Minutes of the
IARU Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting
San Jose, Costa Rica
October 3-5, 2003

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Executive Committee (“EC”) met in San Jose, Costa Rica, on October 3-5, 2003. The following Officers, Directors and Observers were present:

Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG, President
Dario Jurado HP1DJ, Vice President
Rod Stafford W6ROD, Secretary and Director – Area B
Noel Donawa 9Y4NED, Treasurer and Director – Area E
Tim Ellam VE6SH, Director – Area A
Marco Gudiel TG9AGD, Director – Area D
Gustavo de Faria Franco, PT2ADM, Director – Area F
Reinaldo Szama LU2AH, Director – Area G
Larry Price W4RA, President of IARU, Observer

Pedro Rodriguez CO2RP, the Director for Area C, regrettably was unable to attend the meeting in Costa Rica.

The following agenda was proposed:

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Approval of Agenda for Meeting
3. Reports from President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer
4. Area Director Reports
5. Committee and Coordinator Reports
6. CITEL Issues
7. Strategic Planning Session (October 3, 2003)
8. Meeting with Radio Club of Costa Rica
9. Relations with Member Societies
10. IARU Administrative Council & ITU Matters
11. Other Region Matters
12. Reports on Region 2 Projects
13. Other business
14. Next EC meeting
15. Closing Remarks

1. Welcoming remarks.

1.1. President Seidemann opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the meeting. He expressed regret that Area C Director
Pedro Rodriguez CO2RP was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that Region 2 was the first region to have an Executive Committee meeting after the WRC 2003. President Seidemann noted the passing of prominent Region 2 amateur radio operators including Remy Toscano PT2VE, Colin Frazer 9Y4TP, Gustavo Caceres TG9AL, Floro Spinelli LU7CK, Alberto Granata LU5HN, and Jorge Vrasalovich LU7XP. The EC observed a moment of silence in respect to these amateurs and all other amateurs who have passed away since the last EC meeting.

1.2. Meeting logistics. Secretary Stafford informed the EC members regarding the meeting logistics including a planned visit by the Member Society from Costa Rica, the Radio Club of Costa Rica, referred to as agenda item 8.

1.3. Remarks by IARU President Price. President Price said he was delighted to once again join the R2 EC for the meeting and looked forward to participating in the discussions. He commented that he looked forward to presenting the results of WRC 2003 later in the meeting.

2. The proposed agenda for the meeting was approved and adopted.

3. Reports from President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

3.1. President. President Seidemann in his written and oral comments reported on his activities since the 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Written reports were previously distributed to the EC members on certain activities of the President including the Region 1 Conference held in conjunction with the 2002 IARU Administrative Council meeting in November, 2002, the CITEL PCC-II Radio meeting in Orlando, Florida USA on 2-9 February, 2003 and the WRC 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, June 22 through July 4, 2003. He commented on the full participation of the current EC members in the activities and discussions regarding EC matters. He commented on the problem of the decline in the numbers of amateur radio operators within the region and the subsequent decline of membership within the Member Societies. The President expressed the view that Region 2 should assist the Member Societies on these issues in any way possible. President Seidemann observed that communications between the Region EC including Directors and the Member Societies could be increased to the benefit of both Region 2 and the Member Societies. President Seidemann has been active within Venezuela in meetings with RCV Directors and has taken part in meetings with Conatel, the Venezuelan telecom authorities. He commented on the good working relationship with Rod Stafford W6ROD, Region 2 Secretary and Treasurer Noel Donawa 9Y4NED and with all of the other members of the EC. He specifically commented on the good work of Vice President Dario Jurado HP1DJ during the Orlando CITEL meeting and during WRC 2003. He praised the work of the R2 Coordinators but expressed disappointment that “Region 2 News” was not as active as it had been previously. President Seidemann listed certain objectives that he wanted to achieve during 2004 including a successful 2004 R2 Conference in Trinidad & Tobago to which all EC Members will contribute. President Seidemann also pointed out the extensive reports prepared by the Region 2 Coordinators and Committee Chairs. He praised each of the
coordinators and committee chairs in their efforts and that the Region 2 EC greatly appreciates their work.

3.2. Vice President. Vice President Jurado referred to his activities as VP in his written and oral comments. Vice President Jurado commented on his participation in the February, 2003 CITEL meeting in Orlando, Florida and his participation at WRC 2003 with President Seidemann. He also referred to his attendance at the FRACAP convention in Panama in September, 2003. He presented a talk with ARRL’s Jon Siverling WB3ERA regarding the results of WRC 2003. The VP expressed appreciation for the fine work over the last year of President Seidemann, Area F Director Gustavo de Faria Franco PT2ADM and Area G Director Ron Szama LU2AH during various CITEL meetings that the VP attended. President Seidemann thanked VP Jurado for his work at WRC 2003 and various CITEL meetings.

3.3. Secretary. Secretary Stafford supplemented his written report with some oral remarks. Specific reference was made regarding attendance at two IARU Administrative Council meetings on behalf of Region 2 since the 2002 R2 EC meeting. He also referred to his attendance at the recent FMRE Convention in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. His attendance at that event was in his capacity as ARRL International Affairs Vice President. However, the opportunity presented itself to also discuss some Region 2 matters with the FMRE officials and members. He presented a talk on the ARRL “Big Project” to the attendees of the FMRE event. Secretary Stafford commented on his concern about the level of participation by Member Societies within Region 2 in regional activities, including the number of Member Societies in arrears in dues to the region. He stressed it was not so much the money involved as an indication of lack of interest in the activities of the IARU Region 2 Executive Committee. This was an issue that deserves careful attention by the Region 2 EC. Since the balloting for IARU President and Vice President will commence in the next 6 weeks the Secretary was directed to remind the Region 2 Member Societies to vote in this important election with the recommendation to cast an affirmative vote. The Secretary expressed thanks to all the EC members for their assistance during the year especially President Seidemann and Director Szama who prepared last-minute translations of documents.

3.4. Treasurer. Treasurer Donawa presented various financial documents to the attendees and each of those documents was discussed. Various suggestions were discussed to optimize the interest income from Region 2 accounts. The Auditors report for 2002 was discussed and accepted. The issue of certain societies being in arrears was discussed in detail. Four societies were discussed in particular, namely, Anguilla ARS, Antigua & Barbuda ARS, Bahamas ARS and British Virgin Islands RL. In the case of British Virgin Islands RL the President will contact the new President of BVIRL. In the case of Anguilla ARS, Antigua & Barbuda ARS and Bahamas ARS, a motion was adopted directing the Secretary to notify the International Secretariat that the rights of these three societies have been suspended by IARU Region 2 after unsuccessful attempts to make contact. This is the first such action taken by the EC in many years.
4. Area Director Reports

4.1. Area A. Director Ellam stressed that the issue of declining membership within the Member Societies in the region was an issue that IARU needs to address. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) had some initial success in a program to increase membership but the numbers continue in a downward trend. Director Ellam noted that three Canadian amateurs played key roles in the effort at WRC 2003, namely Ken Pulfer, Jim Dean and Bob Jones. RAC continues to enjoy good relations with the Canadian regulator, Industry Canada. Regulation of antenna support structures by local governments continues to be a concern. RAC is currently taking a survey of RAC members regarding elimination of Morse code as an amateur radio examination element. Director Ellam stated that the Radio Society of Bermuda is suffering from the same condition as many other societies, namely, decreasing numbers of hams and members although the RSB has no present plans for a membership campaign. Director Ellam also noted that he attended the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Marrakech in November, 2002. He also attended the Region 1 EC meeting in February, 2003 on behalf of Region 2. He expressed thanks and gratitude for support from the EC for his candidacy as IARU Vice President.

4.2. Area B. Director Stafford reported on activities of the American Radio Relay League (“ARRL”) which is the only Member Society within Area B. One of the issues that is of major concern right now is the Broadband over Powerlines (“BPL”), also known in some circles as PLC or PLT. Some tests have shown significant interference from BPL to HF communications and communications up to about 50 MHz. The ARRL is currently studying what regulatory changes are appropriate in view of the changes to the International Radio Regulations as a result of WRC 2003. There have been approximately a dozen petitions to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) in the weeks after WRC 2003 asking the FCC to delete the Morse code testing requirement for amateur radio licenses. It is anticipated the FCC decision on this issue will be made sometime late in 2004. The plans for the Logbook of the World (“LOTW”) are moving forward and the program is currently running in its early stages. Many thousands of QSOs have already been uploaded into the database. Continually declining numbers of members are a major concern to the Board of Directors, Officers and staff of ARRL. A committee is currently working on new and innovative ways to attract members. The Secretary reported he chairs that committee.

4.3. Area C. Director Rodriguez submitted a written report that was reviewed by the EC. Director Rodriguez congratulated the members of the EC on their dedication and work during the last year. His report noted the attempts to stay in communication with all the Member Societies within Area C with varying success. Some of the societies are very active and some not. Director Rodriguez continues as the President of the national society in Cuba, the Federacion of Radioaficionados of Cuba (“FRC”). FRC has seen a pattern of sustained growth in membership and the relations between FRC and the telecom authority are very good. Director Rodriguez also
submitted a paper to the EC about amateur radio situation in Cuba. He detailed the situation regarding growth of amateur radio in that country including related activities which might provide a source of new amateurs. He also set out in detail the relations with the telecom authority. Director Rodriguez also informed that FRC is planning to propose Cuba as the seat of the 2007 Region 2 Assembly.

4.4. Area D. Director Gudiel supplemented his written report with additional comments. He highlighted the activities of Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala (“CRAG”) including the efforts by CRAG to attract new amateur radio operators. The effort was successful in attracting 42 new novice class operators. The auctioning of amateur bands above 148 MHz was discussed. CRAG has been able to stop the government auctions for the present but the return of the 430-440 MHz band to the amateurs in Guatemala is still pending. The Club de Radioaficionados de El Salvador (“CRAS”) has a very good relationship with the telecom authority. CRAS is financially stable and the society is doing well. The government has contributed to the new building for the society. Director Gudiel noted that the Radio Club de Honduras (“RCH”) is doing well and has a good working relationship with the Honduran telecom authority. The Club de Radio-Experimentadores de Nicaragua (“CREN”) continues with some financial difficulty although the society continues to have a good relationship with the telecom authorities. CREN is also very active in emergency communications. The Radio Club de Costa Rica (“RCCR”) is very pleased about the Region 2 EC having its meeting in their country. RCCR is working closely with the telecom authorities in submitting new regulations dealing with the amateur radio service. The Liga Panamena de Radioaficionados (“LPRA”) has very good relations with the telecom authorities in Panama. VP HP1DJ is a technical adviser for LPRA and has been actively involved in writing new regulations for amateur radio. Director Gudiel also commented on the FRACAP Convention in Panama in September, 2003.

4.5. Area E. Director Donawa reported that all of the societies within Area E are active with the exception of Suriname. The major problems for most of the societies are the declining membership numbers and the lack of new persons obtaining amateur radio licenses. Dominica, Barbados, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Trinidad & Tobago are active in programs attempting to bring youth into amateur radio. Trinidad & Tobago ARS completed a strategic plan for changes in the society to respond to the telecom environment with emphasis on training, education and public service. The Grenada ARC is active and involved in emergency communications and they have excellent relations with the telecom authorities.

4.5.1. Director Donawa discussed an informational paper that he prepared dealing with changes requested by the Trinidad & Tobago ARS of the Trinidad & Tobago telecommunication authority dealing with the amateur radio service. The requests were submitted in writing and were well received by the telecom authority. The changes dealt with amateurs conducting examinations for amateur radio operators, an entry level license examination and administration of the amateur radio service in Trinidad & Tobago. The EC congratulates TTARS on a good job working with their administrations.
4.6. Area F. Director Franco reported that he has had good communications with the societies in Peru, Ecuador and Brazil. Communications with the Radio Club Boliviano are non-existent. He reports that the three societies have good relations with the telecom authorities but the main concern of the societies is the lack of new amateur radio operators and decline of members in the societies. Director Franco also informed the EC that LABRE, the Brazilian Member Society, is planning to propose Brazil as the venue of the 2007 Region 2 Assembly.

4.7. Area G. Director Szama reported on activities within his area. He noted the poor financial conditions in most of the countries within the area. This condition is having a negative impact on the amateur radio societies. Many of them have allowed their membership in their radio club or Member Society lapse. The Radio Club of Argentina had a number of concerns. They are very much concerned about the references to The Falkland Islands instead of the designation “Falkland Islands/Malvinas Islands.” After some discussion it was agreed that the EC will follow the wishes of the Argentine society and continue to refer to the islands as “The Falklands/Malvinas Islands” in English and "Islas Malvinas/Falkland Islands" in Spanish whenever it may have an opportunity to mention said territory formally. The Secretary will issue a reminder to all of the societies within the region of the designation. Director Szama also related other concerns of RCA including the lack of area meetings, the decline of the number of new amateurs and the financial situation in Argentina and the area.

5. Committees & Coordinators Reports.

5.1. Beacon Coordinator. The EC reviewed the report of the Region 2 Beacon Coordinator Report by Peter Jennings AB6WM. The report noted that there are 47 more beacons transmitting now than one year ago. In Region 2, there are 33 more beacons than just last year. Much of the growth is on 10 meters but new beacons have been placed in many bands. The International Beacon Project (“IBP”) is going well under the direction of AB6WM and Charlie Mason W4NJK. The 18 beacons in the IBP cover 10 through 20 meters and are monitored by thousands of amateurs worldwide. The Beacon Coordinator requests that Member Societies be reminded of the IARU Band Plans and in particular the allocation to the IBP. Ron Szama LU2AH commented on a beacon identification problem currently being resolved with LU4AA.

5.2. Monitoring System Coordinator. The EC reviewed the report of the Monitoring System Coordinator and carefully reviewed the areas of concern in the report dealing with interference matters. The MS Coordinator requests the EC identify a qualified individual to serve as Assistant MS Coordinator who is Spanish speaking. The MS Coordinator asks the EC to once again remind the R2 Member Societies that many R2 societies have no monitoring activity at all.

5.3. HF Committee. Director Szama LU2AH is the HF Committee Chair. There has been no work assigned to the HF Committee but the committee notes that there will likely be work needed in the next couple of years to review the 40 meter band plan in
view of the results of WRC 2003. Director Szama commented that he has had in-person discussions with the HF Chairperson from Region 1 at Friedrichshafen 2002 regarding HF matters of common interest.

5.4. EMCOR. Rick Palm K1CE is the Emergency Coordinator (“EMCOR”) for Region 2. His extensive report detailed his activities during the last year. His primary efforts have been in the following areas: (1.) Development of a database of emergency coordination contact information to promote international mutual assistance during disaster situations; (2.) Continued solicitation and appointment of members of the Emergency Coordination Advisory Group (ECAG), as mandated in the terms of reference; (3.) Development and publication of a Region 2 emergency coordination website; and (4.) Continued presence of the EMCOR on an international assistance and traffic net that would be used during training and coordination of assets and traffic during actual disaster situations in the Region. Progress has been made in appointments to the Emergency Coordination Advisory Group (“ECAG”). The ECAG will play a critical role in the development of the Region 2 emergency plan. The following individuals are members of ECAG: Area A – Pierre Mainville VA3PM; Area B – Steve Ewald WV1X; Area C – Arnie Coro CO2KK; Area D – Cesar Santos HR2CPS and Area E – Tony Webster 8P6NE. ECAG members are still needed for Areas F and G. The EC requested Directors from those areas to attempt to identify individuals suitably qualified to serve on ECAG. He also reported on activities related to the International Assistance & Traffic Net and recommended that the EC encourage Member Societies to designate individuals to regularly check into the net. The net would serve as the EMCOR’s primary on-the-air presence during an emergency or disaster. He recommended that the EC amend the EMCOR job description by adding a requirement that the EMCOR be bilingual to be able to communicate across Region 2 in both English and Spanish. The EC adopted this proposal.

5.5. ARDF Coordinator. Dale Hunt WB6BYU is the Region 2 ARDF Coordinator. His report detailed his activities in three primary areas: (1.) Coordination of ARDF activities with other regions; (2.) Region 2 ARDF events; and (3.) Supporting the development of ARDF in Region 2. He highlighted the 2002 World ARDF Championships held in September, 2002 in Slovakia. Karla Leech KC7BLA represented Region 2 in that event. The 2004 event will be held in the Czech Republic. Approximately 40 competitors were involved in the second IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships held in Ohio, USA, in July, 2003.

5.6. Region 2 News. David Evans VE6DXX has been unable to continue as the IARU Region 2 News Editor. The EC expressed thanks to David Evans for the fine work done by David on this project over the years in providing this valuable service to the region. The EC will continue to search for any individual who is qualified to serve in the capacity as Region 2 News editor.

5.7. Web Site Administrator. There is a need for someone to regularly assist in updating and modernizing the information on the Region 2 web site. The EC will attempt to identify an individual who is qualified to assist the region in maintaining a
web site that is both useful and keeps visitors informed of Region 2 activities. Acting Region 2 Web Site Administrator Pedro Seidemann mentioned that mainly for lack of time he has not been able to do so by himself as would have been desireable.

5.8. Region 2 HF Net. The EC adopted a resolution to invite Directors of Member Societies to join the EC on the Region 2 HF Net on Tuesdays at 0100 hours (UTC) at 14.265 MHz +/- 5 KHz. The Secretary shall notify the Member Societies that the EC hopes many of the Member Societies will participate.

6. CITEL Matters.

6.1. Recent CITEL meetings. President Seidemann commented on some of the CITEL meetings attended by EC members. Support by CITEL member states at the WRC 2003 was very satisfactory. This is attributed to Region 2 ongoing participation in CITEL as well as maintenance of good relationship by member societies with the international division within their Administrations whose functionaries regularly attend to CITEL related issues.

6.2. Upcoming CITEL meetings. The EC members discussed the policy related to attendance at CITEL meetings. The view was expressed by the EC that it is important to attend all of the PCC-II meetings and COM-CITEL meetings. It is important to attend the meetings even if the agenda does not deal with any critical amateur radio issues. Marco Tulio Gudiel will attend the PCC-II meeting in El Salvador on October 19-23, 2003, on behalf of the R2 EC. COM-CITEL will meet in Argentina in December, 2003. VP Jurado will attend the meeting on behalf of Region 2. Director Szama will attend the meeting as well if he is able to do so.

6.3. IARP Status Report. The EC continues to encourage Member Societies to seek ratification of the Inter-American Amateur Radio Permit (“IARP”) in those countries that have not done so.

7. Strategic Planning Session. The EC met all day on October 3, 2003 for a session dealing with strategic planning. The EC also addressed certain strategic planning issues after the conclusion of the regular EC meeting. The report of the meeting dealing with strategic planning will be included in a separate report.

8. Meeting with Officers and Directors of the Radio Club of Costa Rica. The EC greeted the society President, Hugo Soto TI2HAS, accompanied by Armando Bonilla TI2AEB, Minor Moya TI3MGM and Alberto Ramirez TI2CCP. The group discussed certain issues with the EC including the manner of maintaining closer communications with IARU Region 2. Maintaining up-to-date information on the IARU Region 2 web site regarding Member Society was discussed. The Radio Club of Costa Rica invited the EC to visit the RCCR clubhouse that evening. It was an enjoyable evening visiting with about 20 of the RCCR members.

9. Relations with Member Societies.
9.1. Area Meetings. The EC discussed the concept of area meetings and combined-area meetings. The latter can be especially useful for Areas A, B and C. The EC adopted a resolution providing that the Region 2 President, or his designee, shall yearly visit each of the areas within Region 2. These visits should be held if possible in conjunction with area meetings arranged by the Area Directors.

9.2. Relations with FRACAP. Director Gudiel made some oral remarks about the recent FRACAP meeting in Panama. Director Gudiel said that some of the attendees felt there was not enough information coming from IARU R2, in particular, the cessation of a written Spanish version of “R2 News.” President Seidemann noted that officials of FRACAP had expressed an intention to hold the 50th anniversary of the founding of FRACAP in 2010 and FRACAP officials hoped that the Region 2 Conference that year could be held then in El Salvador just prior to the FRACAP event. The EC noted that a Region 2 Member Society could submit a paper to the 2004 and to the 2007 Region 2 Conference outlining the plans for the 50th anniversary FRACAP celebration so that plans for the 2010 Region 2 Conference can be made accordingly.


10.1. Comments by IARU President Price. President Price commented in depth on the results of WRC 2003. He detailed the discussions at WRC 2003 regarding 40 meters especially the situation regarding the United States position on 40 meters and CITEL position on 40 meters. He expressed extreme concern over the situation with regard to 40 meters within Region 2 at the 2007 WRC. He expressed the view that only part of the IARU objectives for 40 meters were achieved at WRC 2003 and that it was too early to declare a victory on 40 meters since the changes regarding 40 meters aren’t even scheduled to take place until after the next WRC in 2007. The large number of footnotes for the 100 kHz segment at 7.1 to 7.2 MHz for fixed and mobile services in Region 1 and Region 3 was also noted.


10.2.1. 40 Meters. IARU President Price commented that some success was achieved at WRC 2003 on 40 meters but the work is not finished. WRC 2007 will address the issue of HF Broadcasting needs between 4 and 10 MHz and any gains at WRC 2003 could be lost at WRC 2007. There is still much work to be done on the 40 meter issue.

10.2.2. Article 25 Changes. IARU President Price presented a detailed analysis of the changes to Article 25. The date of the changes made to Article 25 is July 5, 2003. The Secretary will prepare a report detailing the changes to Article 25 and will send the report to the Region 2 Member Societies.
10.2.3. Other matters from WRC 2003. IARU President Price noted that Synthetic Aperture Radar (“SAR”) was approved at WRC 2003 for inclusion in the 430-440 MHz amateur radio band. Based upon the excellent work of Ken Pulfer VE3PU for the last several years it is believed that the allocation for SAR will have a minimal effect on the amateur radio service.

10.2.4. Follow Up Actions from WRC 2003. The EC adopted a resolution to encourage all of the Region 2 Member Societies to carefully review the list of changes to Article 25 and to determine those changes appropriate for implementation in their country. Then each Member Society should request those changes from their administrations. The Secretary will provide a summary of the Article 25 changes to the Member Societies.

10.2.5. Region 2 Participation in WRC 2003. The EC recognized the participation by Region 2 amateurs in various capacities. Larry Price W4RA, David Sumner K1ZZ, Ken Pulfer VE3PU, Dario Jurado HP1DJ, Wojciech Nietyksza SP5FM, Michael Owen VK3KI and Bob Jones VE7RWJ participated in WRC 2003. There were a number of amateurs who were present at WRC 2003 as members of their national delegation, including, Jim Dean VE3IQ (RAC appointee to Canadian delegation), Paul Rinaldo W4RI and Jon Siverling WB3ERA (ARRL appointees to the United States delegation) and Pedro Seidemann YV5BPG (RCV appointee to the Venezuelan delegation). The EC congratulated all those participating and for their good work on the WRC.

10.3. 2003 IARU Administrative Council Report. The Summary Record for the 2003 IARU AC meeting is currently not available. A copy of the press release for the AC was provided to the EC and the contents were discussed. It was noted that the AC created a new post entitled “IARU Disaster Communications Adviser.” The AC adopted the creation of the post in principle and terms of reference for the position were approved. The ITU Telecom will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 11-19, 2003. A booklet entitled “The Case for Amateur Radio” has been prepared in English, French and an Arabic version is in preparation for the Telecom. Although too late for the upcoming Telecom, the IS will also issue a Spanish version of the booklet. The Region 2 EC expresses appreciation to the IARU WRC 2003 Team for its preparation and fine work involved in WRC 2003, adding good wishes for a successful participation at the upcoming ITU Telecom.

11. Reports From Other Regions.

11.1. Region 1. No written report or recommendations were received from Region 1. It was noted that Director Ellam attended the R1 EC meeting in February, 2003 and previously reported to the EC on that meeting. President Seidemann will travel to Sofia, Bulgaria for the Region 1 EC meeting that will take place April 16-18, 2004.
11.2. Region 3. No written report or recommendations were received from Region 3. It was noted that the postponed Region 3 Conference will likely be held in Taipei, Taiwan, on February 16-20, 2003. Director Ellam will determine his availability to attend the R3 Conference and will notify the President and the Secretary of such availability.

12. Reports on Region 2 Projects.

12.1. 2004 Region 2 Conference.

12.1.1. Arrangements for Conference. The 2004 Region 2 Conference will take place Sept 27 to October 1, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. Trinidad & Tobago ARS members have been working diligently on the arrangements for the conference. Director Donawa is in close local contact with the TTARS Conference Preparatory Committee. Furthermore, President Seidemann will likely be traveling to Trinidad & Tobago on business over the next 12 months and will have the opportunity to meet with the TTARS members to oversee the progress of the conference planning. President Seidemann suggested Secretary Stafford travel to Trinidad & Tobago during the final stages of preparation for the conference to oversee the final arrangements for the conference. The registration fee has not yet been set but the committee is attempting to retain a registration fee of no more than $65.00 US. A formal call for the Conference shall be issued promptly.

12.1.2. Conference Program. The EC discussed the program for the 2004 Region 2 Conference. The EC adopted the general schedule as presented to the EC. The general schedule provides for no organized activities on Sunday, September 26, 2004, the day for delegates' arrival and registration. It further provides for a reception hosted by Trinidad & Tobago ARS during the conference dates. There will be four specialized sessions dealing with issues that will impact Member Societies and will be of great interest to all. The Secretary will forward a copy of the approved schedule to the Region 2 Member Societies with an explanation of the specialized sessions to be held at the conference.

12.2. Assistance to Member Societies. In view of the strategic plan currently being developed the sub-committee dealing with this project is asked to continue consideration of the structure and details of this program. The sub-committee was asked to consider the subject matter of the strategic planning session in developing this program and the financial impact to IARU R2.

12.3. Internet and Amateur Radio. The EC discussed a paper written by Director Donawa dealing with the subject with additional comments made by President Seidemann. The internet continues to be perceived by the public in such a way that is detrimental to amateur radio. Efforts through our strategic plan will tend to counteract this impression by the public. The EC may present a paper on the subject at the next R2 Conference. It was observed that at the same time the internet is a valuable service to the operation of the business aspects of the region.
12.4. P.A.R.S. Program. The EC reviewed a paper by Secretary Stafford dealing with the Partnership of Amateur Radio Societies (“PARS”) program. The EC approved the draft Standard Operating Procedure for implementation of the PARS program. The Secretary will notify the Member Societies of the newly adopted procedures.

12.5. E-QSL Services. HF Committee Chair Director Szama will investigate this issue and will survey the R2 societies to determine whether any R2 Member Societies accept e-QSL confirmations for award credit. He will report the results of this survey to the EC at its next meeting.

13. Other Business.

13.1. 70 cm Operation in Guatemala. Director Gudiel submitted a paper dealing with 70 cm operation in Guatemala. It explains that the intervention of the Guatemalan amateur society resulted in the government ending its policy of auctioning all amateur frequencies above 148 MHz but the return of the 430-440 MHz band to the amateurs is still pending. The 2001 R2 Conference adopted a resolution that IARU R2 should cooperate with and assist the Guatemalan society in obtaining an addition to footnote 5.278 to the Radio Regulations that the 430-440 MHz band is on a primary basis to the amateur radio service in Guatemala. The Guatemalan government apparently was not able to achieve this objective by the time of WRC 2003. President Seidemann will write a letter to the Amateur Radio Club of Guatemala which expresses continuing support for the idea that the Guatemalan government adopt a provision that the amateur radio service be granted primary status in the 430-440 MHz band. It is recommended that he point out the fact that several other countries in South and Central America have such a policy as shown in footnote 5.278 of the International Radio Regulations.

13.2. Multiple Society/Successor Society Matters. The EC supports the idea that a sub-committee of the EC will study the issue of Multiple Society/Successor Society issue and report back to the EC noting that any proposed steps stay within the present IARU Constitution or that they may require a constitutional change. The President appointed Secretary Stafford as Chair and Director Ellam and VP Jurado to the committee. The report is due on February 29, 2004.

13.3. Publication for 2004 R2 Conference. Director Donawa requests all members of the EC to submit items of interest for the publication. The publication will be directed to non-amateurs in Trinidad & Tobago.

13.4. Financial Assistance for R2 Societies to Attend R2 Conferences. There is an existing Region 2 policy on this issue. In order to receive financial assistance to attend a Region 2 Conference, the Member Society must be current in its dues to Region 2. If, in the discretion of the EC, a Member Society is granted financial assistance, the Member Society may choose to have the air fare paid for one person to the conference or the room costs for one person attending the conference paid by the region. If a Member
Society requests financial aid for the purpose of attending a Region 2 Conference then that Member Society must fully explain the circumstances as to why such financial aid is necessary and appropriate.

14. Next EC Meeting. The next meeting of the R2 EC will take place on September 25, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. prior to the 2004 R2 Conference in Trinidad & Tobago.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Stafford W6ROD
Secretary