRL invites the C4 Committee to discuss experiences obtained since IARU Region 1 decided on a new HF bandplan at its 2005 Conference (implemented from 1 Jan. 2006), and to use these experiences together with the current HF bandplans for Region 2 and Region 3 in an attempt to harmonize HF bandplans across the IARU Regions.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by VERON. Carried.

8.2	Segment Expansion – 40M	10	DARC
8.3	40M Bandplan	17	REF
8.4	40M Bandplanning for 2009	19	RSGB
8.5	40M Digital segment	16	OeVSV

Papers 8.2 to 8.5 and 9.2 were dealt with in a 40m working group chaired by NRRL. NRRL presented the results, noting that the expansion allowed for all modes to have an increased spectrum allocation so the discussion centred around where to place the boundaries for each mode.

A band plan based on the majority decision of the working group was proposed. RSGB noted that the plan made no provision for a contest preferred segment in the CW section. USKA questioned why the contest preferred section was not contiguous, stating that this could be confusing. UBA noted there was no provision for intercontinental operation in the CW section and also noted the top end of the band was not suitable for stations with narrow bandwidth beams. UBA additionally commented that the proposed plan gave insufficient additional allocation to the CW section. DARC countered that by counting the number of QSO possibilities available in each segment, the split is a fair compromise.

PZK noted and approved of the attempt made to harmonise the band plan with Regions 2 and 3.

EDR opposed the band plan presented by the working group on the grounds that insufficient allocation was given to CW and digital modes, and that a contiguous contest-preferred segment was not included.

RSGB noted that the HF Manager's Handbook chapter 3.2 page 1, recommends digital voice be treated as a digital mode and that this recommendation puts the digital voice centre of activity in the non-digital segment. Agreement was made to edit the HF Manager's Handbook accordingly. OeVSV noted we should treat modes by bandwidth.

RSGB also noted the plan conflicts with the existing emergency centre of activity agreement. NRRL proposed moving the emergency frequency to 7065kHz, supported by OeVSV. RSGB counter suggested moving it to a segment outside the contest-preferred segment. 7110kHz was proposed and agreed. OeVSV noted that some older equipment may not be able to operate above 7100kHz.

Acceptance of the band plan was put to vote:

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by REF. Votes for: 21, against: 13. Carried.

Societies wishing to record in the minutes their rejection of the band plan were: CRC, EDR, FRA, IRA, LRMD, NRRL, PZK, SARA, SRAL, SSA, UBA, VERON, ZRS.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_13:

The following band plan for 40 metres be implemented in Region 1:

IARU REGION 1 HF BAND PLAN – Effective 29 March 2009

FREQUENCY (kHz)	MAX BANDWIDTH (Hz)	PREFERRED MODE AND USAGE
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7MHz Band

7000 - 7025	200	CW, contest preferred
7025 - 7040	200	CW, QRP Centre of Activity 7030 kHz
7040 - 7047	500	Narrow band modes - digimodes
7047 - 7050	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes, automatically controlled data stations (unattended)
7050 - 7053	2700	All modes - digimodes, automatically controlled data stations (unattended) *
7053 - 7060	2700	All modes - digimodes
7060 - 7100	2700	All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Centre of Activity 7090 kHz, SSB contest preferred
7100 - 7130	2700	All modes, Region 1 Emergency Centre of Activity 7110 kHz
7130 - 7200	2700	All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Centre of Activity 7165 kHz
7175 - 7200	2700	All modes, priority for intercontinental operation.

Sideband Usage

Below 10MHz use lower sideband (LSB), above 10 MHz use upper sideband (USB)

Amplitude modulation (AM) may be used in the telephony sub-bands providing consideration is given to adjacent channel users.

DEFINITIONS:

All modes

CW, SSB and those modes listed as Centres of Activity, plus AM (Consideration should be given to adjacent channel users).

Image modes

Any analogue or digital image modes within the appropriate bandwidth, for example SSTV and FAX.

Narrow band modes

All modes using up to 500 Hz bandwidth, including CW, RTTY, PSK etc.

Digimodes

Any digital mode used within the appropriate bandwidth, for example RTTY, PSK, MT63 etc.

(*)

Lowest dial setting for LSB: 1843, 3603 and 7053kHz.

Notes:

CW QSOs are accepted across all bands, except within beacon segments. (Recommendation DV05_C4_Rec_13)

Contest activity shall not take place on the 10, 18 and 24 MHz bands. Non-contesting radio amateurs are recommended to use the contest-free HF bands (30, 17 and 12m) during the largest international contests. (DV05_C4_Rev_07)

The term “automatically controlled data stations” includes Store and Forward stations.

Transmitting frequencies:

The announced frequencies in the bandplan are understood as “transmitted frequencies” (not those of the suppressed carrier!)

Unmanned transmitting stations:

IARU member societies are requested to limit this activity on the HF bands. It is recommended 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, or specially licensed experimental stations.

Presented by RSGB. Noted that guidelines were introduced to encourage transatlantic tests and generate publicity and that a revised and simplified band plan is now in order to allow maximum flexibility and usage on this band.

RSGB stated that most interference seems to be from military use in Canada following a question from Lebanon. EDR expressed full support for the plan. DARC observed that the allocation is secondary and all users must be aware of the need to avoid interference to the primary user. VERON proposed removing the footnote text and replacing it with 5.67b.

proposed DARC, seconded OeVSV. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_14:

That REC/99/LH/C4.6 and REC/02/SM/C4.12 be deleted, and the current entry in the Region 1 Band Plan for the 136kHz band be amended to:

Frequency (kHz)	Max Bandwidth (Hz)	Preferred Mode and Usage
135.7 – 137.8	200	CW, QRSS and narrow-band digital modes

In addition the following specific entry be added to the Notes:

R.R. 5.67B The use of the band 135.7-137.8 kHz in Algeria, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan and Tunisia is limited to the fixed and maritime mobile services. The amateur service shall not be used in the above-mentioned countries in the band 135.7-137.8 kHz, and this should be taken into account by the countries authorising such use (WRC-07)

9 Contest matters

9.1 Contest Free Segments

09 DARC

Presented by DARC. Proposal that contest rules shall specify on all bands that some segments are to be kept free of contest activity.

RSGB noted that there already provision for contest free segments in the HF Manager's Handbook. DARC countered that contest rules should specifically state the contest free segments and that the HF Manager's Handbook is a guideline only.

RSGB acknowledged that confusion does occur when contests do not specifically call out the contest sections of the band in the contest rules.

Proposed by RSGB, seconded by OeVSV. Against SARA. Votes for: 21, against: 13. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_15:

That within the chapter 'Guidelines for HF Contest Work' of the IARU Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook, a distinct recommendation to incorporate contest free segments in the rules of contests organized by national societies and its subdivisions shall be given and made well known.

9.2 SSB Preferred Segments – 40M

11 DARC

This paper was included in the 40m band plan sub working group.

9.3 IARU HF Contest

12 FRR

Presented by FRR. Dave K1ZZ was asked to comment on the adjudication of the proposed rule changes as it is administered by the ARRL. He stated he would welcome inputs for changes to the rules. REF & Slovenia questioned the value of moving to distance based multipliers. DARC stated the purpose of this contest was to encourage contacts between member societies & it is not a DX contest, so distance based multipliers are not a good measure for this. EDR commented that this proposal introduces the concept of QTH locators to HF. ARI noted that software would also need to be changed to support the proposal.

Proposed FRR, No seconder. Recommendation is not carried.

9.4 European DX Contest 29 USKA

Presented by USKA. Proposed to replace many small European contests with a single EuDX contest.

OeVSV supports the idea, but noted the difficulty in getting national societies to give up other contests and that any free weekend thus created was likely to be filled by a new contest. USKA countered that the existing contest(s) would remain and that only the dates would change. MRASZ stated that it would be hard to practically include different rules & goals into a single contest. DARC noted that this has been tried in the past but that it did not work and, although the idea is good, they see no way to implement it. OeVSV suggested calling it a contest activity weekend, and not a single contest. RSGB noted that elements of the proposal could be in conflict with the contest recommendations in the HF Manager's Handbook.

The chairman proposed that this be referred to a working group for discussion and that a proposal be brought to the next interim conference. Agreed by all.

9.5 Spectrum Management and Contests 25 RSGB

Presented by RSGB. Noted that even some HQ stations in the IARU contest were operating outside the contest-preferred segments.

EDR expressed strong support for the proposal.

Proposed by EDR, seconded by SARL. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_16:

The Committee recommends that Region 1 Member Societies check and put into effect rules that relate to frequency usage for the HF contests that they organise, and that the Region 1 Executive considers encouraging other IARU Regions to adopt a similar approach.

10 Operating:

10.1 Non Interference Basis versus Deliberate and Malicious Interference 13 NRRL

Presented by NRRL.

The chairman presented the outcome of the deliberate interference working group which effectively runs in parallel with the NRRL paper.

Proposed by EDR, seconded by RAAG. Carried.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_17:

The IARU Region 1 urges its member societies to motivate all their members to operate their radios according to the Non-Interference Basis (NIB) principle, in order to reduce deliberate and malicious interference.

10.2 Combating Deliberate Interference 22 RSGB

Presented by RSGB. Noted that in light of the general discussion on deliberate interference at the operating practices sub work group, and difficulty in gaining action from the appropriate licensing authorities, the paper should be withdrawn. Agreed by all.

10.3 Split operation

15 OeVSV

Presented by OeVSV.

ARI noted that 10kHz is insufficient for a new or rare country and that many radios were not capable of handling many strong signals within 5kHz. MRASZ noted this would be a Region 1 recommendation whereas many expeditions operate in other regions and that smaller stations would be disadvantaged in a narrow working window.

The following proposals were discussed:

10.3.1 Split frequency operation should be used only if absolutely necessary.

Proposed by REF, seconded by RSGB. Carried.

10.3.2 The operating split should be specified.

Proposed by OeVSV, seconded by MRASZ. Carried.

10.3.3 The frequency range used for calling must under normal operating circumstances, be 5kHz or less.

Proposed by ROARS, seconded by ARI, against NRRL, CRC, SARA, SSA, UBA, IRTS. Votes in favour: 16. Carried.

However, following further discussion, OeVSV requested that the paper be withdrawn.

11 Nomination of Chairman for the HF Committee for the coming three years.

The HF Chairman, Colin Thomas G3PSM, noted he is standing for the EC and Presidency and that as the HF Manager chair may become vacant, nominations should be made for the post.

RSGB nominated Ulrich Mueller DK4VW, seconded by OeVSV.

UBA nominated Tom Segalstad LA4LN, seconded by VERON.

On the first count, votes were 16 for each candidate with one abstention. A second vote was called:

Votes for DK4VW: 19

Votes for LA4LN: 16

Abstentions: 1

Ulrich Mueller DK4VW is elected Chairman of the HF Committee.

Recommendation CT08_C4_Rec_18:

C4 proposes Ulrich Mueller DK4VW is elected Chairman of the HF Committee.

12 Date and venue for the next HF Committee Meeting.

At the next Interim Meeting to be agreed.

13 Any other business.

Election of vice chair for the HF Committee.

OeVSV nominated Mauricette Martin F8BPN to continue the post, ROARS seconded.

Mauricette Martin F8BPN is elected.

14 To close the HF Committee Meeting 2008.

Ron Eisenwagner OE3REB thanked the chairman for efficiently handling the meeting which was closed at 11.30.