



## **Report to the RSGB Spectrum Committee Meeting - November 2013**

### **1 General position**

Membership of CDXC continues to grow and currently stands at 850 - with 17% being overseas members. Our members are active primarily on the HF bands and use CW, SSB and Data modes in their pursuit of DX and contesting.

We are committed to promoting good operating standards on all modes for DX'ers, DXpeditions and contesters. We are one of the larger global sponsors of DXpeditions.

### **2 Spectrum abuse**

The issue of poor operating at HF continues to be a source of concern to our members. The DX Code, and the more recent DXpeditioners' Code, appear to have had little impact on operating standards where DX'ing is concerned. We must find ways to spread and enforce the message.

There is a general feeling that phone operators suffer more from this than CW or Data modes. To this end CDXC proposed to organise a DXpedition training event with mentors to guide newcomers and first-timers in the art of chasing DX and handling pile-ups. The response from our members was poor – but perhaps we were preaching to the converted!

CDXC are convinced there remains a training and education task such that unintended QRM can be minimised and DXpedition operators can lead by example. We suggest there is a need for 'advanced' training sessions that could be designed by the RSGB and offered on-line, via webinars and to clubs as an adjunct to all levels of licence. CDXC would be prepared to design a module on DX'ing if the Society is willing to pursue this.

### **3 The Increase of data modes in DX'ing**

There is an increasing trend for DXpeditions to have Data modes as a primary objective rather than 'something to do at the end when the pile-ups have dried up'. This is to be welcomed but there are fears that an unruly Data pile-up will cause problems within the (usually) narrow spectrum allocations. Again, education is the answer – and DXpeditions need to ensure they take experienced Data modes operators rather than CW/SSB operators who are press-ganged into RTTY and PSK modes.

### **4 The Rising noise floor**

CDXC has relatively few leavers each year, but the top three reasons for resigning are: age, noise floor and operating standards. We welcome and support the work being done by G4FKH and his team to quantify the changes in noise floor and are particularly pleased to see the RSGB Legacy fund being used to support this effort and ensure academic rigour.

The measurement of noise floor is just the first step of course and we support the work being done by the EMC Committee to continue to lobby OFCOM, BIS and other government agencies to keep our spectrum clean. This must remain a focus for the Spectrum Forum and the RSGB Board; it doesn't matter how much spectrum you have if your noise level is S9!

## **5 New band plans**

The CDXC members' wish list continues to include 1,800 – 1,810 (especially now that Region 2 has defined that as the Data modes section for Topband); full legal power in the 1,850 – 2,000 segment; 3,800 – 4,000; 7,200 – 7,300 and an extension to all WARC bands.

There is a continued demand for a high power license as we have seen in EI; this is especially requested for chasing DX and contesting, where we are at a disadvantage to nearly all of our near-neighbours.

Chris Duckling, G3SVL  
Chairman CDXC

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