PileUP!

Volume 12(2) 2008

Turkish pepper, TC4X by OH2PM in WAE CW 2008. (Photo OH2BH)

PileUp! is the newsletter of Contest Club Finland started by Harri Mantila, OH6YF (SK). You are welcome to contribute and send articles, short stories, news and photos via oh1wz@sral.fi.

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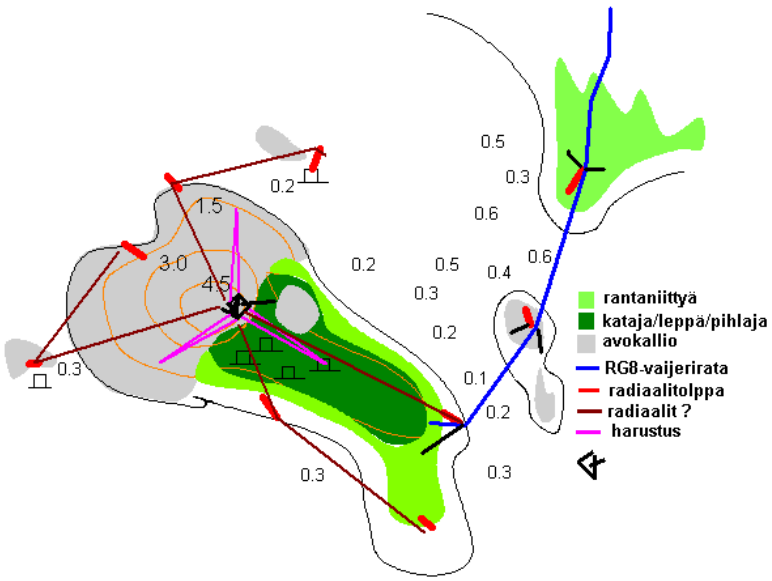


Pre-contest planning in CQ WW SSB 2000 @ OH0BH. PileUP! 12(3) will tell the full story.

Editorial

Scandinavian Activity Contest, 50 SAC 1959-2008

The solar flux has recently been around 65-68 with planetary A-index showing well predictable patterns. This is how it is during the minimum of solar cycle. Not a single sun spot between July 20 and August 30. Activity and propagation on the low bands is our cold comfort. While the ionosphere is thin, many OH-contesters use less time to operate and concentrate on improving their installations.

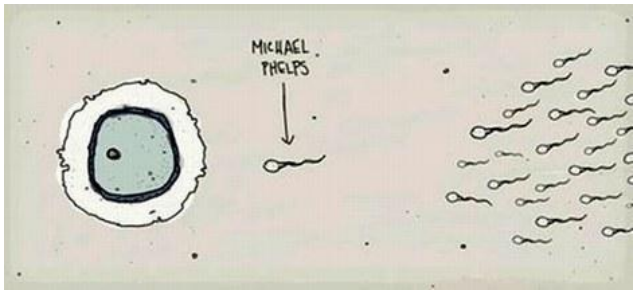
It is the turn of the Swedes and the SSA to organize SAC this year. We can credit Ingo, SM5AJV and his group for having promoted the event. The web address is qrq.se/sac/. SAC is a 24-hour contest and the activity takes place on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter bands. CW starts on September 20, at 1200 UTC. A week later, on Saturday September 27 begins the SSB part.

Svalbard and Bear I.	JW
Jan Mayen I.	JX
Norway	LA - LB - LG - LJ - LN
Finland	OF - OG - OH - OI
Aland Is.	OFØ - OGØ - OHØ
Market Reef	OJØ
Greenland	OX - XP
Faeroe Is.	OW - OY
Denmark	5P - 5Q - OU - OV - OZ
Sweden	7S - 8S - SA - SB - SC SD - SE - SF - SG - SH SI - SJ - SK - SL - SM
Iceland	TF

Scandinavian countries and prefixes in SAC by SM3CER, sk3bg.se/contest/.

Scattered thoughts on contesting

Oftentimes I find myself wondering if radio contesting makes any sense at all. Is it a sport, and if it is, what do the scores measure? Typically, sportsmen invest a lot of time and effort - just think of the winners in Beijing, 2008. “The talented train less”, not necessarily holds true anymore. In radio contesting the situation is alike. It is possible to train and prepare “professionally”, that is, to take it really seriously – to push the limits. Alternatively, you can just enjoy contests and see that winning is not the essence. OH2BH, OH3BU and OH1RX give us some advice in this issue. I found this funny picture (Michael Phelps) in the web, and since it is about sports and fairness, I thought I’d steal it and share it with you.



On behalf of CCF and the many who contributed to this issue, I hope that you get pleasure from reading PileUP! 12(2). Next issue will see daylight around November 15. Let’s keep those photos, stories and articles coming.

Cheers,

ilkka, OH1WZ, Editor

HUMOR

Married to a DXer

Kuudenkympin paremmalla puolella oleva radioamatööri-aviopari oli juhlimassa 40-vuotishääpäiväänsä romanttisessa ravintolassa. Siinä heidän istuessaan, pieni keiju ilmestyi pöydälle ja sanoi: "Koska olette niin esimerkillinen aviopari ja olette olleet toisillenne uskollisia, täytän yhden toivomuksen kummallekin!"

"Oih - haluaisin matkustaa maailman ympäri rakkaan aviomieheni kanssa," sanoi vaimo. "Hän kun on sitä aina tehnyt yksin, kilpailumatkoilla ja DX-peditioilla." Keiju heilautti taikasauvaansa ja poof - kaksi lippua luxusristeilylle maailman ympäri ilmestyi heidän käsiinsä.

Sitten oli aviomiehen vuoro. Hän mietti hetken ja sanoi: "No, olisihan se romanttista, mutta tällainen tilaisuus ei koskaan tule toistumaan, joten sorry rakkaani, mutta haluaisin itseäni 30 vuotta nuoremman vaimon."

Sekä vaimo että keiju olivat hyvin, hyvin pettyneitä, mutta toivomus on toivomus, ja lupaus on lupaus... Joten keiju heilautti taikasauvaansa ja poof - aviomies vanheni 93-vuotiaaksi.

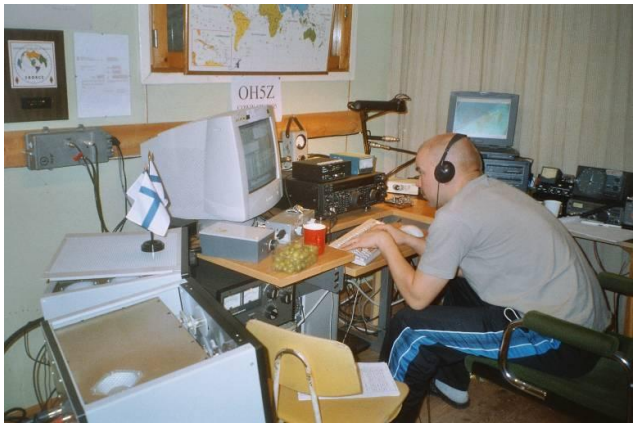
Tarinan opetus: miesten, jotka ovat epäkiitollisia paskiaisia, tulisi muistaa, että keijut ovat aina naisia.

Syyskuun kilpailujen jälkeen....

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.
-- Ricky, age 10

OH5CW mult-chasing @ OH5Z
(Photos OH5XT)



Do I hear a new mult?


Let me tune higher.


Got ya!

A personal invitation for the 50th Anniversary of the Scandinavian Activity Contest 2008

The Swedish Amateur Radio Society SSA invites you to participate in the 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest, taking place during the following two weekends:

CW – September 20 - 21 12.00-12.00 UTC
SSB – September 27- 28 12.00-12.00 UTC

The Scandinavian Activity Contest is an ideal occasion for meeting old and new Scandinavian friends in a competitive but also friendly radio-sport environment. Regardless if you are new to contesting, or if you have participated in all previous SAC contests, we are convinced that you will enjoy this spectacular anniversary tremendously. Huge amounts of contesters from all Scandinavian countries are right now in the process of preparation in order to be ready for the challenges of **SAC 2008**.

Special Contest Anniversary Diplomas

For this special occasion, SSA will, in addition to the traditional award and plaque program, also present three **Special Contest Anniversary Diplomas** for non-Scandinavian stations:

GOLD – For participants who contact 50 Scandinavian stations on 5 Bands, totally 250 contacts.

SILVER – For stations who contact 250 Scandinavians stations totally, regardless of band.

BRONZE – For stations who manage to contact 50 Scandinavian stations totally, regardless of band.

The diplomas will be issued for each section, CW and SSB respectively.

Webb Resources

For more information about the rules of SAC 2008, please refer to
http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacnsc.htm

A special 50th SAC Anniversary Homepage will be launched at http://www.qrq.se/sac/. Please do not forget to announce your planned SAC participation there. The homepage will be updated regularly before and after the contest – and have contest stories and photos from the SAC 50th Anniversary Operation!

We are looking forward to meeting you during the 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest!

Jan-Eric SM3CER, SSA Contest Manager Ingemar, SM5AJV, SSA Contest Editor

Using Trees To Support Low Band Antennas

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Here we sit at solar minimum between Cycle 23 and Cycle 24, waiting for Cycle 24 to start ramping up to give us consistent worldwide F_2 region propagation on the higher HF bands. It's likely that nothing's going to happen for at least a year, so this is a great opportunity to make a major effort in (or to improve) your low band contesting station.

Other than noise, the other major issue for a competitive low band contest station is a good transmit antenna. But putting up a competitive low band antenna can be tough for those without a suitable man-made support. One solution, taking the lead from K5AF's Contesting on a Budget column in the May/June 2005 issue of NCJ (the National Contest Journal, published by the ARRL), is to utilize a tree.

I use a tree to support my 80m/160m wire antenna system. The vertical wire starts at 7 feet above ground (to make sure the deer don't get tangled up in it) and goes up to about 60 feet to a pulley on a limb on one of our bigger trees. I have a homebrew 80m trap at the top of the vertical wire, and a wire from the top of the trap runs back toward the house to resonate the system on 160m. Thus it's a near-full-size quarter-wave vertical on 80m (it has a small inductor at the bottom for resonance and for switching from PH to CW), and an inverted-L on 160m. I use six elevated radials (again, to keep the deer from running into them) – three 60 footers and three 120 footers.

I've always wondered how the tree I use to support my 80m/160m antenna, and the surrounding trees, affect the performance. Thus the goal of this article is to discuss the two areas of concern with respect to trees affecting low band antennas: the trunk portion of the tree and the leaves (foliage).

With respect to the trunk portion, the Technical Correspondence column in the November 1991 issue of QST had some interesting observations by KF4IX (call now unknown) and K4OQK (call now W3BZ). They had a single 75m quarter-wave monopole hanging in a tall pine tree with seven radials raised 15 feet off the ground. The distance from the trunk of the tree to the bottom portion of this antenna was about 1 foot. The distance from the trunk of the tree to the top portion of the antenna was about 3 feet. The resistance at resonance (3.74 MHz) was measured to be 50 ohms. A model of this antenna indicated the resistance at resonance should have been about 32 ohms.

To determine where the extra 18 ohms of resistance came from, they first moved the bottom portion of the antenna farther away from the trunk of the tree (from 1 foot to about 15 feet). Nothing changed. Then they moved the top portion of the antenna farther away from the trunk of the tree (from 3 foot to 6 feet). Resonance moved up to 3.77 MHz (30 KHz higher) and the resistance was now about 35 ohms (decreased 15 ohms). Their conclusion was that the tree trunk, being a lossy dielectric, introduced significant loss due to its close proximity to the high voltage portion (the top portion) of the antenna.

With respect to foliage, we'll use the work of Tamir [reference 1]. Tamir developed equations to calculate the additional loss on HF propagation by foliage in a forest. Figure 1 shows the basic model used by Tamir.

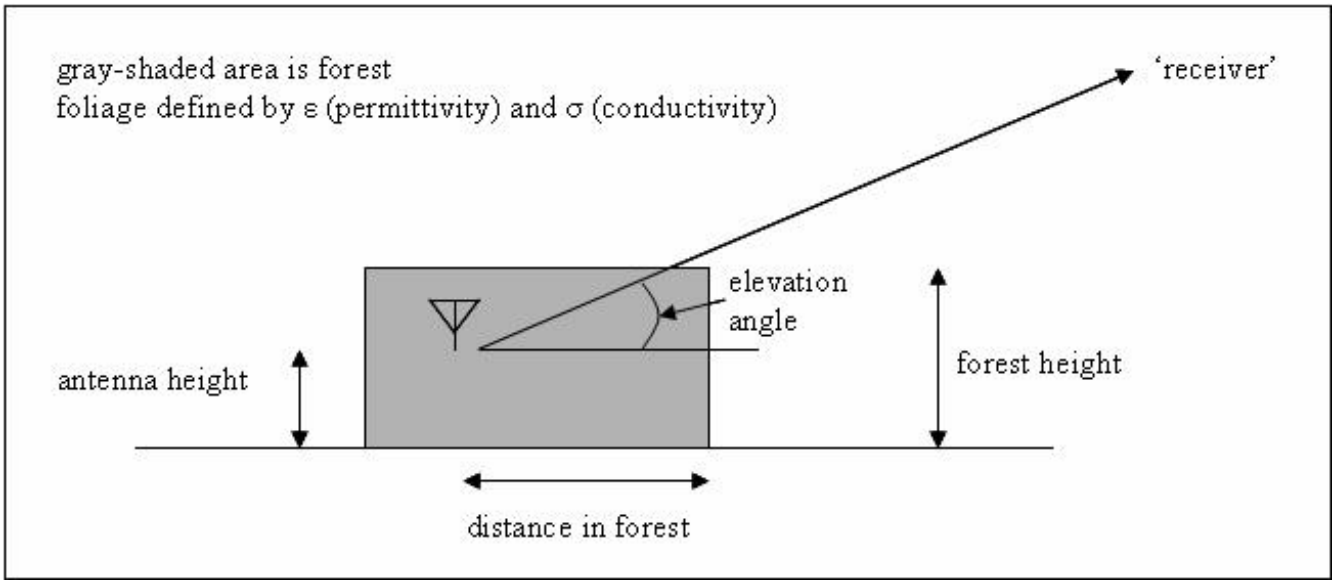


Fig. 1 – Tamir's model of an antenna in a forest.

My specific situation has the forest extending north and east of our property for about one quarter mile – thus I set the 'distance in forest' parameter to 402 meters. The trees are about 75 feet high – thus I set the forest height to 23 meters. The major portion of the foliage is near the top of the trees, and is about 20 feet thick – thus I set the antenna height to 17 meters. Finally, I chose an elevation angle of 20 degrees.

For the relative permittivity and conductivity of the foliage, an earlier work by Tamir [reference 2] gives insight into these values. The relative permittivity of foliage is typically between 1.1 and 1.2, so I used 1.15. The conductivity of foliage is on the order of 1×10^{-4} S/m (Siemens per meter). As a side note, the value of the conductivity is the major player in the model – varying the relative permittivity resulted in minor change to loss. Plugging these values into Tamir's equations gives the loss versus frequency due to the foliage shown in Figure 2.

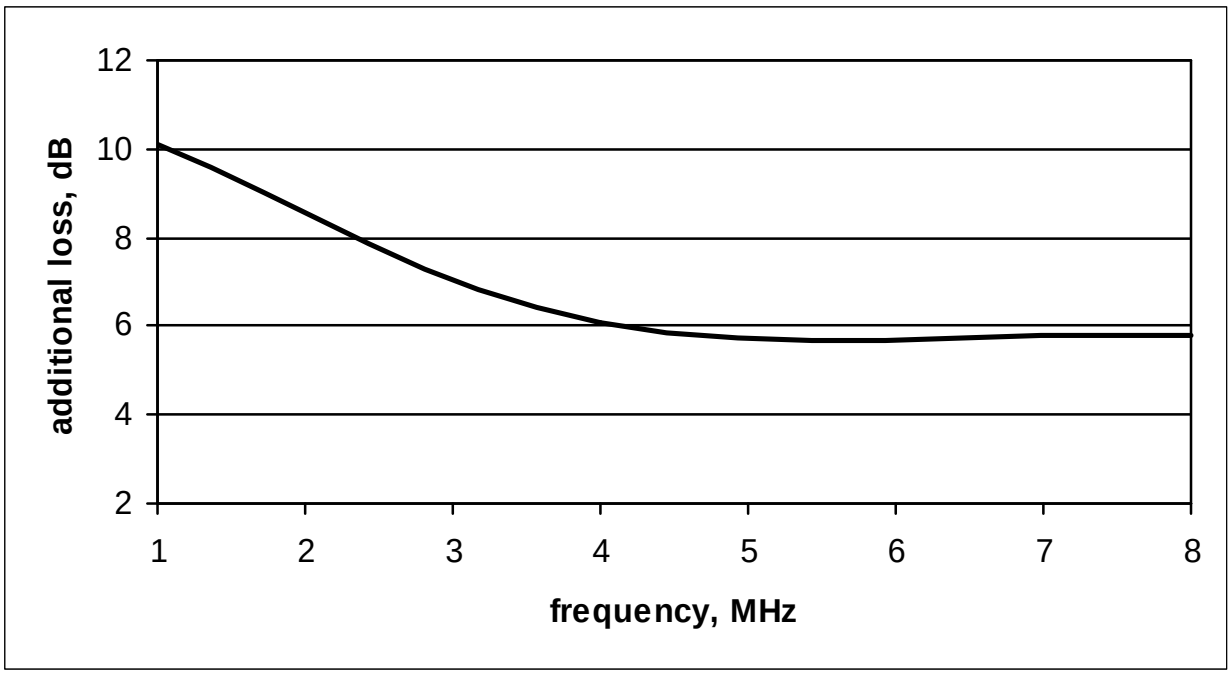


Fig. 2. Loss due to foliage

Tamir's model says the additional loss due to foliage incurred by my 80m/160m antenna system at an elevation angle of 20 degrees is on the order of 9dB on 160m and 6dB on 80m. It increases by several dB at lower elevation angles and decreases by several dB at higher elevation angles. Is this amount of predicted loss reasonable? I don't know, as I don't spend too much time on 80m and 160m during the summer months (even if I did, I have nothing to compare it to in order to validate the model).

This brings up an important issue – my trees are deciduous. When I run the model with a relative permittivity of 1.0 and a low conductivity (1×10^{-5} S/m) to emulate winter conditions with no foliage, the model predicts no additional loss (as expected). My experience during the winter months with my 80m/160 antenna system tends to confirm this result – I don't think I'm losing much, if any, in the pileups in winter due to the fact that my low band antenna system is in trees.

In summary, if you have to implement your low band antenna in a tree, try to get the top portion away from the trunk by at least 0.023 wavelengths (based on the 1991 Technical Correspondence article). And it would be nice, if possible, to pick a tree (and an area) with minimal foliage. If the latter recommendation can't be achieved, at least be happy that we do most of our contesting in the winter months – when the foliage has usually disappeared.

References:

1. Tamir, Theodor; *Radio Wave Propagation Along Mixed Paths in Forest Environments*; IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation; AP-25, No 4, July 1977; pp 471-477.

2. Tamir, Theodor; *On Radio-Wave Propagation in Forest Environments*; IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation; AP-15, No 6, November 1967; pp806-817.

Paksalo, OH2U beaming VK6 at the 52 m level (OH1JT).

Pile Up Net: A Real-time Scoring System for Pile Up Competitions

Chuck, NO5W

Introduction

The CW Pile up Competition sponsored annually at Dayton by the Kansas City DX Club has long been a favorite of those contesters lucky enough to find themselves in the Crowne Plaza hospitality suites on Saturday night. Even while squeezed elbow-to-elbow with contesting greats, newbies and wannabes, sharing contesting tales, imbibing adult beverages, making eyeball QSOs at a high rate, and generally having a great time, they find time – often with some cajoling -- to measure their CW skills against the machine and against each other. And, although the measuring stick is frequently not kind, great fun is had by all as the results are eagerly awaited and eventually posted. It should also be mentioned that, in recent years, top-scoring participants have been the recipients of some very significant prizes. Pile up competitions, both CW and SSB, are also popular activities at ham fests around the world.

Recently those attending the Dallas Ham Com and the Austin Summerfest in Texas, have had an opportunity to participate in a similar measurement of their CW skills using equipment provided by Rick-N0RB a member of the KCDXC who has recently relocated to Texas. The first computer-based running of this event was organized for Summerfest by Gary-W5ZL following up on a suggestion by Dale-KG5U, with KCDXC support provided by N0RB, and software support by Chuck-NO5W. In that application, which was put together over the weekend preceding Summerfest, six standalone PCs were used to record each competitor's entries. After each session of six competitors the logs were collected by "thumb drive sneaker net", stored in a scoring machine, scored by a separate application, and the results projected on a large screen for the audience as the next set of participants demonstrated their skills.

Although it was not clear whether the scores were improved by this computer-based approach it was obvious, even using the low-tech sneaker net approach, that computer grading and presentation of the scores allowed the results to be presented with a lot less effort and in time for the group to vacate the room in a timely manner for the next hamfest activity.This note gives an overview of the networked version of this system that has been developed in the weeks following Summerfest. It should be of interest to anyone planning to sponsor a pile up competition under time constraints like those that may be encountered at local ham fests or at club meetings. A later section gives details on how to obtain additional information and software for implementing the system.

System Overview

The diagram below (Fig. 1) summarizes the overall concept. It's a simple networked configuration of four applications: a Pileup Host application, a Player application, a Manual Logger application, and a Scoreboard application.

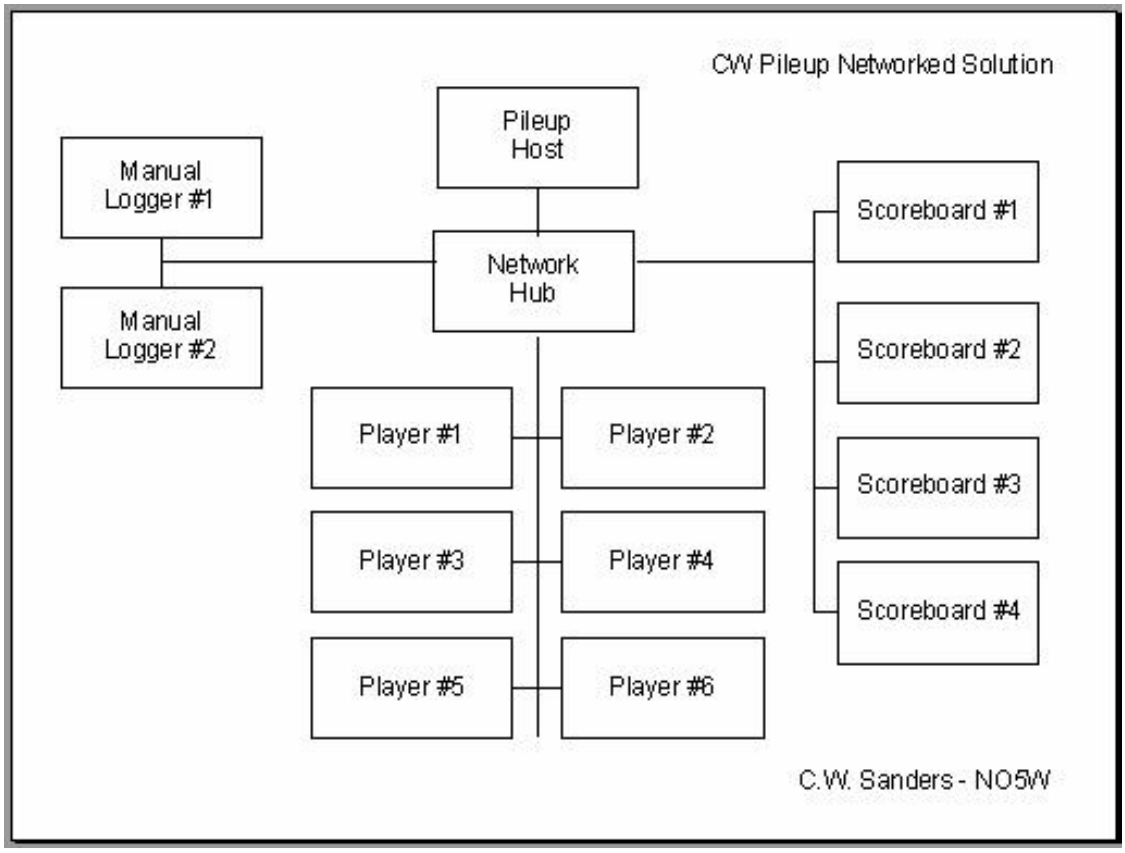


Fig. 1. System diagram.

With the exception of the Host application the number of clients of each type is optional. Since the Host is the central managing agent there must be one and only one Host. The system is currently sized as shown in the diagram but the numbers of each type are configurable. Each of the applications has been implemented and tested. A brief description of each of the applications is provided in the following section.

The Host Application

The Host Application is the central application for the system. It manages the competition, serves as a network hub, and has responsibility for performing the following tasks:

- Scoring each of the participant's logs in real-time from inputs received from the Player Applications
- Receiving and scoring logs submitted from each of the Manual Loggers
- Posting the results via communication with a Scoreboard Application
- Ensuring orderly conduct of the competition including ensuring that a new contestant or manually entered log does not inadvertently zero out the log of a prior contestant.
- Rescoring all entries in case an error is found in the valid callsign checklist

Here's a screen shot of the main display on the host running in demo mode (Fig. 2). A number of players, as evidenced by their presence on the real-time scoreboard area of the display have already played and a single player (K5GA) is playing in the current session.

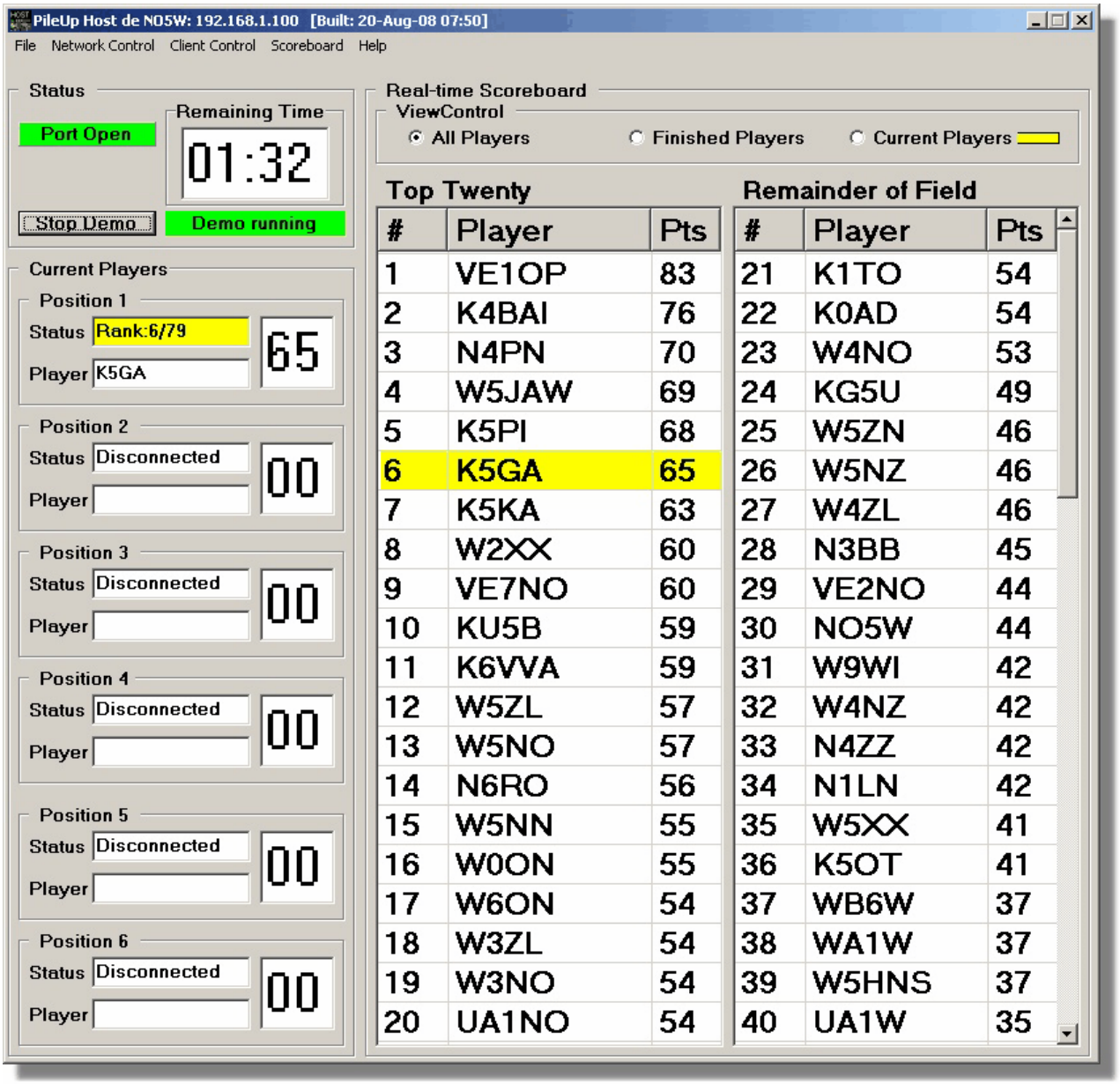


Fig. 2. Host application running demo mode (see text).

The left hand side of the display shows the players participating in the current session. The scoreboard portion of the display shows the information provided as K5GA makes his way through the test session with his score and ranking highlighted. The display shows that, with 1:32 left in the session, K5GA has 65 correct responses and is currently number 6 on the list out of 79 total players. The host screen can be used to present the scoreboard to the audience or a separate Scoreboard application that is limited to score presentation can also be used as described in a later section.

The Player Application

The participants use the following simple application to sign in and then to enter calls as they copy them from the pile up audio (Fig. 3). Players sign in by typing their call sign in the designated box and pressing the Enter key. This sends a request to sign in under a given call to the Host application which checks to verify that the call has not already been used and responds by either accepting or rejecting the call. If the call sign has already been used the host will clear the Player's Call Sign window and request another call sign be used. Once an acceptable call sign has been requested

the cursor will move to the Call Sign Entry window in preparation for the start of the session which is under the control of the Host Application. Once the session is started the player enters call signs in the Call Sign Entry window and presses the Enter key to log the call in a local file and to also send the call to the host application for grading, logging, and posting any change in that player's score on the scoreboard(s).

When the session is over the participants click on the submit button on their player displays, the host is advised that the player has requested his final results, and the player receives immediate feedback from the host regarding their results in terms of score and ranking as shown in the following screen shot of the player entry display.

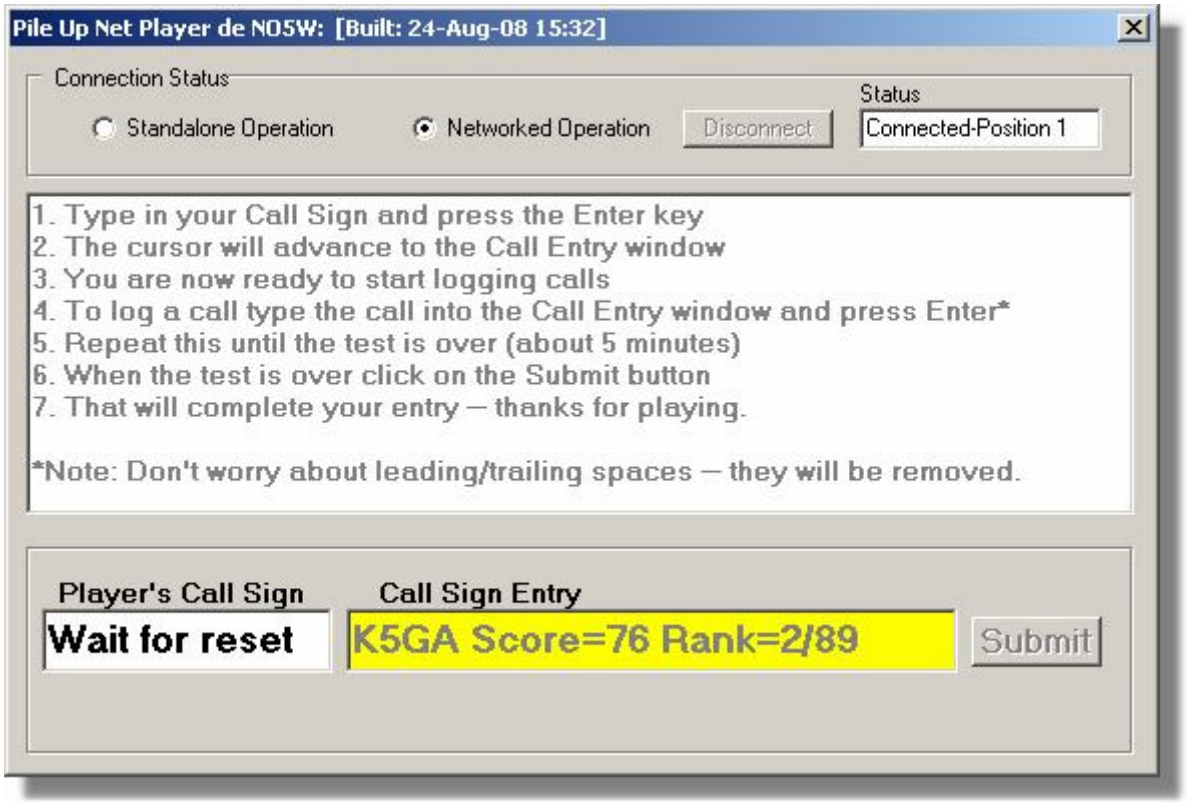


Fig. 3. Player application.

Once all of the participants have submitted their logs the administrator uses the host application to reset the system which enables each of the Player applications and the remote scoreboards for the next session.

The Manual Logger

There will undoubtedly be some players that prefer to log using pen and paper rather than computer keyboard. A manual logging application is included in order to accommodate these players. At the end of each session, any paper logs are collected and made available to assistants for entry using the Manual Logger form which is similar to the above Player's entry form. After the preparer signs in he enters the Player's Call Sign and then proceeds to enter the calls from the Player's hand-written log, pressing Enter after each call sign. Once completed, the Submit button is used to send the log to the Host Application for grading and for adding the player's results to the Scoreboards. A local log is kept on the Manual Logger's machine as well as on the host machine. The system is currently sized for up to two Manual Logger positions but additional Manual Loggers can be added without difficulty.

Due to the networked setup these manual logging stations can be located remotely from the testing area if desired.

The Remote Scoreboards

The Scoreboard client is simply in charge of presenting the scores on a form similar to the scoreboard portion of the Host Application but without the menu items for controlling the competition (Fig 4). It can be used to drive a projected or large screen display for viewing by the audience in an area separate from the testing area. In addition to the view shown below there is a statistical view showing the scores grouped in percentile ranges. A future enhancement would be to use the remote scoreboard as a gateway for publishing the scores in real-time on the internet.

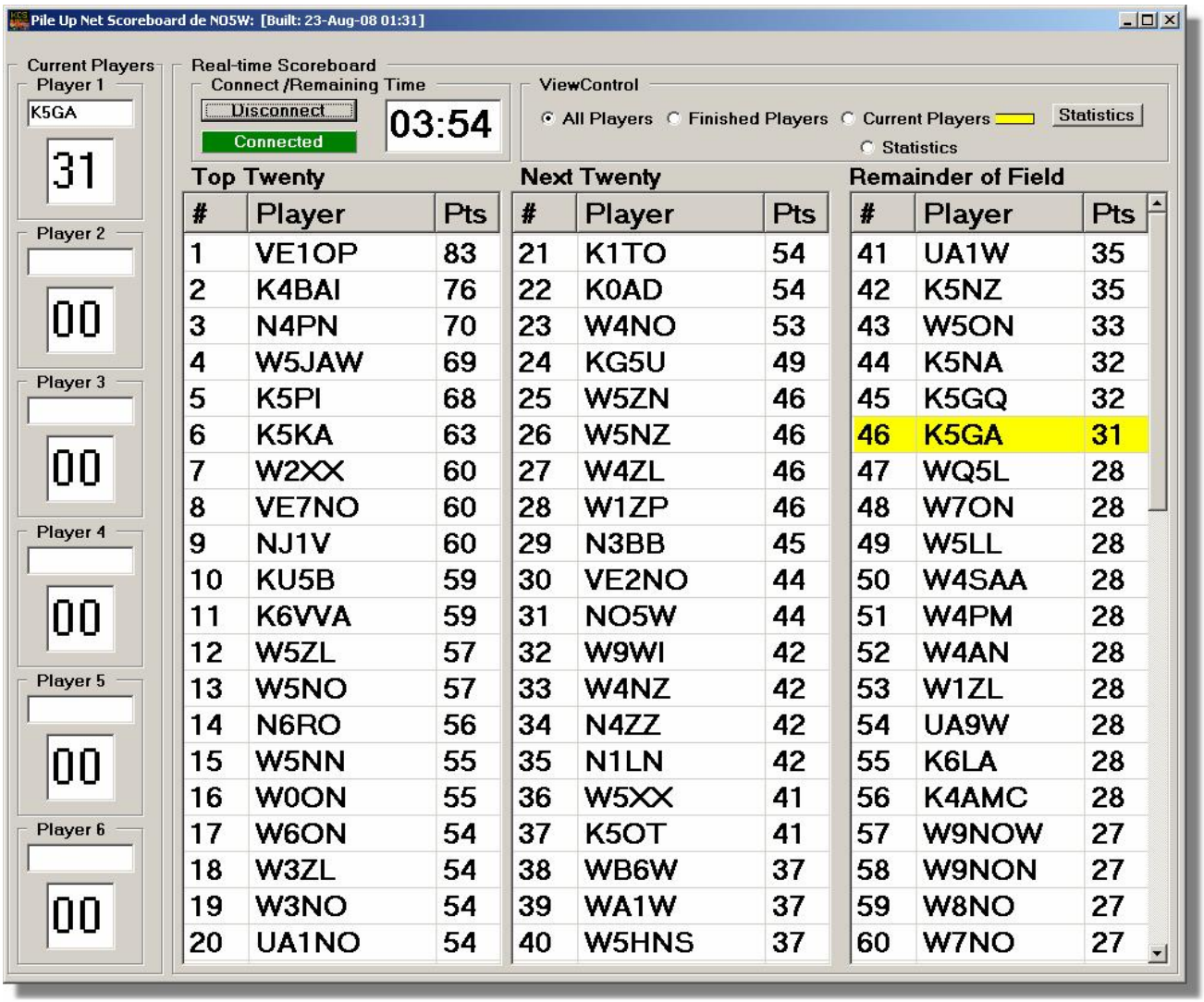


Fig. 4. Scoreboard.

Technical Requirements

Each of the applications is deployed via its own setup file. Installation is a simple matter of running the appropriate setup on each of the machines to be used in the competition. A manual is available that provides detailed procedures for setting up the system and for running the system in both the demonstration and competition modes.

The system is designed to run on WinTel machines preferably on WinXP. With the exception of the Host the applications should run fine on almost any level machine as long as it has Ethernet capability. The Host application has the most to do and should be installed on the most capable machine. Any Pentium 4 class machine with Ethernet capability should work just fine. The other hardware components required are a simple wireless hub, optionally a digital projector for projecting the scoreboard or a flat panel display, and the necessary hardware for playing the pile up audio. Use of a wireless hub and machines with wireless Ethernet capability will, of course, minimize the amount of cabling required with the only cabling being that required to power the machines.

The number of machines required to implement this system will depend on the number of Manual Logger machines, the number of Player machines, and the number of Scoreboards to be used. For example a system consisting of a single Manual Logger, six Player machines, and a single remote scoreboard would require nine machines. Assuming five minute sessions with one minute for changeover and that most players use computer logging, such a system could handle approximately sixty competitors in an hour plus about ten pen and paper competitors assuming manual entry of each log requires about the same amount of time as a session.

Software Availability

Those interested in using this system to sponsor pile up competitions should contact the author at his email address no5w@consolidated.net for the latest version of the software. Of course it is assumed that the sponsoring group, not NO5W, will provide the necessary hardware as well as the competition tape and checklist file and will perform other administrative duties related to the competition. Depending on the event NO5W can be available to provide support either on-site or remotely, as necessary.

Jari Jokiniemi
oh3bu@sral.fi

Remote fairness

Life is unfair. It most certainly is. By far, the greatest unfairness of them all is that some people live longer than some others. We can then argue about unfairness number two. I can't really say, if someone being rich while someone is poor, ranks as number two or three or whatever, but I am pretty sure that there are many people who feel that we are talking about one of the top issues. If you disagree with these statements, please don't say it to me. Please don't tell me anything about hard work and talent, or equal chances to start own business, or whatever topic is hot in economics at the moment. I have heard pretty much of it and much of it is technically speaking true in certain contexts. It's just not very interesting when the really big things of life are as they are. Go and talk to a Sub-Saharan mother who has lost her child because she can't afford to medication that only costs two euros.

Remote IC706 under construction (OH3BU)

Having said that, to create some perspective, we can now move on to fairness in contesting. Contesting is all about being fair. You set up a fair environment or at least a reasonably fair environment, you compete, and someone then comes out as the best, the one to be celebrated, the winner. There are rules that are to be obeyed, because not obeying the rules creates advantages that people consider unfair. Most of the contests have split participants into different categories, because it is a generally accepted principle that one should compete with the equals rather than just beat the defenseless. Most everyone agrees that it is not very sportsmanlike if a professional heavy-weight boxer hits a nurse who has never raised her hand against anyone. The very same logic has created different power categories as it is evident that there is a huge difference in capabilities between 1.5

kW and 5 W. The art of radio has it's own peculiarities, and these are also shown in contest rules. Propagation is very different in different parts of the world, so most contests split the world into different regions that are listed separately. That is why we have North American winners and European winners and not only the world winner. Due to some historical power games we have Assisted category in many contests while the use of spotting networks is prohibited in most of the classes in most of the contests. And then there is the ever-lasting dispute about single operator running two radios. While it has been statistically proven that this indeed creates a measurable advantage that is exactly why people do it, there has been no consensus if the advantage is fair or unfair and why exactly so.

Now comes the latest dispute: remote operation. First of all, there are people who wonder if it is against the contest rules or not. Ok, that is a reasonable question and an amazingly easy one to answer. Just read the rules. Do they say anything about remote operating? I thought so. Not a word, not in any of the big contests. Yeah, you have all the 500 meter rules and stuff like that. If you think that these in any way forbid remote operating then you must be thinking that an operator is part of a station. Oh, that would be news to me. I have no doubts about this one. According to the current contest rules it is self-evident to me that remote operating is allowed at least in all major contests. It is another matter if remote radios are allowed in every jurisdiction. Where I live, it is allowed. If you have any doubts, please feel free to consult your lawyer.

Even as remote contesting is legal and according to the contest rules in most cases, there is, however one problem. This is in fact a bad one. The current DXCC rules, for some reason, require the remote operator to be in the same DXCC entity as the station in question. This is a major problem for dxers because the contacts you make so that you are in one DXCC entity while your station is in another one, are ok for the contest but are not ok for DXCC purposes. If dxers and contesters were two totally separate groups this would be a no-brainer, but as we know, quite many people belong to both groups. So, your great PJ4 station may be perfectly fine for remote contesting, but if you operate it from mainland US you create some trouble to your dxer friends. This is not good but that's how it is at the moment. I don't know why exactly the DXCC program has it's limitations. I never got a good reply when I asked, though we did exchange quite a few emails, but I can think of a few issues that are basically related to if a particular operation is legal or not. Some of the more rare places e.g. have limitations not only related to getting a radio license but also related to even stepping ones foot on the soil. If being there is illegal then it is somewhat difficult to build a legal remote station, too. Some jurisdictions don't allow remote stations, and to know all these may be somewhat difficult for the DXCC desk. So perhaps the current limitation is there just for the sake of its simplicity. Please advice if you know better. Whatever the reasons may be, the unfortunate consequence of this simplistic solution is that the big countries are treated much more favorably than the small ones. A a guy in US east coast can operate his remote station in US west coast and be counted for DXCC. The distance between these is many thousands kilometers, and this covers most of the use cases of the ordinary operators, but it is not at all the same for Europe. For DXCC purposes, I cannot operate my Finnish station even from Sweden despite of the distance being only a few hundred kilometers.

This wouldn't need to be so. If there is a will there is a way. One could for example change the DXCC rules so that remote operation is allowed within an area where a particular license is accepted. As European countries have adopted the common CEPT licensing system this would solve it for the most Europeans. But with the current rules, a contester does wisely if he either conforms to the DXCC rules while operating remotely - or then at least clearly marks to his QSL card that he was operating his remote station from another DXCC entity, so that the other party, the dxer, knows that these contacts do not count for DXCC. I wonder if this is too much to ask. It would be better to change the DXCC rules, though.

Ok, remote contesting is perfectly legal in most cases. What then? Well, when the electronic keyers came, there were people who wanted to ban them. When the tape recorders advanced to record 48 hour straight, there were people who wanted to ban them. When the packet networks were invented, there were people who wanted to ban them. It shouldn't then surprise us that now that, as remote operating is becoming commonplace, there are people who want to ban it. The claim is that remote contesting is an unfair advantage. To have an unfair advantage one should, first of all, have an advantage, and secondly, it should be an unfair one.

I wonder if any of the opposers has actually operated remotely, ever. I have, so I know what I am talking about, and I know that the perceived advantage is in fact a disadvantage. First of all, sound through the internet is usually a bit delayed. That distracts the operator. It's not much of a problem when you are chasing dx, but running a pileup is clearly more difficult than when you are by your radio. Please, don't mumble anything about a possibility to setup a VHF link. If you are able to make one, then you don't really want to contest remotely, you can so easily just drive to your station. You don’t bother to take the effort to build a remote station if your radios are just 15 minutes drive away from your home. Secondly, you can never be sure that everything works as you think. Your internet connection breaks occasionally, so there you are with your fancy computers, the battle is on and you are out of the game. Your hamshack may be in fire and you only see the symptoms when suddenly your station stops working. Not that you could do anything to it, anyway, you are not there with your fire extinguisher, you see. I am not making this up. I know of two occasions when antenna problems have caused sparks that literally would have burned down the whole station and some trees in addition, had the operator not seen through the window that something is wrong. And thirdly, you know what, the user interface of your great remote station is going to be worse than what you are used to. You don't believe me? Just try it out. So where is the advantage, I wonder? There is nothing inherent in operating remotely that gives you an advantage, quite the contrary; you are handicapped by a few bad features of a remote station.

Ok, it is not this simple. Of course there is something superior in remote stations, otherwise people would not build those. The big thing is that a remote location gives you a possibility to build a big station, and operating it remotely gives you freedom to not travel there when you want to be on the air. I haven't seen big stations themselves being criticized too much. Hey, practically all the winning scores come from big stations. These are the ones we see on the covers of ham radio magazines. The proud owners make highly appraised speeches in club meetings. A big station definitely

gives an advantage, so we should ask if it is unfair that someone has a big station and someone else does not. Whenever you make this question, the big guns always begin to talk about how much work and money they have invested to their stations, and how the whiners should just get a job and build big stations themselves, too. Obviously, at least the big guns see no problem in being stronger than the rest. If we accept that it is ok to spend a lot of money and to build big stations, and I haven't seen much discussion against it, then we must recognize that to build a big remote station is all the same work than to build an ordinary big station - plus even some more. Please also note, that many remote stations are, in fact, small ones. Quite many hams especially in the USA are not allowed to have any antennas whatsoever in their home properties. The disease is called Conditions Covenants and Restrictions (CCR) and the symptoms are seen in high legal fees and hams dropping out of our beloved bands. To deny remote stations from these CCR limited people would be really, really unfair.

Now you may, of course, come back to the legal issues and say that if remote operating is not legal everywhere, then it is unfair that someone can do it and someone else cannot. I don't accept this argument. 1.5 kW is not legal in many countries. UK for example has 400 W limit, and there are loads of contesters in UK. Bhutan's limit is 100 W. We cannot do much to harmonize all radio regulations everywhere in the world, but we can get rid of our self-imposed limits that serve no higher purpose.

So it all pretty much boils down to the possibility to avoid traveling when you want to operate your station. I fail to see anything wrong with this. Quite the contrary. The less you drive your car, the better. When you drive or fly to your big station out in the woods or in a Caribbean island, you are not only spending your hard-earned money. You are spending oil, and it is a bit unfortunate fact that there is a limited supply of it. In addition, you are polluting the air. I can't even spell the names of all the bad things that come out of the exhaust pipe, but remember that some of them cause cancer. Considering this, can anyone claim that reducing unnecessary traveling is a bad idea? I am a great fan of remote work; I have been doing it for years to earn my living. I would love to see the very same good thing happen in contesting, too. But the best part is still to come. While operating remotely, you are not only saving your money, you are not only saving the environment - you are also saving the most important resource you have - you are saving your time. The clock is ticking. Any moment you waste is gone forever. As contester, you very likely want to spend your time wisely. You should allow others to do the same. Anything else is bluntly unfair.

Imagine all the trouble and uncomfort while flying from the west coast, where you work, to the east coast, where your home farm and your great antennas are. You have to start your journey early to make it to the beginning of the contest. You have to actually start your travel even earlier to cover unexpected delays. You arrive at your destination, you are tired and some of your luggage is lost somewhere. You feet ache because of the bad airplane seats and you are getting early symptoms of flu because someone close to you your seat was sick. In addition, your ears are humming already before the contest because the plane was noisy. In comparison, imagine now that instead of the previous scenario, there is no jetlag, you are fresh and calm, there are no disturbing noises anywhere, you just press the buttons of your computer and begin operating the

contest at your convenience. Sounds like the preferred option, doesn't it. Oh, you are saying that this is not the way the heroes are made. It is too easy. You need to overcome trouble and war, you have to do extraordinary things, you have to show what kind of a man you really are. We want the best of the best of the best, not some appliance operator. Well, I am not impressed. I couldn't possibly care less how much work you have invested in this hobby. I don't care at all how many years you have built your station. I don't even care if you have built your amplifier tubes by your own bare hands. The rules do have any multiplier factor based on hardships you endure. It is the score that counts.

When all facts are in favor of change, the last resort of resistance is often found in our beloved traditions. Whatever they might be. Having read all our national ham radio magazines since the first issue of January 1950, I have come to the conclusion that at least the following traditions have changed considerably in about half a century: using war surplus equipment, building capacitors oneself, using straight keys, the readability reporting system, AM modulation, wood towers, tower laws, power limits (can you imagine that the limit has been as low as 50 W here earlier), amateur radio bands (once 15 m was a new band, how would you think about that now), three-minute overs while on phone (these were considered short, yeah), understanding radio propagation, the ball point pen, computers, TVI and BCI (don't say to me that we have any real problems any more), CW versus phone (this particular dispute was going on already 1950, and the power between the camps has been shifting ever since), other services fighting for our bands, the advancement of transistors (could you now believe that this particular component was much overlooked when it appeared), the internet, the IOTA program, getting women to our hobby, etc. The list continues forever. The point is that whenever the technology or society has changed in the past, so has changed amateur radio, too. And this is going to happen again with remote radios. You can be in favor of it, or you can oppose it. Your opinion may count and it may advance development or it may choke our hobby to its knees. The choice is yours. And coming back to the theme of this article, how fair is it that those who have been around 40 or 50 years would dictate the future of our hobby? It has always been the young ones who make the future. We need to get more young ones to our hobby.

When all claims about unfair advantages have been ripped to pieces and the dead horse has been beaten again and again, the true reasoning comes clear. It is evident, though not easily admitted, that some people oppose remote contesting simply and only because they just don't like it. Ok, if you don't like remote contesting, don't do it. But to be fair, don't try to deny it from someone else.

HUMOR

Pikku-Kalle ja Pikku-Ville päättivät ruveta hamsseiksi ja menivät noviisiluokan kokeeseen. Molemmilta koe sujui ihan mukavasti.

Tulosten valmistuttua ilmeni, että molempien koe oli hylätty VILPIN vuoksi... Pojat menivät närkästyneinä selvittämään mistä moinen johtui.

Tenttijä: Niin pojat, eka kysymyshän oli "montako hilaa on triodissa". Pojat yhteen ääneen: "Yksi, senhän me tiesimme!"

Tenttijä: "Toinen kysymys oli Minkä maan tunnus on F?"

"No tietysti Ranskan! mitä sä ukko oiken piruilet?..."

Tenttijä: "So so pojat! Kolmas kysymyshän oli Mitä tarkoittaa DXCC. Sinä, Kalle, vastasit siihen "En tiedä". Ja sinä, Ville, vastasit "En minäkään""

WPX CW 2008 - Solo exercise on 10m HP / OHØJ

We have learned to read about looong and thorough preparations prior to any contest. Lengthy simulation of propagation patterns, working strategy, sleep/work time plan and balanced cuisine should be a standard operating procedure in preparation for a serious contesting weekend, too.

Here is my contribution to this hobby close to science.

Well, like Monthy Python says, “And now something totally different”. My WPX CW 2008 weekend started after very busy days at work. So, I packed my car on Friday at 0100z after a 4-hour sleep to catch the 0600z ferry from Turku to Mariehamn, capital of Åland Islands. Did I forget something? Noup (I still cannot understand why not). Rig, linear, laptop, USB interface, cables etc.

I was online the whole ferry trip up to the arrival at 1100z to run the never ending email pile up + to have one teleconference. What a relaxing boat trip while my fellow passengers enjoyed lunch and wine.

Turku harbour 23.5.2008 0730 local time.

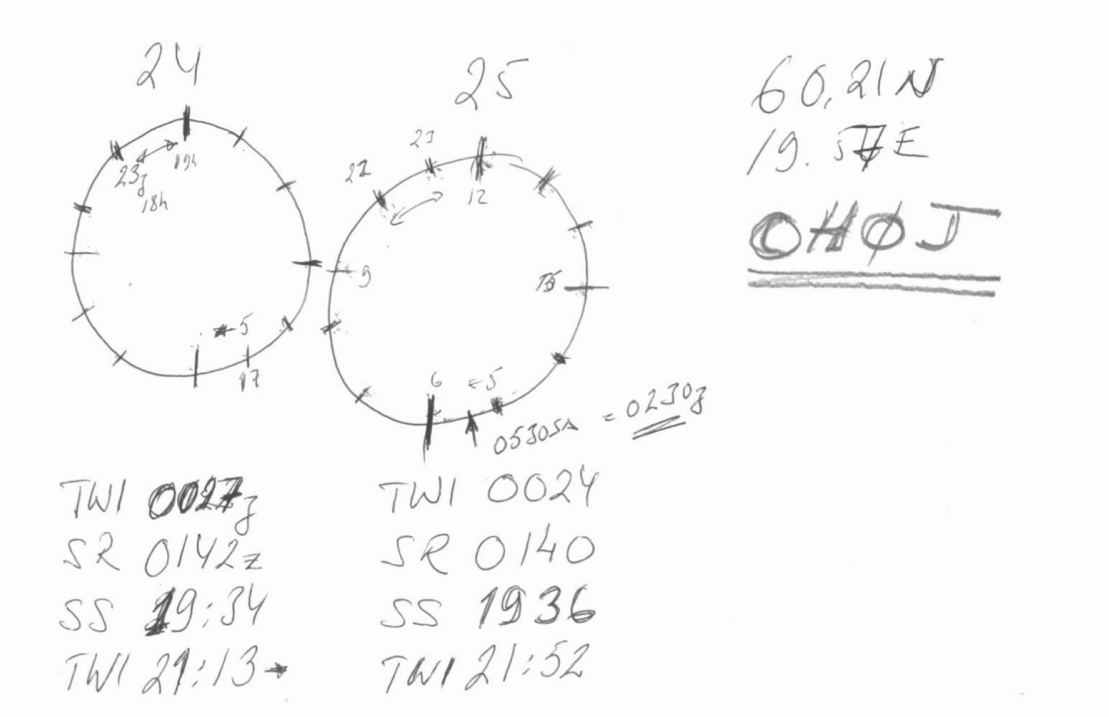
One pit stop at Godby village. The local supermarket was my source of the luxury contest cuisine: apples, pure juice, soda water, dark bread, cheese and micro ready made fish and chicken soup – and of course six pack of the famous Åland beer, “Stallhagen”!

I arrived ca. 12.30z at Tjudö (OHØZ / JP90XI), unpacked the gear and checked that the installation was a ok. Well it wasn’t – the rotator display could not figure out where North was, so I made “check-turn-check” comparison - chart for true bearing vs. displayed direction.

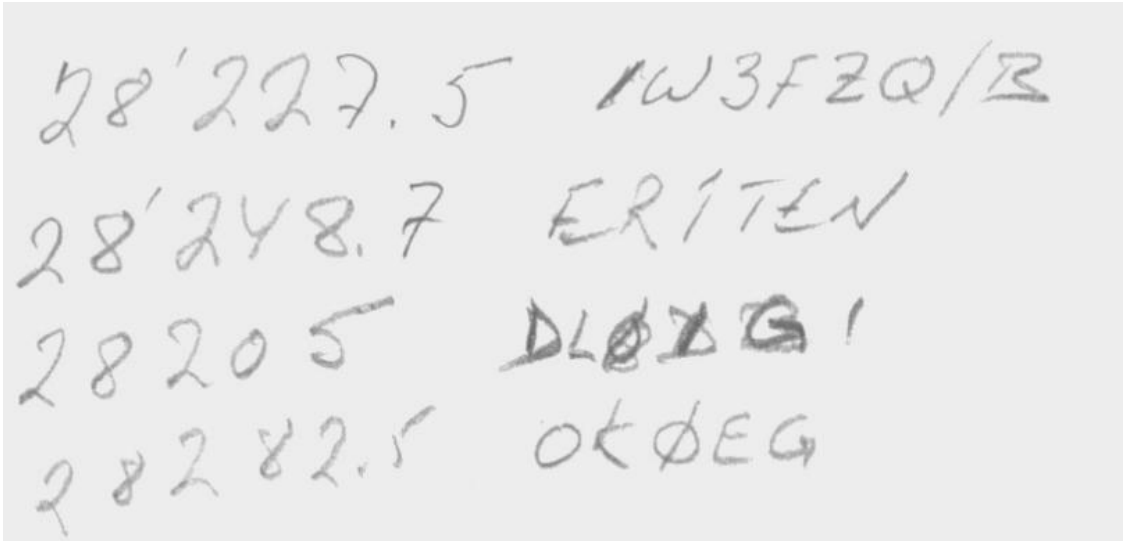
Then new firmware for microHam box without a crash (lucky boy). Latest sw update for Win-Test without problems (lucky boy agn). I started to feel, that this was my day!

But, ooops - I forgot to do the operating plan and rough propagation guestimates back home. Quick look to

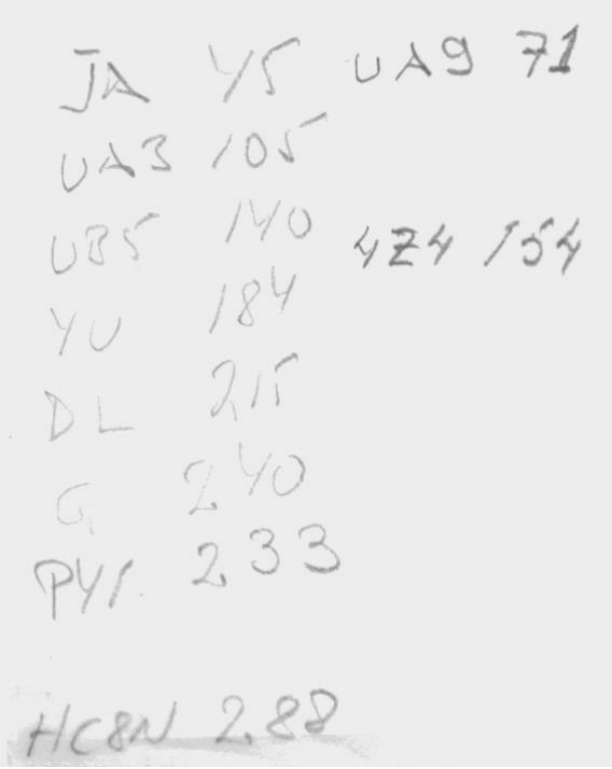
Sunrise/Sunset tables, solar weather and some polling about recent QSO patterns via DX Summit “custom spots” archive http://www.dxsummit.fi/ helped me to produce in 10 minutes my highly sophisticated tables (see below) and “the multiplier hunters’ direction chart”. N.b. both tools have a special “no batteries included” -feature.



“QRV Table”



“Beacon Table”



"Direction Chart for JP90XI"

Well, at 1400z I considered all done and concentrated to finish a story about renewable energy sources to a local newspaper where I frequently irritate the readers with my columns. Then, to kill time, I checked all the towers and antennas to find out that 80m dipole had taken a hit. The twilight time started when I soldered the dipole connectors out on a cliff and it was time to change from soldering iron to camera. What a beautiful, crystal clear spring sunset! I spent good one hour to collect changing colors of the nature. Unforgettable moments.

The station manager, wild hen capercaillie, was nesting only four meters from the cabin door and gave a real show every time I passed her nest. Hopefully the fledglings survived the prey of local foxes and raccoon dogs during the summer months.

OHØZ at sunset, 23.5.2008, 10m tower on the right.

After a long sleep (beauty of 10m contesting) I went on air at 0100z. First I forgot to open the score, prefix and rate windows in Win-Test and after a while I

found it to be a vice choice. Strategy from the first hour was to work all you can hear and to be patient to pick all prefixes “agn agn”.
It really paid off. With the excellent, narrow beam of the 4 over 4 10m “tower C” and fast rotator to assist, I managed to be “all around” with only one tower. At 0630z I figured out, that I could run tower A with tower C through splitter and that helped to sustain a decent rate 60…70 Qs/h. Thanks for reminding Juha/OH1JT!

Some picks from the first day: 0310z JA6WIF 335 – no QSO, 0340z BV2TB 334 – no QSO, RX9SA 0322z loud, NR4M 1215z -1220z we tried hard – no QSO, sorry Steve.

I learned to be attractive and beautiful, since my fellow contesters tend to park +/- 100Hz from my pile up. Do you recognize yourself, dear reader? Never mind, but I keep record of these things for my ham radio biography, hi.

The band dried out ca. 2000z, so I went QRT to learn after the contest that HC8N would have been workable right after that. My apologies Steve & the team.

Second day started 0230z with a UA9/UA0 run and Eu opened already 0500z – promising.

The Eu pile was running nicely and I hit 100+ Qs/h rate 0700z … 0830z. Then the number of stns available just dropped and the rate was gliding very linear down to 30…40 Qs/h. Between 1350z … 1530z the condx went down to “normal OH” – aurora S4-S5 and fast fading. However, I kept my QRV/QRT plan since I would miss anyway the last 2 hours of the contest due to the ferry schedule.

After the aurora, lots of dupes started to poll me. Well, that was a good sign since for the buys with only GP or dipole I was probably the only signal on the band from the north. I heard you guys well and did not use any pre-amp during the whole contest. After 2000z, band became quiet. I heard OJØB 2040z 559 for 3 seconds – no QSO with Pertti. So, I started gradually to pack and hit “CL” at 2157z to catch the 0030z ferry back to OH1.

Score? 1846 Qs / 22 Dupes / 590 Pfx / 2086 Points / 1.230.740 raw total.

Equipment: Icom ProIII, OMF PA, microHAM, Win-Test, 4 over 4 & 4 over 4.

What to take home?

Plus: Focus 100% on operation. No background QRM as in M/S. No extra information visible; running score, QSO rate, multiplier count etc. to develop “mental barriers”.

Minus: I pushed my luck for not preparing fundamental things (yes, I was lucky). One hour back home to do proper propagation analysis would have pull couple of extra (and obvious) multipliers to the log.

Big hand to Radio Sporting Team OHØZ http://www.qsl.net/oh0z/ for giving me a chance to try my limits.

CUL in contests!

Jouko / OH1RX

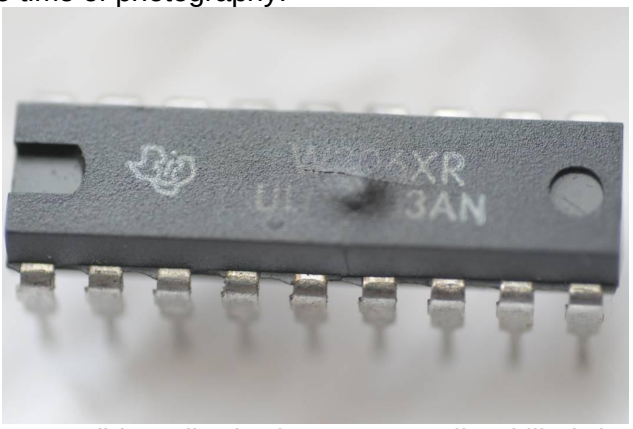
OG8X
CQ WPX CW 2008 M2
Photos OH7EA, OH1WZ.
Text Ilkka, OH1WZ.

The SOAB SO2R –setup in Arkala, constantly under development, was put to a beta test in May to map all possible ”teething problems” and weak points at the station. A test crew of eight participated the WPX CW contest in the multi-2 category. This is a short description/travelog of the event as I experienced it.

The station consists of many working and tight parts, hardware and software. Much of the antenna selection / control units were set up the previous week, including the darker hours. This is what we guest operators noted as we arrived on the site late Friday evening from Helsinki, 600 km away. The assembly was still ongoing when the contest started as control unit boxes, towers, relays, cables etc. were diagnosed, bypassed, and/or replaced.

Sunset in Arkala 65°11’N, 26°14’E at 20 UTC or 23 local DST. May 23, 2008. Assemblers were working on the setup at the time of photography.

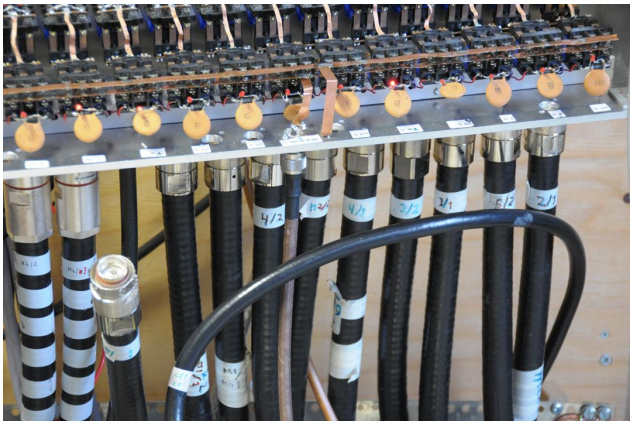
Because of the troubles, the station or one of the two transmitters was QRT at times at the start, and the first hour resulted in only 100 QSOs. Veijo, OH6KN and Toni OH2UA were solving technical issues that kept coming at every turn. After 20 minutes, there were 10 QSOs in the log and nearly as many malfunctioning boxes or operations.



A possible spike in the 220 VAC line killed the antenna control unit 10 minutes to the contest.

Myself, I arrived at the station, the front line from the officer headquarters, or “Arkala Hilton”, late on Saturday morning. A quick interview revealed that it had been a busy night for those at the front.

Tired, Veijo, OH6KN photographed here Saturday morning, when he had managed to get and keep both stations on the air.



View in front of Veijo. Some of the antenna cables had loose connections, somewhere, and this caused obscurities at the station.

What is called “the upper 80-m 2-el yagi”. In WPX CW the sun is only 4 degrees below the horizon, when it is darkest. Thus, 80 meters and even 40 meters were rather marginal. Not to mention 160 m.

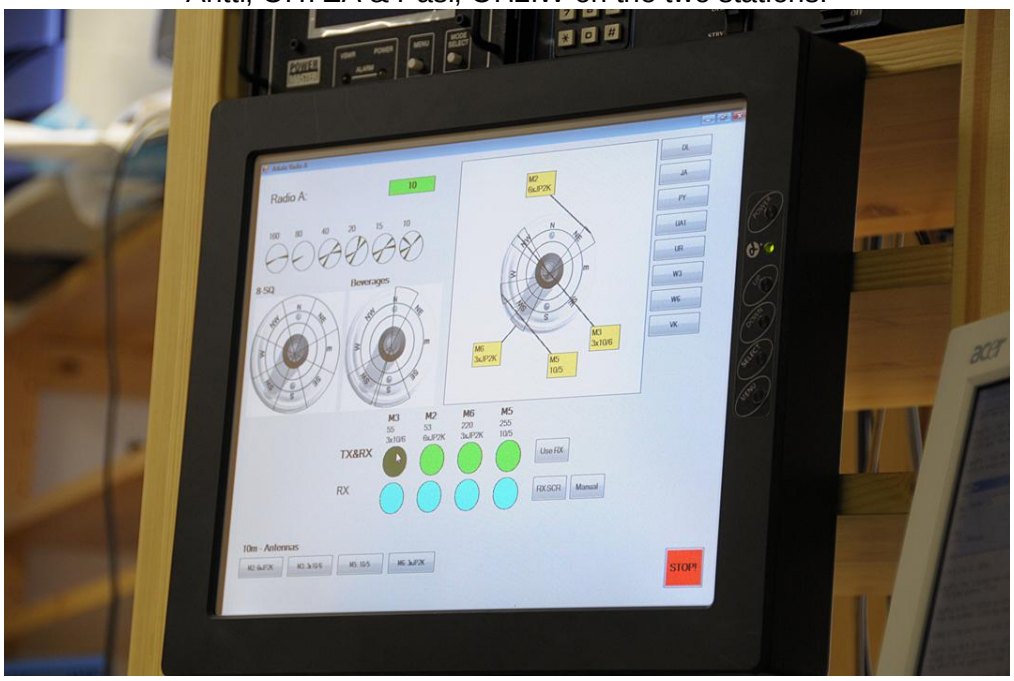
On Saturday the operation continued with a “temporary fix”. Even the RX-monitoring station was occupied, although listening on the bands wasn’t so effective using a 12-m-high 2-el tribander, without BPFs. “OG8X” was everywhere on the bands on this RX. Still some tens of mults and qsos were identified through the noise and interference. In a proper M2 setup, there could be several listening stations, I realized at some point.

Es-propagation on 21 and 28 MHz gave us some comfort on Saturday. Stations as far as in 4X, EX, 4L, 3V8, UP, VP8 (18 Z), PY and HC8 (21 Z) were worked on ten. At 20-22Z, the sporadic-E cloud was in a favorable position and produced a few 15-m qsos to PY, W4, HP, TI, YN, 6Y, FM, and XE. Another Es-cloud at 1 GMT opened a pipeline to YB, BY, HS and VK7. We heard stations from the south log JAs through the same Es-cloud, but up in Arkala, just 3 JAs were worked on 15 m later on Sunday.

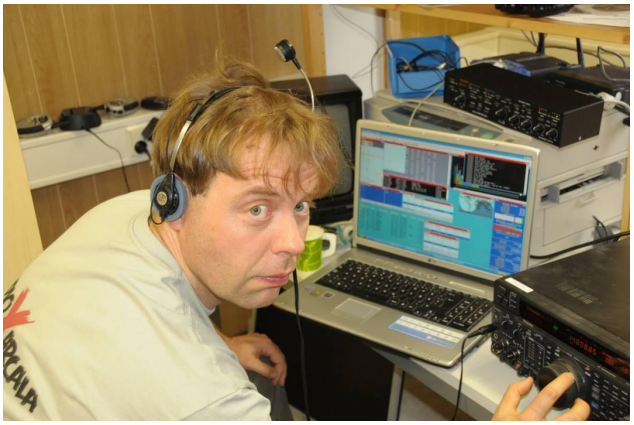
In M2 it is possible to try “odd openings”. We started to operate on 40 m early both afternoons and continued there in the morning as long as possible. NE4AA at 0415 GMT, nearly 3 hours after our sunrise, was the last W/VE stn. At 1523 UTC, ZL2IFB and JR1CBC were the first DX from the east – 4.5 hours before OH8-sunset.

80 meters produced 349 QSOs. PP5EG, YC2MXV, XV9DT and ZS1JX were the best DXs. We did lots of QSO-moves to and from 40 and 80 meters. We aimed at the M2 OH-record and tried even moving QSOs.

Antti, OH7EA & Pasi, OH2IW on the two stations.



Touch screen for indicating, selecting and turning antennas (towers).



Tired OH1WZ listening for new mults and QSOs through the interference.

At 2359Z Sunday, the totals were 1152 multipliers, 5557 QSOs and 12,112,128 points, and we failed in making a new OH-record (OF6AA, PileUP! 12(1) p. 29). Many lessons were learned, and lots of changes have been made to the systems at OH8X this summer.

73 OH1WZ

OG8X was operated by OH's 1WZ, 2BH, 2IW, 2MM, 2UA, 4JFN, 6KN, 7EA and 8NC.

Multi-2 by ES9C-team @ ES5TV in WPX CW 2008 – Comparison to OG8X
Ilkka, OH1WZ, Photos Tõnu, ES2DW

Tõnno, ES5TV e-mailed me the log of ES9C. This is a report of the differences in band conditions and logs between Arkala, 65°N and Jogeva, 58°N, a distance of approximately 800 km. I do not know if it is of any interest but to the OG8X and ES9C teams, but here it is anyway:

10 m

ES9C worked 3 JAs and 1 VP9 station. Log shows QSOs to 4K, 4X, 9M6, 9V1, BY, BV, CT3, D4, EX, HS, J2, LU, PY, UA0, VU, XV, ZD7, ZP and ZS.

One LU, HC8N, 5 PY-stations and VP8NO in the OG8X log on 10 meters.

15 m

ES9C worked 34 JAs and 36 WVEs. In addition, ES9C had QSOs with 4 9M2-stations, 14 BY-stations, CO8LY, FM5LD, HC8N, 4 HL-stations, KH2, UA0S, ZD7, ZD8, ZL, and 6 ZS-stations.

3 JAs and 25 WVEs @ OG8X.

20 m

163 JAs and 765 WVEs @ ES9C.
164 JAs and 683 WVEs @ OG8X.

40 m

27 JAs and 205 WVEs @ ES9C. Last WVE station logged 0529 GMT @ ES9C (KT2Z, W7RM). First WVE station at 2140 GMT (VE1OP), giving nearly 8 hours of potential WVE-propagation.

Last 40-m WVE @ OG8X after sunrise was NE4AA at 0415 GMT and first one was VE9DX at 2248 GMT. 26 JAs and 90 WVEs in the OG8X-log.

80 m

ES9C logged 1 JA, 14 WVEs and for example 7Q7WW, FM5BH, FM5CD, HS0ZEE, LO2F, VE3DZ/VP9, XV9DT, YC2MXV, and YW7A.

OG8X worked PP5EG, XV9DT and ZS1JX.

160 m

3V8BB in the ES9C log.

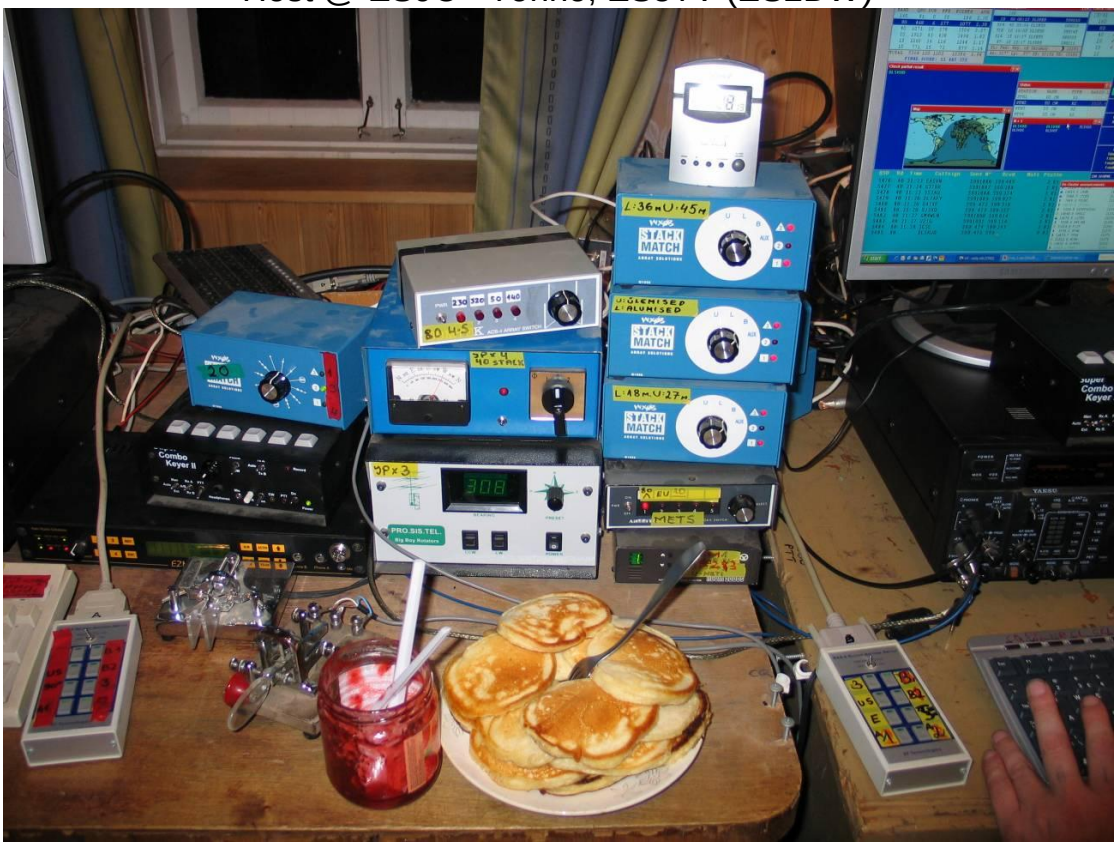
Conclusions

At the end of May, the sun sets only 4 degrees below the horizon in Arkala, which highly limits the usability of 160 and 80 meters. 40 meters is a DX band for nearly 10 hours, however, if there is any aurora, it can be difficult to get a decent signal out in WVE from Arkala. During sunspot maximum, daytime D-layer attenuation will increase and the usable time on 40 meters will shorten considerably. It leaves Arkala with just 20-10 m for DX and a few hours on 40 meters.

Under Es-conditions (Sporadic-E), like in 2008, a southern QTH is needed as Es-clouds are more frequent in the south. 10 and 15 meters can give nice DX QSOs during a May ES-opening. We experienced that stations in the south, such as in DL or F, could work into WVE, while nothing was heard in Arkala.

Finally, congratulations to the ES9C-team for an outstanding score of 19.6 million.

Host @ ES9C - Tõnno, ES5TV (ES2DW)



Jogeva ES9C-pancakes, we didn't have any at the OG8X-front, only at the Arkala Hilton, could this explain the score-difference? (ES2DW)

On 80 and 160 m ES9C used 4-square vertical arrays. (ES2DW)

CQ WPX CW 2008 ES9C Multi-2 team: Toivo, ES2RR; Tõnu, ES2DW; Tom, ES5RY; Jüri, ES5JR; Villi, ES3VI; Timo, OH1NOA (standing); Arvo, ES2MC & Tõnno, ES5TV.

ES5TV and ES5JR at the run stations. (ES2DW)

The operator had two coaches giving continuous support at ES9C? ES3VI being monitored by ES5RY and ES5JR. (ES2DW)

Call: ES9C
Station: ES5TV
Class: M/2 HP
QTH: Jogeva
Operating Time (hrs): 48

Summary:

Band	QSOs
160:	169
80:	724
40:	1506
20:	2731
15:	1423
10:	1417

Total: 7970 Prefixes = 1284 Total Score = 19,600,260

Club: Tartu Contest Team

Comments:

wow. WOW! What just happened? Several times during the contest I found myself asking myself what year is it and where are we located. Constant great rates all through the contest, though mostly EU and average QSO point 1.92. high bands were fantastic. 15m and especially 10m numbers are simply unbelievable. And in addition to EU we had quite nice Eastern propagation on both bands also. 3 JAs on 10m - certainly least expected this year!

And 20m was fabulous - open to US all through the night although not many callers. Ca 800 NA stations and 400 Asians there. We are most amazed to exceed even DR1A in QSO numbers on 20m and 10m.

I am sure 9A60A and OM guys (and some others) also broke the current 17.2 mio EU record. Look forward to see their results.

Also extreme highlight was that the station performed 100%. No malfunctions whatsoever although things got ready 00:02 UTC as always and we started a few minutes late. It was probably the most fluent and effective contest so far from my station and years of experimenting and building starts to pay off.

Lowlight was 322 dupe contacts. We were spotted 7 times as EI9C and it always resulted in big gun pileups. Not many are listening those days:) I guess we could submit our log as EI9C and still get a very good score:)

It was nice to have Timo, OH1NOA with us again after a while and also bulk of the best ES ops were present to take the most out of station and propagation. ES2DW was constantly cooking and overfeeding us.

Have a nice summer es 73
Tonno ES5TV ES9C

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CQ WPX

If anyone wants their log checking report from the 2007 CQ WPX Contests, they are welcome to request it by email to me at k5zd@cqwpx.com. Please specify the call you used and the mode. The 2008 log check reports will be available after the results are published early next year.

Randy Thompson, K5ZD
Director - CQ WPX Contest
email: k5zd@cqwpx.com
web: www.cqwpx.com

BREAKING NEWS (via OH2BH)

Rare one from the odd direction....taking notes on your signals! Gentlemen, it will be interesting to see whether your F/B is poor enough to recognize Mike when he will call you on 20M while your beam is either to USA or to Far East:

MIKE, VP8NO WRITES:

Many thanks for the info. For the past couple of years I've made an effort to hand out VP8, Falklands in the SAC, usually CW.

Will mark the calendar 20/21 and 27/28 Sep. The rest is up to conditions!

My station is K3, Acom 1000, OB9-5 at 14 metres 50 metres back from the sea and a 40m vertical.

Will do my best with the notes and let you guys review how you sounded here in Falklands. I will see if I can get Bob VP8LP interested in the phone contest. He is currently ZD8LP but returns in time. His QTH about 50m higher than me gives him about 2 S-points advantage over me when the bands are in poor shape.

Regards,
Mike VP8NO

OVER-ENGINEERING:

OH2RA/OG2A 49 m maston jalka. Malli tukeva, kiinteän osan paino 2500 kg. Masto nousee 10.9.2008 alkaen: 4 x JP2000. 73 Markku.

IARU REGION 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hilkka & Olli kuokkavieraina IARU Region 2:n "Executive Comitee:n" illallisella hotelli El Panama:ssa 28.8.2008. Darío Jurado, HP1DJ; Reinaldo "Ron" Szama,LU2AH; Reinaldo "Reiska" Leandro, YV5AMH; Hilkka, XYL HP1WW; Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK & Olli, HP1WW.

CCF LITTLE PISTOLS

Juha, OH1JT, a CQ WW SOAB world-winner, supervises antenna erection at OH2XX in June 2008. Kari, OH2XX/OH6LK runs now a 12+4-meter tower with a 3-el stepper and a 40-m yagi by Suomen antenni, which are turned by a BigBoy PST-61D rotator. An OCF dipole is operated on 80/160 m.

TC4X WAE CW 2008

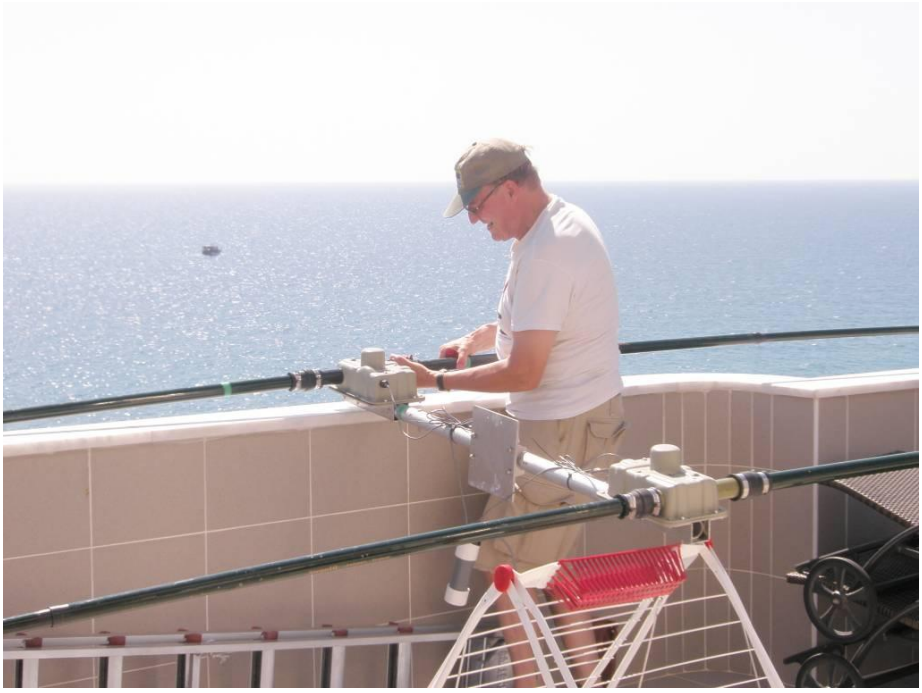
Pertti, OH2PM antaa QTC:ta ja ottaa TC4X-mukia. Tekstiilien värit on valittu hyvää suoritusta myötäileviksi. Valkoinen paitoihin, kun naapurivaltiossa sodittiin. 4L0A oli kuitenkin saanut vapaata rintamalta ja oli eräs Pertin vakava uhkaaja (OH2BH).

Kisajoukkueen lääkäri, Tevfik, TA1HZ kyykytetty ja OH-ukkelit Juha, OH8NC ja Martti, OH2BH. Pukilla Pertti, OH2PM liimaa persuksissaan – lääkärin määräyksestä ja turkkilaisella reseptillä (OH2BH).

Mahmudien maa
Martti, OH2BH & Pertti, OH2PM

Tapahtui kerran Mahmudien maassa ja Alanyan maakunnassa - missä kaikki (rigit) oli verolle pantava.

Parempaakin QTH:ta etsittiin, mutta happi loppui ja kuumuus ajoi varjoon puun alle. Turkissa voi hiihtääkin (kuvan hiistohissi 2400 m a.s.l) eli suksipussi antennien kuljetuksessa ei ole tuulesta temmattu vaihtoehto. Tuulta ei kuitenkaan ollut ja pussitkin oli vain silmien alla.



2 elementtinen Stepperikin vie kisojen voittoon, kun on asennettuna oikealle katolle.

Nosto voi alkaa pala palalta. Niin on tukeva jalkarakenne, että seisoo masto ilman haruksiakin jos ei tuule. Ei kuitenkaan sovellu stakatuille biimeille.

WAEDC TC4X
2160 net QSOs,
546 multipliers,
2.23 M score
.
Yli 200 QTC-sanomaa jäi antamatta, esim. OH-asemista vain OH2MM otti QTC:t vastaan. Pertti.

Kyllä tälläkin metoodilla antennin saa korkealle...ja kusoa pulkkaan. Ainakin kisan voiton verran. (Katon kulmassa ollut R7 puuttuu kuvasta). Congrats, Pertti, OH2PM.

MENNÄÄN NIIN PITKÄLLE KUIN MISSÄ PIPPURI KASVAA – TC4X IT HAPPENED AT THE DISTANCE WHERE TURKISH PEPPER GROW

Martti Laine, OH2BH

Juha, OH8NC kutsui kourallisen ikääntyneitä kontestereita hasiendalleen Turkkiin miettimään olisiko Aasian Turkki hyvä kontesti-QTH. Asialla on laajempaakin merkitystä, sillä QTH sijaitsee Alanyan kaupungin tienoilla – tosiaan Aasian Turkissa – niin lähellä, että Euroopan 3-pisteen valot näkyy. Lisäksi Alanyaan on hyvät ja halvat yhteydet Suomesta – lentopäivinä tiistai ja perjantai. Tämä reissu ajoitettiin Euroopan (WAEDC) CW-kisan aikaan.

Koska QTH oli ”pent-house” kaupungissa oli asianmukaiset tavarat varattava mukaan. Con, DF4SA (Spider-beams) myy hienoja alumiinisia teleskooppimastoja ja niihin liittyviä ”kattojalkoja” - mastot venyvät aina 18 metriin asti – ja sellaisesta laitettiin matkaan 10 metriä. 2-L Stepperi, Yaesu 1000MP Field, Alpha 91B ja asema oli kuudessa laatikossa – painoa 120kg. Tavara laitettiin matkaan UPS:n kuriirilla, jotta se olisi varmasti ajoissa perillä ilman tullivaikeuksia – oltiinhan menossa EU:n ulkopuolelle.

Projektiin oli kiinnitetty myös Tefvik, TA1HZ hoitamaan lupa-asioita. Kilpailuihin ja muihin erikoistapahtumiin voi Turkissa anoa TC tunnuksia. Meillä Alanyan 4-piirin erikoistunnuksena oli TC4X. Lupahommat ottavat oman aikansa ja on asialle eduksi, jos mukana on turkkilainen ja turkinkieltä.

Jo etukäteen saimme tiedon, että radiolupa ei sinänsä oikeuta radiolähettimien tuontiin Turkkiin - tarvitaan myös paikallisten televiranomaisten erityislupa, joka hyväksyy, että laite täyttää EU-tyyppihyväksynnän, vaikka ei EU:ssa ollakaan? Tämä proseduuri kestää useita viikkoja. Myös Turkin tulli ilmoitti Istanbulista – 1000 kilometrin päässä määränpäästämme - että yksityisellä henkilöllä ei voi olla yli sataa kiloa radiotavaraa. Oltiin matkalla Turkkiin – Mahmudin ja Ahmedin maahan, jossa lennetään matolla ja syödään Kebab-lihaa. Byrokratia ja ”lahjarahat” ovat osa yhteiskuntaa ja jokainen haluaa omansa.

Lopputulos oli, että radiolähetin palautettiin Suomeen ja muista tavaroista maksettiin huikea 100 prosentin tuontitulli. Tavaroita pidättelivät tullivarastossa – jokaisesta päivästä saivat vielä veloitettua 200 Euroa. Onneksi kukaan ei ollut nk. lannistuvaa laatua – kaivoivat vain kuvettaan ja radioksi vietiin Suomesta uusi kalsareihin naamioitu Yaesu. Aurinkoturisteja ei tarkasteta ja niin meillä oli radio Turkissa. Muut tavarat tekivät matkaa Istanbulista ja saapuivat torstaina ennen kilpailuviikonloppua.

Lämmintäkin oli – antennit nousivat virkistävässä 42 asteen lämmössä – onneksi sisällä kuitenkin pyöri ilmankylmennyslaitteet – sinne oli hyvä mennä paita märkänä palelemaan. Kun pakastimessa nukkumisesta ei ollut kokemusta, muodostuikin se erääksi opinkappaleeksi Suomessa normaalisti sadetta piteleville radiomiehille.

Operaattorit putoilivat sängystä – lakanat olivat liian liukkaat hyville yöunille!

Myös teknisellä puolella koettiin takaiskuja – katolla olevan porealtaan ohjauslaitteet menivät jotenkin RF:stä sekaisin ja koko komeus värähteli ja ”puhui” RF:n tahdissa kuin XXXL-kokoinen kaiutin. Tähän häiriöön ei ferriitit auta, mutta 100 litraa vettä pönttöön ja johan on häiriöt poissa. Tuskaa aiheutti myös 80M antenni –

korkeasta talosta ei ollut mahdollista vetää lankoja kadulle ja vastaavasti katto oli liian pieni kunnon 80M antennille. Uusi ”zig-zag” lanka-antenni design näki päivänvalon ja TC4X tunnus ja ”valot Euroopan” auttoivat selkeästi sen ”vetomitoissa”.

Strategia oli myös selkeä – Pertti, OH2PM workkii WAE-kisan ja muut uivat ja syövät Kebab-lihaa ja varmistavat, että jaguzzissa on vettä. Myös Juhan hasiendalla vietettiin reippaat grilli-juhlat ja puhuttiin henkeviä. Pertti istui kuin tatti 36-tuntia ja on kisan voitossa kiinni 2200 yhteyden tuloksella. Ehkä yllätyksenä oli, että QTC-kauppa ei käynyt toivotulla tavalla – onkin vaikea löytää 200 asemaa, jotka ovat valmiita QTC-liikenteeseen. Reissu oli sen verran positiivinen kokemus, että asema päätettiin aktivoida vielä uudestaan seuraavalla miehityksellä; WAEDC SSB (OH2BH), CQWW SSB (OH8NC) ja CQWW CW (OH2PM) - eli TC4X tunnus kyllä löytää vielä tiensä OH-miestenkin data-baseen.

Yhteenveto:

Turkki oli piristävä (?) ja lämpöinen kokemus elokuussa. Turistilennot loppuvat marraskuun alkupuolella – silloinhan siellä on lämpöa ”enää” 25 astetta. QTH on liian kaukana idässä ollakseen balanssissa maailman huipputuloksiin – paitsi tietysti WAEDC. Turkkilaiset ovat mukavaa väkeä. Tullia pitää varoa ja porealtaassa on syytä olla vettä. Tervemenoa niin kauas kuin turkinpippuri kasvaa. Cu from TC4X!

Third Generation RTTY Station
Kari, OH2BP

In PileUP! 10(4) we introduced a brand new 2nd Generation RTTY Contest Station Concept for efficient SO2R RTTY operation. Since then the development on the field has been huge, today there's a lot of new things available to benefit at the Contester's Site. Here's a short list of usable hints when one is building his or her own Dream Station:

From SO2R to SO2M or SO3M

A top Level QTH is equipped nowadays with SO2R two-radio working capability. The operator jumps between the two radios by invoking a button on the keyboard or by foot switch. I prefer, however, especially for 'slow RTTY', a new approach, which I call SO2M. This method is putting two independent radios hooked to their individual PC's which both are in a common local network. The operator doesn't need to switch any particular radio 'ON' to TX and Log - both are in direct use continuously. By networking the PC's at the station you're allowed, upon to your wish, to add one more radio & one PC and you're instantly in SO3M.

Today's Contest Programs are not yet ready for Single Op using more than two radios, however, when M/S is selected and worked just by one person, you're doing SO2M or SO3M. Think about it!

How fast RTTY Qsos can be achieved

A top-level contest operator with more than one radio reaches the 240 Q/hour rate (corresponding 4 Qsos per minute). At least this rate could be kept for a limited time and for sure finally depending on the other stations skills and if there are enough stations QRV. Several skillful RTTY contesters do this today. When at this level, a quite realistic suggestion would be to try for the fifth QSO per minute - by a SO3M RTTY Operator. Oh Boy, this would break the 300 Q/h barrier on digital. Fellow RTTY contesters, who will be the first in the world to do this?

Triple Demodulator

Quite often the signal paths deviate from ideal, signal is distorted, week or polar fluttered – a RTTY signal needs proper tuning of the demodulator's RX-parameters. In addition, some people are sending off frequency, using wrong shift or polarity, and the Operator still should pick up 'all the fruits into the basket' i.e. log as much as possible.
For this purpose a triple decoder set-up is my secret weapon. Just to mention a few recommendations: ICOM radio's built-in RTTY decoder, MMTTY, K6STI, MMVARI, MixW, older K232/Kantronics etc.

RTTY signal to 'Snap-On'

Upon my experience, the traditional Old Scope still holds it's position as the best method for fast RTTY-signal RX-tuning. When sweeping the bands for Mults and new Qsos, you should be quick.
Modern radios and most contest software RTTY-decoders have built-in graphics such as waterfalls or 'virtual scopes', but nothing finally beats the very fast and accurate Lissajous pattern

on an X/Y Scope screen. I suggest keeping this till the end of the world.

Contester's Touch Screen

For the first time ever the Operator may use a Touch Screen to invoke key buttons instead of the regular keyboard. The ergonomics are currently under investigation. We'll see if this qualifies as a good Man-Machine Interface to the Contest PC.
If one prefers, and this is true, he may work the entire Contest just using his fingertip and relaxing out of boring use of the F's and the mouse, hi.

New great RTTY radio

I'm happy to own today the latest ICOM IC-7700 radio. During years, YAESU has been very popular occupying majority of Contest Sites worldwide. However, in my view, YAESU engineers have ignored development the FT-radios for high-performance, Top-Level RTTY. On the other hand, I feel that Icom people have always appreciated RTTY as one of the most used Modes and supported RTTY-features in the radio development. Indications of this have been the quality decoder, good graphic display and special filters (TPF, Twin Peak Filter). IC-7700 even has a USB-keyboard connector on the front panel. Farewell to PC-boots and the long waiting for the logging program when quick-checking the band or working a rare DX. Well done ICOM!

In the Picture OH2BP SO2M/SO3M Station equipment

A-radio: IC-7700 + MosFET 1 Kw PA
B-radio: JST-245 150 W MosFET
Program: Win-Test V3.21
Network: 3 PC's linked by Ethernet
Displays: 5 TFT Screens, one w touch feature
Towers: 2 pcs Aluminum
Ants: Cushcraft X9 & XM240 Fritzel FB-53

Other stuff: BPF's (Band Pass Filter), Subs for 10-15-20-40M, Scopes, Vacuum relay Box for intelligent antenna select and for dual direction beaming & power split. Further info request or comments to oh2bp@sral.fi

TU/73 Kari OH2BP (OH0BP)

SAC RECORDS

Timo Klimoff, OH1NOA
oh1noa@sral.fi

Scandinavian Activity Contest eli SAC on kilpailu, jossa tavoitetta ei yleensä aseteta ennätyksiin. Ennätyksiä tärkeämpää on lyödä ruotsalainen … ja reilusti. SAC:n ennätykset ovat kovasti riippuvaisia keleistä ja tänä vuonna tuskin päästää juhlimaan uusilla yläbandien ennätystuloksilla. Sen sijaan alabandeilla voidaan recordeja saada hilattua hiukan ylemmäs.

Toki esimerkiksi 80 metrillä kelin lisäksi tulokseen vaikuttaa aktiivisten maiden määrä. Yleensä QRP- ja low power-ennätykset ovat suhteessa heikompia kuin iso teho –recordit, mutta SAC:ssa herrojen OH3BU, OH4R ja OH6NIO:n tulokset ovat kovaa valuuttaa. Multi-luokkien tulokset on paukuteltu auringonpilkkumaksimin aikaan ja niistä voidaan nykykeleillä vain nähdä unta. Viime vuonna ei muuten tehty yhtään OH- tai Skandinavian ennätystä.

SSB / FINLAND (1999 ->)

HIGH POWER:	Call	Op	Score	Year
SOAB	OH2BH		2 138 877	2000
28	OH1MA		207 533	2001
21	OH5BM		380 424	2000
14	OH4A	OH6LI	384 809	2002
7	OH5Z	OH5KS	86 430	2006
3.5	OH5LF		48 816	2004
Multi Single	OH1F		1 901 895	2002
Multi Multi	OH2U		4 379 958	1999
LOW POWER:				
SOAB	OH4R	OH4JFN	753 940	2002
QRP:				
SOAB	OH3BU		13 824	2000

CW / FINLAND (1999 ->)

HIGH POWER:				
SOAB	OH2BH	OH2JTE	1 552 282	2002
28	OH5BM		105 930	2002
21	OH6AC	OH6CS	208 362	2002
14	OH4A	OH6QU	218 374	2002
7	OH3UU		129 404	1999
3.5	OH9W	OH2BCI	52 624	2006
Multi Single	OH1F		1 532 416	2002
Multi Multi	OH2U		2 348 450	1999
LOW POWER:				
SOAB	OH6NIO		741 753	2002
QRP:				
SOAB	OH3BU		184 125	2002

SSB / SCANDINAVIA (1999 ->)

HIGH POWER:				
SOAB	OH0B	OH2BH	2 227 104	1999
28	OY9JD		240 651	2002
21	OH5BM		380 424	2000
14	OH4A	OH6LI	384 809	2002
7	OH5Z	OH5KS	86 430	2006
3.5	LN9Z	LA5KO	53 084	2006
Multi Single	SK3W		2 028 964	2002
Multi Multi	OH2U		4 379 958	1999
LOW POWER:				
SOAB	OH4R	OH4JFN	753 940	2002
QRP:				
SOAB	7S3J		31 416	2005

CW / SCANDINAVIA (1999 ->)

HIGH POWER:				
SOAB	OH2BH	OH2JTE	1 552 282	2002
28	OH5BM		105 930	2002
21	OH6AC	OH6CS	208 362	2002
14	OH4A	OH6QU	218 374	2002
7	OH3UU		129 404	1999
3.5	LN9Z	LA9HW	61 006	2006
Multi Single	OH1F		1 532 416	2002
Multi Multi	OH2U		2 348 450	1999
LOW POWER:				
SOAB	OH6NIO		741 753	2002
QRP:				
SOAB	OH3BU		184 125	2002

Huom: SAC vaihtui 24-tunnin formaattiin vuonna 1999.

Internetissä ennätykset osoitteessa:
http://www.qsl.net/oh1noa/records.html

Real challenges for virtually every radio amateur:

RADIO ARCALA OPERATES FROM VIRTUAL WORLD TO A REAL WORLD?
CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?

Juha, OH8NC sent some pictures from that magic historical moment:

"I just got remote controlled radio station from RealXtend (virtual world) working. I just spoke to Manfred from Stuttgart remotely from my home.

So my signal went from Rex/my home to Arkala (real) radio amateur station (40km apart) <www.radioarkala.com> and wirelessly from there to (real) Stuttgart/Germany radio amateur station. Manfred spoke me back via the same path but reversed."

http://www.realxtend.org/

The question is where is Juha's real virtual home? Is it virtually in his real home? Really?

Palautusosoite / Returneras till:
Ilkka Korpela
Bölsinniityntie 13
06830 Kulloonkylä

Post WPX CW cabling at OG8X (c.f. OG8X WPX CW STORY).