

# Minutes of RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## DRAFT

### 1. **Apologies:**

G0MGX, G0TWW, G3RZP, G3XTT, GM3ZYE, G0RDI, G3XJS, G3VZV

2. Introductions of those present were made around the table.

### 3. **Present:**

Colin Thomas, G3PSM, RSGB President & Spectrum Forum Chair.

David Butler, G4ASR, RSGB VHF Manager

Murray Niman, G6JYB, RSGB Microwave Manager,

John McCullagh, G14BWM, RSGB Emerging Technology Coordination Committee

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, Chair RAEN

John Gould, G3WKL, RSGB HF Manager

John Butcher, G3LAS, Chiltern DX Club

Dave, Lawley, G4BUO, FOC and in lieu of G3XTT, Sport Radio

Dave Wilson, M0OBW, HFC Chair

Trevor Hawkins, M5AKA, AMSAT-UK

Martin Harrison, G3USF, RSGB Propagation Studies Committee

Richard Hankins, G7RVI, Vintage & Military ARS

Angus Annan, MM1CCR, RSGB International

Sam Jewell, G4DDK, UK Microwave Group

4. Angus, MM1CCR was appointed Meeting Secretary.

### 5. **Spectrum Reports:**

**HF Manager** – John, G3WKL, outlined his report. No specific comments were made or actions placed.

**VHF Manager**- Dave, G4ASR, referred to his report and emphasised the need for compliance with band plans.

40/60 MHz – The 40 MHz beacon, GB3RAL continues in operation . Before the summer of 2009 an application needs to be made to continue the GB3RAL experiment on these bands.

70 MHz – A 4dB power increase has been requested and discussion continue with MoD.

A query was raised by Richard, G7RVI, on behalf of VHF AM users about the allocations of channel frequencies. It was noted that the allocations were probably driven by crystal frequency holdings and the recommended centres of activity for AM operation is 50.550MHz, 70.260MHz, 144.550MHz.. It was felt that the channel allocations should solve a number of outstanding problems.

**Microwave Manager** - Murray, G6JYB, referred to his report and the need for a long term restructuring of the microwave bands to a more readily defended position. Spectrum charging to the MoD is expected to result in the release frequencies. RSGB papers will dominate microwave matters at the R1 Conference. One key objective is to promote/acquire 3.4GHz Amateur Satellite Service downlink allocations in support of the proposed global geostationary satellite network.

## 6. Committee Reports

John, GI4WBM, ETCC, reports continued abuse of the repeater networks and a welcome surge in DStar proposals. Problems continue with interference from crane control telemetry systems.

Martin Harrison, G3USF, PSC, referred to his report and declined to predict the next sunspot movement.

## 7. IARU Region 1 Conference Papers

### 6.1 Committee C3 (General Administration/Cross Spectrum)

#### 6.1.1 Emergency Communications – C3\_40, 41v2, 43.

The suggested Emercomms Competition was not supported. It was agreed to take a neutral position on the /D proposal as RSGB is not affected.

#### 6.1.2 Signal Reporting – C3\_46, 49, 50

C3\_46 will not be supported and 5&9s are still felt to be important.

C3\_49 QSO definition is unnecessary and is covered in the VHF manager's handbook

C3\_50 MOS for digital speech “discuss, needs more work”

#### 6.1.3 IARU Spectrum Requirements – C3\_I57

The UK delegation is expert on these matters. AMSAT-UK commented that all primary allocations should be available to both Amateur Radio Satellite and Amateur Radio services, not solely Amateur Radio as at present.

### 6.1 Committee C4 (HF)

#### 6.2.1 40 metre band planning (including digital modes) – C4\_10v2, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19

C410v2 DARC paper on centres of activity. There was a general preference for the RSGB proposal over those of DARC and REF. It is likely that the matter will be sorted out through an ad hoc working group at the Conference; RSGB may propose this approach. RAEN seeks a replacement CoA and a clarification of the term “Centres of Activity”. It was noted that these centres should not be exclusive. 7143 kHz is a proposed Centre of Activity for AM and 40 Metre band planning is to be left in the hands of John, G3WKL.

#### 6.2.2 IARU HF Contest – C4\_12

No objections to the changes but they may not work in the form proposed.

#### 6.2.3 Deliberate Interference – C4\_13, 22 and C3\_16

No disagreement in terms of the ON4UN/ON4WW education and training booklet, but it was thought that it will be insufficient on its own to solve the worst of the problem. General support for the RSGB proposal. This will be addressed in a workshop led by Colin, G3PSM and John ON4UN.

#### 6.2.4 Split frequency operations – C4\_15

The position is to be assessed during the conference.

- 6.2.5 80 Metre AM Centre of Activity – C4\_18  
Agreement in principle, applies to 3.5 and 7MHz, but would like to negotiate on the frequency. A better approach may be to set a 6kHz BW limit, take a technology neutral line and make such a proposal in response to the paper.  
Richard G7RVI, will make enquiries about AM CoAs and band sub segments; 3615kHz was one possibility. RAEN stated that there were problems on the last global Simulated Emergency Test on 3760 kHz vs DL operators. The rationale for the 3750 proposal is not known. Discuss in conference.

18130 SSB CoA, no objections.

There is some danger of an over supply of CoAs so a cautious approach although there is a good case for Emercomms and QRP footnotes.

- 6.2.6 135 kHz – C4\_14, 20  
Replacement guidelines, supported.
- 6.2.7 Extended use of SSB on 30 metres – C4\_28v2  
The Amateur Radio service is a secondary user with CW and RTTY allowed so only narrow band use. It is not clear why there should be any case for SSB here. The other users are primarily military and NGOs. A counter proposal may be made resurrecting the idea of a power limitation, non-award, non-contest use of SSB. John, G3WKL, will circulate an earlier draft along these lines.
- 6.2.8 HF Beacons – C4\_24, 27  
The objective is to have an optimised geographic network of high quality beacons. Improvements in accuracy of frequencies and timing are desirable. Subject to informal discussion at the conference about more developments.
- 6.2.9 European DX Contest – C4\_29  
Not supported as this proposal is viewed as wishful thinking and if carried it will not result in any reduction of national contests. It is not compliant with Chapter 7 of the HF Manager manual. Not in favour of any multi mode contest as any holes in the contest calendar would soon be filled.

### **6.3 Committee C5 (VHF/UHF/Microwaves)**

- 6.3.1 Satellites – C5\_03, 16, 17, 37  
03 - Supported as gives greater dialogue and co-ordination.  
16,17,37 – agreed.

- 6.3.2 Digital Voice – C5\_05, 07  
Principle agreed, subject to negotiation on control of BW and non interference. Is it really necessary to have specific frequencies for digital voice?

- 6.3.3 70cm Repeater Shifts – C5\_06  
There are concerns here about the position with ref to Short Range Devices and this proposal may send out the wrong message at this time. Dave, G4ASR, will handle this in C5.

- 6.3.4 Internet Voice Gateway Frequencies – C5\_08  
For informal discussion at the conference, viewed as non contentious.

6.3.5 APRS Techniques – C5\_09, I31, 33

Advice had been received that C5-33 was along the right lines and that C5-09 was not preferred, but both will be subject to discussion at the conference.

Item I31 has the potential for interference with AMSAT and will be subject to further discussion in the light of AMSAT views.

6.3.6 Remote Control of VHF/SHF Remote Controlled Stations – C5\_11

Not supported as the recommendation is not understood and needs to be reworded.

6.3.7 Procedure for Airplane Reflections – C5\_12

Subject to discussion in C5.

6.3.8 RSGB Papers – C5\_13, I14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2

RSGB papers, not discussed as all supported

**7. SRDs and 70 cms**

PMR446 analogue voice will be permitted at 10 mW within the 70cms band from early 2009, but sets can be readily modified for operation at 3watts. The Ofcom/RSGB Forum is seeking to take this issue up with SE24 group, seeking mitigation, but this may not be practicable.

**8. AOB**

**London 2012** - RSGB expects some use of Amateur service spectrum, but has given Ofcom a spreadsheet of non-negotiable frequencies. There is also a concern about provisions for the recovery of the radio stock used on amateur radio bands during the Olympics. A formal plan is not expected until much closer to the Olympics and a formal consultation will be held by Ofcom. Additional work is underway to assess demands by wireless cameras for Amateur microwave spectrum

9 The date of the next meeting will be fixed at some later point, but is likely to be at the same location in twelve months time.

AGA  
MM1CCR

28<sup>th</sup> September 2008.