

Naughty and Nice – 2007 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

Mother Nature stirs up the ionosphere and the weather!

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Mother Nature was naughty and nice during the 2007 ARRL 160 Meter Contest! In the “nice” category was very good DX propagation, which generated comments from operators like, “This year was my personal best,” and “First night had a good European opening to the West Coast!” In last year’s story, I noted that 17 stations had 100 or more multipliers, but 2007 conditions enabled a whopping 70 stations to reach that mark! Better conditions usually means more participation, which certainly was the case — 1197 logs were submitted, nearly 14 percent more than the 2006 event.

The naughty behavior showed up after the first night’s excellent band conditions. Parts of the US and Canada experienced a fierce winter storm that brought high winds, rain, sleet, ice and snow, breaking antennas and increasing the received noise levels. But contests are all about meeting challenges, and the Top Ten finishers include several operators

who, quite literally, “weathered the storm” to persevere in the face of adversity.

Top Ten Highlights

The Multioperator category was highly competitive, with the team at W8JI capturing the top spot from Georgia, making 1900 contacts and collecting 133 multipliers. A surprising second-place finish was achieved by the operators at WB9Z, signing W9AZ, in central Illinois, who came out ahead of last year’s multiop winners, the well-seasoned crew at W2GD in New Jersey. Following excellent efforts at WE3C, K1LT and K3WW, another Central Time Zone station, WD5R in Arkansas, captured the seventh spot. The scores of the middle four finishers in this category were separated by less than 5 percent.

The always-exciting High Power category was topped by VY2ZM, operated by Jeff Briggs, K1ZM. A few years ago, no one would have predicted that 2000 QSOs was possible in this contest, but Jeff’s 1957 QSOs came mighty close! A strong second place finish was achieved by Yuri Blarovich, K3BU, using the call sign N2EE from W8LRL’s excellent station in West Virginia. Coming in third was Peter Briggs, K3ZM, in Virginia (yes, Peter is Jeff’s brother). The fifth place finish by John Battin, K9DX, is noteworthy, since it was achieved in little more than one day — John’s big antenna array was among the casualties of Saturday’s ice storm. The rest of the list represents a lot of experience on this band. Note that the point spread from third through tenth places is less than 15 percent. This category also had some really tough competition!

Low Power entries totaled 44 percent of the logs submitted, making it by far the most popular category. At the top of the list is a repeat winner, Fred Helwig, K8FH, in Ohio. Second and third place winners each moved up a notch from last year, with Julius Fazekas, N2WN, from Tennessee coming out ahead of Gene Shea, KB7Q, who operated from Montana. A DX station made it into the Top Ten list with a fourth place showing by Bob Patten, N4BP, who traveled to the Bahamas

and competed as C6AKQ. With an eighth place finish from California, Dave Bullard, NT6K, made the Low Power category the only one with coast-to-coast (and beyond) Top Ten representation.

QRP is always a challenge on the 160 meter band, but the good conditions and activity helped raise the typical scores in this category. Reaching this year’s #1 QRP position is “Mike” Michael, W3TS, who topped his second place score of last year (a personal best at that time) by nearly a third! From Arizona, Gary Hembree, N7IR, captured second place, with a similar increase over his fifth-place score of last year. As in the Low Power category, a DX station cracked the QRP Top Ten, with a strong third



Single Operator, High Power

VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	791,505
N2EE (K3BU, op)	596,909
K3ZM	455,499
W4MYA	443,796
K9DX	434,868
VE3EY	421,724
VE3EJ	417,484
AA1K	414,756
W1UE	405,750
W5MX	401,472

Single Operator, QRP

W3TS	99,937
N7IR	73,944
CM6RCR	67,758
W9SE	65,564
K4CIA	64,428
N0UR	58,759
KT5E	57,743
W4TMR	53,724
N8IE	50,540
N8BB	50,344

Multioperator

W8JI	598,101
W9AZ	485,478
W2GD	460,928
WE3C	427,136
K1LT	420,840
K3WW	412,672
WD5R	408,012
K1LZ	372,496
K8KS	341,260
W8MJ	315,019

Single Operator, Low Power

K8FH	244,530
N2WN	225,600
KB7Q	201,150
C6AKQ (N4BP, op)	185,018
W0UO	181,629
K0PK	176,131
WE9V	173,290
NT6K	166,936
K0DI	158,256
K4LY	157,320

Affiliated Club Competition

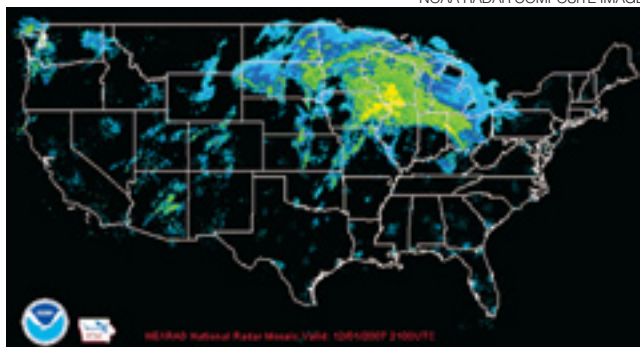
	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Society of Midwest Contesters	5,398,290	61
Potomac Valley Radio Club	5,097,867	64
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	3,934,302	34
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	3,645,181	42
Tennessee Contest Group	2,581,579	32
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,502,083	48
Contest Club Ontario	2,306,469	34
Northern California Contest Club	2,099,763	37
Mad River Radio Club	1,841,858	20
South East Contest Club	1,487,113	14
Alabama Contest Group	1,111,367	10
Florida Contest Group	976,489	16
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	881,049	8
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	740,969	9
North Texas Contest Club	735,330	7
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	624,256	9
Southern California Contest Club	516,991	17
Western New York DX Assn Club	467,937	6
Carolina DX Assn	416,813	5
Western Washington DX Club	378,096	11
Hudson Valley Contesters	339,399	10
BC DX Club	323,525	3
Texas DX Society	300,105	3
Magnolia DX Assn	288,027	4
Oklahoma DX Assn	273,175	4
Central Arizona DX Assn	225,641	7
North Coast Contesters	214,636	4
Order of Boiled Owls of New	213,690	4
West Park Radiops	212,940	10
Willamette Valley DX Club	194,194	5
Contest Club Du Quebec	144,557	7
Kentucky Contest Group	139,750	3
East Coast Canada Contest Club	33,920	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	694,145	9
Kansas City DX Club	454,735	5
Medina 2 Meter Group	444,599	5
Spokane DX Association	426,296	5
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	196,540	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	148,045	4
Sterling Park ARC	136,478	3
CTRI Contest Group	106,162	3
Maritime Contest Club	102,509	4
Metro DX Club	24,649	4

Regional Scores

A = QRP, B = Single Op Low Power, C = Single Op High Power, D = Multioperator

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)					Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)					Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)					Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)					West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)				
W3TS	99,937	690	73	A	K4CIA	64,428	399	78	A	W9SE	65,564	438	74	A	N0UR	58,759	438	67	A	N7IR	73,944	458	79	A
AA1CA	48,546	451	54	A	W4TMR	53,724	363	74	A	N8IE	50,540	353	70	A	KT5E	57,743	396	73	A	K7TQ	25,186	260	49	A
K3TW	33,275	300	55	A	N4JF	48,412	307	76	A	N8BB	50,344	449	56	A	W7JI	46,584	331	72	A	K6EI	21,056	222	47	A
KR2Q	28,800	297	48	A	N4AX	33,015	235	71	A	WB8RTJ	32,966	316	53	A	W5ESE	21,489	185	57	A	N6WG	19,194	230	42	A
KA1LMR	27,269	212	67	A	K4ORD	28,026	256	54	A	AD9T	21,828	216	51	A	W3FAF	13,464	173	51	A	K6MI	7,068	90	38	A
K1EP	135,828	785	84	B	N2WN	225,600	1144	96	B	K8FH	244,530	1200	99	B	W0UO	181,629	961	93	B	KB7Q	201,150	1108	90	B
K1NK	119,685	742	79	B	K4LY	157,320	805	95	B	WE9V	173,290	998	86	B	K0PK	176,131	975	89	B	NT6K	166,936	917	88	B
N1RL	106,560	654	80	B	WA4FFW	118,437	596	97	B	N9JF	153,436	845	89	B	K0DI	158,256	940	84	B	N6RK	137,105	770	85	B
K2UF	105,193	709	73	B	WO4O	118,250	673	86	B	WB8JUI	148,320	806	90	B	K7RE	141,375	801	87	B	W7RH	106,590	626	85	B
K5IJ	89,712	606	72	B	K4CNW	116,424	645	88	B	NE9U	144,050	829	86	B	K6XT	140,352	810	86	B	W6JTI	100,212	578	84	B
VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	791,505	1957	135	C	N2EE (K3BU, op)	596,909	1869	137	C	K9DX	434,868	1592	124	C	K5RX	377,682	1514	114	C	N7GP (N5IA, op)	262,297	1215	101	C
AA1K	414,756	1555	123	C	K3ZM	455,499	1534	129	C	VE3EY	421,724	1541	124	C	W0SD (W0DB, op)	356,720	1612	104	C	W7RN (W6EU, op)	223,572	1118	93	C
W1UE	405,750	1349	125	C	W4MYA	443,796	1575	124	C	VE3EJ	417,484	1501	122	C	NOTT	300,798	1440	102	C	WA7LT	182,430	982	90	C
N1BUG	359,020	1365	116	C	NY4A (N4AF, op)	344,214	1323	117	C	W5MX	401,472	1498	123	C	VE5RAA (VA5DX, op)	289,224	1275	108	C	VE7CC	176,142	875	93	C
W2FU	336,284	1289	116	C	K4TD	342,908	1342	118	C	K9CT	329,076	1461	108	C	WS4Y	239,232	1196	96	C	KH6ZM	174,174	803	91	C
W2GD	460,928	1604	128	D	W8JI	598,101	1900	133	D	W9AZ	485,478	1774	126	D	N0NI	274,540	1252	106	D	N7DD	293,550	1186	114	D
WE3C	427,136	1448	128	D	WD5R	408,012	1532	121	D	K1LT	420,840	1536	126	D	K9BWI	186,660	1001	90	D	N6RO	229,890	1070	97	D
K3WW	412,672	1488	124	D	W4HZ	271,138	1215	107	D	K8KS	341,260	1458	113	D	K0KX	170,560	783	104	D	N6DZ	200,690	979	94	D
K1LZ	372,496	1278	124	D	N2NL	220,542	835	118	D	W8MJ	315,019	1532	101	D	K5NA	164,618	722	106	D	K7OX	197,402	1066	89	D
NO2R	273,372	1029	114	D	WW4LL	209,818	1041	98	D	W0AIH	304,304	1424	104	D	N5TW	162,032	727	104	D	KH6LC	151,452	702	84	D

NOAA RADAR COMPOSITE IMAGE



This is the US national weather radar at 2100Z on December 1, 2007 (Saturday afternoon). Much of the Upper Midwest had a wintry blast of wind, rain, sleet, ice and snow. Through the night, this storm moved eastward, reaching the New England states and eastern Canadian provinces by morning. In its wake were many damaged and ice-encrusted antennas. Other parts of North America also had precipitation of some form, with accompanying high noise levels.

place effort by Joaquin "Yanco" Sanchez, CM6RCR. Back in the middle of the US, John Flinn, W9SE reached fourth place from his station in Illinois. The QRP category was the most geographically diverse in this event, with remaining Top Ten finishers located in North Carolina, Minnesota, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan and New Hampshire.

Although the two DX competitors who made the Top Ten were not far from the US mainland, their achievements are quite significant. DX stations can only work ARRL and CRRL sections and thus have a limit of just 80 multipliers. With low power, C6AKP managed to snag 79 of them, while at the QRP level, CM6RCR found 69 mults.

Division Leaders

Single Op High Power

Atlantic	AA1K	414,756
Central	K9DX	434,868
Dakota	W0SD (W0DB, op)	356,720
Delta	W5ZN	314,253
Great Lakes	W5MX	401,472
Hudson	K2ONP	103,334
Midwest	N0TT	300,798
New England	W1UE	405,750
Northwestern	WA7LT	182,430
Pacific	W7RN (W6EU, op)	223,572
Roanoke	N2EE (K3BU, op)	596,909
Rocky Mountain	W6PU	218,643
Southeastern	K4TD	342,908
Southwestern	N7GP (N5IA, op)	262,297
West Gulf	K5RX	377,682
Canada	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	791,505

Single Op Low Power

Atlantic	K2ZR	88,356
Central	WE9V	173,290
Dakota	K0PK	176,131
Delta	N2WN	225,600
Great Lakes	K8FH	244,530
Hudson	K1NK	119,685
Midwest	K0DI	158,256
New England	K1EP	135,828
Northwestern	KB7Q	201,150
Pacific	NT6K	166,936
Roanoke	K4LY	157,320
Rocky Mountain	K6XT	140,352
Southeastern	KA9EKJ	98,564
Southwestern	W7RH	106,590
West Gulf	W0UO	181,629
Canada	VE5UF	128,160

Single Op QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	99,937
Central	W9SE	65,564
Dakota	N0UR	58,759
Delta	KW4JS	18,460
Great Lakes	N8IE	50,540
Hudson	KR2Q	28,800
Midwest	W7JI	46,584
New England	AA1CA	48,546
Northwestern	K7TQ	25,186
Pacific	K6EI	21,056
Roanoke	K4CIA	64,428
Rocky Mountain	KT5E	57,743
Southeastern	N4JF	48,412
Southwestern	N7IR	73,944
West Gulf	W5ESE	21,489
Canada	VA3DF	12,320

Multioperator

Atlantic	W2GD	460,928
Central	W9AZ	485,478
Dakota	K0KX	170,560
Delta	WD5R	408,012
Great Lakes	K1LT	420,840
Hudson	NO2R	273,372
Midwest	N0NI	274,540
New England	K1LZ	372,496
Northwestern	K7OX	197,402
Pacific	N6RO	229,890
Roanoke	W4HZ	271,138
Rocky Mountain	K9BWI	186,660
Southeastern	W8JI	598,101
Southwestern	N7DD	293,550
West Gulf	K5NA	164,618
Canada	VE2OJ	155,210

Club Competition

Local and regional contest clubs are a great source of information and support for less-experienced contest operators. If you are looking for a contest Elmer, contact the nearest club listed in the results, or check the ARRL's list of affiliated clubs.

Two clubs had enough entries to reach the Unlimited club entry category, with the Society of Midwest Contesters reaching the top spot with 61 entries and an aggregate total of nearly 5.4 million points. Not far behind with just under 5.1 million points is the Potomac Valley Radio Club. These two clubs had perhaps 170 operators involved in this contest.

In the Medium category, the Frankford Radio Club's 3.9 million points topped a long list of top-notch clubs. They were followed closely by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, then the Tennessee Contest Group and the Minnesota Wireless Association, which had 48 entries and 2.5 million points.

The Local category found the Central Virginia Contest Club at the top of the list with its nine entries and 694k points.

Overall, the 2007 ARRL 160 Meter Contest was a great antidote to the "no sunspots" disease that has nearly shut down the higher HF bands. Newcomers to Top Band should note, however, that high worldwide activity levels and fascinating, unpredictable propagation makes 160 meters a great place to operate anytime in the sunspot cycle!

Plan ahead! The 2008 ARRL 160 Meter Contest will be held December 5-7. There's more on the ARRLWeb at www.arrl.org/contests/results.