

# ***IARU E-LETTER***

## **IARU Electronic Newsletter**

### **November, 2009**

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***In this issue: An Introduction***

***Preparations for WRC-12***

***IARU Administrative Council Meeting***

***GAREC-09 - Action Needed***

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#### ***An Introduction***

This is the first IARU E-Letter for some period of time. As such, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Rod Stafford, W6ROD, the new IARU Secretary. I will also be responsible for publishing this E-Letter. I assumed the office of Secretary on October 1, 2009. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ has been the IARU Secretary for the last 10 years and he was also IARU Secretary for a 7-year period in the 1980's. Dave did a great job as Secretary and I hope to continue the high standard that he established. Dave will continue to work closely with the IARU Administrative Council and will be Recording Secretary at the IARU Administrative Council meetings.

I began my association with the American Radio Relay League in 1983 as a Section Manager in the ARRL Field Organization. The Section Manager is a locally elected ARRL Official. In January, 1986, I became an ARRL Director and since that time have served as a Director, First and Second Vice President, President (1995-2000) and as the International Affairs Vice President (2000-present). I have attended 16 regional conferences, numerous regional executive committee meetings and numerous Administrative Council meetings. I'm certain the international experience will assist me as I take on the challenges of being IARU Secretary. In my professional life I have just retired as a Superior Court Judge in the State of California USA. My last day as an active Judge was the day prior to assuming the duties as IARU Secretary.

As far as my amateur radio operating, I enjoy the HF bands, particularly 20 and 40 meters, when I can make time to get on the air. Since I am now retired from full-time employment I should have more time for operating. My favorite ham activity is ragchewing and getting to know the person I work on the ham bands. I also enjoy VHF-UHF operation when I am in the car.

The purpose of this newsletter will be to provide information to the IARU member-societies that can be shared with their members. Many members of IARU societies are unaware of much of what the IARU does and why it does what it does. Hopefully, this newsletter will help disseminate that information. Member-societies are requested to forward this E-Letter to their members electronically or any other appropriate way. Another purpose of the newsletter is to keep the member-societies up to date on the preparations for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in early, 2012 (WRC-12) and how the member-societies can assist in the preparations. The newsletter will also serve as a outlet for information coming from the member-societies. If there is information that is appropriate to be shared with other member-societies around the world, please send me an email with the information and it will be published in this newsletter.

## WRC-12 Preparations Underway

WRC-12 will start in January, 2012. The year 2012 seems a long way away but it is only slightly more than two years from now. Preparations within national telecom administrations have been underway for some period of time. Regional telecom organizations have been meeting to discuss the WRC agenda items and to arrive at regional positions on each issue.

Each and every IARU member-society capable of doing so should take the initiative to contact their own administration and let the administration know what the IARU position is on those WRC agenda items that impact the amateur radio service. If your society needs some guidance or advice on how best to approach the administration or what the substance of such discussions should be then do not hesitate to contact the IARU International Secretariat for assistance.

It would be very helpful if your society could place a knowledgeable amateur radio operator on the national delegation attending the WRC. If providing the support for an amateur to attend the WRC is not possible, it would be helpful if your society could arrange to have a knowledgeable amateur radio operator attend the national administrations planning meetings or the regional preparatory meetings leading up to the WRC.

Although the preparation process started some time ago it is not too late for your society to get involved. Do it today.

### IARU Administrative Council Meeting October, 2009

The IARU Administrative Council (AC) held its annual meeting in mid-October, 2009, in Christchurch, New Zealand. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, presided over his first AC meeting. Also in attendance was Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Vice President; Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Secretary; Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, President and Dennis Green, ZS4BS, Secretary, IARU Region 1; Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, Secretary, and Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, Director, IARU Region 2; and Michael J. Owen, VK3KI, Chairman, and Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI, Director, IARU Region 3. Also present was Region 3 Director Peter Lake ZL2AZ along with David Sumner, K1ZZ, as recording secretary.

One of the major topics of discussion at the AC meeting involved the upcoming WRC-12, the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2012. The AC adopted preliminary IARU positions on the WRC agenda items that relate to amateur radio or may impact the amateur radio service. The most significant agenda items are:

1. Agenda Item (AI) 1.14 - Implementation of the radiolocation service in the range 30-300 MHz;
2. AI 1.15 - Possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications;
3. AI 1.19 - Software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems;
4. AI 1.22 - Effect of emissions from short-range devices; and
5. AI 1.23 - To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.

IARU has a document on the IARU web site that identifies the present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services. These requirements are identified so that they may be taken into account in the formulation of national policies with respect to proposed and possible future international allocations conferences. At each AC meeting, those requirements are reviewed and when circumstances change so do the requirements. If you're interested in seeing what the IARU sees as spectrum requirements for the amateur service then log onto the IARU web site at <http://www.iaru.org> and look for the "Spectrum Requirements" document.

The IARU 2025 Committee was established a few years ago to explore restructuring IARU to make it more effective to meet the challenges faced by amateur radio. The committee came up with a proposed new structure. However, even though the proposed new structure had a number of beneficial aspects it became obvious early on that funding of the new structure could be problematic. At its recent meeting, the committee was restructured and given a slightly different mandate. If the committee can't develop a funding method for the proposed new structure then the committee may propose a different structure. Additionally, the committee should identify changes which can be implemented in the present structure to address concerns raised by the regional organizations and some member-societies.

There has been a movement in the last several years to try to identify "centers of activity" frequencies across all three IARU regions that can be used in disaster relief operations. It has at times been difficult to arrive at a consensus on what frequencies should be used. The AC noted that all three regions have now reached consensus on three global Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies for use in the event of emergencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. When no emergency operations are being conducted, these frequencies are open for normal amateur usage. However, GAREC-09 (more on GAREC later in this report) calls upon IARU member-societies, among others, "whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, web-sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic." It would be helpful for each member-society to develop an effective method of notifying amateurs within their own country of any such emergency traffic being handled on the CoA frequencies, or elsewhere in the amateur bands.

In 2008, the AC called for a study of the QSL Bureau System. Since the study was initiated over 51 member-societies responded to the study questionnaire. It became clear that in some societies, QSL cards are not handled the same way for members as non-members. There are a small number of societies that dispose of the cards sent through their bureaus for non-members. The AC adopted a resolution stating "that member-societies are strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to provide incoming QSL bureau service to non-members within their operating territory, if such non-members agree to pay the full cost of this service; and if they are not already doing so, to explore appropriate means and methods for delivering QSL cards to non-members."

The AC adopted a protocol to deal with member-societies that no longer exist. If for a period of not less than 5 years: (a) there is no address or other means known to either the International Secretariat or the relevant regional organization by which communication may be made with a member-society; (b) there has been no communication from any person claiming to represent that member-society; and (c) there is no other evidence of the continued existence of that member-society. If those circumstances exist, then the relevant regional organization may request that the AC thereafter publish in the *Calendar* a notice setting out its belief that the particular Member-Society has ceased to exist, and calling for the submission of any evidence to the contrary within 180 days of the publication of the *Calendar*. If no such evidence is submitted within 180 days of the publication of the *Calendar*, then the member-society shall be deemed to no longer exist from that date. Thereafter, any association of radio amateurs claiming to represent that country or separate territory shall be required to apply for membership in the IARU in accordance with the IARU Constitution and Bylaws.

Promoting and preserving amateur radio is the mainstay of the IARU. The AC has at its disposal a number of expert consultants and technical representatives and relies heavily on such volunteer experts and technical representatives.

There is always a need for more assistance by knowledgeable amateurs to attend ITU meetings and other telecommunications meetings to represent IARU. The IARU regional organizations and member-societies can be of assistance by recommending individuals who are capable of attending meetings and effectively promoting the IARU objectives at such meetings. Individuals who are amateurs and who have backgrounds in various technical fields such as broadband or wireless technologies, propagation, radar, satellite communications and spectrum management, just to name a few, can be of assistance. Individuals who may be retired from government work in the field of communications or telecommunication regulation are good candidates for working within the IARU to achieve IARU goals. Member-society leaders are requested to investigate whether such individuals are members of their society and to determine if those amateurs would be willing to assist the IARU. If they are willing to do so, please contact the International Secretariat with the names and contact information so inquiries can be made to determine if they are willing to join the IARU team of experts.

These are some of the important matters discussed at the recent Administrative Council meeting. The complete Summary Record of the meeting can be found at <http://www.iaru.org/admin-council-summaries.html>.

#### GAREC-09

The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC-09) took place in Tokyo, Japan, 24 & 25 August 2009. GAREC-09 was hosted by Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) and was held in conjunction with Jam Fair 2009. Representatives from IARU, the three IARU regional organizations, representatives from a number of IARU member-societies and specialized amateur radio emergency communications groups from all three IARU regions attended the conference.

GAREC-09 produced a statement calling upon IARU member-societies and specialized amateur radio emergency communications groups to:

- to establish close working relationships between the National IARU Member Society and independent specialized Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups in the respective countries as well as to cooperate internationally,
- to request their national regulatory authorities implement the modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), in particular the regulations governing third-party traffic during emergencies and during training for emergency operations,
- to provide training in emergency communications to as many amateurs as possible in their respective countries with particular emphasis on:
- personal and logistical preparedness, the psychological aspects of entering a disaster area, and familiarity with the civil protection system in their country,
- specific communications techniques of particular value in emergencies, and
- remembering that the skills developed in the amateur service can be of great benefit to disaster relief organizations in maintaining and operating their own telecommunications networks,
- whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, web-sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic,
- to use their contacts with national regulatory authorities to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

- to support the work of the IARU on an international Emergency Communications Handbook and to provide copies of existing agreements with institutional partners in emergency response as well as copies of emergency communication guidelines, manuals, and checklists developed for national or local use as inputs to this work,
- to work towards the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding established between the IARU and ITU, IFRC, and the United Nations by seeking cooperation with the respective national institutions and organizations in their country,
- to continuously improve their awareness of the mission, vision, and values of served agencies, and
- to represent themselves as a human and technical resource able and willing to investigate the communication requirements of served agencies, offer recommendations when asked, and facilitate emergency communications when required.

GAREC-10 is already being planned. GAREC will return to Region 2 in 2010. The Venue will be CURACAO. The dates will be October 11-12, 2010. The Theme of the Conference will be: "Learning Through Practicing". More details about GAREC-10 will be available as the conference draws closer or on the GAREC web site at <http://www.iaru.org/emergency/>.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

I can be reached by email at [w6rod@iaru.org](mailto:w6rod@iaru.org). If you have information that you believe would be of interest to the other IARU member-societies around the world then send the information to me. If you would like to see a particular subject discussed in this E-Letter, don't hesitate to contact me with the suggestion.

73,

Rod Stafford W6ROD  
Secretary, International Amateur Radio Union