

INTERIM MEETING OF THE IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE COMMITTEE  
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Subject	<b>National VHF+ Activity Contests</b>
Society	NRRL
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### **Background**

Contests in the amateur radio bands are important in order to show, and to document, the amateur radio activity: *"use them, or lose them"*. In addition, contests are good for training operators. And many radio amateurs find that the competition scene is important for them, in order to test their operating skills, their radio station, and their antennas.

In addition to the occasional IARU Region 1 VHF and higher frequencies [all above 30 MHz; here called VHF+] contests, a number of national societies arrange their own activity contests weekly on different VHF+ bands. National activity contests are important for the national societies, because participations in such frequent national activity contests document the activities in such bands, which is useful when negotiating amateur radio privileges with the national authorities.

The national societies wish a high participation in their national activity contests. But high participation is dependent on if there are stations to work. A higher presence of stations to contact, will make it more fun to participate in the activity contests; hence the participation in the national activity contests should rise.

Furthermore, IARU Region 1 has previously discussed measures to reduce the spread of contests over the calendar, by merging contests or having more contests being arranged on the same days, with similar exchange reports.

The Nordic Activity Contest (NAC) started back in the nineteen-fifties (1954?). It started locally in Scania (South Sweden) on 144 MHz, and NAC has developed ever since. Although its rules are not static. [The NAC Open Class was started in 1989, to encourage activity outside the traditional Nordic countries, and is organized by the EDR (The Danish Ham Radio Organization). To participate in the NAC Open Class, non-Scandinavian participants need QSOs with at least 2 Scandinavian stations, according to the NAC rules.]

The Nordic countries have via their Nordic Radio Amateur Union (NRAU) agreed to arrange their weekly VHF+ activity contests, Nordic Activity Contest (NAC), for many decennia. **The agreement involves mainly the time periods for the different weekly activity contests, and the similarity of exchange reports.**

Other countries have decided to have their own activity contests at the same times as NAC, with similar exchange reports, in order to increase participation. This move has been successful both for the the other countries and the NAC.

Examples:

LYAC (LY) since 1999. To apply, non-Lithuanian participants need at least 1 QSO with an LY station.

UKAC (G) since 2001? *Some* bands held on the same dates, the time differs, but overlaps some.

IAC (Italy) since 2004.

SPAC (Poland) since 2005. To apply, non-Polish participants need at least 1 QSO with SP station

RUAC (Russia) since 2006. To apply, non-Russian participants need at least 1 QSO with an RA/RU/RK... station. There are other slight differences in rules : digital modes added; yearly results are made of 6 best monthly scores.

YLAC (Latvia) since 2007.

[Thanks to Ivan, OZ7IS, for the information about the NAC history and development.]

We see that NAC could benefit from increased activity from other Region 1 countries. We also note that other societies could benefit from increased activities, for instance even for RSGBs UKAC (United Kingdom Activity Contests), by coordinating some of the bands.

### **Recommendation**

NRRL wants to propose the following *advisory recommendation*:

**National societies wishing to increase participation in their national VHF+ activity contests, may consider arranging their national activity contests during the same periods as the NRAU Nordic Activity Contests (NAC) and some other nation's activity contests, and to use a similar QSO exchange (RST report + full 6-character Maidenhead Locator).**

## Appendix

Periods and essential rules for the NRAU Nordic Activity Contests (NAC):

**Time:** 1900 - 2300 Central European Time (CET; UTC+1), including  
summer daylight  
savings time (UTC+2)

**Bands:**                   **Days:**  
50 MHz:                   2nd Thursday in the month

70 MHz:                   3rd Thursday in the month

144 MHz:                  1st Tuesday in the month

432 MHz:                  2nd Tuesday in the month

1296 MHz:                 3rd Tuesday in the month

2.3 GHz & up:            4th Tuesday in the month

28 MHz:                  1st Thursday in the month: CW 1st hour; SSB 2nd hour; FM 3rd hour;  
MGM 4th  
hour

**Modes:**                               Usage according to IARU Region 1 bandplan; QSOs via active  
repeater, satellite or  
EME will not count in these contests

**Exchange:**               RST report + full 6-character Maidenhead Locator.