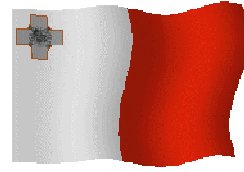


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

Number 31

October 2008



Smoking is prohibited **Tpejjipx** at the Centre No Smoking

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for October 2008, which is issue 31 of this series.

The first thing I wish to tell you is that at last after many representations from our side and after the Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (**ITU**) had granted a world-wide allocation to radio amateurs on **136 kHz, we will be able to use it as from 1 January 2009**. More details are found further down.

I again appeal to those who may have a copy of some magazine that were issued prior to this series please pass it on to me so that I can make a copy and then I will pass it back. I thank you for your cooperation beforehand.

On Saturday 20 September we held the end of Summer **BBQ** at our Club at H'Attard which was a success. I thank all those who came and enjoyed themselves with us and I hope that they will continue to come whenever we organize some activity.

There were a number of radio amateurs who again took part in the scout jamboree which this year was the 100 anniversary of the establishment of the Scout Movement in Malta. If they pass me some photos I will be able to put them on the magazine.

I wish to remind you that now that we are nearing the last days of the year you should start thinking about paying your membership so as to be able to vote.

I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

GlobalSet

We are reminding those radio amateurs who are in the emergency group that the next emergency simulation exercise is going to be held on **Saturday, 8th November, 2008**, between **04.00** and **08.00 UTC**.

The frequencies are going to be **80M, 40M, 20M, 17M** and **15M**, and **CW SSB DATA** systems may be used.

All those who are not in the group are requested not to cause interference on the frequencies being used. Remember that the radio amateurs will be taking part in an international exercise and that an emergency can arise at any time anywhere.

This is a summary of known participants in the exercise. Please check http://www.raynet-hf.net/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=35 frequently for latest details.

TIME/DATE

November 8th, 2008 at 04.00 - 08.00 UTC

IARU Region 1

HQ Station - GB4NRC

9A0HRS

9H1RA

9H1SF

9H1MRL

CT1REP

DA0EC/D

DB0CUI

DK8RE

DL0EIC

DL0LZ or DL1VF

DL0UI/D

DL0VBK/D

DL1X/D

DL4VCW (Winlink)

DL6LW or DF0WB

DO1TEL

DR4G

EA5GSY (Voice / PSK31 & other digimodes)

EA7HFG

EB2ANK

EI2CA

EI3ENB

EI5GPB

EI7IG

EI9JV

F1DJO

F4BXW (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)

F4EMO

F4EZC

F5CDN
F5HDK
F5ODX
F5RMN
F5VKP/D (Voice/PSK)
F6BPA
F6GPE
F6GIN

G0MRH
G0VPJ
G3GJW
G8IDL
G8OJQ
M0CNP
M1DFO (PSK31 and ALE)

GM0PXF/P
MM3UJL/P

GU3WHN

HB9TTQ/D

IW5ADO

LZ1BFR/D

OD5RAL

OE1VGC (Winlink)
OE3ZK
OE3DMA
OE3FFC
OE3FQU
OE3MFC (Winlink)
OE3MZC (SSB & Winlink)
OE3RGB
OE3XHA (Winlink)
OE3XRK
OE5CEN
OE5OZL
OE7FTJ (Winlink)
OE9FWV (Winlink)

OH3QN (Winlink)

OL4HQ

OM9HQ

ON4AAA
ON4IF
ON5XA
ON5PV
ON6HC
ON7ZB

PD0GIP
PI9D

S50HQ

SL0ZS
SL0ZT
SL0ZU

SM0RWO (PSKMail)
SM0TSC (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)

SP0PZK/D
SP1ZZW
SP2DX
SP3HUO/D (PSK31 - 80m)
SP3ZAC
SP5YOC/D (SSB & PSK31)
SP7HT

J42ARET
SZ1SV
SZ2RCP

TF3IRA/D

ZS2VDL
ZS5JL
ZS5SK
ZS6SRL

IARU Region 2

HQ Station - XE1LM

CX1AA

AE2EE
AG4SI
N7KRE
KB5XV
KG4AEU
KV9U

W1AW (0500-0800 due to existing transmission schedule)
W2WRX
W5ELM
WA4UMV
WA7NBF
WB4N
WD1Z
KM4BA (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
KQ6XA (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
WA3MEZ (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
K7EK (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
VE2FXL (ALE HF email, 40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
WD8ARZ (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
WB4AKK (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)
N0PWZ (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)

HR2NL (Winlink)
HR2/LU1DY (digimodes 40/20m - possible voice)

LU1HCP
LU7WFM

TG9ADV

VE7RAC

XE1ATZ
XE1SGW
XE1SVT
XE2XCX

YV5AJ
YV5RNE

IARU Region 3

HQ Station - BY7PP

9M4CJS
9M4CMR
9M8DB

BY4RSA

DU1BP
DU2LX
DX2AAA
FK8KAB

JA1RL/D

S21AM

VK5ABN (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)

VR2HK/D

VR2/KQ6XA (ALE HF email, 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 metres)

VU2ACK

VU2DSI/D

VU2RBI

VU2JAU

VU2SMN/D

VU3TYG

ZK6R

ZL3BCC

I hope that you find this information useful and listen to see what the procedure is so that if God forbid an emergency arises, you will know what the procedure is.

Lawrence

9H1AV / 9H9MHR

*****136 kHz*****

Following communications with the Malta Communications Authority, it was confirmed that Maltese radio amateurs may use this allocation as from 1 January 2009.

This means that we have a gift for next year when we are going to unite with the rest of the amateurs from around the world that have now long been given permission to use this frequency.

Although there was going to be some difficulty due to the revision of the National Frequency Plan is not going to be ready before 1 January 2009, after representations that we made it was confirmed that we can use this frequency as from 1 January 2009.

After the National Frequency Plan is agreed to by Parliament, all the radio amateurs are going to be officially notified about the new allocation of the **136kHz** band of frequencies, that is from **135.7 kHz** to **137.8 kHz**

The International Telecommunications Union (**ITU**) Conference that was held last year had given a world-wide allocation to the amateur radio service from **135.7 kHz** to **137.8 kHz** as a secondary allocation with a transmitter power of **1 Watt e.i.r.p.** These are the same conditions that we have been given.

This does not mean that the transmitter has to be of 1 Watt except if one is using an isotropic antenna, because in fact due to the fact that the wavelength on this frequency is **2200** metres, the practical antennas that we can use are very small when compared with antennas that we normally use.

To take a practical example, if we use a quarter wave vertical antenna on **7 MHz**, this would be long or rather high around **10 metres**.

If we had to do the same and use a quarter wave vertical on **136 kHz**, this has to be about **550** long, something which is totally impractical if we do not use a big balloon and hang a wire to it, although we will still have the problem of radials unless we are near the sea and use it.

Therefore, because antennas that we normally use will be practically very short when compared to the wavelength and their efficiency will be only a small point of a percentage, hundreds and even more than one thousand watts are required to have a radiate power of **1 Watt e.i.r.p.**

I have already given some transmitter circuits or about 50 watts, and although with practical antennas and with these transmitters all you have is a radiated power of a few milliwatts, no one should lose heart and should take it as a challenge to communicate with others with this low power.

To Malta and even perhaps to nearby countries we can use normal **CW**, however we normally use computer programmes such as that known as **QRSS**, that is very slow **CW** which is read on the computer by means of these programmes.

Although I have already given some internet links from where one could download these programmes, further down I am going to again give you some links so that whoever is interested can download them.

Since in Malta we will be using this frequency as from next 1 January, I am again giving the frequency table as recommended that we should use them according to the **IARU 2001** Conference. They can be reviewed by the **IARU Region 1** Conference next November.

135.7 – 136.0	Station tests & transatlantic reception window
135.9 – 135.98	Preferred transatlantic window for Europe to North American transmissions of very slow CW (QRSS)
135.980 - 136.050	Preferred transatlantic window for Europe/North American contacts
136.0 - 137.4	CW
137.4 - 137.6	Non-CW modes (Hell, Wolf, PSK, etc.)
137.6 - 137.8	Very slow CW (QRSS) centred on 137.7
137.700 - 137.800	Preferred transatlantic window for North American to Europe transmissions

Programmes

Generali Information

<http://www.qsl.net/on7yd/136brew.htm>

<http://www.qsl.net/on7yd/136khz.htm>

<http://www.qru.de/>

<http://www.wireless.org.uk/links.htm>

On antennas for 136kHz

<http://www.strobbe.eu/on7yd/136ant/>

Computer programmes

<http://www.weaksignals.com/>

<http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/>

General Information

<http://www.vlf.it/>

We'll meet on 136 kHz

Lawrence

9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Grande Bleue

Radio amateurs from western Mediterranean riparian states meet yearly in June at the so-called "**Grande Bleue**".

During which connections across the sea are processed in **ATV**, **DATV** and **SSB** in the frequency range from **1.2 GHz** to **24 GHz**. New records in operating methods and frequencies are established practically every year.

This year's "**Grande Bleue**" took place on 20 to 28 June 2008 with emphasis on the 21 – 22 ta' Ġunju 2008. Here is the report of the Swiss team:

The Helvetic team members of the "**Grande Bleue**" 2008 were: **HB9ADJ/Charlz**, **HB9AZN/Pierre-Andre** and **HB9RXV/Paul** together with **XYL Anouchka**.

During a scant week 19 – 25.06.2008, radio operations was made from two vehicles in Sardinia to the Western Mediterranean countries. Due to the apparatus taken along we were able to send **ATV**, **DATV** u partially **SSB** on **23cm**, **13cm**, **6cm**, **3cm** and **24 GHz**.

The travel during the night from Genoa to Porto Torres in the North of Sardinia was uneventful, with exception of the endless discussions with employees of the shipping agency in Genoa's port; simply about the antennas' height on the two vehicles.

Already in the afternoon on Friday, 20th June 2008 (after finding an accommodation) we were on a hill on the coast, 50 m above sea level grv.

The location in the nearabouts of **Stintino** has a locator **JN40CT**. From this position we were able to contact numerous stations in **Spain, France** and **Corsica** in **ATV, DATV** and **SSB**.

In order to get in contact with our friends in **Malta, South Italy** and **Sicily** we drove on Sunday morning towards the South. The location **JM49SD** was next to **Villasimius** on a parking site approx. 100 m above sea level with a beautiful view of the beaches (white sand and turquoise water).

At about midday, **Sergio IS0AWZ** from Cagliari arrived, who greeted in astounding perfect French – he worked for a long time in France. After a first QSO with **IK0HWJ** we could contact the Maltese Team on **23cm (ATV/DATV) 13cm (ATV/DATV)** and **3cm (SSB/ATV/DATV)**.

The propagation conditions on **3cm** were excellent and by the time of interruption in the evening we were able to use this band as a service channel.

Already in 2006, we had the honour of getting to know the Maltese in **ATV** and **DATV (564km in DATV)**. Again, this time was an experience to experiment in **SSB, ATV** and **DATV**. The Team there is very motivated and does not hold back in regard to technical equipment.

A “Field Day” was organized – just for us. We were able to contact the following stations: **9H1VW, 9H1GB, 9H1FX, 9H1PI**. Many thanks to **Fortunato (9H1ES)** and **Joe (9H1VW)** who have taken over the organization in Malta.

As a conclusion for our expedition on Sunday evening in the South, **Sergio IS0AWZ** and his **XYL** allowed us to enjoy the Italian gastronomy and hospitality during a homely dinner.

Since the Italian football team was already eliminated from the European Cup 2008, we were able to pass a quiet night in Villasimius.

On Monday morning we returned to the North – our original location. Tuesday 24th June was the last day of radioing.

We were able to make some very interesting connections, such as **ATV/QSO** over **300 km** with **F/HB9IIA** on **10 GHz (300mW)** and “**IKEA**” mirror). Before dismantling the equipment we reached a new record with **F6DPH (Tour Batere/JN12HM)** in **ATV** on **5.7 GHz (508 km)**.

Since we had two vehicles and double Tx/Rx equipment on **23cm, 13cm, 6cm** and three **10 GHz** stations we were not only able to increase the possibility of a QSO but we were also able to make comparisons regarding sensitivity, directivity of antennas, transmitting power, etc. This list and cooperation has proved itself and we are already eliminating the weaknesses for next year.

Collectively, we look back at a successful participation in the “**Grande Bleue**” 2008 and thank all those who have taken part, especially to the following...

May this article motivate other OM to [participate next year – the Mediterranean provides many interesting possibilities for radio control. More details and photos may be found on <http://swissatv.ch>

73's qro from **Charly, HB9ADJ, Pierre-Andre, HB9AZN** and **Paul HB9RXV**

Thanks to **Joe 9H1VW** for this information.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

70MHz

Together with the stations from the countries that were on the list in last month's magazine you can now also add Spain.

The Spanish radio amateurs with a decision of 24 October 2008 are now going to be given an allocation in this frequency band as from 25 April next year, that is 2009.

Although presently they will be able to use from **70.15MHz** to **70.2MHz**, this is the beginning and may be increased later.

Whoever want to see the decision (in Spanish) can download it from <http://www.ure.es/legislacion/4-reglamentacion/1075-resolucion-autorizando-la-banda-de-70-mhz-de-forma-experimental-y-segmentos-de-160-m-.html>

One can also find reference and information on these news from the internet webpage of the National Association of Spanish radio amateurs on <http://www.ure.es/>

In Malta we cannot work on it because the authorities still do not want to give us an allocation when we are surrounded by countries whose radio amateurs have an allocation on it.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Membri tal-IARU Regjun 1

Hereunder you have a list of countries that are members in **IARU Region 1** which are 98 countries.

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria,
Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso,
Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,
Denmark, Djibouti,
Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia,
Faeroes, Finland, France,
Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece,
Hungary,
Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast,

Jordan,
Kenya, Kuwait,
Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
Macedonia, Mali, **Malta**, Mauritius, Moldavia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco,
Mozambique,
Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway,
Oman,
Poland, Portugal,
Qatar,
Romania, Russian Federation,
San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain,
Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria,
Tadjikstan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan,
Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom,
Yugoslavia,
Zambia, Zimbabwe.

There is a **IARU** certificate with different categories for those who work stations from these **Region 1** countries.

Class 1 All member countries on the current list

Class 2 60 member countries

Class 3 40 member countries

There is also a special certificate for those who work on the 28 MHz frequency only and the same conditions mentioned above apply, while contacts that made after 1 July 1983 are valid.

I hope that you find the information useful.

Lawrence

9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Activities

Activity for radio amateurs

Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold.

As soon as I find some time I will issue another copy of the magazines that MARL used to issue in previous years so that whoever wants to can keep a copy and see what happened during the years.

I remind you that every alternate Thursday, that is, Thursday yes Thursday no, an eating activity is held at the Club where whoever is present and is not on diet may eat against a nominal payment. For more details speak to Joe, 9H1AJ.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR