

International Amateur Radio Union
Administrative Council
Summary Record of Virtual Meeting
7-9 October 2021

1. The 52nd 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 Joel Harrison, W5ZN; 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 Region 1 Executive Committee members Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, and Mats Espling, SM6EAN, Region 3 Director-Elect Wahyudi Hasbi, YD1PRY, Emergency Communications Special Advisor Rod Stafford, W6ROD, and Assistant Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. President Ellam called the meeting to order at 1200 UTC Thursday, 7 October. He welcomed Mr. Hasbi to his first AC meeting and noted Mr. Widjaja's impending retirement. Mr. Yamamoto is to serve as Region 3 Chairman for the first half of the three-year period prior to the next Region 3 Conference, followed by Mr. Hasbi for the second half; Mr. Ellam congratulated them both.
2. A moment of silence was observed for radio amateurs and friends who have died since the previous meeting of the AC including Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR, Tom Clark, K3IO, and Wolf Harrant, OE1WHC.
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 Harrison
 5. Reports from the regional organizations
 - 5.1. Region 1
 - 5.2. Region 2
 - 5.3. Region 3
 6. Report of the 144+ MHz Committee (VE6SH)
 7. Report of the 144+ Video Committee (W5ZN)
 8. Review of written reports of International Coordinators and Advisors
 - 8.1. IARU Beacon Project Coordinator – Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN
 - 8.2. Satellite Advisor – Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T
 - 8.3. Emergency Communications Special Advisor – Rod Stafford, W6ROD
 - 8.4. IARU EMC Coordinator – Martin Sach, G8KDF
 9. WRC-23 preparations – LA2RR
 - 9.1. Status of WRC-23 Agenda Items
 - 9.2. Update to WRC-23 Matrix

- 9.3. Inputs regarding future agenda items (WRC-23 AI 10)
- 9.4. Preliminary WRC-27 agenda items
10. Regulatory/spectrum defense matters not previously discussed
11. Strategic planning
 - 11.1 Consideration of the final report of the Core Mission Working Group – VE3YV
 - 11.2 Report of the Communications Working Group – SM6EAN
 - 11.3 Report of the Relationships Working Group – F4GKR
12. Operational and administrative matters
 - 12.1. Relations with Member Societies
 - 12.1.1. Applications for IARU Membership (if any)
 - 12.2. Technical Representatives
 - 12.3. 2022-2023 budget and review of 2021 budget
 - 12.4. QSL Practices
 - 12.5 Other operational and administrative matters
13. Amateur Radio Administration Course Management
14. Discussion of ways to update data on amateur spectrum use above 30 MHz
15. Progress on initial implementation of hamradio.org content
16. ARDC – VE6SH/W5ZN
17. Other business
 - 17.1 Youth Category for IARU HF World Championship – W5ZN
18. Proposed date for in-person AC meeting in spring 2022
19. Adjournment

4. Reports of the officers

4.1. President Ellam referred to his written report and highlighted a meeting in July of the IARU officers with ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Minster, NA2AA, who pledged continued support for the ARRL's role as International Secretariat. Mr. Ellam expressed hope that an in-person meeting of the AC will be possible early in 2022 as well as in conjunction with the Region 2 Conference later in the year.

4.2. Vice President Garpestad's work principally has involved WRC-23 preparations, to be covered later in the meeting, and liaison with the Region 1 Executive Committee on behalf of the officers. He served as Chairman of the Jury for the Region 1 ARDF Championships held in Bulgaria.

4.3. Secretary Harrison's report reviewed his activity since assuming the office on 1 July. He agreed with Mr. Ellam that the meeting at ARRL Headquarters was very positive. He is participating in ITU-R Working Party 3L and is serving as the officers' liaison to the Region 2 Executive Committee.

5. Reports from the regional organizations

5.1. Mr. Beattie presented the report from Region 1. He noted the sad loss of Region 1 Vice President 9K2RR and OE1WHC, founder of the DokuFunk archive. Region 1 expects 150 participants in its virtual workshop later in the month; the role of facilitators will be important for its success. He called attention to the need for additional personnel resources to

address EMC issues in CISPR. Savings in travel expenses owing to pandemic restrictions will allow projects to be pursued. Mr. Beattie observed that this would be his last meeting as a member of the AC; Mr. Ellam thanked him for his considerable contributions over the years.

5.2. Mr. Santoyo congratulated the new and old officeholders of Region 3 and deferred to Mr. Gorsline to present the Region 2 report. The Region 2 Executive Committee normally meets in person around this time of year but instead will hold a series of four virtual meetings to address specific topics. Region 2 needs to stimulate more member-societies to participate in CITEL activities through their administrations and to identify more potential volunteers. It is anticipated that the 2022 Region 2 Conference, if it is possible for it to be held in Argentina as planned, will be a hybrid event to permit participation by member-societies that are unable to travel.

5.3 Mr. Widjaja began the Region 3 report. A successful virtual conference was held in September. 9M2IR, HS1FVL, JA1CJP, VK3TX, YD1PRY, and ZL2TLL were elected Directors. JH1NBN was chosen to serve as Secretary. The Directors then elected JA1CJP to serve as their chairman for the next 18 months with YD1PRY to serve for the following 18 months. Mr. Widjaja observed that as he is retiring this would be his last AC meeting but that he hoped to continue to assist with WRC-23 preparations. Mr. Yamamoto concluded the report by noting upcoming APG meetings on WRC-23. The next Region 3 Conference is scheduled for 23-26 September 2024 in Bangkok.

6. Mr. Ellam presented the report of the 144+ MHz Committee. In June 2021 the committee drafted a letter intended as a confidential guide to assist smaller member-societies in discussing spectrum issues with their administrations. The AC approved the content of the letter but the manner of distribution was held for decision later in the meeting.

7. Mr. Harrison reported on behalf of the 144+ Video Committee. The group is tasked with developing a short video for regulators to explain how amateurs use the VHF and higher frequency allocations. A general outline has been developed but a project manager is needed to bring the video to completion. It was agreed that the President and Secretary are to try to identify one.

8. Reports of International Coordinators and Advisors

8.1. Mr. Jennings provided a comprehensive written report on the status of the International Beacon Project, a HF time-shared beacon network that is supported by the Northern California DX Foundation and the IARU. The report highlighted the efforts of local groups and individuals to maintain and improve the system of beacon stations. In response to a suggestion the Secretary is to raise the question with Mr. Jennings as to whether “project” is still the appropriate term to describe the system. The AC renewed its annual contribution of \$1,000 for the program.

8.2. Mr. Blondeel Timmerman presented his report as Satellite Advisor. The satellite frequency coordination panel is functioning well. Considerable time is taken up with explaining to applicants for commercial satellites and educational satellites without an amateur radio mission why their requests cannot be granted. The AC affirmed its support for the work of the panel.

8.3. Mr. Stafford reported on his work representing the IARU in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D). The World Telecommunication Development Conference, scheduled for November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia has been postponed to 2022. He observed that the video being developed by the 144+ Video Committee would be helpful in explaining amateur radio within the Development Sector. The AC agreed that reports of IARU activities in ITU-D should be shared with the regional IARU emergency coordinators.

8.4. Circumstances prevented a report from the EMC Coordinator although work on behalf of the IARU in the EMC field is continuing. The AC agreed that there is a strong case for the formation of a multi-regional group including the International Secretariat in order to improve coordination among the regions.

Consideration of agenda items 9 to 11 was deferred until the following day.

12. Operational and administrative matters

12.1. Mr. Blondeel Timmerman reported that an incomplete application on behalf of a potential member-society has been received by Region 1. More information is needed before it can be considered.

12.2. Two new Technical Representatives from Region 3 have been added to the roster.

12.3. Discussion of the 2022-2023 budget was deferred until the following day.

12.4. A Region 1 paper requested that the AC take positions on several aspects of QSL practices. After discussion the paper was withdrawn. On another subject concerning QSL bureaus there are some reports of packages of cards sent internationally being returned undelivered because of inadequate documentation. The officers are to draft a release to be sent to member-societies inquiring as to their experiences.

12.5. The AC agreed to bestow the Michael J. Owen, VK3KI, Memorial Award on a deserving candidate and the IARU Diamond Award on two other individuals with long records of exemplary service to the IARU and their respective member-societies.

Consideration of agenda items 13 to 15 was deferred until the following day.

16. The AC discussed how to introduce IARU to the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) private foundation. Mr. Ellam and Mr. Harrison will investigate and report back to the AC.

17. Mr. Harrison reported that IARU Region 2 has requested that a Youth category be added to the IARU HF World Championship. He will ask the ARRL to factor this into the rules for next year's competition.

The meeting was in recess from 1445 UTC until 1200 UTC on Friday, 8 October, resuming with all participants present. The agenda items that were held over from the previous day were addressed first.

6. The AC approved a distribution plan for the confidential 144+ MHz Committee letter to member-societies, as discussed on the previous day.

12.3. Mr. Harrison presented the budget for 2022-2023 as submitted to the International Secretariat. While past practice has been to prepare budgets for a three-year period, at this

time there is too much uncertainty regarding 2024 for that to be useful. The budget for 2023 is larger than for 2022 owing to WRC-23 and the Conference Preparatory Meeting earlier in that year. The budget was approved as presented.

9. WRC-23 preparations

9.1. Complete reports on IARU preparations for WRC-23 were distributed to the AC prior to the meeting. Mr. Garpestad observed that ITU-R Working Parties have made less progress in virtual meetings than would have been the case with in-person meetings. However, more IARU volunteers have been able to follow the meetings online than would have been possible if travel had been required. A similar situation exists with respect to the regional telecommunications organizations. The most challenging WRC-23 issue is Agenda Item 9.1 Topic B, a review of the amateur and amateur-satellite allocations at 1240-1300 MHz. As yet there is too little information regarding ongoing studies to share with the amateur community but it will be important to do so when information is available. On another topic, Messrs Garpestad, Blondeel Timmerman, and Sumner were asked to draft a paper to guide member-societies in addressing possible revisions to so-called “country footnotes” in the Radio Regulations with their administrations. The paper is to be circulated to the AC for comment.

9.2. The matrix showing the individuals responsible for representing the IARU on the various WRC-23 agenda items and preparatory bodies was reviewed and updated.

9.3. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of IARU supporting agenda items for future WRCs. Recent experience suggests that proposals to open amateur allocations for consideration would carry considerable risk of negative outcomes. Mr. Blondeel Timmerman suggested that a review of Article 25 of the Radio Regulations, which was last done in 2003, should be considered in the future.

9.4. Mr. Garpestad reported that three WRC-27 preliminary agenda items are being monitored by IARU. The AC agreed that it is too soon to develop IARU positions on these agenda items.

Mr. Ellam thanked Mr. Garpestad for the considerable time he is devoting to coordinating the work of the IARU WRC-23 team.

10. No other regulatory or spectrum defense matters were brought forward for discussion.

11. Strategic planning

11.1. Mr. Gorsline presented the final report of the Core Mission Working Group. The report contains six recommendations for further action. In summary the recommendations are:

1. Adopt a wider definition of amateur radio to include more than individuals with licenses to transmit
2. Ask the Relationships Working Group to find mechanisms to connect the IARU with amateurs who are not involved with a member-society
3. Offer the option of multinational member-societies in parts of the world where individual countries may lack a critical mass of amateurs to form an effective organization

4. Develop a program to assist member-societies that are struggling to fulfill their obligations as well as an alternative when a member-society is not able to do so

5. Identify potential sources of additional funding while recognizing that this may impact governance

6. Strengthen the Amateur Radio Administration Course for regulators and develop a parallel training program for member-societies to assist with representing amateur radio to their administrations and regional telecommunications organization

Mr. Gorsline identified the immediate task of the AC to be setting priorities for these recommendations.

Mr. Widjaja said that he disagreed with the second recommendation, which could make it difficult for some member-societies in Region 3. Additional work will be needed by the Relationships Working Group to find a solution that does not violate the principle that amateurs must speak with one voice to their regulators.

Recognizing that several recommendations require further work by other working groups, the final report of the Core Mission Working Group was accepted with thanks.

11.2. Mr. Espling presented the report of the Communications Working Group, which is acting as a steering committee for the other working groups. The need for change in how the IARU operates is not yet clearly understood across all three regions, although Region 1 has begun moving toward the future through its workshops that will continue virtually one week after this AC meeting. A communications plan to member-societies is to be implemented early in 2022, first with background to make the case for the need for change followed by monthly progress reports.

11.3. Mr. Azarian presented an oral report for the Relationships Working Group. The group has met three times and has reached some agreements in principle. The next steps are to consolidate different working papers and to make sure everything has been addressed. The Core Working Group's Recommendation 4 has not yet been discussed. The Relationships Working Group will meet again after the upcoming Region 1 workshop.

The meeting was in recess from 1455 UTC until 1300 UTC on Saturday, 9 October, resuming with all participants present except Mr. Stafford. Discussion resumed on strategic planning, agenda item 11.

The AC agreed to add two members to the Communications Working Group. The Governance and Funding Working Groups will be constituted quickly so the two groups can begin their work. The Legal Working Group will be organized later.

Referring to the recommendations of the Core Working Group, Recommendations 4 and 6 were identified as having the greatest urgency as they could have a positive impact on WRC-23. A more specific definition of the obligations of a member-society is needed.

13. To move the development of an updated Amateur Radio Administration Course forward a "course director" is needed. Mr. Ellam is to seek the assistance of the ARRL as International Secretariat.

14. Mr. Garpestad asked the regions to provide assistance in updating data on amateur spectrum use above 30 MHz. Region 1 identified its VHF/UHF/SHF Committee as a resource.

15. The AC agreed that it is important to demonstrate progress in implementing the hamradio.org website that was given to IARU. Initial content will be posted and funding for a full implementation will be sought.

18. The AC agreed to hold a virtual meeting in early January and to plan an in-person meeting, preferably in March, if pandemic conditions permit.

19. Mr. Beattie and Mr. Widjaja offered final comments, this being their last AC meeting as members. Other members expressed appreciation for their contributions and made closing remarks. The meeting was adjourned at 1417 UTC.

Joel Harrison, W5ZN
Secretary