

NEWS RELEASE

**International Amateur Radio Union
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27 February 2002

For immediate release

World Amateur Radio Day Celebrates Amateurs' Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology

Amid the much-publicized commercial successes and failures in the telecommunications industry it is easy to overlook the fact that radio amateurs continue to be an important source of innovation in communication technology.

A century has passed since Marconi spanned the Atlantic and excited the imaginations of the first generation of amateur wireless experimenters. Amateurs were the first to discover and to exploit the remarkable properties of the ionosphere that permit worldwide communication with less power than it takes to illuminate a light bulb. They were the first to make widespread use of single-sideband voice communication to conserve power and precious radio spectrum. Amateurs applied microprocessors to data communication, popularizing packet radio and developing protocols that are now in widespread use in public safety and other services.

As we enter radio's second century, amateurs continue to lead the way in numerous areas. World Amateur Radio Day, held each year on 18 April to mark the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris on that date in 1925, provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on these current achievements.

Digital HF Radio: Radio amateurs are the leading developers of new digital techniques for high-frequency (HF) data and text communication. For example, PacTOR combines the strengths of packet radio and the mode known commercially as SITOR to offer reliable and essentially error-free data communication. Disaster relief agencies have adopted it for use from remote locations where no telecommunications infrastructure is available. PSK31 is a user-friendly mode that provides live keyboard communication at low transmitter power levels when error correction is not required. An implementation of PSK31 using computer sound cards has made this the most popular digital mode for radio amateurs in less than two years. Other developers, building on the success of PSK31, are using sound cards to explore a wide range of other digital modes tailored for the challenging HF environment.

Software Defined Radios: Perhaps the outstanding example of a DSP radio designed for experimental use is the DSP-10, a transceiver for the 144-MHz amateur band designed by Bob Larkin, W7PUA, of Corvallis, Oregon, USA. Working with Mr. Larkin, a team of amateur

software developers is refining a family of programs tailored to explore a wide range of VHF, UHF, and microwave propagation media, including moonbounce (Earth-Moon-Earth) and extended-range tropospheric scatter. These are but examples of what is happening in the 21st Century Amateur Radio Service.

The IARU is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations representing radio amateurs in 153 countries. It is a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union and is the recognized representative of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services at the ITU.

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8 November 2002

For immediate release

IARU Council Continues Preparations for WRC-2003

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on 7-8 November 2002 in San Marino, prior to the Conference of IARU Region 1. The dominant topic was the review of preparations for next year's ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), which has on its agenda a number of items of importance to the amateur services. Several attendees will go directly from San Marino to the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) in Geneva, 18-29 November.

At its San Marino meeting the Administrative Council took the following actions:

1. IARU strategy for WRC-2003 was reviewed and refined. The agenda items of concern include harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, possible revision of Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations, review of provisions concerning the formation of amateur call signs in Article 19, study of a possible allocation to the earth exploration-satellite service for synthetic aperture radars (SARs) near 435 MHz, a proposed allocation for radio LANs that could impact the 5-GHz amateur allocation, and the agenda for the next WRC that is now scheduled for the first half of 2007.
2. Recognizing the growing use of power lines for high speed data communications, the Council expressed its concern that radiation from power line communications has a potential for interference with amateur radio reception and resolved to urge member-societies to recognize the importance of scientific investigations now underway and to share information on investigations conducted in their countries.
3. The Council received a report describing the ongoing cooperation between the IARU and the ITU Development Bureau, including the holding of an Amateur Radio Administration Course for Regulators in Nairobi in December 2002 under the sponsorship of the African Telecommunications Union.
4. The Council noted that the IARU is growing, with proposals for the admission of five new members now being considered by the member-societies. The Council affirmed the unfavorable finding of IARU Region 1 with regard to an application for membership from the Council of Europe Amateur Radio Club.

5. The ITU meetings at which IARU representation will be required for the coming year were identified, and plans for representation were reviewed. A series of three meetings is scheduled to deal with the interference potential of ultra wideband (UWB) emissions. An IARU Expert will attend these meetings to ensure that the concerns of the amateur community are taken into account.
6. A working document on the present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services was reviewed and updated, particularly to reflect progress made by member-societies in achieving access for amateurs in the LF band in the range 135-200 kHz.
7. It was noted that a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the European and Inter-American telecommunications organizations (CEPT and CITEL respectively) that may assist in the further development of an international roaming license for radio amateurs. This is an example of the growing importance of inter-regional cooperation and sharing of information, including the desirability of regional IARU Executive Committee meetings having representation from the other regional organizations.
8. The Council affirmed its policy on Morse code as adopted in Guatemala City in October 2001, supporting the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU mandatory requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.
9. The budget for 2003-2005 was adopted as submitted by the International Secretariat. The budget includes provision for financial contributions from the three regional organizations to defray a portion of the expenses, in accordance with previously adopted policy.
10. Council approved the suggestion from Region 1 for the theme of World Amateur Radio Day, 18 April 2003, as "Amateur Radio supporting technology education in the classroom." World Amateur Radio Day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925.
11. Preparations for IARU participation in the upcoming ITU TELECOM Asia 2002 (Hong Kong) and TELECOM World 2003 (Geneva) were reviewed. Peter Naish, VK2BPN, and the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society were thanked for their efforts to ensure an effective display on behalf of the amateur services at TELECOM Asia 2002.
12. Reports of IARU international coordinators and advisers were received. Retiring Region 1 IARU Monitoring System Coordinator Ron Roden, G4GKO, was thanked for his service to the Amateur Radio community.
13. Retiring Region 1 Chairman Lou van de Nadort, PA0LOU, and Secretary Tim Hughes, G3GVV, were recognized for their long and devoted service to their Region and as members of the Council.
14. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held in Taipei on 6-8 September 2003, following the Conference of IARU Region 3.

Attending the meeting were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President David Wardlaw, VK3ADW; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Lou van de Nadort, PA0LOU, Tim Hughes, G3GVV, Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG, Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, Peter Naish, VK2BPN, and K. C. Selvadurai, 9V1UV; and recording secretary Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

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10 December 2002

For immediate release

Cameroun and Macau Admitted to IARU

By vote of the present member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), two new members -- Association des Radio Amateurs du Cameroun (ARTJ) and Associação dos Radioamadores de Macau (ARM) -- have been admitted to the IARU effective 9 December 2002.

ARTJ was founded in 1998. Its official address is Ecole Nationale Superieuse des Postes et Telecom, B.P. 6132 Yaounde, Cameroun. There are 14 members of ARTJ, seven of whom are licensed.

ARM was first formed on 15 June 1992 by seven founding members and now has 85 members. Its official address is Box 6018, Macau SAR; Email arm@macau.ctm.net. The Chinese Radio Sports Association expressed its firm support of the application, stating that "according to the basic law of Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, CRSA will respect all the decisions by ARM and will never interfere in its internal affairs."

The IARU, founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national amateur radio societies with members in 153 countries and separate territories. In addition to becoming members of the worldwide IARU, ARTJ and ARM become members of IARU Region 1 and IARU Region 3, respectively.

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For immediate release

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is pleased to announce the successful presentation of the Amateur Radio Administration Course (ARAC) in Nairobi, Kenya, 9-13 December 2002, to a class of 22 telecommunications officials from English-speaking African countries. The ARAC was conducted jointly by IARU and the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI). Support for the course was provided by the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK).

Students were from administrations and telecommunications operators from Ghana, Kenya, Sudan and Zambia. Presenters were Paul Rinaldo, W4RI for IARU, Mohamed K. Noorani of AFRALTI and Gideon Mwakatobe of ATU. AFRALTI Director Edward Mallango participated in the opening ceremony and ATU Secretary General Jan Mutai officiated at the closing ceremony. Amateur Radio Society of Kenya (ARSK) Chairman E H M (Ted) Alleyne, 5Z4NU, set up an HF station at the training site.

"The presentation of the course in Nairobi was made possible by a strong sense of partnership that exists between ITU, ATU, and IARU," said IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. "IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, has assigned a high priority to the development of Amateur Radio in Africa. We are most gratified that ITU-D Director Hamadoun Touré as well as ATU Secretary General Mutai and his colleagues in Nairobi share our conviction that Amateur Radio can contribute to human resource development for the improvement of telecommunications in Africa."

The ARAC included instruction in subjects such as the ITU, Radio Regulations, spectrum management, the IARU, domestic and international regulations, Amateur Radio operations and technology, disaster communications and the Amateur-Satellite Service.