End of a Solar Cycle? 2007 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

Another bump in the solar flux helped, but conditions were again challenging.

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HF band is more sensitive to the ups and downs of the solar cycle than 10 meters. At the peak of the cycle, when the number of sunspots is high, and the solar flux is creating high levels of ionization in the F layer, life is good. With 5 W and a dipole, you can work the world. A few years later, when the cycle bottoms out, when there are no sunspots at all for days at a time, operating on 28-28.5 MHz takes real dedication. Even stations with stacked Yagis and high power amplifiers struggle to make contacts.

Fortuitously, the 2007 ARRL 10 Meter Contest caught the leading edge of a two-week bump in the solar flux. Remarkably, this is the fifth year in a row in which the solar flux on the days of the contest has been between 84 and 91. A total of 1586 logs were entered in the 2007 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, down 277 logs, or 15%, from 2006. There were 159 fewer logs submitted by Europeans, but only 96 fewer submitted by stations in North America. With many fewer Japanese stations participating, only 60 logs total were submitted by stations from Asia this year, representing 15.6% of the DX logs and just 3.8% of the total number for the contest as a whole. Relatively speaking, this was the lowest level of activity from Asia in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest since 1977.

DX Categories

Single Operator Mixed Mode

In addition to setting a new Oceania record for the Single Operator Mixed-Mode QRP category, 12 year old Foundation licensee Raj Deyoung, VK4FRAJ, of Queensland, Australia also took the overall DX victory in the category. Raj was one of only two DX entrants in the category to make more than 100 contacts. Second place went to Vitor La Santos, PY2NY, operating from the town of Jaboraticaba about 350 km northwest of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Ymanol Yoseva, YV5YMA, took third place, operating with his contest call sign 4M2L from Venezuela.

In the Single Operator Mixed-Mode Low Power category, Alex Cozzi, LU5WW, took the victory from Argentina with 130,192 points. Second place went to Marco Soto, XE2S, operating from the Sonoran Desert in northern Mexico. Alfredo Ramos, WP3C, using the Atlantic Contest Club call sign WP4I, took third place from the island of Puerto Rico.

Pulling off a rare category victory for a South African, Vidi LaGrange, ZS1EL, won the Single Operator Mixed-Mode High Power category from his station east of Cape Town. Second place went to Vazo Nastasic, YT1XX, using his contest call sign YT5T from Serbia. Third place came from Andre Sampaio, PY0FF, operating from Fernando de Noronha off the coast of Brazil.

Single Operator Phone Only

Operators in the Single Operator Phone-Only QRP category are members of a dedicated group. In 2007, the winner made just 87 QSOs. Sebastian Potenzo, LW3DC, took the victory, operating as LV6D from Argentina. Just 10 contacts behind was Carlos Alfaro, TI2KAC, as TE2M from Costa Rica. Third place went to last year’s victor, Ted Jiminez, HI3TEJ, who was operating with his contest call sign HI3T from the Dominican Republic.

Nine of the top 10 scores in the Single-Operator Phone-Only Low Power category came from just Argentina and Brazil. Winning the category this year was Alan Laure Santamaria, PU2LSM, operating from PY2DM in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In second place was Mauricio Pitorri, PY2CX, also from Sao Paulo. Victor Fabian Olmos, LU3HS, using his contest call sign LQ5H, came in third from Cordoba, Argentina.

In the Single Operator Phone-Only High Power category, the victory went to Juan Manuel Morandi, LU1HF, from Cordoba, Argentina. Juan made 440 contacts, about 1600 fewer than last year’s category winner. Second place went to Rhyhardt Louw, ZS6DXB, making just shy of 40,000 points. Third place went to Miguel Carlos Peres...
Marcel, PY5HOT, operating from Panama state in southern Brazil.

**Single Operator CW Only**

Some of the best results for Asian competitors in 2007 came in the Single Operator CW-Only QRP category, where half of the top 10 scores were made by Asian stations. Overall DX victory in the category, however, went to Bob Novak, KØOK, operating V5SE. Bob won the category with just 34 QSOs and 15 multipliers. Second place went to Manohar Arasu, VU2UR, operating from Bangalore, India. Third place went to Masaaki Saito, JD1AHC, who set a new record from the Japanese island of Ogasawara.

Only three DX stations in the Single Operator CW-Only Low Power category made over 10,000 points. First place went to Geoffrey Howard, W0CG, who operated PJ2T on the island of Curaçao. Operating from Uruguay, Andrea Panati, IK1PMR, using the contest call sign CW2C, took second place with 140 contacts. Third place went to Hugo Jorge Salmoynragi, LU1EWL, operating LU1E from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In the Single Operator CW-Only High Power category, Waldir Soares, PY2WC, an operator from Brazil, earned 45,540 points from 170 QSOs and 69 multipliers. In the Mixed Mode category this year, the fewest of any category. Paul Newberry Jr, N4PN, in Georgia took second place. Paul had seven more multipliers in his log, but Scott made more QSOs — 132 more — to take the victory. Jerry Rosalius, W9YA, in Illinois came in a close third place.

**Single Operator Phone Only**

Only 18 W/VE logs were received in the Single Operator, Phone-Only QRP category this year, the fewest of any category. Winning the category was Kevin Matheny, WØAIH, from Wisconsin, one of the few who participated. He had the most points, 120 QSOs and 100 multipliers from North Texas to win the contest. Dave Cockrum, N5DO, in West Texas, took second place. Third place went to Peter Stadler, K2PS, of Southern New Jersey.

Scott Jasper, N9U, operating the well-known WØAIH contest station in Wisconsin, just edged out the competition in the Single Operator, Mixed-Mode High Power category, Paul Newberry Jr, N4PN, in Georgia took second place. Paul had seven more multipliers in his log, but Scott made more QSOs — 132 more — to take the victory. Jerry Rosalius, W9YA, in Illinois came in a close third place.

**Multiplier Single Transmitter**

In the DX Multi-operator category, all of the top 10 scores came from South America. Winning the contest in 2007 was the two-man team at LR2F in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina. Roberto Marinesco, LU2FA, and Javi Pons Estel, LUSFF, together made 305,920 points from their location 810 km northwest of Buenos Aires. Last year’s winning team took second place this year; six operators at CX5BW combined to make 264,300 points from Uruguay. A multinational team of seven operators used the Auracaria DX Group’s call sign, ZW5B to earn third place.

**W/VE Categories**

The top two W/VE scores in the Single Operator Mixed Mode QRP category set record. Toni Radenaubb, N0NI, set a new Iowa section record and took first place with a score almost twice that of Manuel Fonseca, W2MF, in Northern New Jersey. Manuel also set a section record with 196 QSOs. Last year’s second place finisher, Chris Merchant, KA1LMR, in New Hampshire, took third place this year.

In the Single Operator Mixed Mode Low Power category, a pair of Texans took the first two places in the W/VE competition. Tom Johnson, WD5K, just made shy of 1200 QSOs and 100 multipliers from North Texas to win the contest. Dave Cockrum, N5DO, in West Texas, took second place. Third place went to Pete Stafford, K2PS, of Southern New Jersey.

Novotny, OK1GI, operated OL5M to third place overall from the Czech Republic.

**Top Ten, CW Only**

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<th>Call Sign</th>
<th>QSOs</th>
<th>Multipliers</th>
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all went to stations in the fifth call district. Charles Frost, K5LBU, won the category from South Texas with over 600 contacts in the log. Terry Wright, WW5TT, from Oklahoma took second place with over 500 QSOs. In third, Jeff Guidry, AC5O, of Louisiana was just short of 500 contacts.

In the Single Operator Phone-Only High Power category, Chuck Dietz, W5PR, returned to first place after several years of top five finishes. Ken Harker, WM5R, operating at the KSTR station in South Texas, took second place for the second year in a row. Ed Gray, W0SD, of South Dakota came in third this year.

**Single Operator CW Only**

Winning the Single Operator CW-Only QRP category for the fourth year in a row, Dale Martin, KG5U of South Texas made over 100 more QSOs in 2007 than he did in 2006. Second place went to Jerome Fiore, N4JF, of Alabama, while Al Sinopoli, KC5R, of Louisiana set a new Louisiana section record with a score of 33,792 points.

In the Single Operator CW-Only Low Power category, first place went to Bob Beaudoin, WA1FCN, of Alabama. Bob was just shy of 500 contacts this year. Todd Dewberry, N5CHA of North Texas took second place with 67,404 points. In a close third place finish, Merrill Brown, WK2G, of West Central Florida finished with 65,700 points, a difference of just 2.5%.

In the W/VE Single Operator CW-Only High Power category, Richard King, KS5NA, came out on top from South Texas. Dan Street, K1TO, operating from West Central Florida, came in second this year. While Dan was competitive with Richard in multipliers again this year, Dan finished more than 300 contacts behind. Third place went to Karl Bretz, K9BGL, of Illinois.

**Multioperator Single Transmitter**

South Texas dominated the W/VE Multi-operator category in 2007. The five-operator team at NX5M earned its third consecutive victory in the category. Earning the second place spot was a two-person team at NR5M. George DeMontrond III got help from Eric Silverthorn, NM5M, this year. Third place went to W5YAA, the husband-and-wife team of Sharon Mowers, W5YAA, and Dennis Mowers, K5YA.

**Complete Online Results**

For complete scores, including regional and divisional rundowns, scores by country and many other breakdowns, check out the online results at www.arrl.org/contests/results.

**ARRL Affiliated Clubs Competition**

The ARRL affiliated Club Competition continues to be popular, and a reason many cited for getting on a challenging 10 meter band at the bottom of the solar cycle. Forty-seven clubs qualified for the competition this year, one more than qualified in 2006 or 2005.

The top score in the Local Club category this year went to the Midland Amateur Radio Club of Midland, Texas. Second place went to the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, while third place went to the Metro DX Club of Oak Lawn, Illinois.

The most competitive club competition category in 2007 was the Medium Club category. Winning the club competition for the first time was the Central Texas DX and Contest Club. The 19 logs from CTDXCC members combined for 2,021,354 points, over 106,000 points per log on average. The Florida Contest Group came in second, with exactly 50 logs (the limit for the Medium category) and 1,509,834 points. The Society of Midwest Contesters came in third with 1,103,248 points from 31 logs.

The only club to motivate over 50 members to send in entries on its behalf this year was the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Seventy-six logs from PVRC members combined for 1,725,518 points and a solid victory.

**Are You Ready for Next Year?**

The ARRL 10 Meter Contest has long been one of the easiest and most approachable contests. If you are new to HF, there’s no easier HF band on which to get a station operating. Antennas for 10 meters can be reasonably small, inexpensive, and can have excellent performance at lower heights above ground. An event like the 10 Meter Contest is one of the best ways to get your feet wet in HF contesting.

By December, we will almost certainly be at the leading edge of Solar Cycle 24. On December 13-14, 2008, thousands of Amateur Radio operators around the world will bring the 10 meter band to life once again. An event like the 10 Meter Contest can be at the forefront of Solar Cycle 24. On December 13-14, 2008, thousands of Amateur Radio operators around the world will bring the 10 meter band to life once again.

Sixteen year old Michael McCarty, KESRJJ, of Abilene, Texas jumped into the 10 Meter contest just three weeks after getting licensed. He managed 177 QSOs and 10,034 points.