

VHF/UHF/Microwaves RECORDS

The desirability of having a list of national and international records on VHF, UHF, and MICROWAVES, which would give a good impression of the progress made by amateurs in the course of the years, has been recognized for a long time. At the meeting of the VHF Working Group in Amsterdam (1976) SM5AGM, Folke Rasvall, then VHF Manager of SSA, offered to compile an IARU Region I record table for the different modes of wave propagation. This offer was accepted with thanks, and it was agreed that:

a) VHF Managers shall send SM5AGM a list of their national DX records, covering the various modes of propagation, i.e. tropospheric, aurora, meteor scatter, sporadic-E and EME, for each of the VHF, UHF and Microwaves bands; b) the information, after having been collated by SM5AGM, shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary of IARU Region I for publication in the Region I News, e.g. once per annum; c) the VHF Manager shall send the information on any new record established in his country immediately to SM5AGM.

The following recommendation was adopted at the IARU Region I Conference in Opatija (1966):

In principle all QSO's via a translator system shall be in a special class and shall not be eligible for inclusion in normal Countries Worked lists or for DX-record awards. A special list for translator QSO's shall be established.

At the IARU Region I Conference in Cefalu (1984) SM5AGM was nominated as IARU Region I Coordinator for VHF/UHF/Microwaves DX records. SM5AGM made the following suggestions on the procedures for establishing the record table:

Each year the IARU Region I record table as well as the national record table should be published in the national amateur radio magazine, accompanied by a request to the readers for submitting necessary changes. Claimed records should be carefully checked. For instance, for tropo records check the weather map for the day in question, for sporadic-E records check the time of the year and the time of day and, if possible, compare the claim with reports on other QSO's made during the opening. It has occurred that long meteor- scatter bursts were taken for a short sporadic-E opening! Be also aware of the possibility that 28, 21 or 14 MHz QSO's may mistakenly be reported as 145 MHz QSO's by stations using transverter systems. Check whether QSL cards have been exchanged. Please note that records are only established for different propagation modes, and that the Region I list does not deal with different transmission modes (CW, SSB etc.) or with "firsts". From the above it is clear that a sound record table can only be established in close co-operation with all national VHF and Microwave Managers or Committees.

At the IARU Region I Conference in De Haan (1993) John Morris, GM4ANB, was elected as the successor of SM5AGM. In 2001 he had to step down due to his permanent stay in the US. Tommy Bjornstrom, SM7NZB offered to take over the work. His address is given on page If of this handbook.

Appendix 1 contains the latest list of records, as compiled by the IARU Region I VHF/UHF/Microwaves DX Record Coordinator. Updated versions of this list will be published regularly.

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