IARU Liaison Report #5

Jim Linton VK3PC

iaru@wia.org.au

International Beacon Project Upgrade

All five Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF)/IARU HF propagation beacons in IARU Region 3 are being upgraded.

Main part of the upgrade is the NCDXF 2.0 beacon controller. It was based on the well-known Arduino platform making it easier to support and open for future enhancements.

Completing this upgrade are VK6RMB West Australia and 4S7B Sri Lanka. Both now welcome reception reports.

Walt Wilson N6XG of the NCDXF said VR2ZRE Hong Kong was also on air with a new antenna and meeting beacon performance expectations. HARTS was to install the new hardware, but some technical issues remain on long coax runs.

In other progress, new hardware has reached JA2IGY. The JARL International Section Manager, Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP said permission has been gained from the administration for the upgrade, and planning was under way.

Walt N6XG reports that after further discussions, the ZL6B beacon run by the NZART was next on the list. ZL6B Beacon Coordinator Robert Lambert ZL2BFY said it had been running for the past two years with known faults, but expected the replacement to be installed this year.

IARU R3 International Beacon Coordinator Joz Sefriano YD1JZ, in his annual report had all five beacons in 'normal operation', with this being shown by a screenshot from *www.ncdxf.org/beacon/index.html*

All beacons transmit CW at 22wpm on 14.100, 18.110, 21,150, 24.930, and 28.200. The callsign and the first 'dash' are sent at 100W, with three dashes following at 10W, 1W and 100 mW respectively.

When a beacon ends its transmission the next in the sequence begins transmitting, while the beacon moves to the next higher band. The network has 18 beacons synchronised to repeat their band transmission every three minutes.

The others are ZS2DN, 5Z4B, 4XTU, RR89O, OH2B, CS3B, LU4AA, OA4B, YV5B, 4U1UN, VE8AT, W6WX, and KH6RS.

Thanks to the NCDXF and volunteers for the upgrading and more information is at: www.iaru.org/beacon-project.html and ncdxf.org/pages/beacons.html

IARU Region 3 Directors Meeting

Directors of the IARU region that covers the Asia-Pacific met at the JARL Headquarters in Tokyo on 4-5 September, to discuss a range of matters and review annual reports.

They were Professor Rhee HL1AQQ, Peter VK3MV, Don ZL2TLL, Wisnu YB0AZ, Shizuo

JE1MUI, and Chairman Gopal VU2GMN, with Secretary Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP, joined by Tim Ellam VE6SH the IARU President.

In a news release the meeting reviewed the 17th IARU Region 3 Conference on September 10-14, 2018, to be attended by Member Societies in Seoul, Korea.

The Directors decided that in keeping with the focus of promoting Amateur Radio to young persons, the theme for the Conference would be 'Engaging Youth for the future of Amateur Radio'.

The ITU World Radiocommunications Conference or WRC-19 agenda matters of interest to the amateur service and amateur satellite service were discussed.

IARU Region 3 Directors Shizuo JE1MUI and Wisnu YB0AZ was at the July meeting of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Preparatory Group in Indonesia and made presentations.

Reactivation of Amateur Radio in Fiji and the other Pacific islands is still of interest with a potential development soon.

The reformatting of Region 3 Band Plans has been done, and after comments from Member Societies and the other IARU Regions, the final Band Plan document will be put for adoption at the Region 3 Conference around September 2018.

IARU targets Amateur Radio promotion

At selected opportunities the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), often working with local member societies, raises awareness and understanding of Amateur Radio.

The latest major IARU promotion was on August 7-9 at the Mexico City World Trade Centre. The IARU Region 2, together with the ARRL and the FMRE, delivered a very successful Amateur Radio Administration Course.

Public servants attended from Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Honduras. They are in charge of administering communications and spectrum regulation.

The course included the legal framework for Amateur Radio in the ITU, our spectrum, reciprocal licenses, emergency communications, the IARU and its member societies.

There were also presentations to explain how we operate, which included DXpeditions, contests, digital communications and moon bounce.

The event ended with a visit to a radio station where participants could better understand everything they learned and had the opportunity to make some contacts.