

VHF Manager Report Nov-2013

The VHF Manager is responsible for the VHF amateur bands primarily 50-432MHz. John Regnault G4SWX was appointed VHF Manager in December 2012.

Highlights

- Inputs to Ofcom on 146MHz and other VHF spectrum release activities.
- Progress at IARU Vienna Interim Meeting on most VHF matters.

Lowlights

- Very slow progress with 432MHz beacon & repeater licensing accompanied by a continuing decline 432MHz activity.

Actions Arising (from 2012 Forum Minutes)

Action: Murray to discuss the synchronisation of 6m beacons with Trevor (This is to be followed up by the new VHF manager)

Action Completed: Two papers were drafted on MGM Beacon frequencies and 6m Beacons, an allocation scheme and spacing/timings. Presented by Microwave Manager Murray Niman, G6JYB and accepted by the meeting. On-going work on beacons, particularly 50MHz is envisaged in 2014 for the IARU-R1 Conference.

General Activity

- A new VHF columnist, Richard Staples G4HGI has been appointed by the Radcom editor. Richard has been working with the VHF Manager to ensure a broad VHF focus but is limited by the column space available in Radcom.
- The VHF Manager wishes to thank the ETCC, in particular the chairman, John McCullagh, for the work done by the ETCC in dealing with the large number of VHF repeater and beacon issues.
- Band plans and descriptions have been updated on RSGB website as part of an on-going review.

Review of the VHF Bands

50MHz:

- Minor band-plan changes to realign Internet gateways
- An input has been drafted and submitted to Ofcom for (WRC-18 Agenda item) the 50MHz allocation to the amateur service to be harmonise across all of ITU Region 1.

70MHz:

- A number of discussions have been held with Ofcom where the case has been made for extending the 70MHz band in the forthcoming spectrum release.

144MHz:

- A paper has been submitted to Ofcom where the case has been made for extending the 144Mhz band in the forthcoming spectrum release to 146-147Mhz for digital amateur services.
- Minor band-plan changes as a result of IARU Region 1 meeting; datacomms + WSPR
- Ofcom has approved a SRP for high power operation for EME for a member. Another member withdrew his application after Ofcom proposed on-site measurements.
- GB3WGI transatlantic beacon now active – see PSC report

432MHz:

- Loss of beacons combined with very slow progress with 432MHz beacon & repeater licensing
- A continuing decline 432MHz activity.

IARU Vienna – Interim Meeting April 2013

VHF papers presented by RSGB (Microwave Manager) were:-

- VIE13_C5_02: 70MHz Band Plan
- VIE13_C5_03: Increased Amateur-Satellite Service 144MHz Usage
- VIE13_C5_04: Band Plan Modernisation & Updates
- VIE13_C5_33: Beacons – MGM Alignment
- VIE13_C5_34: 50 MHz Synchronised Beacons

The recommendations in VIE13_C5_03 Increased Amateur-Satellite Service 144MHz Usage, accepted at Vienna(though not unanimous) which had been developed by Graham Shirville G3VZV has now moved on to be adopted by IARU Region 2.

Outlook

- When Ofcom move forward with the next stages of VHF spectrum release the RSGB will draft and submit formal responses.
- Some initial brief discussions have been held with BATC over the potential for digital ATV in any new VHF frequencies resulting from the Ofcom spectrum release.
- The Vienna meeting was useful in revising parameters for Beacon-MGM and to establish the spacing/keying the new 6m synchronised beacons. Further work on these will occur for the 2014 Region-1 Conference.

John Regnault G4SWX
October 2013