



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



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| SUBJECT | How can we increase contest activity about central Europe? | | |
| Society | EDR | Country: | Denmark |
| Committee: | C5 | Paper number: | CT08_C5_10 |
| Author: | Ivan Stauning, OZ7IS | | |

During the major IARU, Region 1, coordinated contest weekends there is normally very good activity in the central European region.

The stations in the outskirts of Europe are often blamed for not participating in these contests. I.e. Scandinavian stations!

And yes - it is true - as we do not work many 24/hour contests - but we are quite active during the Nordic Activity Contests. (4 hours on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.)

So why do the stations in the outskirts of Europe/Scandinavia not participate in the 24/hour contests?

Seen from the "outside" point of view:

- * The high QRM level in central Europe (Hard to copy weak signals!)
- * The high number of stations in central Europe (As it is possible work a steady stream of S9 QSOs for the first 4-8 hours there is no need/possibility to go looking for weak signals.)
- And when finally antennas are turned outwards - looking for DX - most of us have gone QRT as we have not made too many QSOs, despite the fact that we actually heard and called a lot of stations (With higher power or/and higher QRM level than the average station).

If we go a just a few decades back in time, the contest activity in Scandinavia was relatively higher than today.

We do like to contest - but we do like to be a part of the contest as well!

(Not just the icing on the cake - after midnight!)

Check in on any NAC and you will hear that the Nordic contesters are still alive and participating.

But in the 24-hour contests you need to be a "big gun" and close to central Europe to have a chance to be a part of it!

How can we change that? How can we improve the contest activity in the outskirts of Europe? (And do we want to?)

Possibilities:

Bonus points/multipliers?

In the Nordic countries (NRAU) we use 500 bonus-points for each new locator worked during the contest. It works well. The "bonus-points" makes all "DX stations" more attractive.

We turn our antennas more in order to pick up all available locator fields.

We have proposed to implement the "locator-bonus" principle in the IARU, Region 1, contest rules twice - without success.

Contest bandplans?

In the contest rules we could set aside segments for the contest activity outside central Europe.

(Only DX-stations call CQ in the DX segment!

Similar to the principles of the “Intercontinental segment” in the 50 MHz bandplan.)

Other ?

We do propose the IARU, Region 1, C5 committee to have a discussion on the topic to see if it is possible to find measures to encourage contest activity, especially outside the central European region.