

## Minutes of the Nordic VHF Managers' Meeting at Sappee Finland on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Present: LA8KV, OH5LK (chair), OZ7IS, SM5QA

### 1. Opening

OH5LK opened the meeting at 1700 local time

### 2. NRAU Matters

Each Nordic country gave an overview on what has been happening in their countries.

#### OZ7IS:

- OZ3ACC and OZ1LPR have started as new members of the EDR VHF-Committee.
- On beacons: The cost of keeping a beacon running have gone up. Often one has to pay for a good spot for the antennas and for the electricity. The oldest running VHF beacon in Europe, multiband OZ7IGY has 40 MHz band added. There are plans to soon include a 28 MHz transmitter as well. OZ7IGY operates now on bands between 40 MHz (soon 28 MHz) and 10368 MHz.
- The 70 MHz amateur allocation may be extended in the near future.
- Activity in the 50 MHz and 70 MHz NAC contests in OZ has been decreasing.
- EDR repeater committee has expressed that the 2MHz duplex shift is working very well on the 435 MHz band repeaters.
- EDR will arrange a course on EMC. Such a meeting might be useful also in other Nordic countries.

#### SM5QA:

- SSA is planning to send a letter to the Swedish Radiocommunications Authorities pointing out differences in the amateur radio regulations when comparing the Swedish regulations to other Nordic countries. For example on the band plans. Also the power levels on the 2,4GHz band as well as an allocation on 3,4 GHz band will be discussed.
- Next NRAU meeting will take place in Karlsborg in October.

#### OH2AUE:

- a meeting took place a week ago between SRAL and Ficora. OH2AUE (member of our VHF-Committee) takes part in these negotiations. A meeting is planned to take place twice each year. Items discussed included:
  - green light for experiments on 500 kHz
  - for the ECA Table of Allocations a footnote recognising that 70 MHz is an amateur radio allocation in several European countries is planned. Once such a footnote is in place, discussions will start on a time table to get OH operators access to the band.
  - SRAL keeps reminding Ficora that the maximum allowed power on VHF/UHF bands has fallen behind the power levels allowed on HF.

#### LA8KV:

- No activity lately in LA on 2,4GHz and Up in NAC.
- VHF section is not participating in the negotiations with the Norwegian PTT.
- The tasks of a new Digital Manager will include D-STAR and Echolink
- CTCSS system for repeaters is based on the postal codes
- Once the TV transmitters on Band I are closed down the future of the possibilities of Norwegian amateurs to use the 50 MHz band will depend on the main users of the lower VHF frequencies (note by OH5LK: in many countries the main user of these frequencies, around 30 – 68 MHz, is military).
- On the 1,3 GHz band there have lately been no high power licences issued.

### 3. APRS Frequency for the 435 MHz Band (continued from last year's meeting)

Last year in Norway the issue of finding a more interference free replacement to the current APRS frequency 433.800 MHz was discussed. As no consensus was found in Norway, participants of the meeting were tasked to find a proposal for this year's meeting. In the discussion OZ7IS pointed out that it might not be possible to find a frequency for APRS outside the ISM band. The meeting was open for proposals. Unfortunately no new ideas were presented. This item may come up within the APRS Standards ad-hoc working group (see minutes on point: IARU proposals).

### 4. Contests

EDR VHF-committee decided to wait for one more year before possibly making proposals to change the rules on 50 MHz and 70 MHz NACs in order to bring the activity up.

Often there has been a lively discussion on the contest matters. Not this time.

### 5. IARU Proposals

There will be an IARU Region I Conference in Croatia in November. The proposals for the meeting became available shortly before Sappee meeting. Only a few persons had managed to find time to go through the proposals before this meeting. Unfortunately there was also not enough time to go through all the proposals in detail. Some useful remarks were made by the participants.

- It was decided to set up a Nordic working group on the APRS standards with the aim of creating a common Nordic proposal. Participants will be OZ3ACC, OZ1IEP, OH2MQK, LA6IM and SM6JOC. They will discuss this matter via e-mail. Everyone else is welcome to send in ideas.

Each Nordic country will go through the IARU proposals in their respective VHF committees. As usual, the Nordic VHF participants to the Conference will go through the proposals in the coming NRAU meeting.

All interested VHF minded radio amateurs are invited to read the proposals and express their views to the national VHF Committees or VHF Managers. The proposals can be found in many places in the net. When reading the proposals, especially the ones by RSGB, kindly bear in mind the complexity of English language. Sometimes it is quite difficult to understand the essence of a proposal.

There were no proposals for the point "Any other business" so the meeting was closed at 18.30.