

IARU E-LETTER

IARU Electronic Newsletter

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Conference Preparatory Meeting - February, 2011

Between every ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) there are two Conference Preparatory Meetings (CPM). The first CPM (CPM-1) usually takes place right after a WRC and at CPM-1 the work leading up to the next WRC is planned out. Then during the next few years, technical studies are conducted if necessary and many, many study group and working party meetings take place to determine how each of the items on the agenda for the next WRC can be resolved. The 2nd CPM (CPM-2) usually takes place within a year prior to the WRC and it is a very important meeting. It is important because it is the culmination of all the work from the various meetings, discussions, experiments, studies, etc. that have taken place since the CPM-1 and the output of CPM-2 for the most part forms the basis of the actions taken at the WRC on each of the agenda items. As with all important ITU meetings, IARU was present for the two-week CPM meeting to promote IARU objectives and goals.

One of the agenda items for WRC-12 (January-February, 2012) is very important to the amateur radio service worldwide. Agenda item 1.23 states:

“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”

The report of the CPM-2 contains 3 alternatives, or methods, of dealing with agenda item 1.23. The CPM report provides:

“After taking studies into account, the following methods to satisfy this agenda item have been proposed:

Method A

A secondary allocation of up to 15 kHz to the ARS on a worldwide basis between 472 kHz and 487 kHz.

Method B

Two non-contiguous worldwide secondary allocations to the ARS at 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz, totaling 15 kHz.

Method C

No change to the Radio Regulations.”

So, at WRC-12, the gathered member states (the governments attending the WRC) will likely adopt one of the methods set out by the report of the CPM-2 to resolve, or satisfy, the agenda item.

IARU will be at WRC-12 and will be working for a favorable outcome for amateur radio operators worldwide.

IARU Structure

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is an organization consisting of over 160 national amateur radio societies around the world. The International Secretariat for the IARU from time to time receives inquiries from individual amateurs as to how they may join IARU. There are no individual members of the IARU. The best way to support the IARU is to maintain membership in one or more of the IARU national amateur radio societies.

The IARU is governed by the IARU Administrative Council (AC). The AC consists of the IARU President, Vice-President, Secretary and two representatives from each of the three IARU regional organizations. IARU Region 1 is Europe, Africa and the Middle East and parts of Asia. IARU Region 2 is North, South and Central America. IARU Region 3 is most of Asia and the Pacific. The Administrative Council determines the policy for the IARU. All of the members of the IARU AC are volunteers as are the officers and directors of the IARU regional organizations. The current President of the IARU is Tim Ellam VE6SH from Canada and the Vice President is Ole Garpestad LA2RR from Norway. The current regional representatives from the three IARU regions come from The Netherlands, Senegal, Venezuela, Mexico, Australia and Japan. The IARU is truly an international organization in both the scope of work and outlook.

As noted in the last issue of this E-Letter, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency that deals with information and communication technologies. Included within the scope of the ITU work are communication services such as the amateur radio and the amateur-satellite services. The Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU (ITU-R) manages the international radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources. One of the most important activities of the IARU is to work within the ITU structure to preserve and maintain the spectrum allocated to the amateur radio and amateur-satellite services and to promote the usefulness and value of amateur radio. IARU attends all ITU-R meetings that may have any impact on amateur radio. In addition to being a sector member of ITU-R, the IARU also is a sector member of the Development Sector of ITU, or ITU-D. Emergency communications, disaster planning and response are topics discussed in ITU-D and IARU participates in those discussions. The nine individuals who are members of the IARU AC cannot attend all of the

numerous ITU meetings that are important to amateur radio. There are quite a number of other qualified individuals, including IARU Expert Consultants and Technical Representatives, who volunteer their time and effort in attending meetings and participate in working groups or study groups on behalf of the IARU.

The IARU AC meets at least once per year but stays in almost daily contact between meetings by email. There are generally a number of IARU officials present at major amateur radio events around the world, such as the Dayton Hamvention or the DARC sponsored event in Friedrichshafen, Germany held in June each year.

In addition to the IARU work within the ITU, there are a number of other activities the IARU is involved in.

The IARU Monitoring System consists of a number of amateur radio operators around the world who monitor the amateur radio spectrum for intruders or non-amateur radio stations transmitting on the amateur radio frequencies. If an intruder is discovered then steps are taken to bring the intruder to the attention of the telecommunication authority where the intruder resides to have the signal removed from amateur radio bands.

The IARU Beacon Project maintains a series of radio beacons in various parts of the world so that amateur operators can determine propagation patterns and participate in propagation studies.

The IARU sponsors the yearly IARU HF World Championship contest. IARU member-societies and IARU volunteers are encouraged to join the contest to promote awareness of the IARU.

The Worked All Continents award is the oldest operating award in amateur radio. The basic award is earned by confirming contacts with the six continental areas of the world (contacts with Antarctica count for the nearest continent with a permanent population). Applications generally are submitted to an amateur's own national IARU member-society. For more information visit www.iaru.org/wac/.

The IARU sponsors World Amateur Radio Day each year in the spring. IARU member-societies are encouraged to take advantage of this special day to promote amateur radio in their country.

The IARU from time to time also becomes involved in other special projects related to amateur radio.

In a subsequent issue of this E-Letter, the IARU regional organizations will be discussed.

Distribution Of This E-Letter

This electronic newsletter is sent to many IARU member-societies headquarters around the world. Individual amateurs should encourage their IARU national society to forward the newsletter to its own members.

If you are an ARRL member, you can subscribe to this E-Letter directly on the ARRL web site. When you log into the ARRL web site, go to the page where you can edit your profile and edit the email subscriptions that are available.

If you have any information that would be appropriate to publish in this electronic newsletter, please contact me at w6rod@iaru.org.

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