

PileUP!



Volume 10(3) 2006

Theme issue of SAC Aftermath and Future



EA6BF, Josep and EA4BQ, Olli during CNCW in September 2006. EA4BQ writes: "SAC SSB is missed by many EAs who select the Concurso Nacional de Telegrafia event". Olli says, "look for V31XX in CQ WW CW in November, SOAB HP".

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Editorial help: OH1RX, 2PM, 3BU



OH2BH & OH2PM: "While in Beijing (BY1DX, CQ WW SSB 2006) we had also a presentation at the Youth Center about Amateur Radio. At the occasion 12-year old Wang was operating FT2000 with great skills."

PileUp! is the magazine of Contest Club Finland.
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Contest Club Finland and OH DX Foundation are happy to announce
the 12th CCF & OHDXF Contest and DX Meeting
on the 19th - 21st of January 2007.

The meeting concept will be the same as last year - **a Ferry cruise on the Baltic Sea, from Helsinki via Aland Islands to Stockholm and back to Helsinki.**

Cruise schedule in local times:

Fri	19-Jan-2007 17:30:	Ferry leaves Helsinki (OH)
Sat	20-Jan-2007 09:40:	Arrival to Stockholm (SM)
Sat	20-Jan-2007 16:45:	Ferry leaves Stockholm (SM)
Sun	21-Jan-2007 09:55:	Arrival to Helsinki (OH)

Presentations take place on Friday evening and on Saturday at 11:00-16:00 while in Stockholm. Daytime visitors are welcome. A contest-DX buffet is on Friday evening and a la carte dinner on Saturday evening.

More details of cruise packages, agenda, how to register etc. is coming soon. Stay tuned at www.contestclubfinland.com and at your contest e-mail reflector. Book the January 19-21 weekend now!

73 and hope to see you "/MM" de Pasi OH2IW
CCF & OHDXF <http://www.ohdx.fi>

P.S. Are you interested in hosting a Contest/DX/Club suite on board?

Editorial

SAC, the Scandinavian Activity Contest was organized for the 48th time this September. It brought together hams in JW, JX, LA, OH, OH0, OX, OY, OZ, SM and TF with the rest of the world. I was there too; full hours on CW and a quick 30-minute visit on SSB in the middle of a hectic family weekend. With three kids under the age of five, two radio weekends in a row won't do.

SAC Contest committee, EDR, and Pete, OZ5WQ are now living the contest again as they have started to process the logs. The website by Pete indicates that by Oct 21, a total of 725 CW and 394 SSB logs have been received by e-mail. The geomagnetic data from Murmansk for the CW contest weekend shows that the 3-hour K-indices stayed between 1 and 2. On SSB, the K was 2 at the start of the Contest, but went up to 6 quickly on the Saturday evening. This is reflected in many of the comments at OZ1BIZ-OZ5WQ's website. PileUP! 10(2) was downloaded 2750 times and posted to 260 stations; it may have pushed the activity up a little, too. At least the QSO per multiplier ratios were better this year.

The number of SSB logs undoubtedly indicates that the activity was down. The Ryder cup and CQ WW RTTY were mentioned in the soapbox comments at saclogs.oz5wq.dk. We can only guess how many stations did not leave this type of soapbox comment because they selected the RTTY contest. Some of these operators - missing from SAC's site - found their way to the TOEC and CCF mailing lists. The list messages include an abundance of comments and ideas about SAC rules as well.

Jari, OH2BU reminded me that in the early 1990s, NRAU, the host of SAC, approached the organizers of CQ WW

RTTY, when CQ had selected "the SAC SSB weekend". Since the early 1990's the RTTY event has gained popularity. It seems that the popularity of RTTY contesting is increasing. Jari said that it is due to the fact that RTTY, in comparison to SSB and CW, is more suitable for the ham population that is aging. No shouting at the microphone or exhausting listening of CW for 24 hours. Every now and then you press a key. It's comfort makes it popular, especially when one gets older. This makes sense to me. I see that the ham population will continue to mature as we miss the recruits. This is a simple equation that needs little proving. Eventually, and not in the far future, there will be a new balance with a lower number of hams and a different type of amateur radio hobby. Some say that our hope will be in evolving interest to "retro hobbies".

Meanwhile, we should enjoy SAC and other contests. We do it in our own personal way and there are no right and wrong ways of enjoying contests. The contest committee of SAC that was established in the 1999 NRAU meeting can exercise an effect here. It can change the rules and see to it that results materialize soon, that fair play has been observed, and that trophies and diplomas are sent without delay to those who expect them. All this should happen before the following event is organized since all these activities are good marketing for the contest.

Many people would like to help the Contest committee in achieving the above mentioned goals. There's even an initiative for a SAC committee in SM. This indicates that NRAU and the current committee should have a look in the mirror and we should together find better ways of organizing SAC. SRAL and CCF will organize SAC 2007.

ILKKA, OH1WZ

Logging the SAC

Doug, W5NDOW and Linus MacApple, WV7HO

Doug, one of our readers (W5NDOW in TX) approached us recently with a letter describing his excitement in operating the SAC contest. This was so extraordinary description that we simply must share it with the whole contesting community. He says, "Howdy boys!" and continues by explaining he had just returned home from a shopping trip to a local computer store. He had bought a brand new computer with a new really smart operating system. He installed a logging software package and decided to put the new machine into real test by running the SAC.

Soon he would notice that the new system was not that brilliant as the sales person had claimed. He continues by telling that he had to use a digital camera to get the screenshots, as regular (push the [prt sc] key) only produced an error message:



The response of most keystrokes at Doug's while trying to work SAC.

We'll let him to tell the rest of the story in his own words:

"I started the contest and everything seemed to be right. Then, suddenly the program crashed. Reloading the program didn't succeed and I only received a message shown below. The logging software I picked up not only seems to tell your rate and suggest band changes,

but this one suggests even change of operating style or operator:



Son of a gun! Retry gave the same message back, Ignore ignored the last 5 qsos by wiping them from the log and Abort aborted execution of logging software. Plus, gave me a message like:



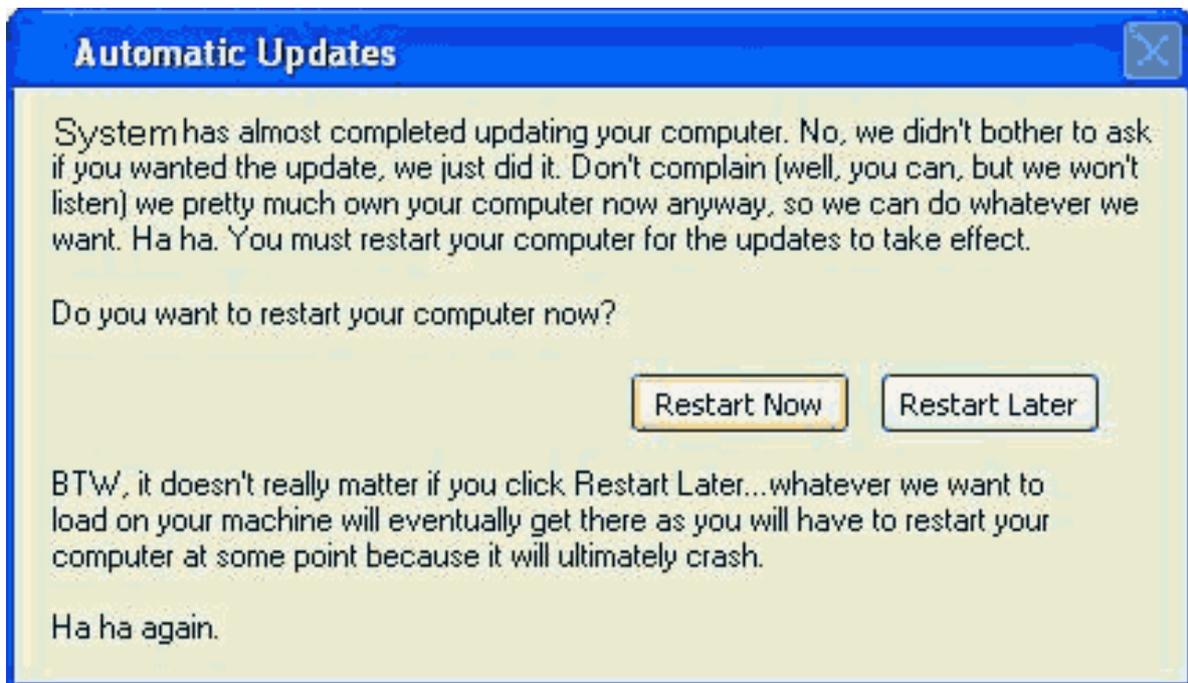
This almost got me depressed and I almost quit but I just shook my head and kept going. Heck, you don't quit a contest! In the midnight the bands did not produce a lot of QSO's and the rate went down. This is when the logging SW kindly reminded me of this and suggested a break in order to be alert when the bands would open again (I assume this was the purpose for the message):



I checked this later on the SW user manual that said this would be a 1Q per hour indicator. How nice!

The bands would eventually open again in the wee hours. The TV break was actually very nice and I felt like I would win the contest! Unfortunately, as it is these days, when you need the WEB cluster to maximize your multiplier count, you are connected...to a host of different places.

This leaves room for code updates. And sure enough, my new PC would do that every now and then. That reminds me the sales guy saying that the smart operating system would have a lot of quick updates available. It sure has, as I got this screen twice an hour:



Upon completing the thirteenth or so update and restart I had a cup of coffee and started the logging SW again. I was typing the first Q after the break in the log and clicked on the QSL-manager

field on the screen. I should have ignored my need for the QSL from that particular country, as the next message would look like this:



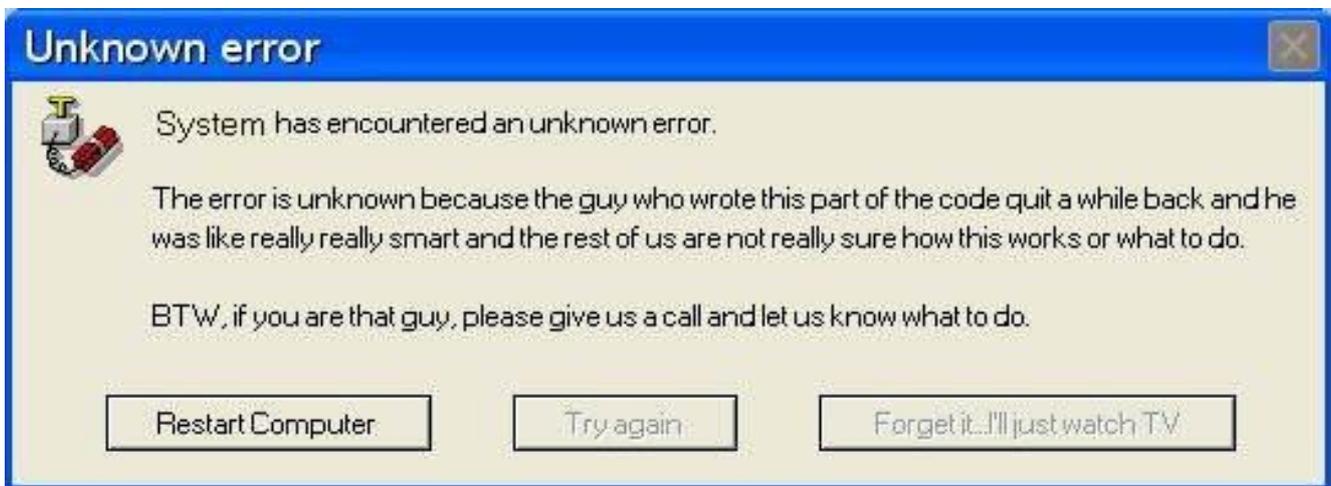
I simply couldn't believe this. Damn! This time the next automatic update took care of this small problem. Maybe the guys in their SW development cubicles really

knew what they do after all. Well, that's what I thought but running the next 10 minutes would give me a message like:

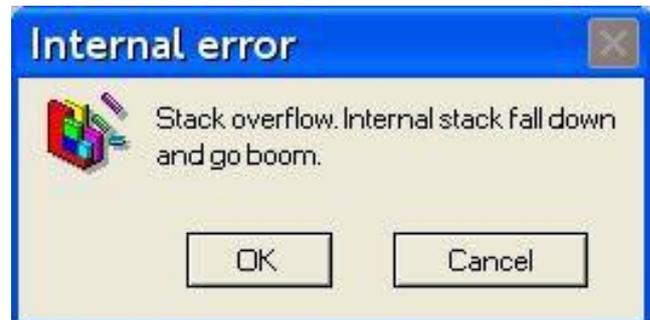


To my astonishment, clicking 'Whoop-pee' cleared the message and didn't cause any harm. Well, at least not for the

next two Q's. Logging the third Q after the previous message produced a new type of message:



Aaarrgggh! So much for the guys in their cubicles knowing what they do... Another cup of coffee while waiting for the system to restart. I started to suspect that maybe I will not be able to make a mega score in this contest. Somehow I also thought that on Monday morning I just *may* have a few words to say to that sales guy. Heck, what am I thinking here, I've got a contest to run, I thought and sent a CQ. Wow, that produced a huge Scandinavian pileup. The rate was closing 300 per hour. I was so excited. Now I was really cooking! However, the 300 mark appeared to be too much for either the logging SW or the operating system, as immediately breaking the 300 limit I received a message saying:



Hmmm. What would I do now? I wouldn't be able to win the contest without running the rest of it at over 300 rate, but the system wouldn't let me do that. So, I decided to run at 299 and see if my score would be high enough for the top position. That's what I did for the next 30 minutes until the nice guys in their cubicles thanked me for purchasing their latest product:



Double-aarrggghh! Another restart and another cup of coffee. That reminded me to visit the restroom while the system was starting up. The coffee, you know? Coffee makes you visit the restroom more often than beer! Right? Ok, here we go again, the PC is up and the huge pile-up didn't go anywhere. Two more hours and the contest would be done. The rest of the contest was uneventful

(except for the automatic updates, remember?). Whew, now all I can do is to wait for the results. Oh, you wanna know what happened to the new PC? I took the guts out and I use the enclosure as a litter box for the cats. Works a whole lot better in that application than with the logging SW. See you next year! You are gonna run the SAC, aren't you?



OH5Z's 5-band restroom in Mustila. That's multi-op style! The scale bars are LSB and USB of the first series of harmonics by OH1WZ. (OH1WZ).

Mathematical puzzles for amateurs

Mike II. Einstein, HO2JA

A regular contributor of PileUP!, Mike, sent some notes in mathematics, a subject well understood by so many of us technical hams. Here's a little test for our readers. Could you have done any better?

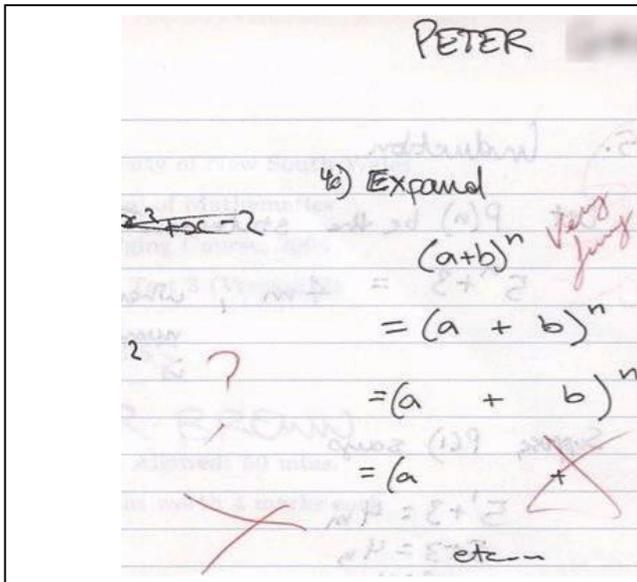
After explaining to a student through various lessons and examples that:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{1}{x-8} = \infty$$

I tried to check if she really understood that, so I gave her a different example. This was the result:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x-5} = \infty$$

1. Infinity..



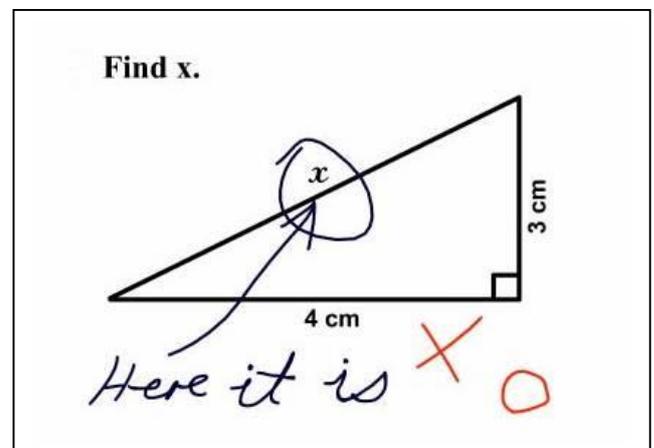
2. Practical solutions – the best choice for contesters too.

$$\frac{1}{n} \sin x = ?$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sin x =$$

$$six = 6$$

3. Algebraic solutions are beautiful.



4. Just like geometric solutions.

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = \sqrt{\quad}$$

5. “[Ed.] This makes sense to your editor” .

OH5SM - OH5NQ - OH5Z - three generations of multi-operator contest stations in Mustila

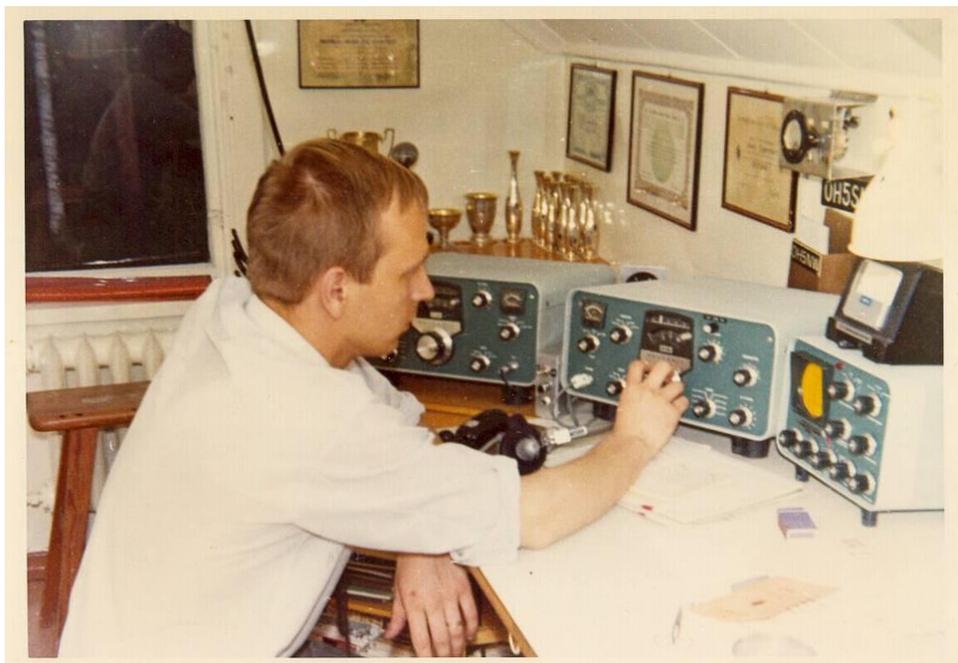
Ilkka OH1WZ

Foreword

My first experience of Mustila was exactly 15 years ago during the CQ WW SSB contest in 1991. I had just met Peter, OH5NQ at the University and he kindly introduced me to the operators of the second generation Mustila contest group. Now, during CQ WW SSB 2006, I visited Mustila again to learn about the latest and the old times. This article, I hope, will be the start of a series of stories from the good old times of radio contesting in OH. OH5SM was preceded by OH1AA and I hope someone in Turku would fall for the bait. There are many stories to be told!

First generation - OH5SM

Multi-op contesting at Mustila in Elimäki started in the early 1960s. Axel, OH5NW was very active and hosted a M/M station at his home. They used XYL Carola's callsign **OH5SM**. Axel spent countless hours on the station and built a multitude of 25-30 m high wooden masts. One of them had a 2-el quad for 40 m, the key to success on that band operated by Pentti OH2WI, Peter OH5NQ and Pave OH5UQ. Axel also built and climbed towers in the rest of the OH5-district. Of those who operated at OH5SM I met Kari OH5TS and OH5NQ working the CQ WW 2006 at OH5Z. At OH5SM there was a group of students from Helsinki University of Technology including OH5TS, Matti OH3PC (OH2BX), Jouko OH2BCP and Ilmo OH2BO. Ilmo was kept in a separate cabin, almost alone, working 160 m.



Matti, OH3PC operating Axel's Heahkit equipment. October 1967. (OH2BX)

Ville, OH5SE (OH2MM) was perhaps bitten by the contest fly at Axel's. Carola remembered having catered for 19 operators in one CQ WW Phone. She remembers especially one time when Vesa, OH3QA (OH9OM) was working 40 m. In order to get through, Vesa was

known to raise his voice. This caused the roughcasting on the ceiling to fall down! This was also recalled by Axel's and Carola's daughter!

The station was sometimes activated on CW by Eki, OH8RC (SK). Peter

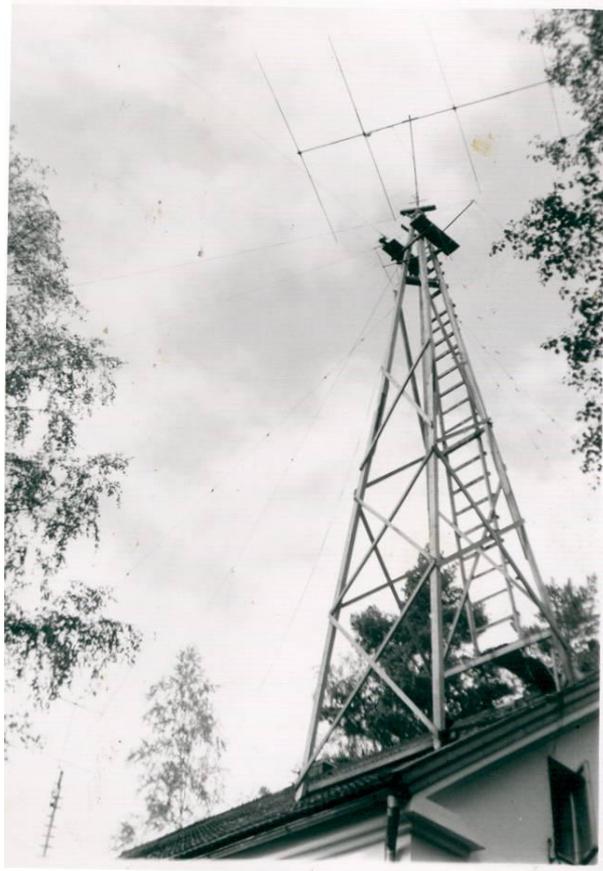
remembered that there was a constant lack of equipment. Contesters borrowed radios and one source was Armas, OH2NB (SK). Armas did not want to favor anyone so when he had a brand new Drake line, he gave the RX to the OH2AM team and the TX to OH5SM. There were no voicekeyers at the time and Peter remembered one phone conversation with OH2SB (SK) from OH2AM following a CQ WW: "It was a Monday afternoon and you had two guys whispering on each side."

from Finland thanks to Juha, OH1JT and Pekka, OH2HE. And without the predicted help from Italy!



40 m Station. Vesa OH3QA and Pave OH5UQ. 1967. (OH2BX)

The M/M operating (or "boyhood games" as OH2MK called it in Radioamatööri 11/69) from Mustila under Axel's command lasted until early 1970s. In 1969 the score with 7000 QSOs went above 12,000,000 points but a group of W's at PJ0DX made 16M. OH2MK writes "there'll probably never be a 16M score from Finland unless we get 200,000 amateurs in Italy and it becomes a 3-point entity". Well, since then we have seen the scores go to almost 20M and more M/M European top scores



Wooden tower on the roof of the main building. 4-el for 28 MHz. (OH2BX)



20 m. Peter OH5NQ and Ville OH5SE. 1967. (OH2BX)

Mustila made almost to the TV! In the early 1970s, just after the Finnish Broadcasting Company's (YLE) TV2 in Tampere had started, a group of high-spirited hams, OH3TM, OH3PF OH3IV, OH1VR and their cameraman, Mr. Toivonen made, on their free time, a TV-

documentary on radio contesting and on Ilmari – “the poor man’s satellite”. The group’s visit to Mustila¹ was particularly memorable. Alpo, OH3TM remembers that the trip to Mustila was made with a small Fiat. The expensive camera gear was borrowed from YLE and the guys were really concerned about its safety. Well, the roads were a bit slippery and in one turn the Fiat spun around its roof and ended up the wrong way up in a ditch. Soon water was flowing through the Fiat’s windows. It took a while for the three documentarians to get out. The car was turned around and the journey went on. The gear and the films were unharmed.² YLE never showed the material in TV, but Seppo OH3PF has saved it.

Antenna theory in 60s was still in it’s infancy. John OH5TM (OH5NZ) remembers that one time Axel was carrying a yagi in the garden and placed it on the lawn underneath a tower. "This will couple with the yagi up there and we will be better heard in the States, I was told", Axel had said to John.

Pyhtää monster station moves to Mustila – “OH5 - Northern Queen”

The second generation contest station got started in 1982, when Peter put up a 42-m rotatable tower with a 3-el 40 m yagi and a stack of KT34XAs. Peter had seen Tom’s, station K7RI. The 40-m beam by OH8QD is still operated with the original coaxial. At the time the contest activity in the OH5-region was in Pyhtää, where a group of youngsters OH5KS, OH5LF, OH5TQ and OH5XT had put up a 20 m contest station up a top of the Pyhtää water tower. They made world #1 SOSB20 scores. Peter remembers that their signal was just superb and when he heard that the station was to be dismantled he encouraged the gentlemen to come to Mustila. They

¹ It could have been the trip to Sisättö in Ikaalinen...

² The plan is to show the documentary at the CCF/OHDXF January Cruise.

came and Peter says he’s never seen an amplifier as big and as ugly like the one they brought along. Soon the KT34XAs made room for a set of monobanders on 20-10 m.



Mustila’s CQ WW CW 2003 effort made it into local news. Pictured were OH5JTI and OH5MLH. (OH1WZ)



Kari, OH5TS here works CQ WW SSB 2006. Kari is a Mustila Veteran from the 60s. (OH1WZ)

There has been quite regular participation in contests from Mustila since 1984. Peter has kept the doors open and new operators were introduced to the station: OH1WZ, OH6EI, OH5CW, OH5MLH, OH5JOC, OH5JTI and OH5CX. Peter says that new blood is always needed and that nobody is turned back from the door.

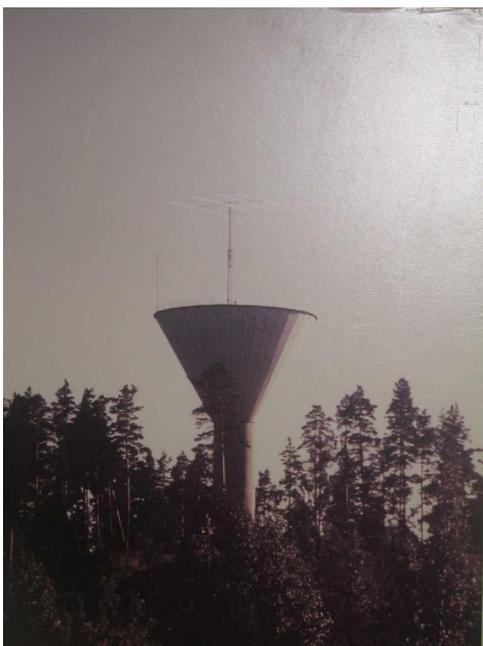
In the early 1990s the station was a competitive M/S and SOAB station with

two towers and wire beams on 80 m that were engineered by OH5LF. There were many #1 scores in SAC and a #3 EU M/S score and OH record in CQ WW but never any top world scores as it had been in the 1960s when OH2AM was the competitor and, moreover, Axel was the squadron leader. In the 90s we competed fiercely with OH2HE and OH1AF. One thing from the 80's that Peter remembered was that Mustila

always has a slight advantage in (propagation, takeoff, longitude) towards JA. "The mosquitoes start coming" was an expression for the start of the JA-Pile-up of those 10W stations – remember?. There was no end to the pileup on 15 and 10 m. The JA-VK/ZL direction still produces good QSOs in 2006; but the mosquitoes are gone.



Peter OH5NQ, Kimmo OH5KS, Kari OH5LF and Pertti OH5TQ. CQ WW SSB 2006. Kimmo runs the multiplier station. (OH1WZ).



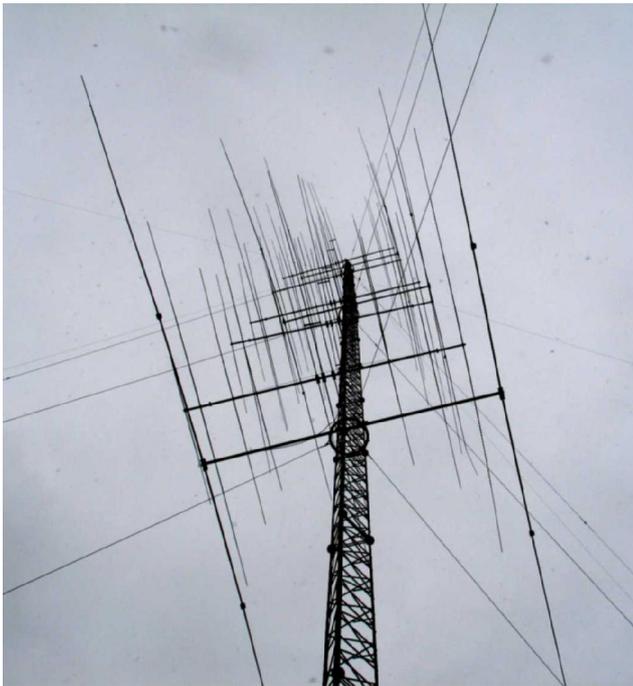
A photograph of the Pyhtää water tower with a HyGain 204BA up atop salutes

visitors at OH5Z and reminds about the history. (OH5TQ).

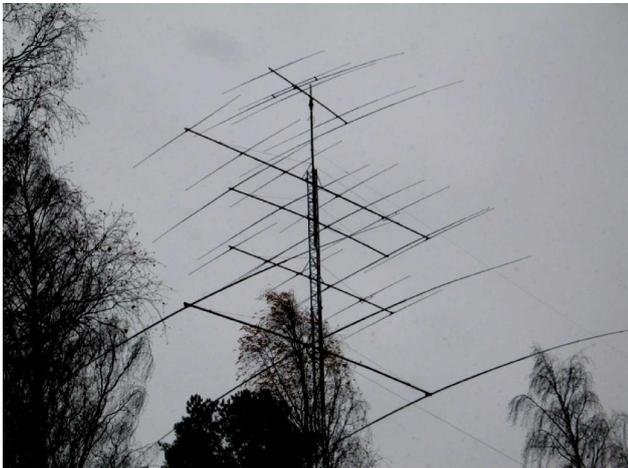
OH5Z - The third generation

The start of the 3rd generation Mustila contest station was in 2004. A decision to acquire a 60-meter tower was made with a vision to fill it with stacked antennas from 40 to 10 meters. Kari, OH5XT has been very active in the planning and execution. The building of the low-band antenna setup is still ongoing and first successful tests with the new antennas have been made in SOSB. Building competitive antennas for 80 and 160 is particularly demanding at the current QTH which sits on rocky terrain. The clay plains of Elimäki are some 300

meters away giving a good takeoff for JA and VK. Vertical antennas don't perform on the Rapakivi Rock.



The new 62-m high tower from 2005 carries aluminum that resonates on 40 through 10 meters. (OH1WZ).



The 42-m rotating tower from 1982 hosts (top → down) a WRTC2002-tribander with a rotator, a 6-el yagi for 21 MHz, a 4/4-el yagi pair for 14 MHz, a 6-el yagi for 28 MHz and a full-size 3-el yagi for 7 MHz. The tallest pines are 25 m high now in 2006. (OH1WZ).

The setup at OH5Z in CQ WW SSB 2006 was sophisticated in your editor's eyes. I saw station automation with full PC networking. I never heard the multiplier station calling more than 1 or 2

times in a DX pileup. The antennas in the 62-m tower bring home mults. The guys seemed to have the hardware now in order and its time to get acquainted with it and the new logging software. I'm sure that when this is done, OH5Z will score high in M/S. OH5Z aims at M/S operations.



Armstrong rotating system of the 42 m high tower. (OH1WZ).



Operator's survival kit 2006. Magnifying glass was not yet included when I operated at OH5NQ in the mid 1990s. (OH1WZ).

Mustila has been visited by tens of OH contesters over the years that have enjoyed the hospitality of OH5NQ, OH5SM and OH5NW and the story continues. The editorial staff and readers of PileUP! congratulate Peter on his upcoming birthday and we give our 73s to everyone in Mustila. See you in the PileUP!.

SAC and its future

Jouko, OH1RX

When SAC 2006 is now history and logs submitted, the Nordic contest community has opened the discussion about SAC, its position in the map of contests and possible improvements to be made to keep it attractive. I believe we all want to have a well recognised Scandinavian Contest with lots of stations to enjoy pile ups.

This is an incomplete summary of the lively discussion at TOEC and CCF e-mail reflectors.

Main Headers so far:

- Do not change anything. SAC is good!
- Let us have a SAC Contest Committee to develop the contest incl.
 - * Chairman
 - * Contest Manager (Log Manager)
 - * Web Master
 - * Awards Manager.
- Move Phone weekend to avoid CQWW RTTY QRM.
- Modify SAC to NAC attract more participants
- Should we have a multi-2 category?
- Should we continue multi-one?
- SO2R in single op - what is definition of single TX?
- Single op / single band category definition?
- Returning to the old "Saturday was a working day" timetable 15Z-18Z
- Point credit for intra-Scandinavian QSOs.

Personal comments and proposals given by the readers of the CCF and TOEC reflectors during the months of September and October (in no particular order);

OH2PM/OH1PS

- keep phone and cw as separate weekends

- do not give up to CQWW RTTY w/o a challenge; let market forces to decide which one to move (if at all)
- Extra trophy for JAs and Ws for 40m single band phone
- 24h ok, but 27h would give three grey-lines
- mixed category cw+phone to be established, if we believe it would tempt more participants
- 2 points for intra-Scandinavian QSOs incl. own country
- In general no self spotting, please

OH6UM

- CW and phone weekends as separate
- 1 point for intra-Scandinavian QSO
- No country multiplier for intra-Scandinavian QSOs
- 24h format ok, 27h as an interesting option
- SAC Contest Committee
- More SAC marketing
- Contest Is!

OH7WV

- cw and phone to one weekend
- No mixed mode but 12-12 or 24-24 back to back cw/phone parts

OH1WZ

- Any contest colliding with SAC would qualify to move SAC
- CQ RTTY is a major contest, SAC with less than 500 logs not; contests should not be run at the same time
- Sun spot minimum creates the complaints SAC vs. CQ RTTY
- Non-serious contesters can do both SAC and RTTY in one weekend

OH1VR

- No need for changes; more phone than RTTY contesters on air
- Why majority should make changes?
- create a SAC Contest Committee to develop contest further

OH9MM

- SAC cw and phone to the same weekend (current cw weekend)
- All work all like in ARI

OH6XX

- SAC cw and phone to the same weekend
- Current format is not going to fly ; too few participants

SM5JDZ

- Shame on us, many awards not sent since 2001 or even beyond

OH1WW

- Do not move SAC weekends.

YC3BDJ

- Why does SAC not recognise the award winners? – Nothing received from 2005

OH6EI

- re-schedule SAC not to collide with other major contests like CQ RTTY
- keep cw and phone in separate weekends, 24h each
- Intra-Scandinavian QSO points is a King-idea
- 1 point per QSO
- Scandinavian countries as multipliers, too
- QSOs to own country = zero points but allowed to make Qs

SM6LRR

- clean the back log of awards not sent
- establish a multinational SAC organising committee (incl. European and DX members) to include experienced contesters

OH2RA

- Intra-Scandinavia QSO points good
- Separate cw and phone weekends, but phone weekend to be moved (40m crowded with RTTY)
- 24h contest time ok

- single band category for Scandinavians, please
- New ideas:
- Self spotting allowed
- On-line logs in a common web site
- Bonus points for QRPQSOs (e.g. 3 to 12 points per QRP QSO)
- MM to include nationwide teams (like IARU HQ)

OH3MEP

- move SAC phone so that RTTY enthusiasts can participate both contests

SM2EKM

- do not change any rules but concentrate getting a good working SAC organisation
- Unhappy about the previous 27h to 24h change
- Smart move of phone weekend ok, but "don't mess with it"

OH2BP

- CQWW RTTY is taking serious contesters from SAC
- Schedule to support both SAC and RTTY (separate weekends)
- SAC cw and phone to one weekend

SM0W

- create a SAC Contest Committee to develop the contest
- clean the records and e.g. send the winner awards from previous years now

OH3BU

- allow spotting vs. old fashion operation

OH2BF

- make SAC appealing to DXers by sending QSLs

OH3UU

- create a SAC Contest Committee

SM2DMU

- "SAC to BAC"
- From 24h to 48h contest
- CW, phone and mixed class in one weekend
- include Baltic states to Nordic and make SAC to be Nordic Activity Contest

OH1RX

- SAC Contest Committee to start now
- Consider taking back 27h rule to make SAC different from other medium size contests
- Where are the written rules of SAC in details to cut the unnecessary speculations?

SM3DMP

- Let us clean up the mess of awards first
- Joint SAC Contest Committee must be formed

SM5AJV

- Where are the rules for the Scandinavian Cup published?
- Scandinavian contest managers to step forward to give some advice

Compiled by OH1RX from reflectors
"What is written cannot be taken back, what is said verbally is subject to interpretation"

SAC rule changes and the NRAU protocols 1999, 2002 and 2005

Ilkka, OH1WZ

Jari, OH2BU has send PileUP! the minutes (in MS-Word and pdf-files) of the last three NRAU meetings to give background to the discussion on SAC rule changes. Editing and underlining has been done by your editor, OH1WZ.

My main findings were:

- 1) There is already a committee from 1999. This was a proposal of SRALI.
- 2) All six societies must agree on changes with a signed agreement except in NRAU meetings, where majority decisions are made.
- 3) The official rules are from 2002 and at the time they were the SM3CER's version.

In 1999 (Hurdalsenteret, Norway)

Finland was represented by 1CF, 1HS, 2BU, 6DD and 7TI.

"3. Agreeing on a more flexible way to change the rules of common contests, (allowing the Contest-Managers to agree on the changes.) (SRAL)

"With reference to what SRAL had done when changing the SAC rules, it was agreed that for changes to be made to any NRAU contest, all societies must agree on the change, and an answer must be received from all societies. It is then up to each society who, within their society, shall make the decision, the contest manager or the Board.

Never must a lack of answer be understood as confirmation on changes. At the NRAU meetings, a majority would decide on any change although a consensus always is preferred."

4. Developing the rules of SAC (SRAL)

After having made proposals of changes to the Contest Managers, and not having received answers from several, SRAL changed the rules for this years' SAC-test. This procedure had brought a lot of reactions and negative comments in other Scandinavian countries. The delegates agreed that the procedure as

stated above (3) always should be followed when making changes outside of a NRAU meeting.

The following changes to the SAC rules, starting the year 2000, was then discussed and decided upon.

A. It was agreed to adjust the time span of the SAC-test to 24 hours, starting at 12.00 UTC.

B. A class for standard 100-watt-transmitters won sympathy, but this item should be discussed in each organization before any discussion is made. Result of discussion to be sent to SAC-Contest-Committee for a follow up.

C. A SAC-Contest-Committee was agreed to ensure a proper management of the contest. This committee shall consist of the HF contest manager in each NRAU society. Terms of reference for this Committee was set up and agreed, see appendix 2.

D. Include a 160-meter section. (EDR)
It was objected that only few amateurs have the necessary facilities for proper antennas on this band. Also many oppose contests on 160-meters. The proposal was not sustained.

E. Introduce a single 80-meter-band entry in the SAC.
It is asserted that this would be the only possibility for neighbors of the Scandinavian countries to be in the contest and that this would give an excellent opportunity for novices to exercise an international contest (requested by ES1AR) The delegates did not sustain this proposal.

F. The first task for the new SAC-Contest-Committee is to re-evaluate the number of plaques offered by this test in order to reduce the number of plaques and in so reducing the corresponding

cost and administrative work (i.e. not one plaque for each continent etc.).

Appendix 1

Terms of reference for the SAC-Contest-Committee

The societies who administrate the SAC-contest each appoint one person to this committee.

The committee shall be headed by the society arranging SAC that year. The changeover is January 1st.

Tasks:

- to co-ordinate the contest promotion, log checking publishing of results
- to exchange information on the log checking procedures, interpretation of rules and disqualification criteria
- to give support to the society arranging the contest
- to ensure a positive continuity for the contest
- to discuss and prepare proposals for rule changes for the societies to decide

The committee shall carry out its work by correspondence (mail/fax/e-mail)."

2002, Hotel Borgarnes, Iceland

Finns present: OH2BU.

"6. Common Text for the SAC and NRAU-Baltic Contests Rules (NRRL).

One official set of rules approved by all societies needs to be reliably available to all. How this is best implemented was a matter of discussion. The correct official version at the time of the meeting was believed to be available on SM3CER's web-site. The following changes were discussed at the meeting:

- It was agreed to add LN and remove the 5P from the Scandinavian prefixes. Also to include a sentence stating, that

any (other) legal Scandinavian prefixes are good for the contest and multiplier, as well as all other legal prefixes according to the ITU definition of Scandinavian prefixes.

- NRRL proposed that the number of prefixes for Iceland in the NRAU-Baltic contest be increased from the present number of ONE, to TEN district 2 letter groups. IRA agreed to inform within 2 week how they want the districts defined and give the letters to Sweden, c/o SM7NDX.

- It was proposed that the Baltic countries be added as organizers for the NRAU-Baltic contest, making it a rotation of 7 organizing societies instead of 4. The idea was well received, and it was agreed to hand this over to the contest managers to decide, and if so SRAL will contact the Baltic countries

- SRAL Contest Manager proposes one weekend for the SAC instead of two, since the 4th weekend of September collides with CQ WW RTTY Contest. Possible solutions are to move the second part of the contest or make it a mixed mode contest. It was agreed that NRAU ask the contest managers to discuss possible solutions and make a proposal before December 31st 2002. SRAL will propose new rules for SAC-contest committee (contest managers).

Jari, OH2BU, will integrate and co-ordinate from the above points, and add to the existing correct version of the rules and make out a new official confirmed version of the rules for the SAC and NRAU-Baltic contests as decided at the Borgarnes meeting, stating so at the end. Appendix 3 is the result of this co-ordination.³

³ (Not included here, refer to SM3CER's site, or consult OH1WZ / OH2BU for a MS-Word copy)

7. Procedure for making changes to the SAC and NRAU-Baltic Contests Rules (NRRL).

The procedure adopted at the 1999 NRAU meeting in Hurdal for how to change the contest rules needs to be adhered to. It was agreed there that for changes to be made to any NRAU contest, all societies must agree on the change beforehand, and a signed answer with approval must be received from all societies. It is then up to each society, who within their society shall make the decision, the contest manager or the Board. Never must a lack of answer be understood as confirmation of changes.

It is now added, that changes made this way are only valid until the next NRAU meeting. A confirmation by this meeting is required in order to make the changes permanent. It is up to the contest manager/society who initiated the changes to suggest the correct and exact English wording and to ensure that the ratification of the change is brought up at the next NRAU meeting."

2005, Høje-Taastrup, Denmark

No representatives from OH.

In 2005 IRA (TF) and FRA (OY) became full members of NRAU. Four other decisions were made that concern contests:

EDR: NRAU-Baltic Contest should be organized by ES, YL and LY also making seven organizing leagues. Decision: Rise the issue at NRAU level for approval. Discuss in Region 1 Conference.

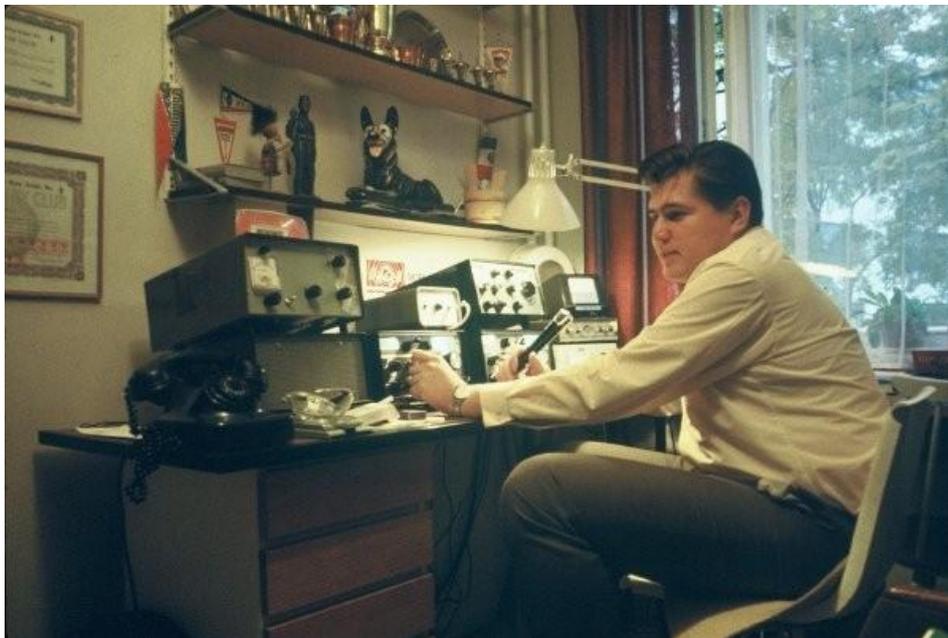
EDR: Common manufacturing of Contest Award Plaques: ...EDR proposes to stop issuing of (16) plaques for the continental and Scandinavian winners in SOAB HP and SOAB HP/LP because of costs. Decision: maintain present setup where

leagues order, distribute and finance diplomas and plaques.

“NRRL is mandated to re-design diplomas for SAC Activity Contest HF. NRRL was asked to print enough diplomas to cover 3 years of SAC, after the present stock is emptied. Organizers of SAC will buy diplomas from NRRL. A possible re-

evaluation of SAC diplomas will be done at the next NRAU Meeting.”

“SSA is mandated to ask SRAL for existing source for plaques and possible new design and production.”



PileUP! congratulates Martti, OH2BH on his 60th birthday on November 19, 2006. Martti invites everyone to work 4O60BH during November 18-19, 2006. Look for details in DX-bulletins. This picture of our ever so active Radio Man is from 1969.



Another picture from 1969. John OH5TM and Axel OH5NW during CQ WW Phone at OH5SM. The wheel on the ceiling is for rotating the 28 MHz yagi. "You knew when it was raining, but the water in the bucket was helpful in putting out fires in the shack" said Carola OH5SM, who was behind the camera in 1969. (OH5NZ).

SAC Contest Managers Interview

Jouko, OH1RX

PileUp! interviewed in October 2006 the Nordic Contest Managers regarding their view on SAC. The managers were OZ5WQ, Pete; LA4YW, Liv; LA4LN, Tom; LA2IJ, Ove; LA3WAA, Tor; LA5IIA, Johnny; LA7AK, Olav; LA7MFA, Lech; SM3CER, Jan-Eric; SM5AJV, Ingemar; TF3AO, Seli; OY1A, FRA; OH2UA, Toni. We got replies from 5 countries. When PileUP! receives a reply from OY, it will be presented in PileUP! 10(4).

QUESTION 1 – Purpose of SAC: *What is, in your view, the role and meaning of SAC in your country, among the organizing countries and for the DX? Past, current, future SAC.*

OZ5WQ:

Personally I like the SAC contest because it gives you an opportunity to be the hunted station, and I find it is the best contest for newcomers here in Scandinavia. The four contest managers, who are the contest committee today by a NRAU decision, do not have acceptable working conditions. From SOAPBOX comments I know that many DX'ers like this contest.

My experience after 5 years is that there are no or at the best very little understanding for this contest among the league members.

SM5AJV:

In general I think SAC is a major contest event for SM contesters. Many have started their contesting career with SAC. It is a very good contest to get new people into the contesting scene.

SM3CER:

I think it's THE Contest of the year! We are all - big or small Scandinavian (or Nordic) stations - for once on the right side of the pile-up! The Scandinavians are also well known around the world as

very good operators. The DX stations like to work us...

TF3AO:

As with the organizing of NRAU I think the current format is OK. The number of logs coming from TF, one can find that not many are taking part in this or any other contests. TF contesters are less than 15; any many of these operate only few contests a year. What comes to myself, I like being a multiplier in the SAC contest.

OH2UA:

SAC has very long traditions in Finland and we may even say that from the basis of SAC, it is mainly built up the Finnish contest culture. As crazy as it may sound, without SAC Finland would not be one of the leading contest countries in the world. It's only a couple of times in a sunspot cycle, when one can make good results from Scandinavia, if we think for example CQWW. But in SAC there is more or less equal playing field between Nordic countries every year. It's also a very good way to promote contesting, because even with modest station one can have some nice pileups and feel the excitement of contesting.

QUESTION 2 – COST TO ORGANISE:

How does your league members see SAC, as every 4th year they pay for it?

OZ5WQ:

For the most league members in EDR the SAC contest means only a demand for money to pay for the plaques.

SM5AJV:

I don't think I've heard anyone to comment that the national league shall pay for it. I think the costs must have been rather minor.

SM3CER:

No discussions heard among the members. I don't think they know or maybe even care. It's only the postage fee for the awards and the plaques every 4th year.

TF3AO:

We can't be counted as paying for the SAC.

OH2UA: n.a

QUESTION 3 – ROTATING OWNERSHIP: *Organization of SAC (rotation between LA, OH, OZ and SM between years), do you see it as a successful format, or could we do better by some other means? If so, How? Why?*

OZ5WQ:

The demand is growing year after year for publishing the results faster and faster, which makes it difficult to find a contest manager in a single country who can take over this service. It is a must for the future that we find a solution where we together take care of the production of the results. Sponsors for the plaques will make life easier.

SM5AJV:

I don't think the rotation between the SAC countries has been working very well. Results have been published rather late. Awards and trophies have been delivered even later. The cooperation between the contest managers doesn't seem to work. The result checking has improved very much since we now have a log checking program made by SM2EZT and SM3CER. Finally it looks that every SAC contest manager is using it. It took a while to make that to happen ...

SM3CER:

I disagree with SM5AJV in this matter. I think the rotation is good, because you cannot have the same person(s) res-

ponsible every year. It's too much work! I know! But, if we do as we have started to do the last 2-3 years, I think we are on the right track. I don't feel there is a problem with the cooperation between the contest managers today. At least I and SM2EZT have offered our help to the organising contest managers since we developed the SAC Log Checking Program. Most of the managers have used our help - but, some of them a bit too late, sorry to say. I hope the year 2006 will be a break-through. OZ5WQ and I are working closely together with the logs and we hope to present the final results very fast.

TF3AO: n.a.**OH2UA:**

This may not be the best solution. Setting up a SAC Contest Committee would be the answer for many questions and troubles we have had recently. For example, if we would not have SM3CER contest site up and running, where could all the past SAC results be found from? This year OZ team is making fantastic job with their SAC web page, but what happens next years? Will all NRAU leagues have e.g. their own pages?

QUESTION 4 – RESULTS, DIPLOMAS & TROPHIES: *Are you content with the publishing of the results and delivery of diplomas & trophies?*

LA4YW:

Speed up the results and award/trophy delivery. Today we have no more awards to send; may be we should make different awards according to which country is arranging the contest to encourage people to participate each year.

OZ5WQ:

Latest news; it is now decided by EDR to pay and deliver the plaques for SAC 2002 and 2006, with execution at the

end of 2006. I only have it confirmed as a second hand telephone call, but I look forward to this to happen. There is a need for a common plaque and diplomas.

SM5AJV:

No, not at all. Every year we see complaints about awards and trophies from DX-participants. This has led to a large amount of bad will. The publishing of results has improved. But again, I think results come far too late. Maybe there is a need for more software support to make the publishing even smoother.

SM3CER:

No, the publishing of the final results are still very late. The organising society/contest manager must have more help with the logs. The best results would be achieved, if the manager could get some neighbour hams or local club members to help him, especially with typing paper logs. Gladly there is less paper logs every year now, so that work will not be so "time consuming" in the future. The delivery of the awards and trophies is a sad story. The four societies (EDR, NRRL, SRAL and SSA) need to cooperate in this matter - which they don't do today. The need is to print several thousands of awards, buy several hundreds of trophies and split the cost between the four societies. Furthermore; we need to assure that all awards and trophies will be sent - even the old ones that still aren't distributed. All we contest managers need to get our Societies to understand that this is very important; otherwise our goodwill around the world is going to fall apart totally!

TF3AO:

No, haven't had a follow up on that.

OH2UA:

Taking good care of results, diplomas and trophies is one of the best ways to promote SAC. Nowadays there is too

much variation in the process because every year the organizer is different. This should be stabilized so that every year results etc. would be out in a certain time frame.

QUESTION 5 – A PERMANENT CONTEST COMMITTEE?

There is a proposal of a SAC Contest Committee that would help in organizing the event. Do you see it needed/feasible, and how should it be started and organized?

LA4YW: Making a Contest Committee is not very easy, but might be an improvement, if someone manages to organize it. LA has the biggest contest committee, but we give no claim that we are better because of it.

OZ5WQ: If we can organize and cooperate the work of log checking in all aspects via the existing four contest managers, I do think that forming a new organisation would help too much. These managers are the link to the NRAU organisation, yet this does not mean that they would have a lot of influence.

SM5AJV: Yes, definitely yes! I think a contest committee (CC) can make a lot of improvements. Forming and maintaining a CC would make continuity to the contest. A contest manager organising SAC every fourth year has very little impact to the development.

SM3CER: Yes, I think a larger Contest Committee can help a lot, but they cannot do everything. E.g. the paper log check work is very hard to organize among Contest Committee members being in different countries. That work is best done locally. The members of an enlarged Contest Committee can start to take care of a SAC Web Site, make invitations and announcements for SAC to magazines, sites and mail reflectors, prepare and send awards and trophies

and things like that. They could also try to find cheap sources for plaques and for printing the awards, maybe in countries outside Scandinavia. Perhaps they can also find sponsors for the trophies, so we can minimize the costs for our societies. Even ARRL have sponsors for trophies in their contests...

TF3AO: Contest committee sounds fine, but I don't have any suggestions how it should be organized.

OH2UA: This could be at least part of the solution! We should get committee organised as soon as possible and "the Swedish model" or some modification of it sounds very good. There would be two members from each country. One member would be the Contest Manager and he/she would represent country's national league and the other member would be nominated for a particular duty (like log checking, promoting etc...) and he/she would also represent more continuity in committee than contest managers. Alternatively the roles in the Contest Committee would be defined first and persons would be nominated per their competence, not necessarily based on their nationality.

Today a new guys need to learn how to organize a contest every year, because the rotation of the organising responsibility. This takes a lot of time and energy. If mainly the same Committee would arrange the SAC every year, I'm quite sure that it would be easier year after year because one would already know what they are doing.

QUESTION 6 – IMPROVEMENTS TO RULES: *Rules of SAC. Do you see ways of improvement there? Dates, 24 h, categories, allowing clusters/self-spotting, allowing two radios, etc.*

OZ5WQ: I think the current rules are covering most of the issues. Of course a

closer inspection of the logs might open room for a change. There could be a Low Power class for MS and MM and Single Band category for DX. None of this makes life easier for the log checker, but could give the contest a push. The rules should be modernised to fit electronic data management. Paperlogs should be faded out in a few years. Only Cabrillo format should be accepted. Return answer service like CQ and ARRL when you send an e-log should be implemented as a standard.

SM5AJV: Isn't two radio allowed already? Don't start a new category for 2 radio please :-) From SAC country side I don't think anyone would benefit of cluster. But I think, we could benefit from cluster use from the DX side. This is already happening by the casual DX contester entering the contest.

SM3CER: "If it isn't broken - don't fix it!" What is needed is to make the rules up-to-date. We don't need to change the rules in any way, but erase anything that have to do with old paper logs: penalties for leaving dupes in the log, summary and multiplier sheets, duplicate check list, signed declaration and so on. Nothing of that is needed today with Cabrillo logs and computer checking. The few paper logs still received (less than 100 today) should be typed to contest logs software by the organizer. The contest manager with 3-4 helpers can do that in a few evenings. (I know - I've done it several times). No additional categories, please. Maybe to erase the SWL category. The SWL interest for SAC has decreased in recent years and sometimes there are no participants at all in that class. There is no standard Cabrillo format for the SWL logs, so those logs have to be dealt manually. The SWL rules are also very badly described in the SAC Rules, so no-one really knows what to do with a SWL log anyway. And please, no DX-clusters

allowed for Single Ops!!! Let's keep SAC "clean"!

About two radios - or SO2R: Well, regarding the rules it's not forbidden - and therefore it's allowed, or...? Absolutely no own SO2R class - but do we need to put in the rules? Should there be a "10-minute rule" for SO2R? Well, how about those with two VFO:s and an automatic PA, that can be tuned in fractions of a second? I'm only kidding...

It would also be nice to have trophies to the winners in all classes and not only for the high power stations and multi classes. That is subject to an inexpensive source for the plaques to be found and maybe we should have the sponsored plaques, too.

TF3AO:

Of course rules need to be updated, but I like the 24H format, clusters are OK, self spotting never to be allowed. SO2R is OK..

OH2UA:

The rules may not be the main issue in this particular case. It might be better to go step by step and first get the SAC contest committee running. After that (in next two to five years) the committee would suggest some rule changes if needed. Exception is the date of SSB part.

QUESTION 7 – SAC SSB vs. CQWW RTTY: *Is the fact that SAC SSB is organized at the same time with CQ WW RTTY something that we should react to by changing our dates?*

LA4YW: Moving the Phone part may be an improvement if possible.

OZ5WQ: We all know that the popularity of RTTY is growing, but to my mind it is a matter of choice. I did take a look into the results from WPX RTTY 2005 to

see, if there was coexistence between participants in both contests, but I found nothing to take a decision from. I propose to keep the schedule of SAC as it is.

SM5AJV: I think this would be a very good thing to do. Just compare the amount of logs in CW and SSB legs. We are suffering during CQ WW RTTY. I do not think the CQ Organizers will move their contest.

SM3CER: CQ WW RTTY started in 1987 as CQ/RJ WW RTTY, but I don't know when it was held back then. I have only found that the contest was held the last full weekend in September 1997. If CQ WW RTTY is keeping their tradition – to have their contest the last full weekend in September, we will have no problems 2007, 2012 and 2018 when September has 5 weekends, as SAC SSB goes the 4th full weekend in September... HI

We didn't suffer too much in the beginning from the CQ WW RTTY Contest, but the computerized digi modes have been more and more popular and CQ WW RTTY has grown very fast lately.

Yes, we should try to find a better weekend for SAC SSB. The problem is when? We need some help here!

TF3AO:

As I have operated last 2 years in CQ WW RTTY from TF4M, I can't agree that during the same weekend we should have the SAC SSB. I would like to see another weekend selected for SAC. Maybe a weekend with a low activity CW or RTTY/PSK contest?

OH2UA:

As we should be promoting contesting, not making competition between different contests, I see that in a long run there are only two real alternatives. Move the SSB weekend to some other date or give up the second SAC week-

end and pull all SAC modes within one weekend. I would prefer keeping the CW and SSB as a separate weekends because it would maintain the actual number of QSO's made to Scandinavia. With different CW and SSB weekends, there would be more competition between Scandinavians, too.

QUESTION 8 – YOU AS A CHANGE AGENT: *Your proposal for the very near future (2006-2007). Your willingness to participate as a change-agent in the possible actions.*

OZ5WQ:

I am prepared to stay put as long as it is funny.

SM5AJV: n.a.

SM3CER: Modernize (not change) the SAC rules and find a new weekend for SAC SSB (at least from 2008 onwards). Well in advance of SAC 2007 I will make a proposal of the modernized rules to the other three Contest Managers, or to the enlarged Contest Committee, if there will be one.

TF3AO: I have already too many jobs within amateur radio, being Contest Manager for TF, treasurer of IRA, and active member of the board, plus an avid contester, so I think I don't have any more time to be more active.

OH2UA: Get SAC Contest Committee started and get it running with full power. After taking good care of organizing the contest and promoting it for a couple of years we would be ready to say is there needs for any changes in contest rules. Changing the date of SSB leg should have a high priority (maybe already 2007).

QUESTION 9 – PRIORITIES: *What actions should be prioritized i.e. done first, if any?*

LA4LN: I appreciated the initiative to the debate started about the future of SAC. Let's hope that this debate will lead to a fruitful discussion about SAC on the next NRAU meeting, so that good decisions about a possible rearrangement of SAC can be decided on there.

OZ5WQ:

Change of rules and thereafter we can decide who is doing what. We, OZ1BIZ and me, are ready to start a webpage covering the SAC contest and maintain it.

SM5AJV:

1. Make a Contest Committee
2. Try to move SAC away from CQ WW RTTY weekend
3. Improve award and trophy delivery. Take care of old issues promptly!
4. Promote SAC both nationally and internationally. I think the initiative of the PileUp! magazine did very good for the activity from the DX side.
5. Put up a SAC web page with results, promotion, etc.
6. Keep the uniqueness of SAC. Don't make it another all-work-all-contest.

SM3CER: I fully agree with SM5AJV. Specially with point 6 - Keep SAC Unique!

TF3AO: Don't have a clue.

OH2UA:

The main thing is to get the SAC organization running and take good care of arrangements. I can see that there's a common target in all SAC countries and a true willingness to promote SAC and get it back to the top of contests.

If the contest sponsor(s) are taking good care of SAC, it'll pay off regardless of the contest rules. The Russian DX Contest is very good example of that!

HOW TO REACH THE MEGA-POINT CLUB IN SAC CW?

Martti, OH2BH & Ville, OH2MM

Preface

After decades of SACing, a rather unique opportunity presented itself for us to look at the game from the other side of the fence as we traveled unnoticed to GD6IA in 2005 and this year to 4O3B with our test tubes. Thus sharing our findings can be quite educational for the multitudes. We had decided to call each Scandinavian station on the 15 and 20-meter bands as the only station from the GD and 4O3 multiplier countries and see what action would result to take full advantage of us. We had some expectations, but the results were shocking. Only a handful of OHs – not a single other Scandinavian contest station - wanted to move us; the others just let the multiplier slip by. They were there to enjoy the pileup – not to make a score.

Angrily, we decided to change the strategy for the night (80/40 meters) and not only call those stations but suggest that the multiplier move itself. The response was totally amazing – the same people ignored us and just went along with their often light pileups. It took us a herculean effort to move such notable as OZ1AA, for example. No one expected a GD6 to come through on 10 meters, but to those with the willingness and the ability to quickly switch bands it came as no surprise that GD was one of their few multipliers.

The need for analysis and discussion was evident; somewhere in the minds of Scandinavian contesters there was a desire to enter the mega-point club instead of offering an endless array of excuses. We decided to use OH2BH (op OH2UA), OH2PM (op OH1WZ), OH0E (op OH2MM) and OH2BO (op OH2PM)

2006 cw-logs for the purpose of analysis, and in this study we used the operator callsign in reference situations.

What Multiplier Base Are We Dealing With?

Owing to the nature of CW bands during the SAC weekend, we do not have many “sporadic” multipliers that just happen to be on the band and hand out multiplier points. Roughly thirty (30) additional multipliers can be secured with a careful multiplier strategy. This number can be doubled in the SSB part of the contest since many uniques enter the scene during the SSB weekend. But thirty is a big number over those who do not have that strategy. And ultimately thirty additional multipliers is 15 percent of the score – and that makes a huge difference. The additional 15 percent may land you in the mega-point club.

In the 2006 CW contest we had a total of 95 countries participating, and looking for their presence on each band a maximum of 306 multipliers would have been theoretically possible. SAC is the only contest for us where we Scandinavians are the subject of the hunt by others. Therefore moving the multipliers is readily available for those who have “seen the light”. When you study the behavior of the multipliers, you do not detect any pattern that would suggest that, say, OH0 is the subject of any specific, potential multiplier stations. Six (6) stations appeared only once in these four logs; TI2KWN, JT8000OK, A61M, 9J2BO, EK6LP and V51LK and four (4) of these were with OH2PM on 40 meters and one (1) each with OH2UA and OH1WZ. An interesting finding since OH2PM was using quite a modest station – his sharp ear spotted these goodies.

The same number of six (6) appeared twice in these logs; YV5KG, 9N7JO,

NP3CW, EA6UN, BX2AK and 3B8FG. Here OH2PM and OH2UA found and moved 9N7JO who was very active but on his own frequency. NP3CW appeared briefly on 80 meters and found OH2UA and OH2MM which correlates to their 80-meter signals. OH1WZ was called by 3B8FG and moved. BX2AK called OH2UA and was moved. OH2MM was called by EA6UN and was moved. Also YV5KG was tuning briefly on 40 meters and called OH1WZ and OH2UA. Nothing dramatic, just careful moving pretty equally by the mega-point guys.

Looking at those three (3) times in these logs provides more variety. The strangest is YI9DXX who gave OH2MM numbers 1, 2 and 3 over a long time span and did not work others. 9V1YC was moved by OH2UA successfully while others did not work him anywhere in spite of his 100+ number – 9N7JO and 9V1YC turned out to be those two valuables that had decided to work their own pileup. These two suggest that a quick scan through the band is worth the effort. TA3BN was OH2PM's treasure while TU2/F5LDY gave OH2UA huge point value with a three-band move.

Who To Move Then And When?

The goodies discussed above were not too numerous - totally twelve - in the entire contest. They were evenly split and no one was able to run away with them. But when we look at the volume of successful moving, the picture appears pretty clear:

OH2UA 31, OH1WZ 26, OH2MM 13 and OH2PM 9.

Perti (OH2PM) with his sharp multiplier mind suffered a lot with a broken 15-meter beam while his overall multiplier count would suggest a 250 level. An adjusted 15-meter score would easily place him at a 20 moved multipliers

level, qualifying him for the mega-point club. OH2PM purposely went to operate wires and a tri-bander to prove that no massive array of antennas is needed; competition in SAC is not as severe as in the biggest contests .

But an interesting “success factor” for multiplier moving is the right sequence. Why did OH1WZ use the following sequence on 4L8A for 40-80-20 meters? It was in evening and he figured that 80 would work better than 20 at that hour. Gladly he made both bands but in this well selected sequence. Then at 10.30 UTC he moved KG6DX from 20 to 15 to 40 in that sequence. Bingo! KG6DX came through at that odd hour also on 40 meters – a major strategy lesson right here. He also moved SV5DKL from 15 to 40 at 09.29 UTC. Not many would even try, but he succeeded. Interestingly, SV5DKL agreed – your partners are not always that advanced and persuasive efforts may be needed. Every mega-point club station except OH2PM had moved SV5DKL on several independent occasions. Slow and shaky CW from people like SV5DKL and VU2BGS can be misleading but when a sked is suggested slowly and precisely, those moves can be worth gold. OH2UA's catch with CX7CO was on 80 meters and he moved him up to 40 and 20. OH2UA also had KH6/N0CO very late in the morning on 20 meters and moving him to 40 was a success story just like KG6DX for OH1WZ.

Huge innovative efforts from OH1WZ and OH2UA, adding to regular high probability moves such as ZL2AZ at 07.00 UTC between 20 and 15 meters and Middle East stuff in the evening on 40/80 meters.

Those mentioned above are relatively easy to cope with, but when the guys move stations like CT1ILT, ER1OO, GM3POI – OH2UA onto four bands –

GW0ETF and T99C, you know that they have done their homework. It is indeed worth the effort to study the previous year's logs and see where maybe only one station participates from these seemingly easy countries and when, say, ER100 is a catch that you should not miss. The same with GM, GI, GW and even EI. The first step toward building up your multiplier count obviously is to concentrate on the seemingly rare ones while the real multiplier art suggests that you concentrate on everything that moves – for that purpose you have a multiplier management system in your logging software.

When To Start The Multiplier Hunt?

Someone has suggested that it's better to run a safe QSO number first and then devote more time to multipliers. Wrong. Totally wrong. Remember the big fish may catch your hook during the first hour and they will never come back again. It is true that having two radios lined up – SO2R – will spare you the misfortune of your pileup dying during a multiplier moving episode, but that will come later in evolution when the basic multiplier understanding is first achieved.

The mega-point club stations all have totally automated stations, auto-tune amplifiers and band-data driven antenna switching systems which certainly help manage two issues at once – running a pileup and moving multipliers. Equally, they reinforce their footprint by driving their power in multiple directions, thus being “within reach” of larger populations – QSOs and multipliers. But in SAC 2006 OH2PM's reference efforts suggest that with the right multiplier mindset one can enter the mega-point club almost regardless of big hardware!

While the multiplier hunt is the salt of the entire contest, it should be emphasized

that the chase will last until the very end; OH2MM was ahead of OH1WZ when they entered the last hour of the contest. Both ran the hour neck and neck with 82 QSOs against 83. But OH1WZ gained eight (8) multipliers against four (4) with OH2MM: A mega move of ES1GF on 4 bands - yes an ES multiplier – gave OH1WZ the final edge for a shiny silver position.

Risks Looming Over The Horizon

All the foregoing sounds like easy to do – some homework and a new mindset. But it is worth remembering at all times that unsuccessful multiplier moves generate a minus score. Trying a move at the wrong propagation hour and even with the wrong people can end up in disaster; you will need to know whom to move and at what hour. Sending your suggested move request very precisely and obtaining a clear confirmation are keys to success.

Understanding the basic math is a driver for doing it all in a very balanced manner. Because for these people in the mega-point club, one multiplier equals some 6 DX QSOs. You should try some easy math and you will easily find out that a very balanced QSO vs. multiplier number is what counts. But if you do not care at all for multipliers, you will never step on the podium.

Many people, for example, spend too much time on 15 meters at the beginning and therefore they never catch up with the running rate on QSOs. It is often discovered that what you lose at once will never come back. A well-calculated effort between QSOs and multipliers will ensure the best outcome. One suggestion to listen to the competition's serial number and then allocate a “correct amount of time” for multipliers. But then again, every minute you spend listening to others will be

away from your score. Thus it is another no-no.

Conclusion

Making a successful multiplier move can stand out as a climax of the entire contest. Having that matrix of mind, a state of Nirvana, to handle all balls up in the air - all bands, propagation patterns, multiple skeds, all based on an ever-changing strategy - can be highly

rewarding. From that matrix a winning formula will always surface. Always! That is what radiosport at its best is all about and that is why those having seen the light are in the mega-point club. Welcome on board – it's not that long until the next SAC.

Appendices:

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score	Club
OH2BH(OH2UA)	1839	258	24	1,128,660	CCF
OH2PM(OH1WZ)	1703	250	24	1.018,000	CCF
OH0E (OH2MM)	1734	239	24	1.010,000	CCF
OH2BO(OH2PM) *	1682	250	24	1.000,000	CCF
OF6A (OH6QU)	1738	237	24	983,076	CCF
LN8W(LA7MFA)	1774	232	24	982,984	
SJ2W(SM3WMV)	1834	222	24	960,816	
OH2BO(OH2PM)**	1682	230	24	920,000	CCF

* Imaginary Score

** True Score

 MULTIPLIER BREAK-DOWN

	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
OH2UA	55	67	78	50	8	258
OH1WZ	52	69	70	51	8	250
OH2MM	47	59	73	53	7	239
OH2PM	51	67	70	32	10	230

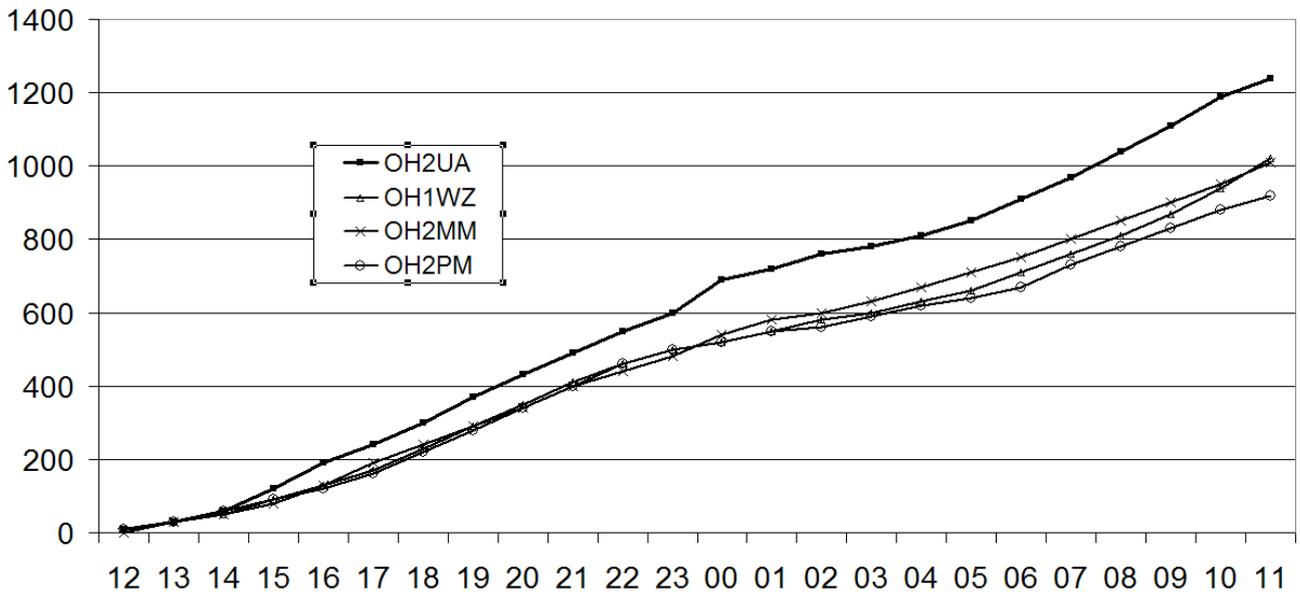
 MAXIMUM AVAILABLE MULTIPLIERS WORKED BY ABOVE FOUR

TOTAL	64	81	87	63	11	306
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SAC 2006 CW. Cumulative number of QSOs and multipliers

Stn	OH2BH	OH2PM	OH0E	OH2BO				
Hour / Op	OH2UA	OH1WZ	OH2MM	OH2PM				
12	134	39	93	41	56	34	117	38
13	220	62	173	65	190	63	201	57
14	322	74	246	75	253	73	291	85
15	446	114	372	105	344	86	388	93
16	528	126	460	121	455	115	464	102
17	618	136	554	129	558	134	556	120
18	711	153	666	147	634	158	684	133
19	803	170	756	159	709	165	772	149
20	889	180	856	172	811	171	876	162
21	972	190	928	183	905	181	970	172
22	1051	200	1012	190	963	185	1043	185
23	1114	204	1065	194	1043	187	1102	190
0	1172	209	1108	196	1115	195	1136	192
1	1215	212	1147	200	1176	199	1175	194
2	1278	212	1183	202	1212	199	1209	195
3	1317	213	1219	204	1271	201	1258	196
4	1366	216	1270	206	1321	206	1303	198
5	1413	219	1316	209	1366	210	1329	200
6	1484	225	1381	214	1415	215	1369	203
7	1542	232	1435	219	1468	219	1423	212
8	1605	239	1511	222	1516	226	1464	222
9	1670	249	1570	231	1562	234	1553	225
10	1749	256	1621	242	1651	235	1617	228
11	1816	258	1703	250	1734	239	1682	230

Cumulative Scores SAC 2006 CW



SAC 2006 CW. Cumulative scores per hour

Hour	OH2BH OH2UA	OH2PM OH1WZ	OH0E OH2MM	OH2BO OH2PM
12	10	10	0	10
13	30	30	30	30
14	60	50	50	60
15	120	90	80	90
16	190	130	130	120
17	240	170	190	160
18	300	230	240	220
19	370	290	290	280
20	430	350	340	340
21	490	410	400	400
22	550	460	440	460
23	600	500	480	500
0	690	520	540	520
1	720	550	580	550
2	760	580	600	560
3	780	600	630	590
4	810	630	670	620
5	850	660	710	640
6	910	710	750	670
7	970	760	800	730
8	1040	810	850	780
9	1110	870	900	830
10	1190	940	950	880
11	1240	1020	1010	920



"GM3POI:ta viedaan bandilta toiselle - varmuuden vuoksi käsikynkässä!"
 "GM3POI dancing the Paksalo–Polkka and taken from Band to Band!"

Contest/DX News

Your AF multiplier, Charles **S9SS** will go QRT after Christmas and return to the US soon after. There will be some 80,000 QSOs in the S9SS log. Charles was the only active ham in Sao Tome, leaving S9 in the hands of the DX-peditioners.



Charles S9SS in October 2006 working EU on 15 m CW. (via OH2BH).

CCF-activity in CQ WW CW 2006

4U1UN will have activity by Seppo OH1VR & LA5IIA. Seppo says that the operation once again will be limited in duration.

Olli, HP1WW gives **zone 7**, but not from Panama. Look for **V31XX**.

OH0Z will most likely host SOSB operations in CQ WW CW 2006.

On **80 meters** there will be a fifth try at ON4UN's' EU-record at **OH2BH** by OH1WZ.

YL2KL with friends will operate M/2 as **EA8EW**.

Our Club's president **OH2UA** goes SOAB from Azozers. **CU2A**.

More CQ WW 2006 CW by **NG3K**, look at <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/cqc2006.html>

Celebrations in YU6 and in the Caribies

(## mod 10) == 0 type of birthdays by CCF members in Nov and Dec.

Independence Day contest / OH6 Cup / OH6YF memorial

PileUP! challenges every CCF member to join the Kuutosten Contest on 80 m **in the memory of Harri, OH6YF**. The contest starts at 08 UTC (10 SA). Look for rules in the Radioamatööri magazine.

Contest Calender

KUTSU OH-RTTY-KILPAILUUN 1.1.2007

Viime Uudenvuodenpäivänä pidetyn ensimmäisen OH-RTTY-kilpailun saama positiivinen palaute on rohkaissut kilpailun toisintoa. Kilpailun suomalainen sponsori on kilpailuyhteisö OH7A/OH7N, Moonshine Hill Contest Group Palo ry.

Kilpailu pidetään Uudenvuodenpäivänä 1.1.2007, klo 0800-1100 UTC. Niin kuin ajankohdasta voi päätellä, osuu kilpailu SARTG New Year RTTY Contestin aikaan ja OH-kilpailu käydäänkin isäntakilpailun säännöillä. Lokitkin yhteenvedolla täydennettynä lähetetään kilpailun järjestäjille (SARTG) normaaliin tapaan. SARTG* myös vastaa pistelaskennasta ja toimittaa OH-tulosluettelon suomalaisille sponsoreille.

Huomattakoon, että SARTG-kilpailun sääntöjen mukaisesti kaikki työskentelevät kaikkia 40 ja 80 m RTTY-segmenteillä. Kertoimia saadaan Skandinavian maiden piireistä ja Skandinavian ulkopuolisista DXCC-maista kummallakin bandilla erikseen. SARTG New Year Contestin OH-osanottajia koskevat säännöt ilmestyvät Radioamatööri-lehden joulukuun numerossa. Ne julkaistaan myös OH7A/OH7N:n verkkosivuilla

www.oh7ab.fi/oh7a/

OH-RTTY-kilpailun luokkajako:

1. Single Operator/High Power
2. Single Operator/Low Power (max. 100 W)
3. SWL

OH-RTTY-kilpailussa ei ole monen työskentelijän luokkaa. Kerhoasemat voivat osallistua yhden työskentelijän luokkaan.

Luokkavoittajat saavat sponsorien erityispalkinnon ja kunniakirjan. Lisäksi 2. ja 3. sijalle yltäneet saavat kunniakirjan. Kunniakirjoja voidaan jakaa useammallekin perusteena erityisen hyvä suoritus ja/tai runsas osanotto. Kaikki lokinsa lähettäneet saavat osallistumistodistuksen.

Tavataan joukolla Uudenvuodenpäivänä ja aiemminkin!

OH7A/OH7N:n puolesta
Martti Norismaa, OH7MN

*SARTG, Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group, on vuonna 1970 perustettu, pohjoismainen RTTY-lähetelajista kiinnostuneiden radioamatöörien ryhmä. Aikaa myöten kiinnostusalue on laajentunut käsittämään kaikki digilähetelajit. SARTG julkaisee neljä kertaa vuodessa ilmestyvää lehteä, jonka saa jäsenetuna hintaan EUR 15/vuosi ja ylläpitää sivustoa osoitteessa www.sartg.com. SARTG:in yhdyshenkilö on Kari Hirvonen, OH2BP (liittymisen/jäsenmaksut SAMPO 800015-70842816).

SARTG järjestää vuosittain kaksi kilpailua: SARTG WW RTTY Contest (v. 1970 lähtien) ja SARTG New Year RTTY Contest (v. 1971 lähtien).

Himalayan Contest 2006

This is a new contest organised by the Amateur Radio Society of India, to encourage South Asian Amateur Radio Stations to participate in a lively, interesting contest planned by Contesters for the other contesters. This is also to prepare South Asian amateurs to get trained and face many international contests. If there is a good response, the Contest, may also become an international one, with a suitable date and time slot, in future.

The exchanges in this contest are planned, in a way that all the operators can make out the number of Indian States/Union Territories and the important cities, worked in the course of the contest.

There is no need to exchange the conventional RST/RS, as this has been seen to be an exchange which does not reflect the real RST. Hence, it has been omitted.

QSOs are to be effected between "VU"s & "VU"s and 4S7, AP2, 9N1, A51, S21, 8Q7 (mentioned as other entities in the following paragraphs)

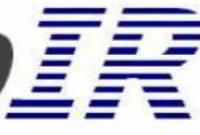
No QSOs in WARC bands or with /MM, /AM stations will be accepted.

A VU contester must send his contest log without fail, else, his QSOs with other contesters will be disqualified, while checking the logs received for adjudication.. This step is introduced to encourage, those really interested in the Contests and not for those operators from whom an exchange is forced. Hi.

Full rules are available from the editor of PileUP! and via OH1RX,

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06830 Kulloonkylä

OH0Z CQ WW SSB 2006 M/M. TEN METER STACK AT DAWN (OH2JA).

