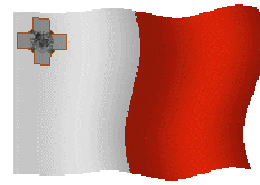


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

Number 60

March 2011



Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for March 2011, which is issue 60 of this series.

The **MARL** Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 27 February where the election for the new Committee was held. The new Committee is made up of **9H1M Dominic**, **9H1AV Lawrence**, **9H1AT George**, **9H1ES Fortunato**, **9H1JT Paul**, **9H1PI Ivan**, **9H1TM Mario**, **9H1SF Steve**, **9H1ZZ Robin**, **9H1PS Arthur** and **9H1XE Edwin** who got the same number of votes and are therefore those who obtained most votes from those unelected.

While thanking the members who were not elected, we wish all the best to the new members and to all the Committee to continue working for the benefit of **MARL** and the Maltese and Gozitan radio amateurs.

Due to the number of amendments proposed for the Statute an Extraordinary General Meeting is going to be held on Sunday 20 March at 10.00 in the morning at the **MARL** Centre.

I also remind you that **MARL** is going to participate in the Spring Show that is going to be held at the San Anton Gardens on **Saturday and Sunday, 14 - 15 May, 2011**.

You also have information on the **500 kHz** frequency that countries that are giving an allocation on to their radio amateurs on it are always increasing and we hope that we will also be given an allocation on this frequency even temporarily and not strictly in a general manner but whoever is interested can apply for it.

For those who like to work from **50 MHz** upwards and also on **10 GHz** you have information about a dxpedition that is going to be held from **Crete** this month, another one from **Timor Leste**, another one from the **Amdaman Islands** which are situated near **Indja** and are in fact Indian territory, as well as another dxpedition that is going to be held from **Kiribati** which are a number of Islands spread around the **Pacific Ocean**. I wish every success to all those who try to communicate with them.

Other information that you find in this issue is about a satellite that was to be launched into space from the International Space station which is going to be launched later on due to other work, as well as a few internet links that are interesting especially where one finds equipment that he can build himself.

As always, 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 or you can send it to me on my e-mail **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

The new Committee

The members of the new MARL Committee for the next two years are the following :

President	9H1ES	Fortunato
Vice President	9H1M	Dominic
Secretary	9H1PI	Ivan
Vice Segretarju	9H1AV	Lawrence
Treasurer	9H1JT	Paul
Vice Treasurer	9H1TM	Mario
Centre Manager	9H1SF	Steve
QSL Manager	9H1ZZ	Robin
Member	9H1AT	George

Extraordinary General Meeting

On Sunday 20 March an Extraordinary General Meeting is going to be held due to proposals of amendments for the Statute.

This meeting is going to be held at the **MARL Centre** at **H'Attard** from 10.00 a.m. onwards with this Agenda. If there is no quorum the meeting will start at 10.15 with the members present.

1. Reading and discussion of the minutes
2. Reading, discussion of the Statute amendments
3. Amendments for the Statute
4. Other matters

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Spring Show

I remind **MARL** members that as in past years **MARL** is going to take part in the **Spring Show** at the **San Anton Gardens on Saturday and Sunday 14 – 15 May, 2011**.

Whoever wants to participate should inform the Secretary as soon as possible and advise him about your availability so that the Secretary can coordinate all the work.

This is an opportunity for one to participate to continue showing our hobby to the public as well as for together with the family to be able to see and enjoy the show which was always good and beautiful and at the same time will be able to enjoy his/her hobby.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Photos of the Annual General Meeting

These are some photos of the Annual General Meeting that was held on Sunday 27 February 2011 at the **MARL** Centre in **H'Attard**. One of the photos shows **9H5IT Maurizio** being presented with a **VHF** transceiver as the best student.



9H1PI Ivan

9H1E Joe

9H1JT Paul



Members during the Annual General Meeting 27.02.2011



Members during the Annual General Meeting 27.02.2011



Members during the Annual General Meeting 27.02.2011



9H1E Joe

9H1FG Tony

9H1JT Paul



9H5IT Maurizio Banavage being given the VHF by 9H1AQ Karmenu Fenech

500 kHz

Today I am going to give you further information on this frequency.

It appears that there is support for the radio amateur service to be given an allocation by the World Radiocommunication Conference. During the preparatory meeting for the Conference that was held between 14 – 25 February in Geneva, Switzerland, a 9-page analysis of technical and regulatory issues on Agenda WRC 12 point 1:23 was drafted.

This is about the possibility of a secondary allocation to the amateur radio service of **15 kHz** somewhere between **415 kHz – 526.5 kHz** that is going to be examined and decided by the World Conference that is going to be held between 23 January and 17 February 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. There are three possibilities.

One is that there will be no allocation, which we hope will not be the case.

There is another possibility called Method A, and this is that there will be an allocation of **15 kHz** between **472 kHz to 487 kHz**. That called Method B are allocations between **461 kHz – 469 kHz and 471 kHz – 478 kHz**.

Another method that was developed during prior meetings by Working Group 5A of the **ITU** Radiocommunications Sector was an allocation between **493 kHz – 510 kHz**, but this was put aside because a digital system is being developed on **500 kHz** and therefore it is not possible to be given frequencies on this frequency band.

A group of radio amateurs led by **IARU** with the help of friendly administrations arrived at this point as is said above about Methods A and B.

It's good to know that **David Sumner, K1ZZ** thanked **Ken Pulfer, VE3PU** who together with the **IARU** group worked for the last three years with David to coordinate all the **IARU** efforts with the Canadian Administration to get its approval.

Brennan Price, N4QX who is the **ARRL** technology officer also attended as a member of the American delegation for the Preparatory Conference.

America is agreeing with the proposal called **Method B**. There are enough American Administrations behind this proposal for it to have become an Inter-American proposal of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (**CITEL**)

<http://portal.oas.org/Topic/CITEL/tabid/378/Default.aspx?language=en-US>

On the other hand, that called **Method A** has the support of Administrations from Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. We hope that they agree on one of these proposals so that we will also have an allocation on these frequencies.

While we are on this frequency, I have told you many times that there are a number of receivers on the internet from other countries that you can listen on them and also gave you their internet links apart from listening from home.

Frank, 9H1BM who used to work as a radio officer also heard radio amateur stations on this frequency **OK1EMW** on **505 kHz** 21 and 24 February between **0440 - 0540** Malta time.

Then, on 26 February he succeeded in hearing **OK0EMW** the Czech Republic on **505.6 kHz** who was sending long dashes followed by “**OK0EMW JN77KS**”. Today he was stronger than last time because last time he was **S1** and today he was **S3**. Time was between **0310 – 0335** Malta time.

As you can see apart from foreign contacts, there is the possibility that we will be able to work on this frequency if we are given an allocation. I assure you that the previous Committee has worked and the present Committee is going to continue to work and do its utmost to be given a permit even temporarily so that whoever wants to operate can apply for a special permit.

We hope that the Maltese authorities will not keep back from giving us an allocation even temporarily even prior to an official allocation so that we will also be able to experiment as is being done by radio amateurs in other countries.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

New Satellite

The new Satellite **ARISSat-1** was connected to the outside antenna on the international Space Station on 11 February and transmissions were made from it on **145.950 MHz FM**. A number of radio amateurs heard it, among them **Roland, PY4ZBZ**, from Sete Lagoas, Brasil, who also recorded it.

One can download and hear its signal from this link

<http://www.qsl.net/py4zbz/satelite/ARISSAT1PY4ZBZ1.wav>

Although the satellite was to be deployed into space on Wednesday 16 February, difficulties arose due to changes in the astronauts work schedule and it is now planned that it will be deployed into space during a space walk next July.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

DXpeditions

Crete

There is going to be a **VHF** Dxpedition by Greek radio amateurs this Summer from **Crete** and they plan to operate on frequencies from **50 MHz - 1296 MHz** as well as on **10.368 MHz**.

They want to work during the **IARU VHF** contest between **29 June and 5 July 2001** as well as conduct extensive tests on the **10GHz** frequency. These radio amateurs are **SV1BJY Yannis, SV8GKE Michalis, u SV2HWR Pantelis**, who are going to operate from a mountain in Crete and are going to use the call-sign **SV9VHF**.

They are going to use **SSB and CW** exclusively on **50 MHz, 70 MHz, 144 MHz, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz and 10,368GHz**.

They also have an internet webpage where one can find further information which is

<http://2mdes.blogspot.com/p/sy9vhf.html>

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

Timor Leste

There is also going to be another **DXpedition** by **VK8NSB, VK8FNCY, 9M6DXX, 9M6XRO and MW0JRX** who are going to operate from Timor-Leste in East Timor between 16 and 26 September. They are going to be on **Atauro Island, OC-232**, 30 kilometres North of the capital Dili. They are going to work closely with the Timor-Leste licensing authority and the call-sign will shortly be announced.

They are going to have three **100 Watt** stations. Antennas are going to be quarter wave verticals and vertical dipoles, all a few metres away from the ocean. For **160 metres** they are going to have an inverted L.

They are going to work on all frequencies from **160 to 10 metres** and are going to use **CW, SSB and RTTY**. Atauro Island was chosen because it is a very quiet place very far away from Dili electrical noise sources . The location on the beach is going to allow them to place the vertical antennas next to the ocean, which provides additional gain on low angles.

Apart from this, the island counts as **OC-232** and is a very rare **IOTA** group, having been confirmed by only 18% of active **IOTA** participants.

Andaman Islands

Another Dxpediton is going to be made between 15 and 31 March on the Andaman Islands with the call sign **VU4PB**. They are going to operate from Port Blair and there are goign to be 4 stations. The operators, equipment and frequencies they are going to use are found hereunder.

Call	CW	SSB	DIGI	BAND	CW	RTTY	SSB
VU2ABS	Yes		Yes	160	1.824	-	1.845
VU2CDP	Yes			80	3.524	3.584	3.695
VU2DH		Yes		40	7.024	7.044	7.095
VU2GGM		Yes		30	10.104	10.144	-
VU2GMN		Yes	Yes	20	14.024	14.084	14.195
VU2LU		Yes		17	18.074	18.104	18.145
VU2MTT	Yes		Yes	15	21.024	21.084	21.295
VU2NXM	Yes	Yes		12	24.894	24.914	24.945
VU2PAI	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	28.024	28.084	28.495
VU2PTT	Yes	Yes	Yes				
VU2RCR		Yes					
VU2RCT		Yes					
VU2SJD		Yes	Yes				
VU2SMN		Yes					
VU2VKU		Yes	Yes				
VU3DMP		Yes	Yes				
VU2RDQ		Yes	Yes				

Rigs

- Elecraft K3
- Two Kenwood TS-2000
- ICOM 756 Pro II
- ICOM 756 Pro III
- Yaesu FT 847
- Kenwood TS-950

Antennas

- Two Spider Beams (20-17-15-12-10m)
- SteppIR 2-element Yagi (20-6m)
- SteppIR 3-element Yagi (40-6m)
- SteppIR Big IR vertical (40-10m)
- Wire and vertical antennas for low band operation (160-80-40-30m)
- 18m Spider poles for Low band antennas (160-80m)
- Force12 C3S Yagi (20-10m)

Amplifiers

- Yaesu Quadra VL1000
- Kenwood TL-922
- Yaesu FL2100
- TenTec Hercules II
- Ameritron ALS-500
- Ameritron AL-811H

Digital

- MicroHam MicroKeyer II
- RigExpert Standard
- Signalink USB

Kiribati

Another dxpedition is gong to be held from **Kiribati** from **17 to 28 ta' April**. There are going to be 6 stations that are going to wok on **SSB, CW u RTTY** on frequencies between **160 – 6 Metres**. The radio amateurs in this dxpedition are from 5 countries and are:

W2IJ - Jay Kobelin, N7CQQ - John Kennon, EA1IR - Carlos Garcia, K6ZH - Jim Price, N1EMC - Dave Franco, N6HC - Arnold (Arnie) Shatz, N7CW - Bud Semon, N9NS - Michael C. Goode, UA4HOX - Romanov Aleksey, UX2HO - Paul Budanov, W6KK - Charlie Spetnagel, W9IXX - Phil Florig, YT1AD - Hrane Milosevic

The frequencies are going to be these:

Metres	Dxpedition			IOTA Frequencies		
	CW	SSB	RTTY	Metres	CW	SSB
160	1826	1843	-	160	-	-
80	3504	3798	3582	80	3530	3765
40	7004	7084	7043	40	7030	7055
30	10104	-	10140	30	10113	-
20	14024	14195	14080	20	14040	14260
17	18074	18145	18100	17	18098	18128
15	21024	21295	21080	15	21040	21260
12	24894	24945	24920	12	24920	24950
10	28024	28495	28080	10	28040	28460
6	50099	50120	-	6	-	-

QSL Cards: Self addressed envelope and \$2 or not expired IRC's or via buro. IRC's stamped prior to 31 December 2009 are expired. For the latest information go to <http://www.t31a.com/> Kiribati details are: **Continent: OC, ITU: 62, CQ: 31.**

Lawrence

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Internet webpages

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>
Interesting page on propagation

<http://cappels.org/dproj/Home.htm>
Projects to build yourself

<http://www.qrp.pops.net/>
Many projects that you can build

<http://www.electronics-radio.com/>
Electronics lessons

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ISM frequencies

What are ISM frequencies? ISM frequencies are specifically reserved by the ITU to be used by the Industrial, Scientific and Medical sectors by anyone without the requirement of a license. As an example, radio frequency welding, industrial heating, microwave ovens, and other uses in medicine.

The frequencies reserved for these things by the ITU are these.

Frequency range [Hz]	Center frequency [Hz]	Availability
6.765–6.795 MHz	6.780 MHz	Subject to local acceptance
13.553–13.567 MHz	13.560 MHz	
26.957–27.283 MHz	27.120 MHz	
40.66–40.70 MHz	40.68 MHz	
433.05–434.79 MHz	433.92 MHz	
902–928 MHz	915 MHz	Region 2 only
2.400–2.500 GHz	2.450 GHz	
5.725–5.875 GHz	5.800 GHz	
24–24.25 GHz	24.125 GHz	
61–61.5 GHz	61.25 GHz	Subject to local acceptance
122–123 GHz	122.5 GHz	Subject to local acceptance
244–246 GHz	245 GHz	Subject to local acceptance

Previously, the frequencies **902-928 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5.7-5.8 GHz** were also used for these purposes in the USA. From 1985 the USA these were also opened up for wireless LAN's and mobile communications.

In 1997 other frequencies were added in the **5 GHz** band for unlicensed use in the USA known as Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (**U-NII**). In Europe the same frequencies were also opened for use by wireless LAN's (**HIPERLAN**) called "Broadband Radio Access Network"

It's good to also know that frequencies between **868 – 870 MHz** are used in Europe as **ISM** frequencies. I remind you that the new electricity meters use these frequencies to send the consumers consumption. Next time I will give you some more information.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

MARL Activities

Annual General Meeting

Due to a number of proposed amendments for the Statute an Extraordinary General Meeting is going to be held on Sunday 20 March at 10.00 in the morning at the **MARL** Centre.

The Agenda for this Meeting is

1. Reading and discussion of the Minutes
2. Reading and discussion of the of the amendments for the Statute
3. Amendments for the Statute
4. Other matters.

The meeting starts at 1000 in the morning. If there is no quorum the meeting will start at 10.15 with the members present.

Membership Payment

Whoever has still not paid his membership should do so if he wants to remain a **MARL** member. The Financial Secretary is always ready to accept your membership fee whenever the **MARL** Centre is open or if you cannot come pay by cheque payable to **MARL**

We remind you that the **MARL** Centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday between 6.00 p.m. and t-8.00 p.m. and Sunday between l-10.00 u and 12.00.

Yahoo Group

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

Do not forget that we may have activities which may not be able to appear on this magazine because it may have already been issued and therefore the notice will be sent on the yahoo group.

Send an e-mail to Ivan, **9H1PI** [ivan.privitera at gmail.com](mailto:ivan.privitera@gmail.com) to become members in the group.

We remind you that whoever wants to can download the Magazine from www.9h1mrl.org/newsletter.htm

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV