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Subject	Malicious QRM – Time for Action		
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Malicious QRM – Time for Action

Introduction

Malicious QRM is interference created with the deliberate aim of disrupting communications by other people. Over the past 4 years, Malicious QRM targeted against DXpedition operations has increased to a disgraceful level that has ruined many people's enjoyment of amateur radio at HF.

Some examples of Malicious QRM can be found in the following attached files:

- a. [FT5ZM operation 15m CW 1442z 7 Feb 14](#)
- b. [FT5ZM operation 30m CW 1638z 7 Feb 14](#)
- c. [3B7C operation 40m SSB 19 Sep 07](#)

There are many more examples and the problem is spreading.

It is now time for all Region 1 Member Societies to treat Malicious QRM as a major and urgent priority and to take positive action against this form of anarchy that threatens the future of amateur radio.

Background

The RSGB has consistently been urging action against Malicious QRM since the San Marino General Conference in 2002. In 2008 we proposed a robust approach but this met with strong opposition; instead, Region 1 chose to address a different issue, the need for better education and training.

Initiatives such as the *Operating Ethics and Procedure for the Radio Amateur* booklet by ON4UN and ON4WW, and the RSGB proposal for Region 1 to endorse the *DX Code of Conduct* in 2011 have all probably helped to improve operating standards in general terms. But it must be recognized that education and training is not an effective response to the issue of this paper, which is QRM caused with deliberate and malicious intent.

It must also be recognized that Malicious QRM is a direct contravention of the ITU Radio Regulations, and is breaking the law in every Region 1 country. However, this is also an internal matter within amateur radio, so it is unrealistic to expect national administrations to take a lead in investigations. The amateur radio community needs to take action itself, at least in the initial stages. Having gathered our information, we

may then invite the administration to review our findings, gather evidence and take enforcement action if appropriate.

Key Points and Proposal

Amateur radio on HF is in danger because Malicious QRM is reaching epidemic proportions. People are giving up HF radio in frustration. Although this may simply be a reflection of social trends, we should not allow amateur radio to be swept along by them.

Member Societies now have a simple choice: either to ignore the problem for another 3 years; or to begin taking active steps to combat it. If we value HF amateur radio, we need to take action now to address this anarchy.

We need to:

- Make everyone aware that amateur radio needs to regulate itself
- Condemn the actions of anyone who maliciously disrupts other people's QSOs
- Establish confidential channels within national societies for people to inform about alleged offenders
- Support both international and national programmes of action (direction finding, peer pressure – and, where necessary, reporting to national authorities with encouragement to take enforcement action)
- Publicise cases where enforcement action has occurred
- Work with our national administrations to provide a basic level of Direction Finding in conjunction with other countries. Identifying the countries from which the Malicious QRM originates will encourage Member Societies in those countries to realise that action is needed by them.

The RSGB has for many years had a group of observers that investigate confidential complaints of bad operating or interference by amateurs upon fellow amateurs. It is known as the RSGB Amateur Radio Observation Service (AROS). Until recently this has been aimed only at domestic issues, as the only source of escalation is our administrator, OFCOM. It is now proposed that a new international observation body (similar to IARUMS, but separate) be created within IARU Region 1 to promote and coordinate the establishment of AROS services within Member Societies, with the aim of providing a central reporting and action point.

Recommendations

Member Societies are invited to discuss and agree how best to coordinate the above actions, and submit robust and meaningful recommendations to the Plenary. As a starting point the following recommendations are proposed:

- 1) Member Societies to use their periodicals, Internet information and news feeds to highlight the self-regulatory ethos of amateur radio, to condemn the actions of the Malicious QRMers and to publicize where direct action has been taken;
- 2) IARU Region 1 to appoint an IARU AROS Coordinator;
 - a) To invite and encourage Member Societies to establish a network of Amateur Radio Observation Services within Region 1;
 - b) To coordinate the locating of alleged sources of malicious QRM;
 - c) To support Member Societies in taking direct action; and
 - d) To advise member Societies on ways to approach their administrations to seek help with direction finding, in concert with other administrations.