



Two major natural catastrophes – floods in Pakistan and an earthquake in New Zealand- again displayed the extraordinary capability of radio amateurs to provide communications when everything else fails or as an efficient backup to existing services. The assistance of radio amateurs in assisting with the spectacular rescue of miners in Chile is yet another demonstration of the efficacy of amateur radio in exceptional circumstances. Our Chairman Michael Owen VK3KI and Secretary Jay Oka JA1TRC attended the Administrative Council meeting of IARU in El Salvador and also the Region 2 Conference held at the same location. The Administrative Council is where representatives of all the three regions of IARU meet and decisions taken to effectively coordinate activities which will help promote amateur radio. A report appears in this issue.

A Word from the Chairman of IARU Region 3

Michael Owen VK3KI

The AC and the IARU Region 2 General Assembly

IARU Region 2 held its General Assembly at Salinitas, El Salvador from the 4th to the 8th October 2010. Before that the Administrative Council met.

IARU President, Tim Ellam VE6SH had to leave El Salvador to attend the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, commencing on the same day as the IARU Region 2 General Assembly. The IARU attends as an Observer to these top ITU meetings.

I attended both the Administrative Council meeting and the General Assembly, and the meetings before and after the General Assembly of the Executive Committee of IARU Region 2, with our Secretary Jay Oka JA1TRC.

The Administrative Council is responsible for long term policy. It has started to look at some policies that have not been reviewed for very many years.

For example both IARU Region 1 and Region 3 submitted papers to the AC meeting, essentially raising the same issue, namely the strategy of the IARU in respect of bands above 148 MHz. In the past, we have accepted secondary status to radiolocation on the basis that this gave us pretty unimpeded access to broader bands. But, as spectrum becomes more and more valuable and various other services use these bands in different places, and also bearing in mind the special requirements of the amateur satellite service, is that policy still appropriate? Should we seek, perhaps, smaller exclusive amateur and amateur satellite bands within the broader shared bands? If so, where? Not an easy question, as there can be as many different uses as there are different countries.

These are complex questions and a committee of experts is being asked to make recommendations to the Administrative Council.

But that is what the Administrative Council should be all about – asking questions and always seeking better answers.

And in my opinion, the face to face meeting, the personal talk, the exchange of ideas is the only way these discussions can start.

No, modern technology allows us to follow the issues through without personally meeting.

But we need the meeting to start the journey, and then, often, to finalise the journey, too.

That is why we support the AC meetings being held in association with a Regional Conference, as the best way to exchange ideas with as many people as possible.

Christchurch New Zealand earthquake

The massive recovery operation after the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that hit Christchurch at 4.36am on Saturday 4 September, leaving damage

bill of NZ\$4 billion but thankfully physically injuring only a few people, was assisted by radio amateurs. The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) members quickly established an on air net and observed the operational status of the repeater systems, and apart from at least one switching to emergency power all was fine.

AREC also provided communications for the volunteer clean-up teams. The Christchurch AREC Communications Bus ZK9EAC and Communications Vehicle ZK9EAD operated on all designated emergency frequencies. They were deployed for three days in the initial recovery phase of the disaster in conjunction with the military.

Pakistan Floods

The Pakistan Amateur Radio Society Emergency Communications organizer Asad Marwat, AP2AUM, reports that a cross-band emergency repeater was set up to provide the first communications of its type to the flood hit Swat Valley and also by linking it to the rest of the country through a chain of 2 meter repeaters.

The relief operations for the massive flood disaster which ravaged Pakistan for over a month, was coordinated by the Pakistan Amateur Radio Society in partnership with Islamabad Jeep Club members and the Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians to provide support for those affected. Some 30 radio amateurs are involved in providing emergency communications in response to the disaster that is reported to have affected an estimated 20 million people and claimed 1500 lives.

"The cellular services are down and so is the landline," the PARS Web site reports." As the restoration of the services could take months, the amateur radio operators could be the only lines of communication till then.

VK100WIA is set for DXCC status

Thanks to the excellent efforts of WIA affiliated clubs rostered to activate VK100WIA, the special callsign which was inaugurated at the Centenary celebrations of the Wireless Institute of Australia at Canberra is all set to obtain its own DXCC award. After the initial operations at Canberra, the special call sign was operated by clubs across Australia according to a roster and an online log recording all contacts.

WIA to host 2011 Region 3 ARDF Championships

The WIA will be the host society for the IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships to be held in late 2011. The event is held every two years, alternating with the World ARDF championships.

The last IARU Region 3 Championships, scheduled for late 2009 near Bangkok, Thailand, were cancelled at the request of the host society because of the risk of political unrest.

Jack Bramham VK3WWW, WIA ARDF Coordinator and an International Class Referee will be responsible for the organization and management of the event, working with the Victorian ARDF Group and supported by the WIA. The WIA will provide administrative support for the organizers.

The event will be conducted in regional Victoria, though the venue has yet to be finalised. The IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships were last held in Australia in 2003, near Ballarat, Victoria. They were regarded as a great success.

Volunteers will be called for to assist Jack's team.

Look out for future information on the WIA site www.wia.org.au and on the Victorian ARDF Group site www.ardf.org.au.

The IARU Region 2 General Assembly

The XVII IARU Region 2 General Assembly held at Salinitas, Sonsonate, El Salvador came to an end on 8 October 2010. 58 delegates attended the conference, representing 19 Region 2 Member Societies, 12 in person and 7 by proxy

IARU Region 2 is the IARU regional organisation covering the countries of North, Central and South America.

The host society was the Club de Radio Aficionados de El Salvador, CRAS, and was warmly congratulated by all for the success of the Assembly.

During the Conference issues many issues affecting amateur radio were discussed, ranging from the forthcoming WRC in 2012 to the question of how to attract new amateurs.

The General Assembly accepted the invitation of the Federación Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores to host the XVIII General Assembly in 2013 in the city of Monterrey, Mexico.

The General Assembly re-elected Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH as President and José Arturo Molina, YS1MS as Vice President, with Secretary Ramón Santoyo XE1KK to serve another term.

In addition Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4NED was re-elected Treasurer, and the following were elected as Directors:

Director Area A:	Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Director Area B:	Jay Bellows, K0QB
Director Area C:	Ramón Santoyo V., XE1KK
Director Area D:	Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD
Director Area E:	Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4NED
Director Area F:	Gustavo de Faria Franco PT2ADM
Director Area G:	Dino Besomi, CE3PG

Communications support for Chile mine rescue

As the world watched via television the rescue 33 trapped miners at San Jose in Chile, giving its support was the Radio Club de Chile (RCCH) to boost the availability of communications in the area.

President of the Radio Amateurs of the Region of Atacama (Radio Club Copiap), Jose Maldonado CE1RXY has reported that support was offered to overcome the lack of communications facilities in this desert region of Chile.

It provided communication support between the authorities and emergency equipment operators inside the San Jose Mine complex, the ambulance service as well as with family of the trapped miners in the complex and authorities in Copiap.

The mine complex in a desert region did not have telephone contact. CE2EPB, Radio Club Copiap spokesman Erico Jos Andrade CE2EPB said some 80 members of the club were involved from day one of the mine accident.

They installed amateur equipment in the mine complex, and club volunteers took shifts to provide communication support.

This, together with additional mobile police stations, hospitals and fire battalions, kept everyone abreast of all the needs and urgent requirements, said Erico CE2EPB.

The support enabled links for various authorities with emergency equipment inside the San Jose site and also with family and authorities in the city of Copiap

While this collaboration continued all shared the common hope for the safe rescue of the miners, trapped 700 meters (2,300 ft) below the ground in the cooper mine since 5 August. The rescue of all the miners was successful.

Report by Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman, International Amateur Radio Union Region 3, Disaster Communications Committee.

Reminder - Host required for the High Speed Telegraphy World Championships 2011

Following the decision made at the last HSTWC, the IARU Region 1 HST Working Group is looking for an IARU Region 3 Member Society to host the next (9th) IARU High Speed Telegraphy World Championship in 2011. Societies willing to undertake the organization of this event can obtain full details of requirements from:

HST WG Chairman Oliver Tabakovski Z32TO
Bul. Partizanski odredi 74/41
1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia or
E-mail: oliver.z32to@gmail.com

SEANET 2010- a reminder

This year's SEANET, organized by the Shanghai Radio Sports Association (SRSA) (under authorization of Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) will be held at the Olympic Club Hotel in Shanghai, China, between 5th and 9th November 2010

The programme details are available at <http://seanet.cc/programme.htm>

WRC-12 –Region 3 Preparations

To recap, 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.

Much activity has started in preparing for this important conference and this was discussed in detail at the recently concluded Administrative Council Meeting so that all regions make a concerted effort for amateur radio.

600 Metres/ 500 kHz

At the next ITU World Radio Conference (WRC) in 2012, agenda item 1.23 is of particular interest to the amateur service. This agenda item refers to a possible secondary allocation in the 600 metre band spectrum segment:

- *Agenda item 1.23: To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.*

New Zealand Amateurs Active on 500 kHz

New Zealand amateurs gained temporary access to a band near "500 kHz" (also called the "600 Metre band") on 1 March 2010. Access is now allowed by their Ministry on a "non interference basis" (NIB) to 505 – 515 kHz. Restrictions are that the radiated power must not exceed 25 watts e.i.r.p. and the bandwidth of emissions must not exceed 200 Hz

(only “narrow band” modes allowed).

NZART originally asked the Ministry for access to 500 kHz in October 2005, but it was declined. NZ is the only country known so far in IARU Region 3 to permit amateur access.

The first amateur transmissions from the historic “Musick Point” radio station in Auckland, using Morse code, were made on 512 kHz on 13 March 2010 at 1300 hours local time. The station is named in honor of Captain Edwin Musick, a famous Pan American World Airways pilot of the 1930’s.

The first experimental amateur transmissions were made to a “net” by Murray Greenman ZL1BPU on 4 March 2010 from South Auckland. Murray used 10 watts on 508.1 kHz to an inverted L antenna. No copy by ear was reported by anyone, but “Argo10” PC software decoded the signal in Wellington. By early April 2010 other experimenters were active.

The first 2-way contact on the 600 metre band was between Con ZL2AFP in Wellington and Kevin ZL4MD in Cromwell. Kevin called “CQ” on CW at 2030 NZT on 13 April on 508.1 kHz. He was answered by Con. This was a very good effort as it was a genuine “ad hoc” contact, with no pre-arranged schedule or liaison. The direct distance is about 620 km, mostly over land across the Kaikoura Ranges and the foothills of the Southern Alps. Dave ZL3JE, located between them, heard their contact. ZL2AFP used a signal generator to drive a single stage MOSFET power amplifier with 6 watts output to a modest inverted L antenna at his suburban location. ZL4MD has a large inverted L antenna at his rural location. He used an IC-706 to drive a valve amplifier built on a modified World War 2 “ARC5” chassis with 50 watts output.

New Zealand is fortunate since they are geographically remote, and have no known users in the 505 – 515 kHz spectrum allocated. Interference is not expected to be a major problem.

The 53rd Jamboree on the Air

The 53rd Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) took place on 16 and 17 October 2010.

This activity showcases amateur radio to the general public, especially young scouts and guides, and helps them get acquainted with the usefulness

A detailed report will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter

ILLW International Lighthouse / Lightship weekend

A new record for the number of lighthouses which were activated over the third full weekend of August every year has been reported. This relatively easy activity also helps showcase amateur radio to the public.

Full details of the fun weekend activity is available on <http://illw.net/>

The Region 3 Web Site: Go to: <http://www.iaru-r3.orgNewsletter>

Editor: Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN, Director IARU Region3.

E-mail: vu2gmn@gmail.com

Publisher: The International Amateur Radio Union Region 3

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

E-mail: secretary@iaru-r3.org

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

The statements or opinions in this Newsletter do not, unless otherwise stated, necessarily reflect the views of IARU Region 3, the Directors or the Secretariat. Items from this Newsletter may be freely copied for publication by Member Societies of IARU.