

5MHz: July 2004 Report for the Spectrum Forum

For the last two years holders of the full UK amateur radio license have enjoyed the privilege of adding a Notice of Variation allowing them to conduct experiments that involve transmitting on the following 5MHz channels:

Channel Name	Centre Frequency KHz	USB carrier frequency
FA	5260	5258.5
FB	5280	5278.5
FC	5290	5288.5
FE	5400	5398.5
FM	5405	5403.5

This privilege is due to expire in August 2006.

Whilst not of immediate concern to the Spectrum Forum, its members should be aware of the importance of amateurs using this privilege appropriately, both in terms of conduct and in terms of demonstrating tangible value from the 5MHz access. The RSGB 5MHz Working Group's role is to achieve both objectives. It has been active assessing NoV applications, promoting user guidelines for operation on the channels. It also supports emergency comms experiments and a range of experiments including the collection and consolidation of Station logs. These roles are reviewed below:

- NoV applications have been handled promptly and effectively, without as far as we are aware, any specific complaints.
- User guidelines have been published via the web (<http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/5MHz.htm>) and in RadCom. The main problem is meeting the intent of RA/MoD in granting limited access, namely that of conducting inter-UK experiments, with the subsequent granting of licenses (with varying usage limitations) to amateurs in the US, Canada, Finland and New Zealand and some un-licensed amateur activity within Europe.
- 5MHz Experiments: Significant success has been achieved with the use of HF and with the integration of HF and VHF/UHF links during various emergency comms exercises. The 5MHz Working Group provides a point-of-focus for individuals who conduct their own experiments as well as a role in promotion of an experiment to collate Station Logs with a view to subsequent analysis. Whilst the uploading of the "consolidated" log is somewhat behind schedule, regular submission of logs is being received from NoV holders. A 5MHz beacon is operational along with automatic logging software, both of which will greatly enhance the quality and quantity of the data collected. Two further beacons are planned within the UK. Work has also begun to investigate how best to analyse the "consolidated" data. A progress report on amateur usage of the 5MHz Channels was issued to the RSGB Board and Ofcom in April 2004.

John Gould, G3WKL
Chairman, RSGB 5MHz Working Group