



# The Calendar of the International Amateur Radio Union

*Working for the future of amateur radio*

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## **IARU Administrative Council Addresses Wide-Ranging Agenda in Virtual Meeting**

The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on 8-10 October 2020. The AC is responsible for the policy and management of the IARU and consists of the three IARU international officers and two representatives from each of the three IARU regional organizations.

Originally planned to take place in Novi Sad, Serbia, just before the IARU Region 1 Conference in that city, both the AC meeting and the conference had to be held virtually owing to covid-19 travel restrictions. The virtual meeting format had the benefit of allowing participation by additional observers from the regional organizations and real-time presentations of reports to the AC from the specialized IARU coordinators and advisors.

Recently appointed EMC Coordinator Dr. Martin Sach, G8KDF, 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.

IARU Beacon Project Coordinator Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN, 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.

Satellite Advisor Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, described the work of the Satellite Frequency Coordination Panel. Steps are being taken to address the growing number of non-amateur satellites using amateur-satellite spectrum.

Special Advisor for Emergency Communications Rod Stafford, W6ROD, 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. He highlighted an opportunity to promote amateur radio in ITU-D as a training platform for youth.

Preparations are already underway for the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), currently expected to be held in 2023. A team of some 20 IARU volunteers from all continents led by IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, is engaged in the preparatory processes of the ITU and the regional

*The Calendar is the official bulletin of the International Amateur Radio Union. It is distributed to member-societies to present proposals for their consideration and to share information about the work of the IARU to protect, promote, and advance the amateur and amateur-satellite services.*

telecommunications organizations (RTOs). The AC reviewed a draft of preliminary IARU positions on the WRC-23 agenda items of concern to the amateur and amateur-satellite services. The Action Plan for the remainder of 2020 and 2021 was reviewed; it will be subject to continual adjustment in response to the continuing impact of the pandemic on international travel.

In 2019 a committee was formed to address the growing pressure on amateur spectrum allocations, particularly the secondary allocations, at 144 MHz and above. The committee reported on its work to date in defining present and future spectrum requirements. Additional information will be sought from the amateur community on how this spectrum is being utilized.

The AC received and discussed an in-depth report from its Working Group on the Future of IARU and agreed to steps for evolving toward a more flexible organization and strengthened relationships with all stakeholders in the global amateur radio community and telecommunications ecosystem.

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.

AC members attending the meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Don Beattie, G3BJ, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, George Gorsline, VE3YV, Wisnu Widjaja, YB0AZ, and 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.

Additional virtual meetings of the AC will be scheduled in the coming months. It is hoped that an in-person meeting can be held in October 2021.

### **Saudi Amateur Radio Society, Seychelles Amateur Radio Association Join IARU**

On 9 October 2019 Saudi Arabia and Seychelles became the newest countries to be represented in the IARU. With 55 affirmative votes of the existing member-societies required for admission the Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) and Seychelles Amateur Radio Association (SARA) each received 59 in response to Proposals 259 and 260 in Number 200 of the *Calendar*. The two new associations participated in the Region 1 Virtual General Conference in October 2020.

### **Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic Proposed for IARU Membership**

IARU Region 1 has received, reviewed, and accepted an application for membership from the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR). Accordingly, the admission of ARUKR is proposed for approval by the IARU member-societies.

ARUKR was founded on 12 May 1993 and has 112 licensed amateurs as members, corresponding to the number of licensed amateurs in the country. Office bearers are:

Charman of the Board: Dmitriy Sentemov, EX7DY

Secretary: Evgeniy Manakov, EX8AY

Additional Board Members: Georgy Lazarev, EX2M, Vitaliy Finko, EX8MM, and

Vladimir Tsymbalov, EX8MKT

IARU Liaison: Andrea Bianchi, EX0DX

The address of ARUKR is P.O. Box 745, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 720017; telephone +996 777107088; email [brasok27@yandex.ru](mailto:brasok27@yandex.ru); website [www.qrzex.com](http://www.qrzex.com).

In compliance with the Bylaws pertaining to applications for membership the following proposal is presented to member societies for consideration.

**Proposal No. 261:** The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 has forwarded to the Administrative Council an application for membership submitted by the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR). Region 1 reports that it has examined the application and has made a favorable finding. Therefore, in accordance with Bylaw 3, it is proposed that ARUKR be elected to membership to represent the amateurs of Kyrgyzstan.

### **New Member-Society Proposed for Bahrain**

IARU Region 1 also received an application for membership from the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS). Before taking up the application the status of Amateur Radio Association Bahrain (ARAB), whose membership rights were suspended in 2016, had to be determined. Following an investigation both the Region 1 Executive Committee and the IARU Administrative Council are satisfied that ARAB no longer exists. Accordingly, the application from BARS could be considered and a favorable finding was reached.

BARS was founded on 23 July 2020 and is legally registered/recognized to represent the radio amateurs of Bahrain internationally. At the time of its application for membership there were 15 licensed amateurs as members out of a total of 88 in the Kingdom.

Board members of BARS are:

Fawaz Bader Sulaibeekh, A92AA, President and IARU Liaison

Yusuf Farooq Almoayyed, A92TT, Vice President

Abdulrahman Rashed Almannaei, A95TT, General Secretary

Sami Merza Altahoo, A95AS, Treasurer

Radhed Ahmed Alromaihi, A92RR, and Ahmed Khalifa Albinali, A92AB

The location of BARS is Building 334, Road 109, Block 801, Riyadh Avenue, Isa Town; address P.O. Box 28021 Riffa, Bahrain; email [a92aa.bh@gmail.com](mailto:a92aa.bh@gmail.com).

**Proposal No. 262:** The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 has forwarded to the Administrative Council an application for membership submitted by the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS). Region 1 reports that it has examined the application and has made a favorable finding. Therefore, in accordance with Bylaw 3,

it is proposed that BARS be elected to membership to represent the amateurs of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## **Voting Procedure for Proposals 261 and 262**

Member-societies will find vote sheets for Proposals No. 261 and No. 262 accompanying this *Calendar*. The closing date for receipt by the International Secretariat of votes on Proposals No. 261 and No. 262 is five months after the date of this Calendar, or **28 May 2021**. Please note that **votes received after this date cannot be counted**.

The preferred method for returning a vote sheet is by scanned email attachment to [secretary@iaru.org](mailto:secretary@iaru.org). Return by fax to +1 860 594 0259 or by mail to IARU International Secretariat, PO Box 310905, Newington, CT 06131-0905 USA are also acceptable. However, postal delays resulting from the pandemic should be taken into account.

## **WRC-23 Preparations Are Underway**

One of the most important missions of the IARU is to represent the interests of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in the International Telecommunication Union. Periodic ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) revise the international Radio Regulations that define frequency allocations for the various radio services.

As an incumbent radio service with allocations at intervals throughout the radio spectrum, the amateur service faces challenges at every WRC. Successfully defending our existing access to the spectrum is a significant accomplishment at any WRC, but sometimes it is possible also to improve our existing allocations. WRC-19 resulted in major improvements in 50 MHz allocations in Region 1. Without any doubt, this could not have happened without the concerted efforts of dozens of IARU volunteers over the course of several years.

As noted in the report on the October 2020 Administrative Council meeting, the next WRC is expected to be held in 2023. Under the direction of Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, 20 IARU volunteers are participating in virtual meetings of ITU Working Parties and preparatory committees of regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) as they address the WRC-23 agenda items that are of particular concern to us. The potentially affected frequency bands are 50-54 MHz (a new service in an adjacent band is proposed), 1240-1300 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz, 10.0-10.5 GHz, and 241-250 GHz. In addition, studies are being conducted to identify protection requirements for space weather sensors that operate in frequency bands from 13 kHz to at least 15 GHz.

The participation of IARU member-societies in preparations at the national level, to the extent such participation is permitted, is an important contribution to our eventual success at a WRC itself.

## **Special Theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2021 Announced**

The IARU Administrative Council has chosen “Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone” as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day, Sunday, 18 April 2021. Faced with a pandemic that

forced the adoption of extreme physical isolation to reduce the spread of the virus, the worldwide amateur radio community responded positively to overcome the resulting social isolation. In the days and weeks following the onset of the pandemic radio amateurs reached out spontaneously to one another via the airwaves at the local, national, and global levels. Local “wellness nets” provided friendly voices and regular status checks to those, especially the elderly, who are confined to their homes. “Stay safe” special event stations in dozens of countries reminded us all of the importance of limiting the spread of the virus. On-the-air activity was at an unprecedented level throughout the remainder of 2020, with record-breaking numbers of entries in the major contests.

While the development of effective vaccines offers hope for a return to some semblance of normality later in 2021, the pandemic will still be with us when we mark World Amateur Radio Day 2021. This theme offers the opportunity for our member-societies to tailor meaningful messages to the general public about the values of the global amateur radio community.

### **Best Wishes for a Happier New Year**

The year that is about to end has been difficult for many people and many organizations, including the IARU. Nevertheless, we have maintained our essential activities thanks to the tools of electronic communication that are now available. While we look forward to resuming our in-person gatherings at some point in the coming year we now know that much can be accomplished by other means. While virtual meetings cannot entirely replace the in-person kind, they offer an efficient supplement as well as an opportunity for greater participation in the IARU by member-societies without travel budgets. Now we can apply what we have learned to making our global federation even more effective in 2021 and beyond.

Sincere 73 to all,



David Sumner, K1ZZ  
IARU Secretary