



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



SUBJECT	Non-Interference Basis (NIB) vs. Deliberate and Malicious Interference		
Society	NRRL	Country:	Norway
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	CT08_C4_13
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Background:

At the 1999 IARU Region 1 Conference in Lillehammer, Norway, the IARU Region 1 accepted this resolution proposed by NRRL:

The IARU Region 1 urges its member societies to motivate their members for the ethical rules of amateur radio, and to take action against stations practicing deliberate and malicious interference on the amateur radio bands.

NRRL has for the last some 20 years had a small booklet about amateur radio ethics. This booklet has been approved by the Norwegian PT Authority as part of the curriculum for the amateur radio licence. ON4WW has produced an excellent website for operating practice: <http://www.on4ww.be/OperatingPracticeEnglish.html>

It is now also available in a number of different languages:
<http://www.on4ww.be/op.html>

Furthermore, the topic was heavily discussed under Item 7 at the IARU Region 1 HF Interim Meeting in Vienna 2007. The extensive discussion was summarized by the following in the minutes from the meeting:

The chair summarised that all agree that education and peer pressure is part of the solution. There is a suggestion that IARU AC considers issuing some guidelines for all societies to publish. The part of the proposal, item b), about monitoring was not seen to be practical or necessarily desirable.

The basis for all radio communication lies in the ITU International Radio Regulations (RR), which specify that radio communication should be on a **non-interference basis (NIB)**. Of course all operations are on a non-protected basis (NPB). But the basis stands that deliberate and malicious interference should not be tolerated.

NRRL made a number of points in its 1999 IARU Region 1 conference paper, points that unfortunately are still valid:

- a very small minority of radio amateurs are making deliberate and malicious interference especially to DXpedition operations in the amateur radio bands (including various forms of "jamming" and so-called "policeman" activities when making improper comments on the same frequency as that used by a rare DX station).
- that deliberate and malicious interference is depriving the joy of amateur radio for a large population of DX-chasing radio amateurs including the ones running the costly and diligent DXpeditions from remote places of the world.

- that only a few maliciously interfering radio amateurs are destroying the joy of many radio amateurs.
- that all amateur radio activity should be on Non-Interference Basis (NIB).
- that the radio amateurs to a large degree must depend on their self-regulatory system in order to reduce the problem of deliberate and malicious interference.
- that inappropriate on-air behavior is degrading people's opinion about amateur radio, and could even threaten our hobby's band allocations and goodwill of our governments' administrations.
- that the IARU Region 1 member societies should endorse a resolution against deliberate and malicious interference, to take action against stations practicing such non-ethical activities,
- and that IARU Region 1 member societies should motivate their individual members for the ethics (including tolerance and patience) of amateur radio.

The proposal by NRRL led to the ruling by the 1999 conference (to repeat):

The IARU Region 1 urges its member societies to motivate their members for the ethical rules of amateur radio, and to take action against stations practicing deliberate and malicious interference on the amateur radio bands.

When listening on the amateur radio bands today, both on the transmitting and receiving frequencies of DXpeditions, we hear may be even worse deliberate and malicious interference than 9 years ago, when the resolution was passed.

NRRL now feels that its proposal leading to the 1999 resolution was not good enough, because it has not made the situation any better. May be the part urging member societies to take action against stations showing bad behavior is difficult to enforce? And may be the part urging member societies to motivate members for the ethical rules of amateur radio is difficult to perform?

But the bad situation persists, and we cannot let this situation continue without trying out mitigations.

NRRL feels that our small booklet (in the Norwegian language), combined with the acceptance of the national PT Authority to include the booklet as part of the curriculum for the amateur radio licence, has been successful. NRRL urges other societies to do similarly, because the PT Authority then authorizes the ethics.

This means that if the frequency is in use by someone else, we cannot transmit on that frequency, unless we are invited by the station using the frequency. That goes for all kinds of transmissions, covering well-meaning "police-men", and for the few people that want to destroy the fun for everybody else by doing deliberate and malicious interference.

The 1999 IARU Region 1 resolution persists, urging member societies to take action against stations showing bad behavior, i.e. deliberately ignoring the NIB principle.

In addition NRRL invites the C4 Committee at the 2008 Conference to participate in a discussion about how we otherwise can go about reducing (and hopefully eliminate) deliberate and malicious interference from our amateur radio bands.

Proposal:

The IARU Region 1 urges its members to motivate all their members to operate their radios according to the Non-Interference Basis (NIB) principle, in order to reduce deliberate and malicious interference.