

Late Filed Reply Comment by Petitioner Tippett

I would like to submit several additional comments which appeared on the Topband reflector after the CQ 160 SSB Contest held February 22-24 which was following the filing window deadline for Reply Comments. **I believe these comments indicate that there are still problems with inter-modal interference below 1843, even though in my opinion 90 to 95% of amateurs were following the voluntary ARRL 160 Bandplan. I believe these comments also indicate the positive impact that would result from 100% compliance if RM-10352 is adopted.**

(The complete record of comments following the contest period may be viewed at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/thread.html>

Bold emphases added by Petitioner Tippett).

Sample comments following CQ 160 SSB Contest held February 22-24:

From John Vickers wa4tt@nlamerica.com at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/014367.html>

Ken N4UK wrote:

In the first night of the CQ SSB contest I have worked 28 different countries with the majority of them European. On the other hand, my qso totals overall are poor versus last year and versus others also in the contest. My new and improved 1/4wl vertical does not appear to be working well for USA contacts as I have spent lots of time CQing and CQing with not many takers from USA. Maybe conditions were making this happen? I may need a low inverted Vee for closer in stuff.....

73, Ken, N4UK

Hi Ken es all,

Your signal is loud into Ga so the vertical should be fine. I believe the qso total may be off because you spent a lot of time CQing below 1843. I decided a few months ago to not work any USA stations using ssb below 43, nor any DX not listening up band. I think there are many 160 ops that feel the same way as I. **The band was messy at times last night with some hard head policemen and testers.**

I prefer my way of handling this situation--- will listen again tonight and then give a Q to the US stations not heard this weekend below 43 if they want it.

This refusal to abide by the plan has the potential to hurt contesting on all bands.

There is a growing sentiment against contest and this aspect of the hobby may need all the support it can get in the future--- even from us 160m CW ops.

Gud luck es 73, John WA4TT

From ted demopoulos kr1g@hotmail.com at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/014378.html>

Normally during this contest I stay far away from 160, except for perhaps one quick scan to work any friends and others I hear. I'm no sacrosanct CW op, although I enjoy CW more, I like the SSB tests as well and even enjoy 80SSB a lot. Not so sure about 160SSB, although perhaps the bandplan will change my mind.

I worked 2 new ones on 160CW this weekend so far. New ones are few and far between, even though my topband total is not so high. I'm not loud on 160 (yet).

This NEVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED the last few years - with 1800 on up filled with loud stateside CQers - no way. The bandplan is working - not perfectly - but its working. And I apologize, I called stations below 1843 for about 3 minutes on SSB without thinking last night.

Except for new ones on CW (as I mentioned, rare occurrences certainly this season), I'm avoiding 160 - I'll let the SSB go on without any QRM from me.

73

Ted KR1G

PS: I reserve the right to hand out a few points later tonite - although I'll probably sleep instead :)

From Jon Zaines AA1K jon.zaines@dol.net at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/014361.html>

Did most of the world forget we have a new 160 meter band plan this year? I heard HUNDREDS of European stations below 1843 kHz last night, and Caribbean stations, who were not listening above 1843 kHz for USA stations. If ALL of the USA participants had been operating below 1843 I would only have been able to hear a small portion of these. Hopefully some of the Eu stations will get the word to listen up. **While scores of USA stations did start calling them transceive, or CQ'ing below 1843, the majority seemed to be adhering to the band plan. Thank you!**

It was nice to see activity way up the band. I had good runs on 1955 khz and 1979 kHz, with some European and African stations calling in both simplex and when I was QSX low in the band. **And there was still plenty of space up at the top of Top Band for anyone not wanting to contest.**

TA3J was one of the loudest stations heard, but didn't listen up so couldn't work him.

Bright spot was working 5R8FU on CW at his sunrise for a new one in spite of all the SSB crud on 1834 kHz. I could only copy him on my 880-ft single-wire Beverage which is aimed at 110 degrees. This wire, which is 15 feet high to clear a driveway, is the noisiest of my Beverages since it goes under the power line feed and passes within 15 feet of one of my 100-ft towers. Yet southern African signals are still almost always best copy on this wire, compared with quieter Beverages at 45, 90 or 162 degrees.

73/Jon AA1K
Felton, Delaware

From Donald Chester k4kyv@hotmail.com at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/014377.html>

Why can't the folks who sponsor these contests simply agree that certain frequencies will be off limits to contest activity, and declare that anyone monitored in violation during the contest period will be disqualified.

I did not participate in the contest, but early in the evening the only audible SSB contester below 1820 was a VE2 who kept calling CQ and never made a contact. **I worked some CW on about 1805 with no QRM. At least they left a little space at the bottom of the band for CW this year. I remember in years past SSB would be solid all the way down to 1800.**

Don K4KYV

I was rather disappointed with some of my fellow US Topband operators who operated both intentionally and unintentionally below 1843 on SSB. Thankfully the band plan was followed by most.

From Bernie McClenny, W3UR bernie@dailydx.com at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/topband/2002-February/014380.html>

Friday night I tried to work two new ones, which in itself is difficult at this time having worked 230 countries on 160 meters and conditions being the way they have been. **I was unable to make the QSOs because of QRM from US stations who were clearly operating where they shouldn't have been.** Fortunately Saturday night both stations were on again. PW0T was spotted multiple times and the SSB QRM seemed to have been cleared up by the time I went down to work him. 5R8FU was another story. **The QRM caused by some XE's pileup of US stations made it extremely difficult as only 3 stations were able to work him - K3RR, W3BGN and myself.**

The guys who broke the band plan, knowingly or unknowingly, damaged the integrity of the gentlemen's band. **In fact those who knew better caused even more harm by calling CQ below 1843 and having those who didn't know better add to the cause.** Early this morning I heard a rag chew taking place on 1824 on SSB. **So now the non contesters are also breaking the band plan thinking it's OK because of the action of others.** For the record I did participate in the SSB Contest. The band was not full but was crowded starting at 1843, lucky W4MYA! I made about 400 QSOs. Several stations I heard calling CQ below 1843 did not work W3UR as my way of protesting their actions and I know I was not the only one doing so.

Guys let's be gentlemen and follow the band plan!
Bernie, W3UR

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Bernie McClenny, W3UR

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<http://www.dailydx.com>

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Correlation of RM-10352 to survey made 5 years ago:

In doing some additional research, Petitioner Tippet also discovered a survey regarding 160 meter mode segmentation which he did 5 years ago. The results from the 128 amateurs who responded **indicated in April 1997 that approximately 80% were in favor of some mode segmentation which correlates well with the 82% of recent ECFS comments in favor of RM-10352:**

http://lists.contesting.com/_topband/1997-April/010032.html

TopBand: 160 Mode Segmentation Survey
Posted Mon, 07 Apr 1997 00:30:36 -0500 (EST)

First, many thanks to the following 128 respondents to the survey posted on the Topband and CQ-Contest Reflectors:

N2QT, K6EID, WA2IZL, W0MU, N7CKD/0, K9UWA, N5UL, KF2O, AA1K, KJ9I, KM1H, K1ZM, K5ZD, N9JF, W4YO, W0YG, KJ9C, VE3XSP, W1WAI, W4FX, NX1G, K4IQ, W8EH, K5QY, NJ2L, N4OO, N7UA, N7EX, W8IK, K3LR, K9RJ, K8MFO, K2KIR, KW9KW, K2WI, W8NW, K5NA, K4ESE, K0SD, W4JVN, W3GH, W1JR, W4ZV, SM3CWE, SM0AJU, K9FD, W5UN, K3BU, W3UR, K3SME, K1AM, W2VO, W9TW, KF7E, N6ND, N2NT, N3SL, N5IA, N8TR, W7AT, K0HA, AE7H, W7GG, WA2DFI, 4S7RPG, N3MLV, K4ODL, K2XA, W7LR, W4YV, W8JI, W0RI, W5PS, K0CS, W9II, W2CYA, K1MEM, N4TO, KG6I, K1HTV, K0HB, W7FKF, W4MZ, N6TR, WI0R, N2NL, W4BUW, K0EU, AJ6T, K3WW, N3KK, W7ZRC, AA9DX, K4ZA, K4XL, K9KU, W8AV, VE1PZ, W0UY, KH8/N5OLS, W6GO, W1ZC, AA4V, N5KO, K3UL, K2EK, K2KW, AB4HF, KI7Y, K8SM, AA8U, W3EA, N4KG, WT3Q, KE3Q, K8RF, WB9Z, K0GEX, N3RR, N4AR, AA4Z, W3BGN, NA2U, N3RD, K8IP, AA3B, N3MKZ and W2GC.

Here's the raw data:

In favor of 1800-1840 for CW only (including digital): 17%
In favor of 1800-1845 for CW only (including digital): 38%
In favor of 1800-1850 for CW only (including digital): 25%
Total in favor of some CW segmentation (sum of above): 80%

Total in favor of no CW segmentation (present case): 20%

Qualitative observations (based on my assessment of the operating habits of the respondents):

--CW only DXers tended to favor more than the 1840 limit but many added they would be happy just to get 1840 as a fallback. (As I mentioned in my initial message, most CW is below 1840 presently. The options above 1840 were mainly intended to offer an option for a buffer/DX Window for SSB DX, which could listen above the window for the USA.)

--SSB/CW DXers tended to favor the 1845 limit as a good tradeoff.

--no SSB only DXers responded to the best of my knowledge.

--East Coast testers were STRONGLY in favor of no change.

--Other testers were mixed in their responses.

--few SSB ragchewers responded but most would be in favor of no change based on on-air discussions.

--no CW ragchewers responded to the best of my knowledge.

--few overseas respondents but most favored the 1840 option since 1840-1850 is the primary SSB window in Europe.

--there is a divergence of opinion as to whether restricting US SSB operation in the 1840-1850 area would be good or bad. It seems to boil down to whether the individual likes split SSB DX operation or not. Some cite split operation on 40 and 80 as a good example and others use the same as a bad example!

--several mentioned the need to coordinate any segmentation with the IARU (may be difficult due to the widely different frequency assignments on 160 throughout the world).

Thanks again to all who responded. I am going to forward these results to K1KI and ask how we should proceed from here. As always, feel free to contact your ARRL Division Director and give him your inputs.

73, Bill W4ZV

Summary:

I felt it important to bring these additional comments to the attention of the Commission even though I realize they are being submitted following the deadline for Reply Comments.

Sincerely,

William R. Tippett W4ZV