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Information sheet accompanying 50 MHz reporting form

HOW TO USE THE 50 MHZ PROPAGATION REPORT SHEET

1. Keep one sample of the report sheet unfilled to make photostatic copies;
2. Please use different sheets for different Es openings even if there are two or more openings during the same day;
3. Fill in your station description carefully. Please specify the noise figure of your receiver as well as the I.F. bandwidth. An indication of the type of tube or transistor used in the front-end of your receiver should be given if you do not have these data;
4. Do not forget to fill in your callsign if you are mailing more than one sheet;
5. Cross out the word "Estimated" if you are sure you know the exact time of beginning and/or end of the opening.

How to fill in columns 01 to 12

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|-------|---|
| 01,02 | Fill in the times as accurately as possible. Check your clock often (against a time standard, if possible); |
| 03 | : Fill in the call sign of the station you have heard; |
| 04 | : Fill in the state name. Add the location if you know it exactly, together with the state name; |
| 05 | : Please specify the frequency as exactly as possible, e.g. 50.15 MHz instead of "50 MHz band"; |
| 06 | : Fill in the working mode of the station mentioned in column 03. Please use the following abbreviations: CW, AM, FM, SSB, RTTY (instead of A1, A3 etc.); |
| 07 | : Specify the aerial direction (aerial heading) as exactly as possible for maximum signal level. Fill in "SW" for southwest etc. If you want to specify the aerial direction in degrees, please use the following system: 0 degrees North, 270 degrees West etc.; |
| 08 | : Indicate in this column the received signal level either by using the S code or in dB/noise. If you are using the S code please check the calibration of your S-meter; |
| 09,10 | : Fill in the lowest value of signal level in column 09. Fill in the highest signal level observed in column 10; |
| 11 | : If you happen to observe periodic fading, please fill in the estimated frequency of fading (e.g. "10 seconds") if the signal level reaches its former value after a fading period, or fill in "flutter" in case of very fast changes in signal level; |
| 12 | : Fill in additional information ,e.g. "station calling DX" or "station calling W1HDQ" etc. |

Mailing procedure:

Please send your reporting sheet as soon as possible to the VHF Manager of your national society and ask him to pass your report on to the VHF Sporadic-E Propagation Co-ordinator of IARU Region 1. Alternatively, send your report directly to the Co-ordinator.

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IVb.A1 Page4 mar93

Information sheet accompanying Sporadic-E reporting form

European VHF Sporadic-E Study

You are invited to take part in an international project, begun in Spring 1982 and planned to extend over many years, which is aimed at providing sufficient raw data in the form of reliable signal reports to establish the extent and movement of the areas of ionization responsible for long-range ionospheric propagation at VHF.

There is a long tradition among amateurs to refer to this mode as 'Sporadic E', but our professional colleagues, who are now taking a considerable interest in trying to establish the mechanism involved, have pointed out that the currently accepted theories cannot apply at frequencies such as 145 MHz and beyond. It is possible, then, that what we have been observing and reporting for well over a quarter of a century is evidence of a different propagation process than that which leads to Sporadic E at HF.

The results of our studies will be of value to the planners of commercial and broadcasting services, to whom long-range VHF propagation is a source of annoyance, because it brings interference from distant stations operating on the same frequency. Reliable statistics are urgently required by advisory bodies such as CCIR and our project is being organized with that need very much in mind.

We particularly need observations of the duration of long-range ionospheric 'Sporadic E' type signals from distant stations that are fairly close together - say, within 100 km of each other. The observed durations will eventually contribute to a distribution chart showing the probability of such an event occurring within specified time scales. On the scale of reporting we hope to achieve, such information should be forthcoming from paths from the United States to most parts of Europe.

The study is being carried out in close cooperation with the International Radio Union and all reports received will be passed eventually to the IARU Region I Sporadic-E Studies Co-ordinator, who is a member of the RSGB Propagation Studies Committee. The project will also benefit from a two-way interchange of data with the German organisation DUBUS.

Reports relating to any transmission above 50 MHz will be welcomed, provided that positive locations can be given. Naturally, our principal interest is in the amateur bands. Completed forms should be sent to:

Jim Bacon, G3YLA
Highways,
East-Tuddenham
Dereham, Norfolk
NR20 3AH England

tph : +44 1603 880288
fax : +44 1603 766398

If these reports have news value, they may also be sent to the VHF Manager of any amateur national society, or to the VHF columnist of any major amateur magazine, who will forward them to us afterwards. G3YLA will supply further copies of blank reporting forms on request.

I hope you will take part in our project and assist us by making it as widely known as possible throughout Europe.

THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION REGION 1 VHF FIELD-ALIGNED IRREGULARITIES SCATTER PROPAGATION REPORT SHEET

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