

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND

**An illustrated report of youth activities by
Suomen Radioamatööriliitto – SRAL
during the past seven years**

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Stockholm, October 15, 2011**

THE SITUATION BEFORE 2004

- ① Youth activities were not recognized by SRAL nor supported as a separate and distinct activity on its own right.
- ① SRAL argument: we have many young members BUT age is not relevant in our hobby. All hams are equally treated!
- ① Ministry of Education accepted this argument each year and gave SRAL continued basic support for undefined "youth activities".

2004

FIRST STEPS

- An active youth Esko Mattila (14 years) started his ham career, joined SRAL and earned his Basic class license as OH2GTS.
- Esko's sister Kaisa (13 years) soon thereafter became OH2FAN.
- My goddaughter Cecilia (13 years) also took an interest in Amateur Radio and became OH3YL.
- Youth committee of SRAL was established with Esko as chairman, Kaisa and Cecilia as members and Jukka OH2BR as secretary.
- The idea was to let youth get more experience in running official meetings and matters

Esko OH2GTS

with Marko OH2LRD
and Jukka OH2BR



The visitors of SRAL 2005 traditional **summer camp** in Rääskälä near Riihimäki saw Esko OH2GTS the first time.

Esko's father was in military service in the Signal Regiment in Riihimäki and he told his son stories about CW.

These stories stimulated Esko to contact SRAL and become a ham.

2004

FIRST SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION

- ⦿ We visited the headmaster of the elementary school where Esko had studied earlier.
- ⦿ A comprehensive demonstration was offered to all teachers and pupils.
- ⦿ All teachers and 400 pupils were present at the demonstration.
- ⦿ We showed RSGB video "What is Amateur Radio" with the permission of RSGB.
- ⦿ The pupils made QSOs on 2 m radios and received lots of handouts and old copies of RADIOAMATÖÖRI journal.

2006

FIRST DXPEDITION



Destination:

Bengtskär Island

Jukka OH2BR

Kim (later OH2FDS)

Esko OH2GTS

Kaisa OH2FAN

Tarmo (later OH2FDT)

Cecilia OH3YL

2007

FIRST TRAINING CAMP



For a camp to be successful, you have to have young coleaders who are hams.

We have been lucky to have several fine youth guiding the younger ones in the camps.

Esko's 14-year old sister Kaisa OH2FAN is taking good care of 10-year old Joel (to be OH2FHI).

Young leaders of the first training camp in 2007



Minna

Pave

Tarmo

Kaisa

Esko

OH3FBO

OH3GWN

OH2FDT

OH2FAN

OH2GTS

SECOND TRAINING CAMP IN 2008



The training camp was held in July in Hankasalmi OH6 just a week before SRAL summer camp with 1000 visitors.

Kids want to play



Good motivation is essential for studying.

A child has to have free time for playing, running and other outdoor activities.

Children want to make new friends, let them have time for that and they will come again, year after year, just to meet friends.



Ada, OH2FKZ, 11 years

Young children can be very concentrated students in a class, if they have good motivation.

A child whose father and maybe mother, too, are hams, has no problems with motivation.

This is also true for girls.

School demonstrations start in 2009



Kinnari school in Järvenpää was the starting point for two years of Amateur Radio presentations in schools.

46 schools have been visited and more than 1000 youngsters have heard about Amateur Radio.

Some schools invite us still every year as the demonstration is considered to be a permanent part of the school curriculum.

CW was my main target



First I started with CW as the main thing to get youngsters interested in Amateur Radio.

It worked fine until they realised that it takes a year to learn CW at a useful speed.

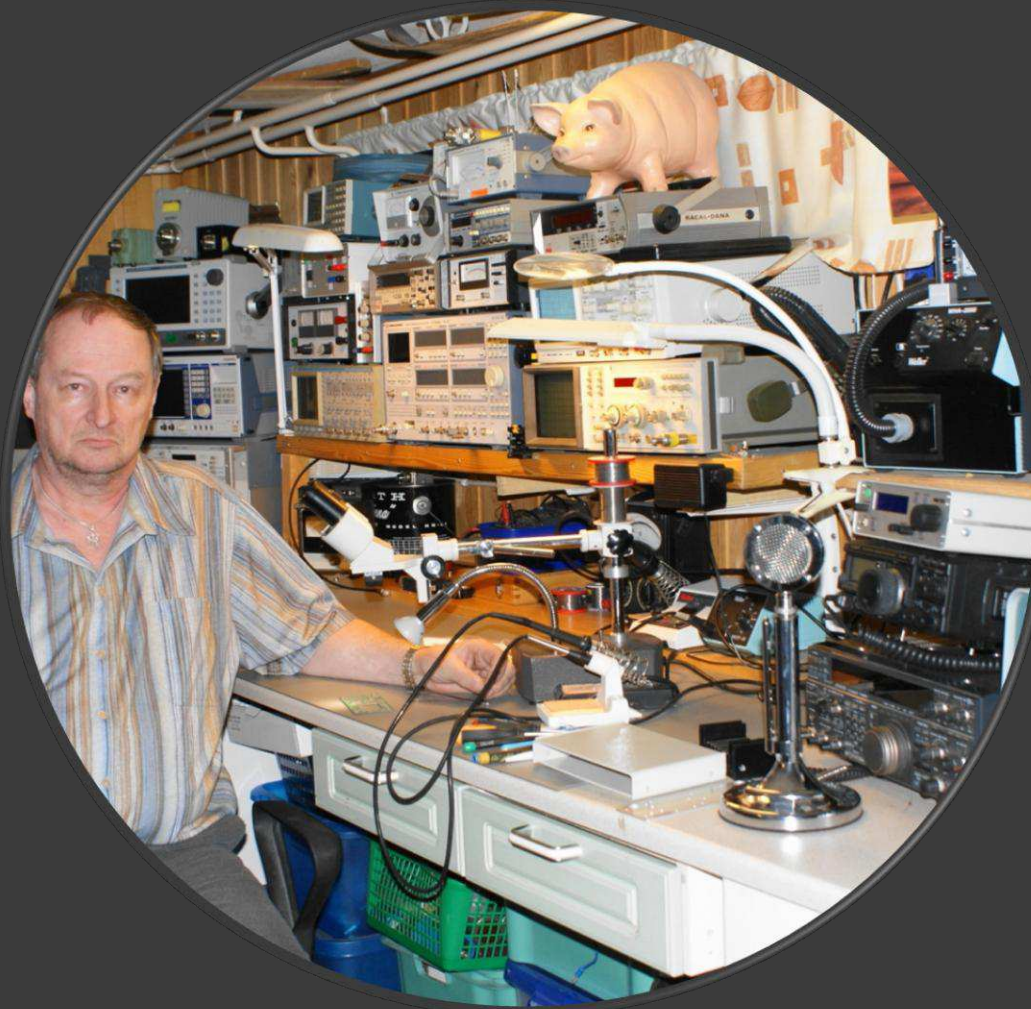
CW still is attractive for youth but do not depend on it alone!

Electronics construction is the catch!

Arska OH2EC has been my reliable assistant during school demonstrations and all training camps.

Arska is a great teacher of electronics construction and wizard in equipment repairs.

Arska's solid background comes from decades in installing Nokia Mobile Phone networks around the world.



YOUTH HOBBY FAIR IN 2009



Vantaa-Hämeenkylä Lions Club organizes an annual youth hobby fair each April.

Families come to find a hobby for their children.

A huge gym is full of stands and live performances.

SRAL stand was attractive because of a video show on the gym wall.

THIRD TRAINING CAMP IN 2009



The training camp was held in June in Hämeenlinna OH3 just after the school year had ended.

FIRST 9 YEARS OLD HAM



Walter Segerstam passed the basic class exam at the 2009 training camp in the age of 9. He became OH2FPI.

His background is remarkable: grandfather is famous conductor and composer Leif Segerstam and father is electronics engineer OH2JNO.

Walter's elder sister Ada OH2FKZ attended the 2008 training camp.

These brilliant kids are there waiting for you to tell about Amateur Radio.

FIRST COMMUNICATION CAMP IN 2010



The communication camp was held in March in Leirisalo camp centre of Salo town OH1 as a weekend camp.

ARDF is ideal for kids!



Youth want to run free in the nature, we all know that.

They do not want to sit in a classroom or a hamshack all the time.

Give them ARDF receivers and ask them to find the transmitters – see what happens!

Role models needed



If you want to teach a kid, show him how to do things.

We need role models, young leaders who inspire kids by being active in different sectors of Amateur Radio.

SRAL Youth instructor Mari OH2FPK is the right person to guide kids by her own example.

SECOND COMMUNICATION CAMP IN 2010



The communication camp was held in November in Lieto scout hut in OH1 as a weekend camp.

My friend Allu OH1FJK is a charismatic scout leader and SRAL radioscouting instructor.

MODEL EXPO 2010



Our second year at Model Expo resulted in three kids joining the training camp.

Our secret weapon was the electronics constructing position – kids came again and again to try their soldering skills.

At a fair it is difficult to have a good station because of lots of QRM from electrical wiring and equipment.

Keep to the basics and make a good show!

YOUTH HOBBY FAIR IN 2010



Vantaa-Hämeenkylä Lions Club organizes an annual youth hobby fair each April.

This year we had an own classroom closer to the flagpole, which was the support for our dipole.

SRAL classroom offered a position for electronics construction practice.

FOURTH TRAINING CAMP IN 2010



The training camp was held in June in Hämeenlinna OH3 in the same place and at the same time as year before.

School clubs



Amateur Radio clubs at schools is a good investment in training youth to be hams.

Kids are generally interested in electronics constructing so you can guide them to radio by building Morse keys, receivers and antennas, later transmitters.

Teachers have always been very positive about Amateur Radio. You have the school for the club after regular school hours.

THIRD COMMUNICATION CAMP IN 2011



The communication camp was held in March in Leirisalo camp centre of Salo town OH1 as a weekend camp.

FIFTH TRAINING CAMP IN 2011



The training camp was held in June at a scout hut in Mäntsälä OH2 just after the school year had ended.

Give them new challenges!



Smart kids want to learn more so let them have new challenges like being the operator of a world-class contest station OH8X.

Joel OH2FHI has grown from a small kid in 2007 training camp into a serious contester today.

It takes years to train a kid to be a competent ham but the results of your work will be a great reward!



**Mari, OH2FPK, operated OH9W
contest station in SAC SSB 2011**

Youngest ham in Finland



10 year old Oliver OH2FYY earned his basic license in February 2011 during skiing holidays.

He made it by studying five days – 7 hours with me and 7 hours at home every day!

Oliver is a taido student of Mari OH2FPK. They both share the fighter's character: 100% effort each time.

CONCLUSIONS

or my recommendations

- Visit schools, fairs, expos and scout organizations as often as possible
- Tell about Amateur Radio, its benefits for life in all aspects, leave handouts and other info material
- Find young hams who are willing to act as role models and camp leaders, train and support them
- Establish a Youth committee, give sufficient funding
- Organize training and communication camps, youth DXpeditions, contest teams
- Write youth oriented articles in QTC
- Maintain good contacts with the Ministry of Education