



Scandinavian Activity Contest

Survey Results
20th April – 10th May 2015

General

The Scandinavian Activity Contest (SAC) is one of the premier events of Nordic ham radio. It has been organized annually by the Nordic Radio Amateur Union (NRAU) since 1959 and is now a contest with over 2,000 submitted logs on CW and SSB combined. SAC has thus grown into a major regional contest whose number of participants compares favorably with famous worldwide events such as the Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest.

For the first 53 years, the responsibility to organize SAC rotated annually between the national ham radio societies of the major Scandinavian nations. In 2011, NRAU appointed a contest committee consisting of experienced testers from these nations. Since 2012, this committee has handled the regular operations related to the contest, and is eager to take a growing SAC into the future by building on the successes of the past.

After SAC 2014, a web-based worldwide survey in English was again undertaken to gauge the feelings and thoughts of radio amateurs concerning SAC, its current state, and envisioned future development. An invitation to respond to the survey was sent by e-mail to hundreds of former SAC participants and to the CQ-Contest reflector. A total of 144 responses were received and they provide valuable input to further development of SAC.

This document reports the results of the survey. We have included both English-language and native responses to the open-ended questions of the survey, in order to facilitate further discussion and thinking among any interested parties. However, we have edited out any details that could potentially have identified the respondent.

The contest committee extends a warm thanks to all who participated in the survey. As a whole, it appears that most respondents appreciate SAC and the efforts that have been undertaken to develop the contest. Criticism and constructive suggestions were also received, and they serve as a valuable aid in the further development of SAC rules, awards, promotion, etc.

Please remember to participate in SAC 2015 and to challenge your friends too. During the weekends of **19–20 September (CW)** and **10–11 October (SSB)**, the bands will again be filled with the mystique of fluttery signals transmitted from the Arctic region of the world. Come join in the fun of the “Polar Battle”!

Some of the results are presented with the statistical measures average, median, mode, minimum and maximum. The average is the arithmetic sum of a score divided by the number of answers, i.e., the mean or expected value. The median is the middle value that you get when you sort every response and divide the list into two halves with equally many responses in each half. Mode is the most common value, minimum is the lowest value and maximum is the highest value.

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1. "What is your region?"

Region	# of respondents	% of respondents
Scandinavia	75	52,1
Europe	40	27,8
North America	14	9,7
Asia	7	4,9
South America	5	3,5
Oceania	1	0,7
Africa	2	1,4

Country	# of respondents	% of respondents
Denmark	7	9,3
Finland	35	46,7
Iceland	1	1,3
Norway	3	4,0
Sweden	29	38,7

Comments: The region distribution of respondents is very much like the distribution of contest participants. The Scandinavian countries on the other hand has too few Norwegian respondents. Maybe there is a lack of mailing lists in Norway?

2. "What is your age?"

Average	54,5
Median	55
Mode	59
Minimum	21
Maximum	89

Comments: It's impressive to see that we have 89-year old hams with us during SAC. The median of 55 years is in accordance with the ham population in general.

3. "In how many SAC CW have you participated in the last 5 years (2010–2014)?"

# of SAC CW	# of respondents	% of respondents
0	41	28,5
1	6	4,2
2	16	11,1
3	17	11,8
4	22	15,3
5	42	29,2

Average	2,7
Median	3
Mode	5
Minimum	0
Maximum	5

Comments: We think this question may have been answered in the wrong manner, as it's unlikely that more than 28% of the respondents didn't participate in a five-year period.

4. "In how many SAC SSB have you participated in the last 5 years (2010–2014)?"

# of SAC SSB	# of respondents	% of respondents
0	37	25,7
1	22	15,3
2	21	14,6
3	16	11,1
4	18	12,5
5	30	20,8

Average	2,3
Median	2
Mode	0
Minimum	0
Maximum	5

Comments: We think this question may have been answered in the wrong manner, as it's unlikely that more than 25% of the respondents didn't participate in a five-year period.

5. "What category do you usually participate in?"

Category	# in category	% in category
MULTI-MULTI	10	6,9
MULTI-ONE	9	6,3
SINGLE-OP ALL BAND HP	28	19,4
SINGLE-OP ALL BAND LP	43	29,9
SINGLE-OP ALL BAND LP ROOKIE	3	2,1
SINGLE-OP ALL BAND LP TB-WIRES	12	8,3
SINGLE-OP ALL BAND QRP	10	6,9
SINGLE-OP Single Band	8	5,6
SINGLE-OP Low Band	2	1,4
SINGLE-OP-ASSISTED ALL BAND HP	12	8,3
SINGLE-OP-ASSISTED ALL BAND LP	7	4,9

Comments: The Single-OP ALL BAND LP category is very popular and it probably reflects the "average ham operator set-up".

6. "How seriously do you operate in SAC?"

Scale: 1 = not seriously, 5 = very seriously

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	22	15,3
2	15	10,4
3	35	24,3
4	43	29,9
5	29	20,1

Average	3,3
Median	3,5
Mode	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5

Comments: These are nice figures, as most of the participants take SAC more seriously than just a casual contest.

7. "What do you see as the two/three most essential things to develop in SAC?"

Keep it fun. I enjoy the challenge of working high latitudes, and I meet really nice people.
Participaton and more participation
More participants from SAC area stations.
Practice and improve my operational technics & skills. Meet other people who eagers for the radio communication. Help other contestants earning their points by submitting my contest log
A very good knowledge of suitable frequency path home QTH to SAC countries at individual times. i.e. what is the best band to work hundreds of SAC stations on at individual times. Keep contacts, whether from own CQ or open working, to a short (but friendly) serial and contest number.
There is no need to do more things. Actual rules are good enough and the contest is very attractive. It is a good oppportunity to contact a lot of Scandinavian stations.
To have the opportunity to work OMs all over the World. Multiplier should be scandinavian Countries. It gives more fun to work all OP worldwide since conds into Scandinavia might be down from Europe. (From DL 10m or 15m for instance)
More activity from Scandinavia.
Better Scandinavian activity.
Bigger activity from Scandinavvian. Higest operator technique from Scandinavian station'sworked slowwwwwlllllyyy
We are heading towards minimum. 1. Scandinavians to work each other ; 1p/QSO, no multipliers only QSOpoints. 2. Consider non-scandinavians to work each other; 1 point per QSO, more QSO points from scandinavian stations multipliers DXCC, not WAE. 3. Do not change the resuts system. This is great service, better than ever. In case there are people on the team that do not feel like contributing, please announce that and find people who are willing to contribute. People can contribute and they can learn to contribute if they have the will to do that.
Club Station Program; To increase participation thru Club Stations, which are normally offering pretty decent platform to join to FUN. We tried this some years back, but the recruiting work just happened in too short period and didnt gain much Young Contesters program, SAC is chance for young and any amateur, who doesnt have otherwise chance to be attractive wanted station on bands... this will drive and will inspire more people to join to Scandinavian contesting groups. How to motivate Danish and Norwegian hams to join this FUN? Marketing, and establishing the HEAT more between them... so that they can also have same feeling than SM vs. OH
Combine assisted and unassisted class. Only one class as RUDX. allow all clusters and skimmers!
More advertising. At the moment there are stations from US and JA and so on, but most of the qsos are made inside of Europe. It would be nice to get more qsos outside of Europe
Keep good activity from Scandinavia. When we can offer good activity and possibility work scandinavian stations, 24h contest is interesting also for non-scands.

Power regulations out from tribander/single-element class. How to get more modest stations on the air? Maybe single element -class totally (dipoles, verticals).
Real time scoring, ultra fast final results, web services
Nothing
National teams
Scandinavian base... Propagationwise, it wouldn't be bad to include Baltics in the Scandinavia too :)
This LP TB-Wires should only be LP Wires without Threebanders. I have allways taken part to single-op allband LP class although I have no threebanders. What the differens?
More participants would be essential but I do not see any methods how to do that.
1) National marketing projects in each country including attractive prices 2) Scandinavian marketing project of the SAC = at least three months before promoting stories in national ham radio magazines (same stories in each country)
Gain in number of non-scandinavian stations
More participants from outside EU Make SAC more interesting to EU stations --> more contacts + rare stations Stations outside Scandinavia possibility to CQ
Attracting participants is the crucial thing.
As current, SAC is pretty FB in all areas. If new things is needed, perhaps add RTTY in SAC category, results even faster (as now ok), add real time points / video web, our own...
1. We could try the similar approach as for instance ARI DX Contest has, all work all. The mults could be the districts as in the NRAU test for the Scandinavian QSO's and the DXCC countries. The points 10, 3 and 1. 2. Maybe it's time to combine cw and ssb to one contest???How about rtty to be added? 3. SAC timing 12 till 11.59 is not optimal considering the Americas. Should be 15 till 14.59 instead or could be back to 27 hours from 12 till 14.59.
- Keeping SAC attractive both to Scandinavians as well as other participants - Raising popularity of SAC also in OZ, LA & other SAC countries
To make it more interesting for non scandinavians 36 hour mixed mode format
Get more scandinavians to participate (like 2011) Sending log as easy as possible
1. Keep up with the online scoring and fast result disclosure 2. Keep up the fair play and rules to support the honest vs. violations.
Allow to use modern developement like skimmer, assisted and remote operation (with SUITABLE CLASSES). checklog not needed - most easiest way to operate. Allow scandinavians to work each other with one point credit.
Publicity, trophies for others than Scandinavians. CCF should sponsorise prizes more
Speed up checking process
Score by total distance of the contacts are between each other score by efficiency

<p>There are not enough scandinavian participants and never will be. Allow contacts between non scandinavians. Make contest mixed mode (combine CW and SSB), give more points for scandinavians. Combine assisted and non assisted. Establish interesting prizes (like visit to one of the scaninavian contest superstation or tour around Scandinavia for two). Make results available ASAP. Inspire people to use real time score board. It drives the competition and makes participants to stay in chair longer. Provide fair adjudication. Panish rules violation (broad signals, out of band operation, cheating etc). Reward contest expeditions. They attract non contesters thus increase the number of participants and make contest more interesting for hardcore contesters.</p>
<p>No idea.</p>
<p>Informar a los Club de las actividades y promocionar la participacion en los contest.</p>
<p>I wonder about the last question above: seriosity ???? For me it is selfunderstanding to take a contest serious when I participate. Nothing to develop - I like SAC as it is.</p>
<p>The SAC is very nice. Let it like it is now.</p>
<p>All OK.</p>
<p>Get more dedicated youg operators.</p>
<p>Promotion, promotion and yes, more on different internet venues</p>
<p>Much more competitors from rare Scandinavians entities (JW, JX, OX, TF)</p>
<p>You are doing fine!</p>
<p>1.MORE ACTIVITY FROM TF, JW, AREAS. 2. QUICK RESULT DECLARATION</p>
<p>More activity from the SAC countries, but the tendence is all right.</p>
<p>24 hours may be is too long...what about 12 hours?</p>
<p>BEING A NEWCOMER FOR ME THE CONTEST IS OK AS IT IS</p>
<p>May be also see Asia participant for plaque or award</p>
<p>Please keep SAC "as is", Scandinavia vs. the rest of the world. Do NOT change to everybody-work-everybody, we already have too many bad contest with that rule ! Pleas allow cluster and RBN to all classes.</p>
<p>Get as much points as possible to me, my clubb and for my country</p>
<p>Hi! It will be very interesting if some rare scandinavian will take part more frequently.</p>
<p>1. Attractive program to develop young amateur radio operator (maybe from the Scouts) 2. Challenging Awards 3. Solid Database or QSL system</p>
<p>More Scandinavian participants, especially from LA, OZ and TF. If there is not enough Scandinavians stations, there will be only dupes for stations outside Scandinavia during the last hours of the contest.</p>
<p>I think the last few years you have made some good and major adjustments. So I don't really have any ideas? (o;</p>
<p>Well I participated at least 50 times but rules ok</p>
<p>I find the SAC contests interesting and one occation where OZ is an interesting prefix. I do not see any reason to change</p>

Increase number of participants both Scandinavian and DX. Develop the award and plaque programme. Be on the forefront in use of IT for everything from log check to online score boards to controlling rule violation
Ändra inget! Allt är bra
More participants from Scandinavia besides Sweden and Finland
I think its really good as i is.
Extra multipel for nonscandinavians operating scandinavian QRP station
Develop a team devoted to checking for power abuse / bad operatorhip. Several "big guns" in SM are railroading smaller stations taking over the frequencies and piles. The smaller station has no chance and has to move away. -The team should also check log
Please introduce an assisted class for single band operators
Prohibit All Single Band classes!!!!!! This is a national battle. A few additional QSO's other bands make a big difference.
More participants inside and outside Scandinavian countries. More fun!
Activity increase, particularly from LA, OZ, TF and OY/OX
I guess logchecking is demanding much time and effort, no doubt. There has also been development in how fast the results are presented, so much have been done. Nevertheless, the quicker the results are presented, more fun for the competitors will be felt.
Add 160m
Increase the awards to about 100 and give stickers for every year you participate send them by E-mail to keep cost down if, colour award is wanted increase the fee.
1. keep making the contest interesting for non Scandinavian stations 2. overlay classes, like 6/12 hour sprints within the 24 hour period
Please consider to expand the duration to 48 hours.
High activity level from Scandinavian station. Easy log submission process.
More activity from Scandinavia. It is <i>*very*</i> difficult to work many Scandinavian stations from the central US. Very few LAs. Usually none of the rarer countries appear at all (JW/JX/OY, etc.) Scandinavian stations tend just to beam EU; since EU QSOs count as 2 points and other continents as 3, there is little incentive for Scandinavian stations to turn the beam away from EU or to dig out the DX stns calling them. So I would increase the point differential between EU and non-EU QSOs for Scandinavian stations.

8. "How could SAC attract more Scandinavian participants?"

Perhaps, give a prize for most North American states and provinces worked. Or most countries outside Europe.
Advertising - web site, news items to other web sites i.e. Southgate news, QRZ, etc, club newsletters
Announce of attractive foreign stations which will participate. Maybe stations with bonus points; LA1SAC, SM1SAC, OH1SAC. When you participate, it is not only for yourself. You do it for your country's radioamateurs as well (Scandinavian cup). Having only two QSO's is better than none.
By publicizing the upcoming event to them several times before the due date and assuring them that the contest is very well supported world wide.
Scandinavian stations are pretty good active.
More marketing internally in Scandinavia Contest "universities" with clubs
Made them WW contest
By keeping the communications positive. I think SAC has now succeeded that in some years. Every year after introducing the ITU frequency rules has been really good. Less victories to people that cheat. More victories for people who participate more honestly. One thing to improve might be to try to get some big gun stations tune down their power. I was sad to find out one more over power user that I thought had decent amplifiers but he is using way more than 90% of us. Such campaign might QRT some hot shots but I think it could attract normal stations to enter. If choosing to do a power campaign, it should be done in public as fair play concept, and asking directly the known over power users to use legal power in SAC to even the playing field for the legal gun stations. Most of them will follow. But there are always some roosters on the rooftop. We might be able to identify them if they keep on running much more than others?
Good Management, Good Communication, Fast Results, Good Pages where forums, stories, technology etc, Good recognition for good results, encouragement among programs, mentioned before CLub and youngster programs, Marketing Country competition new ideas to really gain competitors from OZ and LA
Prices. I surely hope that someday there could one great happening where prices are given. That means form different categories top 3 would invited to for exaple coutry that runs contest and prices would be given there. Or something like that. Sort of Sac hamfest if you know what I mean.
Daytime class, limited operating time, when sun is shining
LA, OZ and TF should have more activity. Handicap multiplier against OH and SM
Maybe something lottery, for those who have send log. This inspire also those, who not work contests usually and not so seriously. Prizes of lottery something simple, like T-shirts, stickers etc...
Less operating time -classes. There are not many who are willing to use 24h and organizing categories.
Trophys, mini contests (contest inside the contest)
More adverdeisnig

National campaigns. Co-ordinated competitive setting. More publicity. More emphasis on mixed trophies
More national marketing -More prizes for each class, maybe some "real" prizes(handheld radios, ham radio accessories etc.)
Prices, publicity... "Competition" inside Scandinavia Possibility to work rare DX within contest i.e. not so serious contesting Ease to submit logs (more information to not-so-serious-contesting stations)
Marketing, marketing, marketing. Make the contest more even for small guns by giving up the high-power class altogether. A class for multi-band vertical antenna only.
RTTY, this requires more Scandinavians on RTTY, perhaps shorter period, 12-20h, more advertising, real time score board with video / audio (?) , 48 (36h)
Just one big weekend in September to replace the CW.
While current "Scandinavian Cup" keeps sufficient activity in SM and OH, we would need something to activate the other Scandinavian countries as well. While still keeping the current "Scandinavian Cup", we could maybe have something not depending on the number of logs. How about "Cup for Country with Highest Average Score". In this competition OH0 & OJ0 should be calculated as Finland, JW & JX as Norway and OY & OX as Denmark.
Maybe we need some sort of prizes, like Ilmaveivi a few years ago
When there's real competition there are more people participating
Follow the pattern of the big contests: simple rules, not too many categories - marketing, marketing, marketing - national "contest within contest" - post-contest publishing ; a SAC newsletter with CQWW style editorials about contesters and stations
Allowing to work other Scandinavians. promoting in clubs in advance.
Good publicity, good activity during the contest
More activity in SCA produce better visibility on bands and create activity
Public notices on contest reflectors
Via Facebook maybe? Magazine
By certificates, awards, e.t.c.
Activating every DXCC entity that composes Scandinavia, that would mean Greenland, Market Reef and Faroe Islands, and if possible to include their flags to complement the main countries. Or what if: give out a certificate, in electronic form for those who work all Scandinavia so to say.
A bonus to Scandinavian that work more country out Europe and USA.
THE SAC IS ONE REPRESENTING SCANDINAVIA AND SO ALL SCANDINAVIANS MUST TAKE PART.
BEING MORE ADVERTISED ON THE WEB AND REACHING OLD PARTICIPANTS VIA E-MAIL IF THEY DO NOT JOIN ANYMORE
Will need more than have!
Talk about it every time you talk to hams. Remember history: The roman politician Cato always finished his talks in:"By the way, I think that Carthago must be destroyed",... and that really happened...and Rome was saved...
More prizes perhaps

<p>Maybe with banners on web sites, small adv on qualified sites and publications. I think a "Public relations" figure will help. People must be called by phone or emailed, especially those who live on small islands or rare prefixes. A special award for Scandinavian runners from rare Scandi DXCC entities will help... This is my opinion :)</p>
<p>More events with Youngster and entering the Campus or School and make beneficial program together. Especially more event to handling Search and Rescue</p>
<p>The national leagues must take SAC to their heart, understand that this "our" contest, the important one for Scandinavia. The leagues must promote SAC more and ask the HF contest managers to help. Also the district managers could be in this effort. Who is by the way HF contest manager in SRAL (Finland)? There should one article in each Scandinavian radio magazine before the contest and one article after the contest.</p>
<p>? "keep ringing doorbells" Pictures and stories from the participants? ... little bit like CQ Magazine?</p>
<p>Good question, but many to lazy</p>
<p>It would be useful to have more scandinavian multipliers. Once a DX station has worked the first OZ on a band there are no more multipliers to be had. OZ1.. OZ2.. SM1...SM2.. etc would make a lot more multipliers to fight for. An other option may be to add category to the exchange with more points for contacts with QRP and LOW power stations.</p>
<p>More marketing and information. Prizes awards. Making SAC participation part of something bigger like an annual Scandinavian Contest Cup with a variety of prizes awards and classes.</p>
<p>I think that more information about contest should help.</p>
<p>Norway and Denmark need to be more active. Try to get another "Polar battle" going...</p>
<p>Maybe build up the expectations a month or two with followin some big stations with there preparation and publish short clips on the web. It could be the big multiops stations and maybe some new rookie stations. Make short films about them. Make it into a "documentary" pucblisch new episodes now ant then. And maybe some more special prizes in the classes</p>
<p>Dont know</p>
<p>This is hard to do, but the SSA contest university should be repeated in more parts of SM and scandinavia followed by articles in national ham radio press. Also, try just as an experiment to focus on SAC being a Scandinavian window to the world instead of allways focusing on the scandinavian cup.</p>
<p>Prohibit All Single Band classes!!!!!! This is a national battle. A few additional QSO's other bands make a big difference.</p>
<p>More classes can attract more participants: - 12 h - District champion - District competition (highest mean score) If possible, "printed" certificates (compare CQ contests). Could be sent out via bureau to save money. Or at least a "thank you"-QSL-card to all participants.</p>

Tänk om man kunde få någon att i de nordiska amatörtidningarna skriva små korta enkla artiklar om vad man behöver och hur man kör contest, en artikel per nummer av tidningarna, där det framgår att man kan börja med mycket enkla grejer och hur man loggar i de vanligaste logg-programmen och hur man uploader loggen till en log robot. Det bör även framgå att man med enkla grejer lätt kan köra många länder och att contestkörarna ofta har väldigt skarpa öron! Sedan kan man gå vidare med hur man nycklar med logg-programmet, hur man editerar macron och sedan mer avancerat hur man kanske kan få till en rig-styrning och hur man eventuellt vartefter laddar upp scoren till cqcontest.net. Inga maffiga artiklar där man stupar redan på överskriften eller introduktionen!

Within region/nation constesting. The between nation thing is slightly outdated and can probably be counterproductive for SCAN cooperation in other ham-fields.

Club or district competitions. Prize ceremonies at meetings for contest clubs or National Ham Organizations or similar.

Tell them how fun it is even if youre not running from one of the big guns. everyone else have big antennas and will here you anyway :)

Not only battle between OH and SM, other countries to compete, so create more complicated formula like $X + Y / 2$, where X is current competition i.e. sum of score of country, Y is sum of log accuracy score (higher the better)

9. "How could SAC attract more non-Scandinavian participants?"

Is there a "worked all Scandinavia" award for collecting all the counties (or equivalent political regions) in each country, or call sign regions? In the RAC contests they have bonus stations, one per province, for extra points. Could there be a bonus station in each of the SAC countries?
Advertising - web site, news items to other web sites i.e. Southgate news, QRZ, etc, club newsletters
It depends on the time of the contest.....
Have more rare Scandinavian DXCC active during the contest....such as JW or JX
More participants from SAC area stations.
Encourage use of special event calls could be attractive. LI/LJ in Norway 2014. Also SOTA/IOTA operations in combination.
I do not believe they can. Contests by the name are either supported or not. There are so many these days that a lot of (at least UK) amateurs pick and choose those that they wish to do seriously and a lot of UK amateurs may do a few hours but do not send in an entry. Perhaps SAC should remind non SAC amateurs that even a shortened timed entry would be welcome.
Maybe some more AWARDS (eg, see RDXC rules for awards)
Single band categories for non scandinavians. In order to save money with winner certificates, make them PDF files to be downloaded.
More activity from Scandanavia
Better marketing, continue with a large variety of both common and sponsored plaques Continue with quick (or even quicker) processing of logs and presentations of Final Results, as well as quick delivery of diplomas/plaques
Make the WW type contest
Let them operate more. S&P some QSOs is not fun. Make SSB spots during the contest. Make Scandinavian spots on SSB outside the contests. Advertise Scandinavia in a fair way. The results service is simply world class. Advertise it. The SAC 2015 booklet does not have directions to see the logs. There could be a reading instruction to it .. there could be a story about how it was made. There could be stories about improvements. There could be a story telling about people behind the computers and software. Story about performance changes of some groups .. accuracy comparison between top guys of different categories and non-scandinavians. Story about RBN spots.. story about SSB spots.. non-Scandinavian spots and how fast some singleops that are not assisted found the new multiplier !
More stations to operate from Scandinavia... keep operating skills and rules strict and promoting to work Scandinavia, Building interesting programs for region competition, Plaque or recognition programs
More odd special plaques
More scandinavian on air
Less operating time classes.
Real time scoring, fast results

More adverdeising
Country plaquettes
Regional recognition. More publicity. Targeted campaigns to attract more participants from areas that are attractive propagationwise... China for example. Mixed trophies.
More prizes and those prizes more significant.
Win a trip to one Scandinavian country!
More marketing
More to work Extra points for DX Joker stations???
Marketing, marketing. Make the contest exchange more challenging by adding a five-letter word in the Scandinavian languages, excluding the åäö-letters, however. More multipliers in the same way we have them in the NRAU-Baltic contest. Make this a contest of choice for the small guns. A class for multi-band vertical antenna only, low power? Give up the high power class altogether.
See previous. RTTY, this requires more scandinavians in RTTY, perhaps shorter period, 12-20h, more advertising, real time score board with video / audio (?) - perhaps add multipliers by call numbers ie oh1, oh2, oh3 or sm1, sm2 and sm3 = those would be 6 multipliers. Did not check if this is allready in rules, hi. More scandinavian hams on band...48 (36h)
Just one weekend all in one. SAC organizers could developpe an award for working the Scandinavian districts just during the SAC contest. (see above)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good activity from ALL Scandinavian countries, not just SM and OH. - There is nice dx entities within Scandinavia (JW,JX,OJ0,OH0, OY, OX). Activiting (all of) these during SAC might attract some interest?
More like RDXC, every one can work every one. Scandinavian multipliers + Grids. Scandinavians count for double qso points. Non scandinavians send RS+ Grid like 59FM12
They need stations to work, so more scandinavians on the bands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow the pattern of the big contests: simple rules, not too many categories - Marketing, marketing, marketing - Post-contest publishing ; a SAC newsletter with CQWW style editorials about contesters and stations, especially non-Scandinavians
Advertising and some mor concrete prize(one week free accomodation for tourist visit.)
Sending info and reminders.
Public notices on contest reflectors
Via Facebook maybe?
Make some notification like famous contest like CQ WW or CQ WPX on every link like qrz.com and other link in website .
Campaña publicitaria con envio de correos electronicos animando a la participacion
More prizes or diplomas?
More Scandinavian participants ;-)
Develop a program to generate automaticaly an award in a .pdf file. The file will be sent to EVERY participant as an attachement by mail. It would be a nice souvenir for every participant.

By certificates, awards, e.t.c.
Single band entry for non-Scandinavian stations
DXpeditions to OY OJ0 OH0 JX JW
More promotion on the web/ contests sites
By a better publicity
By working with other countries
A fast results (3 or 4) month.
THOSE INTERESTED IN QSOs WITH ALL SCANDINAVIA MUST TAKE PART
Need Single op - single band entry
SAME AS BEFORE
Good
I like scandinavia and Scandi people very much and this is the only reason why I take part to SAC. But I guess the other guys would like to meet more JK, JW, OX, OY, TF. This could convince more and more guys to follow the test and take part more seriously. I only have a vertical 1/4wave for 7Mhz, but i am becoming more and more serious even if I don't fight to win. I am a vhf DXer, operating seriously from 6m to 432Mhz, SAC is the only occasion I come back to HF; I enjoy very much the skandi accent and I take my full immersion on SAC
More awards for Non-Scandinavian will be better and challenging. Hope so.
By having more participants from Scandinavia.
?"keep ringing doorbells" Pictures and stories from the participants? ... little bit like CQ Magazine?
Allow contacts between all participants - gives more activity for non-Scandinavians
Be a long term trustworthy well organised contest. Awards and plaque programmes that work flawlessly year after year. Make sure to market towards and invite top stations around the world year after year to attract long term attention. Market to big national contest clubs like BCC et al. Connection between log checking and score cards that can be used for applications for Scandinavian national awards.
Both modes at the same time
More Scandinavian activity. That is the key to success!
More advertising in related forums. And make them think of this as a huge opportunity to work many Scandinavians that many times are not that active beside this contest. And ofc the suggestion above where they could follow the competitors. Making it more attractive to work that station.
Ask the sun to be kind and provide good propagation ?
A "thank you"-card for everyone. A "summary" score for position in class. When a level is reached, a special certificate (or a scandinavian souvenir) is sent to the participant. (summary score is set to zero and you can start build it up again for the next certificate or souvenir)
Snabbt utsänt resultat via email, tillsammans med diplom och UBN-rapport, och en blänkare om nästa SAC och SAC website. Kör man många tester har man inte tid eller ork att själv hämta resultat och diplom från många "mindre" genomförda tester.
By boosting our own activity. If this is not improving a scoring system as in RDXC should be considered.

Keep on with the sponsored plaque system. Quick feedback is important also here.
Add 160m
An improved multiplier system where laen/fylke/district (abbreviated) is added to the contest message, like 599 001 NB or 599 001 VB as an example for two districts in SM2 (Norrbotten and Västerbotten).
Change multiplier structure as OH tulle has no mandatory to indicate location in prefix. I think SM has some regional code and award?
I do not submit entries for contests that do not provide real certificates, so I no longer submit entries in SAC. You should honour the CERTIFICATE Cabrillo tag, and send paper certificates to winners who indicate that they want a paper certificate.
Print leaflets to be distributed in Dayton (hurry up!) by some scandinavian(s) who is going there. Do the same for the Friedrichshafen HAMFEST.

10. "Please point out anything in the SAC rules that you find unclear."

All clear to me.
All clear
Improve the M/S rule setting. There can be only one station soliciting for QSOs at a M/S. That was a big discussion issue in 1980's and now some hams that are well aware of the decisions made back then did it again in 2014. SAC committee bought the story but looking at the log, it tells different story. Make a point you may use a SDR recording after the contest. Even if you do not have a SDR at the end .. just bring up the possibility to have one.
Define Remote Station rules more clear and adapt to New trends
Tb+wires rules. Those are always in every contest quite hard to make sence of.
I once sent my log to TB-Wires but did not see that it was low power only. In some CQ contest it is not bound to power. (Used only wires.)
Rules are OK.
Rules are ok and clear.
Stations not giving a serial number. Normally a 000 is accepted, SAC does not. This sould be stated in the rules.
Nothing, current rules are very good and straightforward.
None
Band violations are becoming one of the focus areas. Please make clear rules; warning, penalties, disqualifications
Share the rules more, I see every time more they dont read the rules.
Todo es ok.
Rules basically OK. One detail: Rare scandinavians work many stns who are not in the contest. This is particularly true for JW OY OJ0 OH0 OX TF. The 2014 rule 7. Scoring says: A QSO with correct callsign and RECEIVED EXCHANGE counts for QSO points. What is the received exchange when only 59 and no serial number is received?? Most ops invent 001, which is no "exchange" transmitted during the QSO. Most logging programs require a serial number, otherwise you cannot log the QSO. The rules should be defined, in way 1) or way 2) for example as follows: 1) QSOs with stations who are NOT in the contest can be accepted without a serial number. I prefer this option. 2) QSOs without a received serial number are worth 0 QSO points. For JW JX OJ0, etc. it would be important in planning operation strategy to know whether non-contest QSOs would count for their score. The present rules leaves it up to the entrant to decide what to do. Please clarify. What is the Committee's checking program doing? Does it accept QSOs without a serial number? Does it accept 000? PS: Some years ago, I worked from [X] lots of stations without received serial number. To indicate that NO serial number was received, I put serial 000 for these QSOs The SM Committee gave me 0 points for these! Maybe I should have put 001 for all, instead. In fact, 000 could be a good way to indicate that no number was received, instead of the invented 001 which is a lie. At least Win-Test accepts 000. These 000 QSOs would then count for point and mults.
All perfect and clear.

I don't think I can? It's clear to me at least
Use the same model for TB-WIRES as in CQ contests. TB-WIRES is a secondary group or class for LP, not mixed with ALL LP or ALL LP ASS or other LP classes.
Why is Multi-One only HP
The rules concerning categories and overlays in low power assisted, non assisted, tribander, rookie etc seems to have to be cleared out. Last year the results were changed several times when categories were merged and unmerged until results were finalized.
The *precise* definition of a prefix. 1. For example, there is no way to know what the correct prefix would be for something like OG12A. My best guess is that it's supposed to be OH1, but that's just a guess. 2. Is it really intended that something like OH/G1ABC counts as the Aland Is. prefix, OH0, even though the station is not in Aland Is.? That seems very strange.

11. "Are there new categories that you think should be included in SAC, and if so, what are they?"

QRP portable operating is becoming increasingly popular. I usually operate in SAC while out operating portable for a day or an afternoon or an evening. Closest current category is "All band QRP". There might be some appeal in having a time limited (i.e. 3 or 4 consecutive hour max) portable (including mobile) category with perhaps a bonus for QRP vs low power.
Not for me personally I think its fine as is.
Single band
No new categories. Please, no new categories. The rookie and QRP are there already.
One interesting at least could be Remote station class... could be just identification in results * Maybe just separated recognition in results as informative basis if this will scatter the results too much How about inspiring like JUMA people or OLD radio people to join? * Maybe just separated recognition in results as informative basis if this will scatter the results too much Club station category, or could be SOAB HP/LP subcategory but at least indicated in results... * Maybe just separated recognition in results as informative basis if this will scatter the results too much Young Contesters < 25 or so * Maybe just separated recognition in results as informative basis if this will scatter the results too much YL * Maybe just separated recognition in results as informative basis if this will scatter the results too much
No, I think that there are already enough categories for short contest like this.
Low power categories also for singlebands. Or at least marking to results who have use only 100w.
T/S High power, single-element classes hp/sp.
None
Not sure if there is enough classes for stations outside Scandinavia...
If the high power class cannot be given up, then have a subclass for modest antennas in that class also.
RTTY - perhaps in shorter length due lack of number of Scandinavians...
Just one big weekend with all modes. Classes accordingly. All work all. Assistance should be allowed for all.
No, current number of categories is sufficient
All SOAB categories assisted and unassisted. SOSB high / low / qrp categories.
Yes remote lp and hp.
No! There is already too many categories inside SCA.
Posibilidad de una nueva modalidad: Tribanda 10-15-20 m.
Maybe Single Band for non-Scandinavian stations
Good Lord, the world has too many categories already. And DON'T eliminate UNassisted.
Not more, better less... delete assisted / not assisted maybe, I am not sure

All right, enough.
Single band entry for non-Scandinavian stations
No more needed.
Maybe a remote operation category to reflect increase interest, Another SWL category.
QRP, DIGI MODES
SO SB, M/2, M/M for non Scandinavians
No need for new categories. Please allow cluster and RBN to everybody.
it's enough i believe
Rookie Class
We don not more categories. We need more participants.
17m and 30m
For different reasons I sometimes could only be active for a limited time. I would like to have the single band low power and QRP class reintroduced. Alternatively to introduce a 12 Hours class. (Like IOTA Contest). This may in fact be a good way to persuade some old-timers, who can not stay up all night, to joint the fun.
Single band low power. Low power Wire antennas. Multi two tx.
Keep it simple, allow assistance, focus on activating as many as possible. I've heard talk about "massaging the log". It should not be an option - make it clear and make it hard to do!
Not what i could think of at this moment
QRP singel band
I am not sure SAC is "better" or more "attractive" just because there are a lot of categories or overlays. Perhaps KISS is the way to go ? (KeepItSimpleStupid)
No No No. See above!
Maybe a 12h version of LP-classes for Scandinavians to attract participants that has no possibility to be active 24h. Common in other contests, with rules for breaks. There is people _not_ working CW. Could a separate digital (PSK63) class be run at the same weekend as SAC CW?
Nej, det är som jag ser det för många redan nu då jag för mitt liv inte kan förstå hur man kan "tävla" i assisted, men jag inser att det inte går att göra tempo tillbaka utan man får låta dem "tävla" i assisted för att slippa en del av dem som fuskare bland oss andra!
Hmm, guess there are many of them already. A combination with also a total listing of results per every power category would be positive to view results without sub-classing.
Multi-One LP
No, I want fewer category to consolidate SO and SO(A) There are not enough number of participants to justify separate category.

12. "Please provide any additional thoughts here."

Last year I couldn't work many contests. I looked forward to SAC and was sure to make time for it. Maybe it's because my grandparents came from Denmark. :-)
I always look forward to the SAC contest. The big CQ and ARRL contests can be very busy and "noisy", the SAC contest is a bit more laid back and always fun.
Do this survey just after the contest, now hard to think of any changes etc.
It is no use to have assisted category. These time it is usual to use inter-net. It is difficult to check if the participant use the inter-net or does not use it. Log submit deadline is too short, I hope for exsample 2 weeks.
Looking forward for the next contest. I know that even my short log with only a few QSO's can help other stations to confirm their QSO's, get points and maybe earn a multiplier, and that is why log submission is important. To build a pyramid, you need a lot of small stones in the bottom to lift up the big ones towards the top. This contest is also good exercise and preparation in case of emergency if radio communication skills are needed - how to make people receive and understand the message given.
On and off I have done SAC for years. I have always found SAC easy to understand and the operators very good. This year I am not very well and have hardly been on the key but I shall still say SAC is the best of the foreign ones to me. A lot of the others are too long for an individual to do justice to. I.E. 48 hours would end me !!!
I like this contest, I mean SAC-CW. It is a great pleasure to take part in it. I do not have anything against the SSB one, but I feel the CW more attractive (at least for contests). I really appreciate your efforts to keep this contest at high standards. Thanks to the Org Committee !
You show a very nice approach to outside ! I really hope everybody on the team contributes. If not, those members should find a person in their country who would have the will to contribute.
Thanks for your hard work...
Sac marathon? 4 different contests in where every contest gives you points by result First 10 points, second 8 points and so on. After year you could find out who is really who
NO 160 m
SAC is very nice "warm-up" for CQ WW. 24h is good, so people who must do work on weekdays, 24h contest is not too heavy. SAC Results Booklet with stories and photos is good. It's like aftermarket sale and remembering for next contest.
I am winner of first SSB SAC and active during first 30 years, not more
It's very annoying to work DX-stations when QRO contester comes to adjacent (or same) frequency. There are already too many "international" contests (virtually every weekend) spoiling most bands (except WARC - yet). Should we leave first 10 kHz of every band for non-participants?
Nordic team competition back!
I see good progress in SAC and how things are handled during contests and especially between contest periods. The Contest is not only the weekend, advertising for the next one should start right after finish.
As now SAC in my personal most 'important' contest, Perhaps RTTY and 48 (36h) contest would be nice additional feature. CUP of 5-6 SAC / 12h + major in october = 5-6 contests

<p>- As the popularity of digital modes is growing, should we have a SAC-Digital, for example during springtime? - How about changing multiplier rule so that each Scandinavian prefix (not just the "call area") would be a multiplier - Another possibility for</p>
<p>Results out fast, no delays like 2014.</p>
<p>I think the current SAC committee is doing great job. You are on the right track.</p>
<p>Please add online certificate / printing to SAC, too. 73s</p>
<p>You are doing very good job. But very difficult to name any improvements in Sac-concept or www-pages etc. Hope the sac committee continues the good work you have been doing</p>
<p>I am pretty active contester but stopped participating in SAC 2-3 years ago because the contest is pretty dull. It reminds DXing more than contesting. When the average rate through 24 hours is lower than 100 QSO for the station with average setup (tribander, wires for low bands, 1kW) the number of participants will go down. There are several contests that meet this criteria and one cannot participate every weekend of the year. There are other things to do. It is competition between contests and if you want to steal participants from other contests (CQWW, IARU, RUSIIAN DX, UKrainian, WPX) you have to offer something that others lack.</p>
<p>It's always a great fun to join!</p>
<p>Concurso muy animado. Felicitaciones para el equipo organizador.</p>
<p>The biggest problem with the 'smaller' contests is that there are so many contests now, it's hard to devote a lot of time each and every weekend. SAC is in the fall when station preparations are underway for the CQWW. This is good for testing, not good for a big effort. I do enjoy the contests where the everyone works anyone and the mults only come the the sponsors region. Seem to generate more activity. Probably the biggest handicap to the SAC is that often propagation is not so good to your region. I'm sure you know that better than I.</p>
<p>Change rule 11 for 14 days 11. Closing date for logs Cabrillo logs or typed-in paper logs shall be uploaded no later than 7 days, at 23:59:59 UTC on the Sunday after each part.</p>
<p>The SAC website is very difficult to see in older browsers. It has very chaotic behaviour and is almost unusable.</p>
<p>The Results Booklet is a wonderful surprise ! Thank you</p>
<p>Thanks for interesting contest, will try to work in it/</p>
<p>Perhaps add a digital contest RTTY or/and PSK</p>
<p>THANKS FOR ORGANISING THIS SURVEY</p>
<p>NONE. AFTER SOME MORE EXPERIENCE GAINED I WILL PROVIDE SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHTS</p>
<p>My best wishes and thanks for nice fun,thanks for all SAC contest team and best 73 cu</p>
<p>SAC website and the publication of rules are among the best, if not THE best in the World. SAC is highly respected everywhere.</p>

<p>Nothing more to add.. It's always a great pleasure to keep in touch with u up there. I only would like to give my point of view about VHF(144MHz in particular) The last year, during the summer, I discovered manytimes E-sporadic skip to Scandinavia with LA and SM beacons readable for a very long time, but everytime nobody is there..no human I mean.. It's a pity and I think that 144MHz is almost an abandoned band also up in Scandinavia. Why don't take the experience stored with SAC and create a kind of Spring/Summer Esp contest? A long period test from May to August, under SAC team control, prizing all the guys who work stations out of Scandinavia via Es or long bursts MS, ssb and cw only. Just a fwe rules, easy and fast understanding with a final good prize or award or any other stuff. My idea is rising from deep inside of me. I am now working to make rise the VHF DXing again here in south Italy, and it's very sad to see that Scandinavia is not interested on 144MHz anymore.. :(Thank you so much for your attention and big hugs frm S.Italy(sorry for all the mistakes, I am sleepy, it's late night :)))</p>
<p>Anything is running smoothly and propagation is quite fine..Hope next time is better...Thanks a lot for SAC committee</p>
<p>SAC is a good contest to do in the local club. Every club skuold have their station on the air during SAC.</p>
<p>160m activity - get ready for the low-seasons</p>
<p>Hope we will be that good as OH</p>
<p>Maintaining the vision of SAC becoming one of the big contests will help growing and developing a great contest</p>
<p>Hard for LP-stations to find a free area to run on busy bands. Could a recommended "low power"-segment per band be a solution? Very nice with the new sponsored plaques! Also good work with the booklet. Nice to read "user stories"! What more can be done that don't cost much money... High activity at FaceBook before/under/after the contest? Instagram photos of the station/ham/log screen?</p>
<p>Great job from the SAC committee! Very well done!</p>
<p>The contest has to be promoted to all active operators which can be found in other contests CQ, ARRL etc.</p>
<p>Recent years committee work has taken SAC to new levels, well done! The website and the contest writeup sure is helping - top class.</p>
<p>I was always interested in seeing on the diplomas the place you made in your category, not just top score in your own country. Uploading the log to the new system is a dandy and you get preliminary result instantly. Those who worked on the contest robot and the software did a great job!</p>
<p>This is a 'wow'-contest! As said above, please try some years a 48-hours-SAC. Please!</p>
<p>Even consolidate SSB/CW to mix mode contest?</p>

13. "What do you think about the SAC website?"

Scale: 1 = very poor, 5 = very good

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	10	6,9
2	3	2,1
3	26	18,1
4	53	36,8
5	52	36,1

Average	3,9
Median	4
Mode	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5

14. "What do you think about the material on the SAC website?"

Scale: 1 = very uninformative, 5 = very informative

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	9	6,3
2	3	2,1
3	29	20,1
4	60	41,7
5	43	29,9

Average	3,9
Median	4
Mode	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5

15. "How do you feel about the log submission process?"

Scale: 1 = very unsatisfied, 5 = very satisfied

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	13	9,0
2	1	0,7
3	16	11,1
4	28	19,4
5	86	59,7

Average	4,2
Median	5
Mode	5
Minimum	1
Maximum	5

16. "How do you find using the online log robot?"

Scale: 1 = very difficult, 5 = very easy

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	8	5,6
2	2	1,4
3	13	9,0
4	33	22,9
5	88	61,1

Average	4,3
Median	5
Mode	5
Minimum	1
Maximum	5

17. "What is your overall satisfaction with SAC?"

Scale: 1 = very poor, 5 = very good

Answer	# of respondents	% of respondents
1	8	5,6
2	1	0,7
3	19	13,2
4	47	32,6
5	69	47,9

Average	4,2
Median	4
Mode	5
Minimum	1
Maximum	5