

VHF/UHF/Microwaves CHALLENGE TROPHIES AND MEDALS : HISTORY AND WINNERS

Till 1989 the rules for the official IARU Region 1 contests stated that the participants in the IARU Region VHF/UHF/Microwaves contests competed for four Challenge Trophies. These Trophies had come into existence and were awarded in the following manner.

IARU Region 1 contests have always been run with two categories of stations on each band. At the VHF Working Group meeting in The Hague in 1959 these two groups were defined as follows :

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| section 1 | - | Home stations fixed
Genuine alternative address stations |
| section 2 | - | Portable stations fixed (using the mains)
Portables and mobiles independent of the mains |

At the same meeting in The Hague, through the good offices of VERON, the **IARU Region 1 VHF trophy** was donated by NEAL Crystals Ltd. At that time the only Region 1 contest was an all-band event held during the first weekend of September. It was decided that as of 1959 the Trophy would be awarded to the highest scorer on 145 MHz in this contest, irrespective of the category (section).

As could be expected, in most cases this was a station competing in the portable category, section 2. To remedy this situation, at the Region 1 Conference in Folkestone (1961) PZK donated the **PZK Trophy**, to be awarded to the station in the other category (section) on 145 MHz from 1961 onwards.

The awarding procedure could, of course, lead to a switching of the Trophies between sections, depending on whether a home or a portable station had scored highest. Hence, in order to simplify matters, as of 1966 the Region 1 VHF Trophy has been awarded to the winner in section 1 and the PZK Trophy to the winner in section 2 on 145 MHz.

When in 1973, at the VHF Working Group meeting in Baunatal, it was decided to organise the Region 1 September contest only on 145 MHz, nothing had to be changed in the awarding of the Trophies.

In 1962, for the first time a separate official Region 1 UHF/Microwaves contest was held, at that time during the first weekend in May. This was changed to the first weekend in October at the Region 1 Conference in Brussels (1969).

At the Region 1 Conference in Malmö (1963) I1XD, VHF Manager of ARI, offered the **Vittoria Alata Cup** to be awarded to the highest scorer in the Region 1 UHF/Microwaves contest, irrespective of the section the winner would compete in. In 1966, at the Conference in Opatija, I1XD donated a **second Vittoria Alata Cup**, and as of that year the **Vittoria Alata Cup I** has been awarded to the winner in section 1 on 435 MHz, and the **Vittoria Alata Cup II** to the winner in section 2 on 435 MHz.

At the Region 1 Conference in Scheveningen (1972) a recommendation was adopted to establish as of 1973 overall UHF/Microwaves contest winners in each station category (section) with the aid of a multiplier system for points made on the various bands. It was decided to maintain the system established for awarding the Challenge Trophies, and to award IARU Region 1 medals to the overall UHF/Microwaves contest winners. Later it appeared to be more practical to award a **IARU REGION 1 CERTIFICATE** to those winners. Those certificates will be provided by the chairman of the VHF/UHF/Microwaves committee to the adjudicating society for signature and distribution to the winners.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Miskolc-Tapolca (1978) the station categories (sections) were changed to

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| section 1 | - | stations operated by a single operator, with no assistance during the contest, using privately owned equipment and antennas and operating from any location |
| section 2 | - | all other entrants |

The system for awarding the Trophies to the winners in the various sections in the 144 MHz and the 435 MHz bands was maintained.

Lists of winners of the various Trophies and certificates, as established in the manner described above, are given in Appendix 1.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Torremolinos (April 1990) the Chairman of the VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee had to announce that diligent efforts to trace the whereabouts of

these Trophies has met with no success.

During the last decades the Trophies had never been sent to the winners, as in the past difficulties had been experienced with custom duties etc., but the winners only received a special certificate. The IARU Region 1 Trophy and the PZK Trophy were probably retained by early winners, though this is by no means sure. The Vittoria Alata Cups have always been in the possession of I1XD, (who did send the winners a photograph of the cup with the call-sign engraved) but could not be found by his family after his demise.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Torremolinos (April 1990) it was decided to remove the Challenge Trophies from the contest rules. In case new Trophies would be donated, it was agreed that these would be retained at the IARU Region 1 Secretariat, and that only special certificates with pictures of the donated Trophies would be sent to the various winners.

The winners of the IARU certificates and of any newly donated Trophies will be mentioned in Appendix 1.