



United Kingdom Six Metre Group

Dedicated to encouraging Amateur Radio
operation on 50 MHz around the world

RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting 3 November 2012

UKSMG Report

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this meeting in person.

It is fair to say that UKSMG has not moved forward significantly with the synchronised beacon project that forms part of the new IARU 6m Band-plan. It has always been our position that a beacon system low in the 6m band is essential if they are to be of any real use during Cycle peaks. We are grateful therefore that IARU R1 agreed a 30kHz slot between 50.00 and 50.03 MHz at the Sun City Conference last year.

There are several areas that need addressing if a synchronised beacon chain is to be successful.

The first is to gain agreement with Regions 2 and 3 that this is the way ahead. Whilst it is entirely possible for Region 1 to act unilaterally with regard to the band-plan the occasional HF like nature of propagation at these frequencies suggests that co-operation and mutual agreement is the sensible way forward.

The IBP HF beacon chain works well however it is not ideal for use at 6m. The predominantly VHF nature of the band would make the use of modern digital techniques along with plain CW a much more sensible and useful option. Precisely what format each beacon transmission should take is yet to be decided; however with just 10kHz of bandwidth available, the length of each beacons transmission needs to be carefully thought out to ensure that excessively long intervals between idents are avoided.

A further issue that will need to be addressed is how the decision is taken as to which beacons should form part of the chain and in which locations. This is especially important as there will be a limited number of time slots available to host a beacon.

At present, the new beacon chain remains a good idea on paper. It may now have formal approval to go ahead but it needs relevant expertise to make it happen. Currently, UKSMG does not have that expertise and

despite requests through our own channels have been unable to locate any to date.

As I stated at our recent AGM, this will be my last year as Chairman of UKSMG. My wish is to remain on the committee thereafter with the intention of taking a close and active interest in the beacon issue. I am now also the Spectrum Forum representative for UKSMG.

Trevor Day, G3ZYY
Chairman UKSMG