

**UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee
ARRL Board of Directors
January 2012**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This Committee was established in accordance with Minute 39 of the July 2011 Board of Directors Meeting which directed that an ad hoc committee be established to address and update the ARRL Band Plans for the 33 cm, 23 cm, 13 cm, and 9 cm (902-3500 MHz) amateur bands. The Committee was instructed to present a preliminary report containing recommended band plans to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration at the 2012 Board of Directors Second Meeting.

The Committee has been quite active. Four meetings by teleconference have been held. Work is on track to meet the Board directive.

The start of this project began with the Committee compiling various resource documents and reports on band usage for the designated bands. Some of the more extensive documents included: Report to the Board submitted by Joel Harrison, Chris Imlay, and Paul Rinaldo in May, 2003 on a Study of the Bands 902 MHz - 24.25 GHZ, Background Paper on the 902 - 3500 MHz Amateur Bands by Paul Rinaldo, and reports by Rod Blocksom on Working Document for Microwave Band Plans, Reference Document for Current ARRL Band Plans (902 to 3500 MHz), and Amateur Band Spectrum Allocations and Uses (222 MHz through 3500 MHz). This effort also included assembling information from the amateur community on current band plans across different geographic areas. All of this information will be particularly important in evaluating frequency usage and for coordination of band plans in our final recommendations. The collection and study of resource information is ongoing.

A major effort was made to assure that input from the amateur community was solicited on current band plans and band usage. To accomplish this task, the Committee developed a communications program that was distributed to the amateur community in November in which input was solicited via a Web-input format. The communications and solicitation for input was distributed to numerous sources including direct e-mails to known users, user groups, and organizations. Announcements were made on the ARRL Web site and the ARRL Letter. Information about this communications program was provided to the Board in ODV message 20271 on October 18, 2011, for Director use in distributing the information within Divisions.

The communications program has provided ample opportunity for the various users to provide input and comment. The reflector has received almost 200 responses to date. Information received is transferred to an Excel spreadsheet to aid in compilation and evaluation. As you can imagine, going through the data-gathering process and subsequent analysis of data is taking time. We are still receiving input and analysis of information is underway, consequently, at this stage of the project it is premature to report on any definitive conclusions relative to the band plans.

The next phase is to analyze information and develop updated band plans. We anticipate there could be some instances where specific follow up communications with certain amateurs and/or microwave organizations will be needed as the recommendations are developed. Our goal is to assure open communications with users, especially if there is a potential conflict. The Committee is also considering ways to provide information on our preliminary recommendations, once developed, to the amateur community for another round of comments before our final recommendations are made. The Committee is still on target to have a preliminary report and recommended band plans by the July 2012 Board of Directors Meeting.

One final note of interest is that Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, who is a member of this Committee, is also a member of the National Broadband Plan Committee. This helps assure coordination of work between the two Committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick - K5UR

Members of the Committee:

First Vice President Rick Roderick - K5UR (Chair)

Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner - K1ZZ

Vice Director Rod Blocksome - K0DAS

Vice Director Marty Woll - N6VI

Paul Rinaldo - W4RI