



The IARU Region 1 VHF+ Contests management



60 Zjazd PK UKF i 21 Zjazd Techniczny UKF

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International Amateur Radio Union - Working for the future of amateur radio



Who am I ?

- From 1997 to 2007 licensed in Roma as **IW0GPN**
- In 2008 I moved to Maniago (PN) and I changed my call in **IV3KKW**
- ARI member since 1997
- ARI VHF & Up Manager since 2009
- IARU Reg. 1 Executive Committee member since 2017
- IARU Reg.1 VHF+ Contest Working Group member since 2019
- IARU Reg.1 VHF+ Contest Working Group Chairman since 2019

- Member of **IO50 – A73A** (HF Contests) & **IQ5NN** (VHF Contests)



Introduction

- To exist, amateur radio must have access to the radio frequency spectrum. Without it, our radio equipment is like a car without a road !
- Amateur radio exists for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations; to accomplish these objectives, amateurs must have reasonable access to the radio spectrum from LF to MW.

What is IARU?



- Since 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has been the watchdog and spokesman for the world Amateur Radio community. It is the “umbrella” organisation of national amateur radio societies.
- Comprising three Regions and the International Secretariat
- 170 national amateur radio societies as members
 - 2021 new entries : Bahrain and Kyrgyzstan
- Its team is made up entirely of volunteers
- IARU works closely with its Member Societies

This is IARU Region 1



IARU Region 1

Europe

Africa

Middle East

North Asia

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IARU Region 1 Societies



- Europe: 46
- Africa: 35*
- Middle East and N Asia: 21*

- Total Member Societies 102

* A small number temporarily suspended due to lack of activity

How IARU R1 is organized ?



- There are five Permanent Committees :
 - Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee (SRLC)
 - HF Committee
 - VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee
 - EMC Committee
 - Political Relations Committee (PRC)

How IARU R1 is organized ?



- In addition, there are four Working Groups :
 - ARDF — Direction Finding — Working Group
 - HST — High Speed Telegraphy — Working Group
 - STARS (Support for the Amateur Radio Service) - Working Group
 - Youth Working Group (YOTA)
- There are also Coordinators covering other areas of activity :
 - ARSPEX (Amateur Radio Space Exploration) — Emergency Communications — HF beacons — VHF/UHF/Microwave beacons — VHF & Up Contests — IARU Monitoring System — International Programme for Disabled Amateurs — Regulatory Affairs — Satellites



IARU Mission 1/3

- **Representing Amateur Radio**

- in ITU meetings (IARU is Sector Member in ITU-R)
- in all the 6 Regional Telecommunications Organisations (CEPT for the European countries)
- In the EU Parliament / Institutions and political forum which impacts AR activities
- In ITU World Radiocommunications Conference held every 4 years (next will be the ITU WRC-23)



IARU Mission 2/3

- Defending AR Spectrum

- in CISPR (*Comité international spécial des perturbations radioélectriques*) for EMC issues
- In ETSI (*European Telecommunications Standards Institute*) and CENELEC (*Comité Européen de Normalisation Électrotechnique*) for Standardization issues
- Monitoring Amateur Radio Spectrum from intruders
 - IARU-Monitor System



IARU Mission 3/3

- Defining AR for the 21st century
 - Shaping the Future
 - Started at the end of 2021 it's a set of initiatives to find the direction we want to give to amateur radio in the coming future
 - Attracting young people
 - YOTA program
 - Train The Trainer program
 - YOTA Camps (Regional and Subregional)
 - DYM (December YOTA Month) and YCP (Youth Contest Program)
 - Supporting JOTA & Kids Day
 - Attracting newcomers
 - Promotion of AR activities (ARDF-HST-Contests-Field Days)

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Some IARU Achievements



- 21 MHz band globally (WARC 1947)
- Amateur Satellite Service created (WARC-Space 1971)
- 10, 18, 24 MHz bands globally (WARC 1979)
- More amateur-satellite bands (WARC 1979)
- Improved 1.8 MHz band (WARC 1979)
- 7 MHz extension (WRC 2003)
- 136 kHz band globally (WRC 2007)
- 472 kHz band globally (WRC 2012)
- Small global 5 MHz band (WRC 2015)
- Improvements in international roaming for radio amateurs (CEPT & CITEL)
- 50 MHz common allocation in Region 1 (WRC 2019)

Other IARU work with ITU



- Sector member in ITU-D (focus on emergency communications)
 - Development of the Emergency Communication Handbooks and Manuals
- Participation in other ITU initiatives:
 - Smart Sustainable Development Model : *The SSDM seeks to ensure that information and communication technologies are used for both development and for disaster management with the aim of improving the lives of millions of people across the globe.*
 - Spectrum Management Training Program - SMTP
 - Amateur Radio Administration Courses - ARAC

All to support spectrum advocacy mission

IARU influence - EMC



- Inclusion of EMC requirements for Electronic Low Voltage LED lights
- New Requirements for photovoltaic inverters set
- Power Line Technology standard EN 50561-1 which protects amateur spectrum
- Limits for Plasma-TVs below 30 MHz
- Milestones in preventing spurs from Wireless Power Transfer systems (WPT and WPT-EV)
- Include requirements for amateur radio into the EMC database of CISPR
- Starting a debate about multiple sources disturbances



Amateur Radio is fun !

- Amateur Radio comprises several aspects :
 - IT Education
 - Self – Training
 - Experimentation & Innovation
 - Value to society
- and last but not least :

FUN



Contest is fun !

- Talking about fun :

Contesting is FUN, but not only !



Not only fun !

- Any kind of competition requires a lot of effort and is challenging.
- At the same time, it attracts many participants who want to compete with other passionate hams and understand the level of their skills.



Amateur Radio is competition too !

- Competing is one of the most important aspect of the AR.
- In 1920's have been established the firsts contests, and after a century, they are still attracting a lot of participants.



IARU Competitions

- The IARU organizes competitions of any kind of "Radiosport" events:
 - ARDF
 - HST
 - Contesting
 - HF
 - VHF & Up



Improve your skills

- Contesting is a testing ground for all of our skills, it permits to:
 - Improve our technical knowledge
 - Improve our operating skill



Use it or loose it

- And worth mentioning that are the events where our bands are mostly used !
- This is one of the most important aspects, especially for MW bands !



IARU R1 Contests

- Yearly, IARU is organizing the following contests on VHF & Up :
 - 50 MHz MGM and CW/SSB
 - 70 MHz MGM and CW/SSB
 - 144 MHz
 - UHF & MW
 - ATV



2022 Calendar

2022 Contest Calendar

Month	Date	Contest name
April	16 – 17	IARU Reg. 1 50 MHz MGM Contest
May	21 – 22	IARU Reg. 1 70 MHz MGM Contest
June	11 – 12	IARU Reg. 1 ATV Contest
June	18 – 19	IARU Reg. 1 50 MHz CW/SSB Contest
July	16 – 17	IARU Reg. 1 70 MHz CW/SSB Contest
September	03 – 04	IARU Reg. 1 145 MHz Contest
October	01 – 02	IARU Reg. 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest
November	05 – 06	IARU Reg. 1 Marconi Memorial CW 145 MHz Contest

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VHF+ Trophy

- Starting from 2022, IARU organizes also a VHF+ Trophy for 144 MHz and Up.
- It is a Cumulative Trophy in which you sum the score of 5 contests.



Trophy Calendar

2022 Trophy Calendar

Month	Date	Bands	Contest Name
March	05 – 06	145 MHz & Up	1st Subregional
May	07 – 08	145 MHz & Up	2nd Subregional
June	04 – 05	1296 MHz & Up	Microwave Subregional
July	02 – 03	145 MHz & Up	3rd Subregional
September	03 – 04	145 MHz	IARU Region 1 145 MHz
October	01 – 02	435 MHz & Up	IARU Region 1 UHF & Up
November	05 – 06	145 MHz (only CW)	Marconi Memorial CW 145 MHz

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Background

- In the past the organization of each IARU Contest was in charge to a member society.
- The MS VHF Contest manager collected all the logs coming from each nation, evaluated them all and prepared all the classifications.



Background

- More than 15 years ago SP7NJX, Andrzej, started a server in Poland who was collecting contest logs all over Europe. The goal was to facilitate log exchanges for cross checking.
- Unfortunately, Andrzej passed away too soon
- We are always thankful to him for his precious job.

Contest Robot: how it started



- In 2010 Vienna Interim Meeting, Michael OE1MCU, the VHF+ Committee Chairman, presented the idea to a IARU own contest robot.
- The process of preparation of a valid tool was long, and only in 2014 it has been decided to use it as official tool.
- Thanks to Michael for funding this new contest-robot.



A new tool

- In 2014 IARU R1 General Conference it has been decided that for the following 3 years DARC was in charge of the evaluation of all contests, using the IARU R1 robot.



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First three years 2014-2016



- Martin DL5NAH found a lot of minor bugs during the evaluation and the import process of all logs coming from :
 - Single participants directly to the IARU Robot
 - VHF Contest Managers who uploaded the logs in the robot
 - All collected logs in the SP7NJX server



Prizing ceremony

- Starting from 2018 it has been decided to held a prizing ceremony during the Friedrichshafen Ham Radio fair for all the IARU R1 VHF+ Contest.
- Thanks to Jacques ON4AVJ, former VHF+ Committee Chairman, who supported the idea.
- Sadly, Jacques passed away on August 6th.

IARU R1 VHF+ Contest WG



- During the 2017 IARU R1 General Conference, in the VHF+ Committee, ZRS proposed the creation of a team of experienced VHF contesters and contest robot experts to define common checking rules for automatic contest adjudication applications.
- The IARU R1 VHF+ Contest WG was established.
- Robi S53WW was its first chairman.



Objectives

- Organisation and conduct of IARU-Region 1 VHF/UHF/SHF contests including:
 - Collecting logs
 - Evaluating and judging of the received logs
- Publication of official results in a timely manner
- Preparation of awards and certificates
- Encouragement of new participants, modes, activity and use of the higher frequency bands
- Promotion of IARU contests on the web and socials.



GDPR compliance

- Robi started a deep evaluation of the contest robot algorithm and features.
- In the meantime another issues was coming : the new UE GDPR rules.
 - The SP7NJX server was not complying with these new law about personal data protection.
- The contest robot needed new features to comply with the GDPR.



A new chairman

- Robi resigned as Chairman of the VHF+ Contest WG in 2019 after a great effort in debugging the algorithm.
- During the Vienna Interim Meeting Alex IV3KKW has been designed as new chairman and Rob PE1ITR as new IT Project Manager.
- Rob PE1ITR resigned at the end of 2020.



Actual members

VHF+ Contest Co-Ordinator :

IV3KKW

VHF+ Chair:

PA2DW

Members:

OE1MCU, OK1VAO, F5LEN, S53WW, OM3BH,
HA0LC, G0FCT, YU1LA



The actual status

The Contest Robot is day by day becoming a valid and complete tool :

- now all can be easily evaluated with a minimal human intervention, some minor bugs are still present and in the past months we collected all these anomalies which we present to the developer to fix them asap.



First actions

The VHF+ Contest WG proposed some papers during the IARU R1 2020 Virtual GC:

- Creation of a VHF+ Trophy (this year will be the first edition)
- Separation of MGM and CW/SSB in 50 and 70 MHz contests
- Introduction of the «34 hours rule»
- Recommendation for a national Monthly Digital Activity Contest



A few numbers in 2022

- The 1st edition of the IARU R1 Trophy is ongoing :
 - March Subreg. Contest : 1843 logs (evaluated)
 - May Subreg. Contest : 2118 logs (evaluated)
 - June Microwave Contest : 615 logs (log collection over)
 - July Subreg. Contest : 2496 logs (log collection over)

* June and July Contest will be evaluated the next 2 weeks



More numbers

Year	50 MHz	50-MGM	70 MHz	70-MGM	144 MHz	UHF-MW	MMC
2014	497	-	-	-	1090	1318	706
2015	580	-	-	-	1019	1326	866
2016	564	-	-	-	1163	1302	680
2017	613	-	14	-	1734	1729	699
2018	309	-	20	-	1309	1130	501
2019	382	-	16	-	1189	1153	449
2020	537	-	36	-	1965	1921	892
2021	714	10	115	8	1999	1888	762
2022	436	14	36	13			

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The situation

- All the IARU R1 contests held in 2022, so far, have been already evaluated.
- The next ones in the calendar are :
 - Sept. 144 MHz Contest
 - Oct. UHF & MW Contest
 - Nov. Marconi 144 MHz CW Contest



«34 Hours» rule

- In 2021 we adopted this rule for the first time, the Contest WG thinks that is still a good solution to avoid cheaters, at least in the top positions.
- Further, we think that we should start thinking on a reduction of the submission period for all the contests.



The National Contest Managers Role

- it should collaborate to inform all the participants in their countries regarding the contest rules and how/where to send their logs.
- The VHF+ Contest WG is at their disposal for any need.



Promotion is the key

- Contesting is one of the Amateur Radio activity that fascinates the new generations, but not only them.
- A good promotion of it is always welcome.
- Sharing the contest experiences and results is always attractive, please use any platform (web and socials).



Compete with yourself

Each time we take part into a contest we should put us some targets, first of all about our skill.

- Compare our historical results
- Compare our score with other participants operating in similar conditions
- Be ambitious, with realism of course.



Last but not least

Please remember to always send your log to your national VHF+ Contest Manager.

Every log is important, also with only 1 qso ! Why ?

- It is a clear evidence of the use of our bands in that area
- A high number of participants demonstrate the interest of this events
- It permits a better evaluation of the contest



Thank you

Alex IV3KKW

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