



## The IARU Region 3 Newsletter

Issue 16 – November to December 2009, Released January 2010

*On behalf of the Directors of Region 3, I would like to extend our warm greetings to all our members for a very happy and peaceful 2010. This issue covers activity in a little over two months only to bring the sequence back to the usual quarterly schedule. Being the holiday season, there has not been much activity to report. WRC 12 is still a priority and preparatory meetings have taken place in Geneva which were attended by our Secretary Jay Oka JA1TRC*

### A Word from the Chairman of IARU Region 3

**Michael Owen VK3KI**

In my last message to you in the IARU Region 3 Newsletter, I wrote about the Region 3 Conference that had just concluded in Christchurch, New Zealand.

I particularly mentioned the issue of finances for the Region, and the request from the Conference to the Directors to present to the member societies at least a year before the next Conference our proposal in respect of the subscription rate so that the income of the Region shall at least match any increased or decreased expenditure.

On 25 January 2010 IARU Region 3 Secretary Jay Oka JA1TRC wrote to every society through its Liaison Officer, but with copies to the Presidents of each society, seeking the contribution of each society on this issue.

The IARU Region 3 Directors are meeting at the end of May in Canberra, Australia, concurrently with the WIA's Centenary celebrations.

That is why Jay asked for input from societies by 1 May 2010.

I would like to reinforce that request in this message.

Let me quote from Jay's letter:

*Before commencing their task the Directors ... agreed to consult with Member Societies to identify the suggestions, concerns and particular problems affecting each Society.*

*The Directors are most interested to hear the views of Member Societies on any aspect of the funding of IARU Region 3, including any particular difficulties that face your society and any suggestions you have on any aspect of the subscription and its structure.*

In talking to some people in Christchurch I began to understand the particular problems that affected some societies. These were difficulties that had not occurred to me, but arising from steps that had been taken a long time ago without seeing the possible consequence.

My message is this: please think very carefully about this matter. Please share your thoughts with us, most particularly if there are circumstances that make the position of your society different.

Perhaps you see solutions. If so share them with us.

These are very difficult issues, and while the Directors are in continual email and other contact, it is the face to face meetings that give us the chance to really explore these sorts of issues.

In thinking about this, also bear this in mind. There are certain things that up to now we have accepted as "must do's" for the Region, such as Regional Conferences, attending Administrative Council meetings and representing the amateur service at APG meetings.

There are others, such as society visits, attending other Region's EC meetings that we have regarded as desirable but not essential. And, presently, we are not doing those things.

It would be helpful to identify what your society sees as the role of IARU Region 3 and its Directors. Because the more we do, the more money we need. But the less we do the less money we need.

Your input, your suggestions, and your thoughts will be eagerly awaited.

Please don't forget to send us your contribution by 1 May 2010.

### The WIA's Centenary Celebrations

The WIA's Centenary Celebrations are recognition of the foundation of the WIA and the very start of organised amateur radio in Australia during 1910.

Among the activities to celebrate the centenary are a special call sign VK100WIA, the WIA Centenary Award and the promotion of amateur radio through public events.

The special call sign VK100WIA will be used by the WIA itself in May and then from June shared amongst the WIA's affiliated radio clubs until the end of October. Clubs have been encouraged to consider ways to use the call sign in conjunction with other activities.

A WIA Centenary Award has been developed with the assistance of the WIA's Award Committee. Contact with VK100WIA will be required to qualify for award. Full details of the award are available on the WIA's website [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au)

The principal celebration of the Centenary of the WIA will take place over the weekend of Friday evening, 28 May, Saturday 29 May and Sunday 30 May 2010 in Canberra, Australia's national capital.

The Region 3 Directors will be meeting in Canberra over the three days ending Friday 28 May 2010.

On that evening there will be a gathering and meal at the Black Mountain Tower Restaurant, providing an exciting view of Canberra and its surrounds.

On Saturday morning, the 29 May 2010, there will be the WIA's AGM, followed by an Open Forum with addresses from some overseas visitors and then, on Saturday afternoon, there will be a series of presentations and discussion on various aspects of the evolution of radio, amateur radio and the WIA over the last 100 years.

The evening will be a formal dinner.

It is hoped that during the evening it will be possible to demonstrate a brief contact by some school students through amateur radio with the International Space Station, part of the NASA Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program for young people.

Sunday 30 May will be the opportunity to see some of the highlights of Canberra, with a barbecue lunch in a local park.

Full details and registration forms are available on the WIA's website, [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au)

Overseas amateurs will be particularly welcome.

## **IARU Region 3 adopts Japanese Yen as unit of currency for accounting**

At the last IARU Region 3 Conference, it was voted that all accounts of the Region would now be maintained only in Japanese Yen and not in the two currency system of US Dollars and Japanese Yen as has been done for many years.

All subscriptions to Region 3 from member societies will also now be calculated in Japanese Yen only.

The reasoning was that all accounts are maintained in Tokyo and the old system involved a double currency conversion in many cases before it was credited to the IARU Region 3 banks, resulting in losses.

The relevant portion of the resolution is appended below:

**“It is resolved** that the subscription rate for the year commencing 1 June 2010 and each year thereafter shall be fixed in Japanese Yen as follows:

Number of transmitting members Rate per each transmitting member

1 to 5,000	65 Yen
5,001 to 10,000	40 Yen
10,001 and above	11 Yen

Note: With a minimum subscription of 2,300 Yen per year, payable only as a single payment of 6,900 Yen, for a 3 years subscription.”

## **WIA introduces training in Emergency Communications**

Recognizing the need for a system of training for Emergency Communications WIA has introduced training courses where radio amateurs could enroll and obtain training and certification at different levels.

- Firstly, it would provide a starting point for persons wishing to get involved in emergency service operations
- Secondly, competencies are increasingly being required by emergency service organizations for admission to their communications sites, and radio amateurs may even be prevented from donating their skills and expertise in the future if they don't have the required competencies.
- Thirdly, gaining competencies in emergency communications will increase the preparedness of the general amateur radio community, should a radio amateur find themselves as the first-line of communications in an emergency.
- And lastly, by providing a valuable community service Amateur Radio can further justify its use valuable frequency spectrum.

Keeping these points in mind, WIA's Recognised Training Organization (RTO), RTO, Trainsafe Australia, has developed a training package with two levels of competency.

Level 1 is a Certificate 2 in Public Safety consisting of 6 core units plus one elective, and is open to all radio amateurs and other emergency service personnel.

Level 2 is a Certificate 3 in public safety consisting of 12 units, open to all Standard and Advanced level radio amateurs.

In addition to the training package, the WIA will offer WIA accreditation for Emergency Communications Operators who meet some extra criteria such as age, health, hearing and mobility, and WIA membership.

This seems to be a very systematic way to proceed and hopefully other associations will also introduce similar programmes

## **ARLHS celebrates its Tenth anniversary**

ARLHS (Amateur Radio Light House Society) had its genesis in the late 1990's and was officially inaugurated in the year 2000. That means that in December **ARLHS** will begin celebrating the tenth anniversary! A lot has happened in those ten years: the awards program was initiated, many lighthouses have been activated and restored, contests have been a popular feature, the WLOL database now exceeds 15,000 entries

## **Devastating Earthquake in Haiti**

The news channels have been full of reports of the massive destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti. Radio amateurs from different countries attempted to set up a repeater to help with communications and after some security problems did succeed and provided much required communication support.

## **WRC-12 –Region 3 preparations**

As reported earlier, WRC-12, which will be held in Geneva from January 23-February 17, 2012, will review the international treaty that governs Radiocommunication -- the ITU Radio Regulations <<http://www.itu.int/publ/R-REG-RR-2008/en>>.

The WRC-12 conference will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-12), also to be held in Geneva, January 16-20, 2012.

## **APG 2012-3 Meeting**

Leading up to WRC-12 Region 3 involvement starts with attendance at various APG meetings where the regional views and proposals are established and fine tuned. Chairman Michael Owen VK3KI and Director Shizuo Endo JE1MUI will attend the forthcoming session of APG to be held in Bangkok in March 2010. As well as the Directors attending as representatives of IARU Region 3, a number of other amateurs will attend the APG Meeting as part of their country national delegations. They also work hard to support amateur radio within their country policy briefs

Region 3 will continue to be represented at all APG meetings.

## **Region 3 Award**

Attention is yet again brought to all radio amateurs in the region to this award which have not been competed for adequately. Some salient features are:

1. The Award is available to licensed amateurs and SWLs.
2. Contacts made after April 5, 1982 are eligible.
3. QSL cards not required.

Full details are available from: <http://www.nzart.org.nz/awards/iaru-region-iii-log.pdf>

We have had very little support for this award and it is recommended that all amateurs in the region do participate

## **Reminder- 2012 International YL Meet in Adelaide**

This very popular meeting is a great place for YL's (and in many cases their OM's) to meet and share their experiences. Tentative dates for this event are being looked at in May 2012

## **Expansion of 40 Metre band**

Reports have been received that most countries have now allocated the additional spectrum 7.1 to 7.2 MHz exclusively to the radio amateurs

Full details are available at:

Region 1: <http://www.iau-r1.org>

Region 3: <http://iau-r3.org/news/7MHz200903.htm>

Region 2: Already have use of the full spectrum 7.0 to 7.3 MHz

**The Region 3 Web Site: Go to:** <http://www.iau-r3.org>

**Newsletter Editor:** *Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN, Director IARU Region3.* **E-mail:** [vu2gmn@gmail.com](mailto:vu2gmn@gmail.com)

**Publisher: The International Amateur Radio Union Region 3**

P. O. Box 73, Toshima, Tokyo 170-8691, Japan.

E-mail: [secretary@iau-r3.org](mailto:secretary@iau-r3.org)

Tel: +81 3 5395-3125 Fax: +81 3 3943 8282

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