

International Amateur Radio Union
Administrative Council
Summary Record of Virtual Meeting
8-10 October 2020

1. The 48th meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) was held virtually via Zoom teleconference. members attending the meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; Don Beattie, G3BJ, President, and Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, Secretary, IARU Region 1; Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, President, and George Gorsline, VE3YV, Secretary, IARU Region 2; and Region 3 Chairman Wisnu Widjaja, YB0AZ, and Director Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP. Participating as observers were regional executive committee members Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, Mats Espling, SM6EAN, Jose Arturo Molina, YS1MS, Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Peter Young, VK3MV, and IARU Assistant Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN. President Ellam called the meeting to order at 1200 UTC Thursday, 8 October. He welcomed Mr. Azarian and Mr. Espling to their first AC meeting and Mr. Harrison to his first as Assistant Secretary.
2. A moment of silence was observed for radio amateurs and friends who have died since the previous meeting of the AC.
3. The following agenda was approved:
 1. Opening of meeting by the President
 2. Introductions, meeting arrangements, remembrances
 3. Approval of Agenda
 4. Reports of the officers
 - 4.1. Report of President Ellam
 - 4.2. Report of Vice President Garpestad
 - 4.3. Report of Secretary Sumner
 5. Reports from the regional organizations
 - 5.1. Region 1
 - 5.2. Region 2
 - 5.3. Region 3
 6. Review of reports of International Coordinators and Advisors
 - 6.1. IARU Beacon Project Coordinator – Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN
 - 6.2. Satellite Advisor – Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T
 - 6.3. Emergency Communications Special Advisor – Rod Stafford, W6ROD
 - 6.4. IARU EMC Coordinator – Martin Sach, G8KDF
 7. ITU and related issues
 - 7.1. ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)
 - 7.1.1. WRC-23
 - 7.1.1.1. IARU preparation matrix
 - 7.1.1.2. Preliminary IARU positions on Agenda Items
 - 7.1.1.3. Status of RTO preparations
 - 7.1.2. ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties
 - 7.1.2.1. SG5, WP5A

- 7.1.2.2. SG1, WP1A
 - 7.1.2.3. SG7, WP7C
 - 7.1.2.4. SG4, WP4C
 - 7.1.2.5. SG3, WP3L
 - 7.1.3. Radiocommunication Advisory Group
 - 7.2. ITU Development Sector (ITU-D)
 - 7.2.1. Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)
 - 7.2.2. ITU-D Study Group 2
 - 7.2.3. World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)
 - 7.3. ITU Council
 - 7.4. ITU Telecom World
 - 8. Regulatory/spectrum defense matters not previously discussed
 - 8.1. 144+ Committee
 - 8.2. Update of internal document on use of bands above 30 MHz
 - 9. Strategic planning
 - 9.1. Working Group on the Future of IARU
 - 9.2. Working Group on 21st Century Amateur Radio
 - 9.3. Plan for Development and Support of Amateur Radio Frequency Allocations for 2019-2023
 - 9.4. Consideration of Action Plan for remainder of 2020 and 2021
 - 9.5. Succession planning update
 - 10. Operational and administrative matters
 - 10.1. Relations with Member Societies
 - 10.1.1. Applications for IARU Membership (if any)
 - 10.1.2. Member-Society and Second Society Issues
 - 10.2. Technical Representatives
 - 10.3. 2021-2023 budget and review of 2019 and 2020 budgets
 - 10.4. Amateur Radio Administration Course
 - 10.5. IARU Recognition Awards
 - 10.6. Issues That May Arise from Region 1 Conference
 - 10.7. World Amateur Radio Day
 - 10.8. Other operational and administrative matters
 - 11. Review of Resolutions and Policies
 - 12. Any other business
 - 13. Discussion of venues and dates for next virtual and in-person meetings of Council
 - 14. Drafting and approval of news release covering meeting and adjournment
4. Reports of the officers
- 4.1. President Ellam referred to his written report and highlighted the accelerating pace of change and the urgent need for the IARU to adapt. He also addressed the impact of the pandemic, ITU relations, and several other topics on the meeting agenda. He congratulated Mr. Garpestad on his selection to receive the Michael J. Owen, VK3KI, Memorial Award.
- 4.2. Vice President Garpestad said he was deeply honored to receive the award and thanked the AC for this recognition. His written report highlighted the WRC-23 preparations that have already begun in the ITU-R Working Parties and some of the regional

telecommunications organizations (RTOs), and the challenges we face in defending amateurs' spectrum access to certain frequency bands above 144 MHz.

4.3. Secretary Sumner's written report reviewed activity over the past year. He welcomed Mr. Harrison to the IARU team as Assistant Secretary and noted personnel changes at the International Secretariat; he hopes to meet the new ARRL CEO in November.

5. Reports from the regional organizations

5.1. Mr. Beattie presented the report from Region 1, beginning with the status of WRC-23 preparations in the four RTOs in the region and especially CEPT, which is by far the most active of the RTOs around the world. Region 1 also has been active in ITU-R Working Parties, CISPR, and other intergovernmental entities. Travel has been curtailed since March, causing missed opportunities but considerable financial savings. Several events had to be canceled due to the pandemic and the regional conference was changed to a virtual format, with a continuation planned for October 2021 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

5.2. Mr. Santoyo presented the Region 2 report that was prepared by Mr. Gorsline. The Region 2 Executive Committee normally meets virtually about every three months and has done so this year; the usual in-person meeting that was to be held in Costa Rica at the end of October is being replaced by a series of virtual meetings. An in-person workshop planned for Trinidad was replaced by a series of online workshops that have proved to be very popular with more than 6,900 online views, about 20% being the "live" audience. A Region 2 youth outreach program is taking shape. The region is engaged in CITEL's WRC-23 preparations.

5.3. Mr. Widjaja delivered the Region 3 report. Region 3 also has experienced postponements and cancellations of in-person events due to covid-19 including its initial Youngsters on the Air camp. The next Region 3 Conference, scheduled for early October 2021, may be affected; a decision will be made by the end of March. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) was renewed for another five years. The Region 3 Directors met three times in the past year by teleconference and replaced the annual in-person meeting in early October with a virtual meeting.

6. Reports of International Coordinators and Advisors

Beacon Project Coordinator Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN, Special Advisor for Emergency Communications Rod Stafford, W6ROD, and EMC Coordinator Dr. Martin Sach, G8KDF, joined the meeting to deliver their reports.

6.1. Mr. Jennings reported on the status of the HF time-shared beacon network that is supported by the Northern California DX Foundation and the IARU. He explained recent and planned upgrades and the many applications and uses being made of the network by both amateurs and professional scientific researchers. In response to a request from the AC he proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of his position, which were agreed. The AC renewed its annual contribution of \$1,000 for the program.

6.2. Satellite Advisor Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, who was already participating in the meeting in his capacity as Region 1 Secretary, presented his report. He asked the AC how aggressive the IARU should be in addressing the problem of commercial satellites that seek to use amateur-satellite spectrum and others that are launched and operated without coordination. The AC agreed that rejected coordination requests can be published along with

the reason for the rejection. It would be useful to document cases of harmful interference to amateur satellites. Mr. Santoyo offered to look for a qualified Spanish-speaking candidate to serve on the Advisory Panel.

6.3. Mr. Stafford explained his work representing the IARU in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly with regard to disaster communications, and preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference scheduled for November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He highlighted an opportunity to promote amateur radio in ITU-D as a training platform for youth.

6.4. Dr. Sach reported on what is being done on behalf of the IARU in CISPR, the International Special Committee on Radio Interference. Martin and his predecessor, Tore Worren, LA9QL, continue to work together to address the need for reasonable standards to limit the increasing threat of radio spectrum pollution from proliferating digital devices and wireless power transmission. Together they authored an IARU submission to CISPR earlier this year that provided evidence of the cumulative impact of multiple devices. Dr. Sach has submitted other related papers to CISPR and actively monitors a broad range of CISPR activity.

7. ITU and related issues

7.1. ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

7.1.1. Mr. Garpestad led the discussion of WRC-23 preparations. To provide necessary background he began with "ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties," Agenda Item 7.1.2.

7.1.2.1. Working Party 5A in Study Group 5, and specifically Working Group 1 (WP5A/WG1) chaired by Dale Hughes, VK1DSH on behalf of Australia, is the "home" of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in ITU-R. WP5A/WG1 met virtually in July, agreed on a work plan for WRC-23 agenda item 9.1 topic b (see 7.1.1, below), and responded to requests for information from other WPs. Another meeting will be held virtually in November. Mr. Garpestad and Barry Lewis, G4SJH participated on behalf of IARU along with representatives of six member-societies on their national delegations.

7.1.2.2. WP1A is responsible for spectrum engineering techniques and is a focus of efforts to minimize spectrum pollution from wireless power transmission for electric vehicles and other sources. WP1A has not met since the Lima AC meeting but will meet virtually at the end of November.

7.1.2.3. WP7C is responsible for remote sensing systems in the science services including three WRC-23 agenda items of interest to the IARU and has begun organizing its work. IARU participated in a virtual meeting the week before the AC meeting and will participate in WP7C and correspondence groups going forward.

7.1.2.4. WP4C is responsible for the mobile-satellite and radiodetermination-satellite (RDSS) services. It is to develop studies on WRC-23 agenda item 9.1 topic b and send them to WP5A. WP4C held a two-day virtual meeting on 28-29 May and set up three Correspondence Groups. CG#3 is responsible for 9.1.b. WP4C will meet again on 21-27 October. Barry Lewis, G4SJH, is covering WP4C for IARU.

7.1.2.5. WP3L is responsible for studies of ionospheric propagation and radio noise. Mr. Beattie and Dr. Marcus Walden, G0IJZ, presented two papers to the virtual meeting of WP3L on 12-20 August. One describes ENAMS, a professional noise measurement system developed by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC). The second demonstrates flaws in a measurement system described in an existing ITU-R Report that could lead to erroneous conclusions about the actual noise environment.

Returning to 7.1.1, Mr. Garpestad presented a 37-page document he had prepared giving detailed background information on the six WRC-23 agenda items of interest to the IARU and listing two additional agenda items that Region 1 had identified as deserving to be monitored. The document shows which WPs are responsible for each item. It is not yet clear how the studies will be divided between WPs 4C and 5A. Mr. Garpestad also presented a PowerPoint that he had prepared for the Region 1 Conference explaining each item. WRC-23 agenda item 9.1 topic b concerning 1240-1300 MHz is of the greatest concern.

The meeting was in recess from 1456 UTC to 1200 on the following day, 9 October, with all persons previously mentioned present except the three coordinators/advisors who had joined to present their reports. By prior agreement the first topic for discussion was AC meeting agenda item 9.1, the report of the Working Group on the Future of the IARU (Future Committee).

9.1. Mr. Santoyo, assisted by Messrs. Azarian, Gorsline, and Yamamoto, presented the report of the committee, which has held virtual meetings bi-weekly since mid-May. All committee members agree that the current environment creates the need for IARU to evolve incrementally into a more pragmatic, flexible, and agile organization.

The committee structured its analysis from the following perspectives:

- Core: Identify the core mission and priorities for us, our members, and for amateur radio. What is and how do we provide value? How do we think that value is perceived?
- Relationships: What should the relationship of IARU be with its member-societies, intergovernmental organizations, second societies, special interest groups, clubs, individuals and the rest of the telecommunications ecosystem?
- Organization and governance: what would be the best organizational structure for IARU's current and future role(s), whatever they may be or become?
- Funding: current and possible future sources.
- Legal framework: four similar, but different, legal frameworks with the flexibility to adapt to the then current needs of Amateur Radio and Radio Amateurs.

The committee regards its work as having been completed, with further work to be done by five working groups addressing these perspectives starting with the core mission. Meeting participants were asked to consider the report before the next day's meeting and to be prepared to discuss and consider adopting its recommendations.

Returning to 7.1.1.1, Mr. Garpestad explained a matrix that sets out the responsibilities of the 20 IARU volunteers for the six WRC-23 agenda items of interest, as well of WRC-27 preliminary agenda items and some related issues. Volunteers are active in the ITU-R Working Parties mentioned under 7.1.2 as well as in numerous committees and working

groups of the six regional telecommunications organizations. Additional volunteers are working on behalf of IARU member-societies at the national level.

7.1.1.2. The AC reviewed a draft of preliminary IARU positions on WRC-23 agenda items. Additional work will be done by the Secretary and others over the next few weeks to incorporate the results of the review and complete the document.

7.1.1.3. The status of preparations in the six regional telecommunications organizations was included in the reports of the three regional organizations. At this time the work in CEPT is the most advanced and requires the most resources. CITEL in Region 2 and APT in Region 3 also have started theirs by establishing committees and project teams for their WRC-23 preparatory work.

7.1.2 had been dealt with on the first day.

7.1.3. The Secretary reported briefly on the virtual meeting of the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) held in late May. The RAG provides advice on certain matters to the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau.

7.2. ITU Development Sector (ITU-D). This agenda item was covered under 6.3.

7.3. Mr. Ellam reported briefly on IARU's monitoring of the ITU Council, which meets annually and acts as the ITU's governing body in the four-year interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences.

7.4. Originally planned to be held in Hanoi on 6-9 September, covid-19 forced this year's ITU Telecom World event online. It is now known as ITU Virtual Digital World 2020 and will be held 20-22 October. Digital World 2021 is currently scheduled for September in Hanoi.

8. Regulatory/spectrum defense matters not previously discussed

8.1. The VHF+ Committee is chaired by the President with the Vice President and representatives of all three regional organizations as members. It was formed in 2019 to address demands on amateur spectrum above 144 MHz. The pressure on amateur spectrum continues to grow especially in this range, with many administrations advocating spectrum sharing to accommodate other services without waiting for any ITU WRC process. The Committee's mandate is to identify the amateur spectrum at 144 MHz and above that will be the likely target of requests for spectrum sharing and to arrive at a working proposal that member-societies can use in their negotiations with administrations. Initial discussions will take place with Region 1 member-societies during the virtual Region 1 Conference immediately following the AC meeting.

8.2. Mr. Garpestad introduced the latest version of an internal working document on the use of amateur spectrum above 30 MHz.

The meeting was in recess from 1503 UTC to 1200 on the following day, 10 October, with all persons present on the previous day in attendance.

Completing discussion of agenda item 8.2, the officers will consider methods to update the data contained in the document.

Returning to agenda item 9.1, the Future Committee report was discussed. It was agreed to accept the report and to adopt its recommendations. Mr. Azarian was appointed to head the Core Group. Appointment of group members, and coordinators and members of the other groups, will follow. A communication plan to inform and involve member-societies and others will be needed. Having completed its assignment, the Future Committee was discharged with thanks.

9.2. Mr. Ellam noted that the plan to bring a group of younger radio amateurs together in person was waylaid by the pandemic. However, since the February virtual meeting of the AC both Regions 2 and 3 had appointed youth coordinators. All three regions now have youth coordinators. The next step is for the regional coordinators, including Region 1 where the youth program is much more advanced, to communicate and develop plans among themselves.

9.3. The “Plan for Development and Support of Amateur Radio Frequency Allocations” is an internal reference document with detailed information to aid in preparation for WRCs and in achieving the implementation of favorable WRC decisions by national administrations. The Plan has not been revised since WRC-19; with assistance, the Secretary aims to complete a revision by yearend.

9.4. The Action Plan is a working document, subject to ongoing revision, that identifies upcoming events requiring IARU participation and assigns individual responsibilities. The Secretary led an event-by-event review of the Action Plan for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021. Of course, it is not known if the events will take place in person or virtually and in some cases may be cancelled. In the case of hybrid events, IARU may opt to participate virtually if such participation is expected to be sufficient to meet our objectives.

9.5. Mr. Ellam noted that the addition of Mr. Harrison to the IARU team as Assistant Secretary is a positive step in succession planning.

10. Operational and administrative matters

10.1. Relations with member-societies

10.1.1. Applications for IARU membership

Region 1 reported that two applications have been received. An application from Bahrain requires some additional information that is expected to be received shortly. A favorable finding has been made on an application from the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) and will be proposed to the member-societies in the next IARU *Calendar*.

10.1.2. There were no new member-society or second society issues brought to the attention of the AC.

10.2. The list of IARU Technical Representatives was reviewed. It is maintained for internal use and currently includes 25 volunteers in addition to the IARU officers.

10.3. The Secretary introduced the draft budget for 2021-2023. Provision has been made to fund all travel that normally would be regarded as necessary and desirable, but it is expected that travel restrictions will continue well into 2021 and will reduce the actual expenditure. For that reason, the budget for 2020 is considerably underspent. Expenses for 2019 were

greater than usual because of the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting, WRC-23, and increased participation in CISPR but still were somewhat less than budgeted.

10.4. It was agreed that a revision of the Amateur Radio Administration Course materials must be undertaken without further delay, starting with a new syllabus. Messrs. Blondeel Timmerman, Santoyo, and Yamamoto volunteered to undertake the project.

10.5 The Secretary introduced a paper setting out the system of recognition awards previously adopted by the AC. Mr. Ellam asked that AC members advise the officers of deserving candidates for recognition, especially those volunteers who work for the IARU out of the limelight.

10.6. Regarding issues that may arise from the Region 1 Conference, the VHF+ Committee report (see agenda item 8.1) may stimulate spirited discussion. The much-anticipated Workshop on the Future that was planned for the in-person meeting in Novi Sad this year has had to be postponed until next October.

10.7. Noting the many ways that the global amateur radio community has responded positively to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the AC agreed to develop a related theme for World Amateur Radio Day, 18 April 2021.

10.8. No additional operational or administrative matters were discussed.

11. Apart from the changes in the Terms of Reference of the Beacon Project Coordinator that were agreed at agenda item 6.1 there were no other changes to the Resolutions and Policies of the Administrative Council.

12. There was no other business brought to the attention of the AC.

13. It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting in December/January and another three or four months later. The officers will propose specific dates. It is hoped that an in-person meeting can be held in October in conjunction with an in-person Region 3 Conference.

14. A news release describing the meeting will be prepared by the Secretary and reviewed by the AC before release. There being no further business, after closing remarks the meeting was adjourned at 1426 UTC.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary