

ARRL *ad hoc* HF Band Planning Committee
Report to the Board – January 2018

HF Band Planning Committee members: Steve Ford WB8IMY (Staff Liaison), Brian Mileschosky N5ZGT (Chairman)

The HF Band Planning Committee has received no formal tasking during the period of July 2017-January 2018. Periodic ITU related communications, few related to spectrum, have been relayed to the committee by Ms. Carla Pereira, however all have been merely informational and none have required attention.

We have, however, chosen to research, at the recommendation of Director Frenaye, the growing issue of WSPR users operating in an unattended and/or automatic manner on HF spectrum that does not permit such operation. A glance of the website <http://dev.wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/activity> indicates that a number of WSPR stations within the United States operating in a manner not permitted on the spectrum they are using.

Some potential recommendations for the ARRL's consideration, should it wish to engage this issue:

- WSPR frequencies are reportedly hard coded into the WSJT-X software that most operators are using. If an amateur has implemented transceiver frequency control within the software, as many have, WSJT-X switches the transceiver to these WSPR frequencies automatically. It may be productive to reach out to the WSJT-X development team, inform/remind them of FCC's rules on unattended, fully automatic operations, and ask for their collaboration on helping to bring awareness of pertinent FCC regulations to the U.S. WSPR community.
- Identify a group of diplomatic and effective Official Observers who are WSPR users, develop a coordinated effort to identify U.S. WSPR stations who are wittingly/unwittingly operating in a manner not permitted on the spectrum they are using, and reach out to them *in a positive and friendly manner* to remind them of pertinent Part 97 rules.
- Raise awareness by including footnote language within ARRL's published band plans.
- Raise awareness via a sidebar within QST/web articles that feature WSPR related content.

- Consider petitioning the FCC to relax rules pertaining to unattended beacons below 10 meters, specifically for low power applications such as WSPR.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT

Chairman, ARRL HF Band Planning Committee