



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

2014 General Conference - Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

21st - 27th September 2014

Subject: **Minutes of the C4 Committee Meeting**

Society: **IARU Region 1**

Committee: **C4**

Paper Number: **VA14_C4_xx**

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1. Opening, Approval of the Agenda, Chairman's Report

1.1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 10:00 by the Chairman DK4VW.

1.2. Introduction of Delegates

Present at C4: DK4VW Chairman, G4FSU C4 Secretariat, LA4LN NRRL, LB3RE NRRL, 4O3A MARP, E70A ARABIH, YU1EA SRS, DJ1YFK DARC, G3WKL RSGB, SV1GE RAAG, SP7TEV PZK, OK1RI CRC, YO3CZW FRR, Z32TO IARU, A71BA QARS, OZ1ADL EDR, LZ1BJ BFRA, PA3AGF VERON, VE6SH IARU, 7X2RO ARA, OD5RI RAL, K1ZZ IARU, YB0AZ IARU, VU2GMN ARSI, 3A2LF ARM, 3A2CR ARM, OE3MZC OeVSV, OE8KDK OeVSV, F6BEE REF, OM3LU SARA, ON7LX UBA, PA0SHY VERON, 9A2R HRS, 9A5W IARU, OH2KI SRAL, SM6JSM SSA, EA3JI URE, RL3BW SRR, ZS6C SARL, LA2RR IARU, HB9IQY USKA, ES5JR ERAU, TJ3NF ARTG, KF5EYY ARAT, UN7ZA KFRR, A41MA ROARS, TU2OP IARU, A71GO QARS, HA5EA MRASZ, S51FB ZRS, 4Z5LA IARC, DG0YT DARC, EI7CD IRTS, ZA1B AARS, SU1SK ERAS, 9K2QA QARS, G3BJ RSGB

1.3. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda accepted with no objections.

1.4. **VA_14_C4_03** Chairman's Report

The report was presented by the C4 Chairman, Ulli DK4VW. The report was accepted and approved with no objections.

1.5. Voting Procedures

The voting options were presented by the C4 Secretariat. Option a) a show of hands was accepted as the C4 procedure for voting matters.

1.6. Clarification to VA_14_20 Missing Word 'unattended' in Subject

The Chairman noted that the wording on paper VA_14_20 was modified to add 'unattended' in the subject.

2. Ratification of VIE13_C4 Papers

2.1. **VIE13_C4_04 REC_01** Removal of 29 MHz Satellite downlink restriction

Proposed by DARC, seconded by SARL. Carried with no objections.

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_01:

That the 'downlink only' restriction be removed from the 28MHz amateur satellite service bandplan.

2.2. **VIE13_C4_05 REC_02** Reminder 'Unmanned' Transmitting Stations on 30m band

OeVSV requested that the ratification of the paper be postponed due to new papers submitted to the General Conference which will be dealt with in the band planning session. This was accepted.

2.3. **VIE13_C4_06 REC_03** Proposed Usage for the MF band

NRRL requested that text be included in the recommendation and not just a graphical display. NRRL agreed to modify the document and supply the text for review later in the C4 meeting.

The updated text is included in the recommendation.

Proposed by NRRL, seconded by RSGB, Carried unanimously.

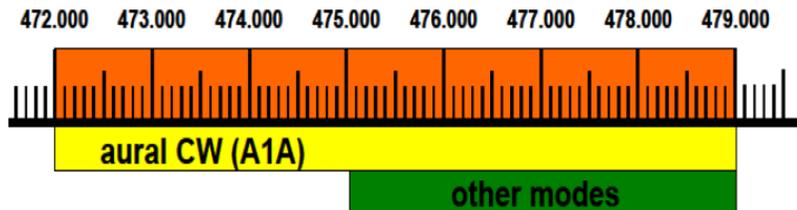
Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_02

That the plan on the proposed usage of the 472 - 479 kHz band (630m) be accepted:

472 - 475 kHz CW only – maximum bandwidth 200 Hz

475 - 479 kHz CW + digimodes

Proposed Usage for the MF Band 472.000 - 479.000 kHz



2.4. **VIE13_C4_07 REC_04** Endorsement of DX Code of Conduct for DXpeditions

Proposed by PZK, seconded by OeVSV. Carried.

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_03:

That member societies endorse and promote the DX Code of Conduct for DXpeditions.

3. **VA14_C3_23** Creation of a Sport Committee, Position of C4 Committee

The C4 Chairman explained his position in opposing the creation of a Sport Committee.

RSGB stated that the current arrangements are quite adequate. The HST working group also stated they did not support the proposal. PZK abstained. DARC also stated opposition as it would create more bureaucracy. ERAU also stated they opposed the proposal.

Proposal: The C4 committee opposes the creation of a Sport Committee

Proposed by CRC, seconded by Veron. 2 abstentions from PZK and NRRL, none against. Carried.

4. **Operating**

4.1. **VA14_C4_15** Access to Remote-Controlled by Monitoring Service **DARC**

The paper was presented by DJ1YFK of DARC.

OeVSV stated that it may be difficult for a national society to organise this with a private station. The statement that 'member societies should organise access to stations' implies more than is intended by the paper. DARC agreed to reword the document before further discussion.

4.2. **VA14_C4_18** Transnational Remote-controlled Stations **IRTS**

The paper was presented by EI7CD of IRTS. IRTS proposed to set up a small working group to draft a statement for inclusion in the HF Manager's Handbook.

OeVSV stated we already had this discussion three years ago at Sun City and that T/R 61-01 could be interpreted differently within the technology of today. They also stated that we should not ask for too much regulation in the service. The Chairman stated that we must follow ITU guidelines and those of the national regulators.

NRRL stated that there is a definition of remote operation in C5 and we should have the same definition above and below 30MHz.

It was agreed to form a working group during the conference with delegates from IRTS (Chair), NRRL, RSGB, DARC, SRAL, IRA, REF, RAAG, MRASZ, OeVSV, CRC, UBA. The output of the working group made the following recommendation:

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_04:

That the following text be published in the VHF and HF Managers Handbook:

Remote Controlled Operation

Remote controlled operation is defined to mean operation where a licensed operator controls an amateur radio station from a remote control terminal.

Where a station is operated remotely, the following conditions shall apply:

- 1. Remote operation must be permitted, or not objected to, by the Regulatory Authority of the country where the station is located.**
- 2. The callsign to be used should be the callsign issued by the Regulatory Authority of the country in which the station is located. This applies irrespective of the location of the operator.**
- 3. It should be noted that Recommendation SC11_C4_07 states that member societies bring to their members attention that the T/R 61-01 agreement only applies to people using their own callsign, with the appropriate**

country prefix, when the operator is actually visiting that country, not for remote operation.

- 4. Any further requirements regarding the participation of remotely controlled stations in contests or award programmes are a matter for the various contest or award programme organisers.**

IRA stated that there could be an upcoming trend in commercial renting of amateur stations and that this should be reflected in the recommendation.

The Chairman stated that the issue concerning payment for amateur stations is a matter for C3 as it is not a purely HF C4 matter.

Proposed by UBA, seconded IRTS. None against, no abstainers. Carried.

4.3. VA14_C4_17 Call sign Identification of Remote-Controlled Stations IRTS

Discussion on this paper is included in the working group on remote operation set up in agenda item 4.2.

4.4. VA14_C4_16 Malicious QRM RSGB

The paper was presented by G3WKL of the RSGB, which proposed a possible solution by coordinating monitoring activities between member societies.

NRRL expressed support for the paper and that something had to be done, noting that in 1999 the IARU took the resolution to take action against amateurs causing deliberate interference.

OeVSV expressed concern at creating a covert policing system for monitoring, saying that this is not within the remit of our societies.

ROARS expressed support for the RSGB proposal and stated that we should try to do something to minimise QRM. RSGB asked if we believed there is a problem - most were in agreement although OeVSV disagreed, saying this is nothing new and does not happen very often. RSGB also stated that there had been no other suggestions so we should try to do something. Tunisia stated that they are only allowed 100W and it is a very severe problem with their operations. CRC also stated they believe the problem is getting worse year by year.

A vote was taken on the resolution. Votes: 43 for, none against, 2 abstaining. Carried.

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_05:

That a Region 1 Amateur Radio Observation Service (AROS) Coordinator is appointed to:

- **coordinate the establishment of independent AROS operations in around 6 member societies**
- **commence monitoring of DXpeditions for malicious QRM**
- **coordinate operation with the aim of identifying any patterns and possible sources of jamming**
- **and report by the next Interim Meeting**

The RSGB asked that it may be better for a smaller society take the lead, however none were willing, so the RSGB agreed to take the lead with support from DARC, RSGB, CRC, IARC, ROARS, SSA, REF, SARL.

The Chairman requested that a named coordinator be appointed for the position before the final plenary. In the second C4 meeting, the RSGB proposed that its AROS Coordinator, Mark Jones G0MGX, take on the additional role of Region 1 AROS Coordinator.

5. Band Planning

5.1. VA14_C4_13 Use of 30m band

NRRL

The paper was presented by LA4LN of NRRL who suggested that a working group be set up to discuss the whole issue of the 30m band plan considering the propagation of the band and the fact that the amateur service has only secondary status.

A working group was established to discuss the band planning issues for both items 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 during the conference and report back at the next C4 meeting.

5.2. VA14_C4_20 Inclusion of 2.7 kHz data segments on 30m and 40m OEVSV

The paper was presented by OE3MZC of OeVSV.

MRASZ asked why the 30m band should be used as it is the narrowest of all, and that why couldn't 80m be used instead. The size of antenna and propagation characteristics make it more suitable. UBA believed the use the 30M band was not a good idea as the amateur service has only secondary status and could not accept the proposal.

The Chairman asked to separate the issue on unmanned unattended stations and the bandwidth of the service. OeVSV clarified by stating that it could apply to either manned or unmanned stations to allow for new technology but it would require 2700Hz bandwidth.

A number of societies (MRASZ, RSGB, NRRL) expressed concerned about adding both unmanned unattended station and wide bandwidth stations in the band. It was also noted that in emergency situations anything should be OK, but outside of emergencies it should not be necessary.

Further discussion was deferred to the working group.

The working group agreed to the following recommendation which is to amend the text in VIE13_C4_05 REC_02:

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_06:

Member Societies are reminded of the recommendation in the IARU Region 1 HF Band Plan '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'.

Unmanned transmitting stations, and operation involving unmanned transmitting stations, must adhere to the frequency and bandwidth limits of the band plan.

The operator connecting to an automatically controlled unmanned transmitting station is responsible for not causing interference. This is particularly important in the 30 metre band where the amateur service only has secondary status.

Amateur radio operators may transmit messages via unmanned transmitting stations during coordinated emergency, and disaster preparedness exercises, limited to the duration of such exercises, using a bandwidth not exceeding 2700Hz.

Such communication should be announced regularly on the frequency, and radio amateurs not participating in the communication should cooperate by not transmitting on the frequency.

Proposed NRRL, seconded DARC. None against, no abstainers. Carried.

5.3. **VA14_C4_11** HF Band Planning

DARC

The paper was presented by DJ1YFK of DARC.

It was noted that the top 10kHz of 30m is very crowded and that operation of digital modes is spreading into the CW only segment below 10.140MHz, which is not in agreement with the Region 1 band plan.

NRRL stated that we should be very careful before changing the band plan especially before WRC15 in view of the secondary status of the band. NRRL would vote against the proposal. UBA also stated support for NRRL. OeVSV noted that the band planning of Region 1 should be the same as other regions, especially Region 2, as 30m is a world-wide band.

The Chairman stated that this could be an opportunity to harmonise the band plans. NRRL noted that only Region 2 had 20kHz for digital modes, so it would not result in harmonisation. DARC stated that it would be more likely that Region 3 could adapt to a common band plan.

YB0AZ from IARU Region 3 stated that it should be better to leave the band plan as it is in view of WRC15.

IRA expressed support for NRRL. LA2RR stated that with the work on 5MHz at WRC15, we need to also be very careful to observe the secondary status of 10MHz and not cause interference to the primary user.

OeVSV stated that they believed the secondary status of 30m was very well observed by the amateur service and they had no reports of problems.

SARA stated we should harmonise the band plan with Region 2.

The Chairman ask for a show of hands in favour of harmonising the 30m band plan. 19 were in favour of harmonisation, 6 in favour of no change, and 15 abstentions.

The recommendation from paper **VA14_C4_20** was modified to change the segment in the Region 1 bandplan from 10.130MHz - 10.140MHz to digital modes, maximum bandwidth 500Hz.

The recommendation was passed to a vote. Proposed by SARA, seconded DARC. Votes for 15, against 17, 4 abstentions. Not carried.

5.4. **VA14_C4_14** Amendment of the 29 MHz band plan **RSGB**

The paper was presented by G4FSU.

Proposed RSGB, seconded MRASZ. None against. 1 abstention. Carried.

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_07:

That the 28 MHz band plan be amended in Region 1 to add to the table:

29 000 – 29 100 6 000 Hz All modes

6. Contests

6.1. VA14_C4_12 Contest free segments on HF DARC

The paper was presented by DJ1YFK.

OeVSV asked why this contest free segment should affect all other contests does not support the paper. UBA does not support the proposal as the proposed frequencies would exclude ON3 stations as they are not allowed that high in the band. MRASZ also stated they saw no reason to change the current segments.

DARC acknowledged the problems this might cause and agreed to withdraw the paper.

6.2. VA14_C4_19 IARU HF Championship – HQ Category ARI

The paper was presented by IV3KKW.

DARC expressed support for allowing different callsigns, but noted that although the rules are not very fair said they would abstain on changing the scoring system. RSGB stated that different callsigns are not an issue, but do not agree with a change in the scoring.

There was much discussion about the scoring system noting that it is unfair and greatly favours certain societies, but there was not much support for changing the scoring system.

OeVSV noted that there may be issues in the scoring software that does not have the ability to handle different HQ callsigns.

ARI agreed to withdraw the proposal for changing scoring and would address the software issue by referring to WWROF.

The committee agreed to create a recommendation to address the issue of permitting different HQ callsigns per band mode.

A proposal by NRRL to require all the HQ stations of a society to be located in the same continent as the society's physical HQ was withdrawn as it was noted there is already a requirement in the rules that all HQ stations be in the same ITU zone.

Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_08:

That C4 recognises the use of different HQ callsigns per band mode in the IARU World Championship is required in some countries and request the EC ask the AC to investigate if this is possible within the scoring software.

Proposed OeVSV, seconded SARL. Against 2, abstain 3. Carried.

7. Information Papers

7.1. **VA14_C4_08** Em Comm Frequency Usage at HF **Coordinator**

The paper was presented by Greg Mossop G0DUB
NRRL supplied some other agreed frequencies that could be added to the frequency list in the information paper.

7.2. **VA14_C4_10** Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio, RaDAR **SARL**

The paper was presented by ZS6C.

7.3. **VA14_C4_09** HF Beacon Coordinator's Report **Coordinator**

The paper was presented by the Chairman DK4VW.

7.4. Proposal to award the IARU Region 1 Medal **Chairman**

The Chairman DK4VW proposed that the IARU Region 1 Medal be awarded to Martin Harrison G3USF for outstanding contribution IARU Region 1.

8. Elections

8.1. C4 Chairman

DK4VW announced that he will re-stand for election for one more term only.

Proposed by RSGB, seconded by IARC. Carried unanimously.

Ulrich Mueller DK4VW is elected Chairman of Committee C4

8.2. C4 Vice Chairman

Stein-Roar Brobakken LB3RE was proposed as Vice Chairman by NRRL, seconded by CRAM. Carried unanimously.

Stein-Roar Brobakken LB3RE is elected Vice Chairman of Committee C4

9. AoB

The C4 secretary G4FSU stated that he had received a proposal from the RSGB that its AROS Coordinator, Mark Jones G0MGX, take on the additional role of Region 1 AROS Coordinator in connection with paper **VA14_C4_16** (Malicious QRM).

10. Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was closed at 12:15 by the Chairman DK4VW.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Greenshields G4FSU
C4 Secretary