It seemed that this email thread from the VHFcontesting Reflector would be of interest to the club members. The original source can be found here:

http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/vhfcontesting/2017-October/021000.html

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N6Ze n6ze at aol.com
Sat Oct 14 21:09:57 EDT 2017
This was just proposed at PNWVHFS annual. Conference.

Any comments??

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Brett KG7GDB <bkpopovich at gmail.com>
> Date: October 14, 2017 at 18:00:39 PDT
> To: PNWVHFS <pnwvhfs at googlegroups.com>
> Subject: [PNWVHFS] FT8 frequencies for 2m and 70cm --tentative decision
> Reply-To: bkpopovich at gmail.com
>
> The FT-8 digital mode is extremely popular now. Part of the success lies in built in frequencies for HF through 6m. (For example 50.313 MHz is used on 6m, and is selected via a pull down menu on WSJT-X.)
> A similar menu frequency choice isn't provided for 2m and 70 cm, but can be tuned manually.
> We discussed the need to have a common operating frequency which meets ITU Region 2 band plans for CW, Digital, and SSB operations.
>
> After some discussion at the conference, we will be testing 144.174 MHz USB for VHF club contacts, contesting and weak signal FT-8 work.
> We will also try 432.500 MHz USB for UHF weak signal and contest work.
>
> These frequencies are within the Region 2 band plan for SSB,CW, and DM allocations, and shouldn't interfere with EME, beacons, or other common amateur uses.
> Please test the feasibility of using FT8 on these frequencies. If we can provide a "watering holes" for this mode, it should facilate unscheduled contacts, and may help us make better use of sporadic and tropospheric openings.
>
> You may want to try 5-100 watts power at first to see how well you do.
> On HF, it is possible to send and receive to -23 dB with no errors.
>
> Using PSKreporter and self-spotting you will see other receiving stations mapped with signal reports. Use this to help understand your antenna pattern, reach, etc. Try leaving you rig tuned to the frequencies and just receive other stations for several hours to catch openings.
>
> Any ideas or feedback on the use of these frequencies for FT8 are helpful.
> Thanks in advance for you input.
>
> Brett
> KG7GDB
> Salem, OR CN84ku
>
> --
> ~The Voice of the Pacific NorthWest VHF Society~
> You are subscribed to the Google Groups "PNWVHFS" group.

> *To post to this group, send email to PNWVHFS at googlegroups.com*
> *To read message history, visit http://groups.google.com/group/PNWVHFS*

Scott Armstrong aa5am at vntx.net
Sat Oct 14 21:22:03 EDT 2017

Why so high in the band on 432?

Can't speak for the guys on the left and right coasts but in this part of the world 432 for the most part is a virtual waste land most of the time.

Why not make it 432.174?

And while I'm thinking about it... was anything discussed about a calling frequency for 222?

73,
Scott AA5AM
EM13sg - Blue Ridge TX

Steve Kavanagh sjkavanagh1 at yahoo.ca
Sun Oct 15 07:02:09 EDT 2017

Hi Pete

I am not sure 144.174 for FT8 would work very well in the east. Outside of contests it would likely be fine but during contests, SSB/CW activity almost always extends down to .170 (top multi-op W2SZ/1 is always there!) and sometimes to .165.

I wondered about 144.313, but I see ARRL lists this as an OSCAR subband, which seems odd since it seems to be incompatible with the Region 1 band plan (https://iaru-r1.org/index.php/spectrum-and-band-plans/vhf/2-meter). I think 144.313 would be ok with respect to the (rather antiquated) Canadian band plan (http://wp.rac.ca/144-mhz-2m-page/).

73,
Steve VE3SMA

James Worsham w4kxy at bellsouth.net
Sun Oct 15 16:01:35 EDT 2017

Just to add another perspective. I am glad to hear that there is that much activity on 2m and 70cm where Steve is at but here (Georgia) those bands are almost a waste land even during contests. You could probably do FT8 on the calling frequencies and no one would object! I am all for any mode on any frequency that creates interest and activity. Now that I have said

that, my only comment is that 432.500 is too far away from the center of what little activity there is here. Something further down the band closer to the calling frequency would be best for here.

73
Jim, W4KXY

Sent from my iPad

Dana ve3ds at acanac.net
Mon Oct 16 20:48:00 EDT 2017
Try this again…e mail problems today after the storm...

Steve & all there hasn't been any OSCAR ops in decades there…unless its control frequencies (??) - the ARRL bandplan hasn't been tweaked since the early 80's…

…but the RAC Canadian bandplan has digital at 144.3 -144.5
I'm sure we can all fit in there…so as not to QRM EME operations , but we'd have to see about APRS and digi Fm operations too…I'm sure we can though

On 432 I'd suggest going up above 432.2 so that high ERP stations arent qrmed or cause qrm….

On 222 I'd suggest going above 222.2 also

Comments?

73
Dana VE3DS

Mark Spencer mark at alignedsolutions.com
Mon Oct 16 20:57:16 EDT 2017

My suggestion would be to stay well clear of the APRS frequency. In my experience over the last several years, weak signal work and near by FM don't always seem to co exist well.

73
Mark S
VE7AFZ

Mark Spencer

Aligned Solutions Co.
mark at alignedsolutions.com
604 762 4099

Dana ve3ds at acanac.net
Mon Oct 16 21:36:24 EDT 2017

Agree, obviously …. however, the sub band is pretty dead here in the GTA…except for APRS on 390… which is wide and ugly (hi)…
but below its quiet….
Keep in mind that when we did the RAC (CRRL) bandplan there was a lot of pressure for all the packet, and repeater frequencies and then in the 90's it all died out..
suddenly all the guys using the repeaters disappeared…and the repeaters got quiet…at least on 2 m…70 cm was still busy however…

So time to re visit the bandplans…on both sides of the border…kind of like NAFTA… hihi

Dana VE3DS

Aa4zz aa4zz at aol.com
Tue Oct 17 10:52:15 EDT 2017

During contests between Rovers, EME and MS I don't think there is a good place for FT8 below 144.200.
However, I hear very little between 144.250 and the bottom of the beacon band at 144.275.
So I suggest FT8 somewhere in that range.
That also has the benefit of occupying these frequencies with weak signal activity.

73 Paul AA4ZZ

Walter Murphy n2wm at centurylink.net
Tue Oct 17 11:42:17 EDT 2017

Below 144.200 not a good area for ft-8 etc. Try 250-275

73 Walt N2WM