

Results, 2010 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

A contest for every style of operating!

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The ARRL 160 Meter Contest attracts serious contesters and avid 160 meter DXers but it is also an exciting adventure for hams who simply want to have fun exploring the low end of the Amateur Radio spectrum such as Vic, KI6VC who commented, "This was my first contest or even any real experience on 160. I think I'll

be back for more!" In Vic's first 160 meter contest effort he made 374 QSOs with 71 multipliers from his California City, CA QTH.

2010 Contest Notes

As your author was reviewing the results, a few things stood out. The first was a record number of DX logs submitted and an overall increase in scores from Europe in the Low Power and Multioperator categories. It wasn't band conditions — 2010 was good, but 2009 had better propagation — the higher DX participation seems to be from more enthusiasm. Thanks to all of our DX friends! In addition, with 1306 logs submitted, the 2010 contest had the second-highest participation ever, just slightly below the record level of 2009.

It is impossible to talk about the 160 meter band without including propagation in the conversation. My own experience was that the second night was much better than the first but many hams from other parts of the country reported the opposite pattern. I saw below-average conditions everywhere to the west but other hams reported that the western stations were particularly loud and easy to work. Without a doubt, the unique Medium Wave propagation is one of the mysteries that makes Top Band a fascinating place!

Multioperator

K1LZ, operated by station owner Krassy with help from Velimir, K3JO and Mladen, NU5Y, captured the top spot in the Multioperator category and set a new scoring record for the Multioperator category with nearly 656k points.

Three other stations topped the 500k level in this category with W2FU in WNY and the W2GD crew on the Jersey shore (SNJ Section) taking 2nd and 3rd respectively. Out in Iowa, the operators at NØNI skillfully steered Toni's station to more

than 509k points and the #4 spot, a notable achievement from the US Midwest with its greater distance from most DX activity. Other fine performances from the Midwest included WB9Z (7th) and WØAIH (10th).

Single-Operator, QRP

The top QRP score was earned by Glenn, WØGJ in Bemidji, MN whose 2010 score was just 1.4% below his 2009 record. Note that N7IR (5th) and K6EI (6th) are "Out West" where Top Ten scores can be hard to find. Great job, guys!

GLENN JOHNSON, WØGJ



You don't need a big antenna to get on 160 and have fun, but winning is another matter! This big vertical helped Glenn, WØGJ win the QRP category for the third year in a row.



WVE

Single Operator, QRP

| | |
|--------|---------|
| WØGJ | 138,852 |
| N8BB | 101,885 |
| K4CNW | 80,770 |
| NØUR | 70,645 |
| N7IR | 62,826 |
| W3TS | 61,628 |
| K6EI | 54,216 |
| N9NE | 50,317 |
| VE3MGY | 43,384 |
| AA1CA | 40,474 |

Single Operator, Low Power

| | |
|--------|---------|
| N1UR | 238,543 |
| K8FH | 227,136 |
| NE9U | 216,678 |
| N2ZN | 214,920 |
| WB8JUI | 200,640 |
| K1EP | 200,335 |
| K8BL | 199,300 |
| K4FT | 186,816 |
| WØUO | 183,206 |
| KØPK | 177,284 |

Single Operator, High Power

| | |
|------------|---------|
| VY2ZM | |
| (K1ZM, op) | 864,753 |
| K8PO | 647,873 |
| VE3EJ | 586,929 |
| K1DG | 573,750 |
| W8JI | 573,520 |
| K9DX | 556,100 |
| NO3M | 507,494 |
| K5NA | 501,540 |
| K1LT | 477,056 |
| AA1K | 473,301 |

Multioperator

| | |
|-------|---------|
| K1LZ | 655,914 |
| W2FU | 580,354 |
| W2GD | 544,952 |
| NØNI | 509,696 |
| K3WVW | 494,736 |
| N1LN | 488,630 |
| WB9Z | 457,800 |
| N3UA | 424,494 |
| W3UA | 415,896 |
| WØAIH | 413,699 |

DX

Single Operator, High Power

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| C6AGU | |
| (AA7JV, op) | 206,560 |
| ZF2AH | 114,404 |
| P4ØTA | |
| (K6TA, op) | 103,950 |
| VP5CW | |
| (W5CW, op) | 82,960 |
| XE2WWW | 81,176 |

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| CT1JLZ | |
| (OK1RF, op) | 62,578 |
| EI2CN | 47,792 |
| CE1/K7CA | 43,956 |
| G4AMT | 35,990 |
| UX2X | |
| (UT2XQ, op) | 24,480 |

Single Operator, Low Power

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| HI3TEJ | 48,256 |
| M5O | |
| (G3LET, op) | 13,728 |
| G4AFS | 7,544 |
| IKØXBX | 2,240 |
| UT5ECZ | 1,848 |
| G3RLE | 1,824 |
| DL1EMY | 1,748 |
| SP5CJY | 1,680 |
| HA8BE | 1,628 |
| PAØO | 1,364 |

Single Operator, QRP

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9A1CRJ | |
| (9A3QB, op) | 2 |
| ER3AU | 2 |

Multioperator

| | |
|--------|---------|
| C6AKQ | 187,726 |
| PJ2T | 186,282 |
| VP2MSC | 108,264 |
| E77DX | 56,290 |
| UØ7J | 38,164 |
| OL7M | 33,488 |
| F2DX | 33,394 |
| DR4A | 21,318 |
| 9A5MT | 16,758 |
| OKSZ | 16,560 |

Division Winners by Category

Single Operator, QRP

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Atlantic | W3TS | 61,628 |
| Central | N9NE | 50,317 |
| Dakota | W0GJ | 138,852 |
| Delta | KS4X | 15,181 |
| Great Lakes | N8BB | 101,885 |
| Hudson | KR2Q | 18,648 |
| Midwest | WTOA (KE5RX, op) | 15,080 |
| New England | AA1CA | 40,474 |
| Northwestern | W7YAQ | 9,288 |
| Pacific | K6EI | 54,216 |
| Roanoke | K4CNW | 80,770 |
| Rocky Mountain | WC7S | 16,896 |
| Southeastern | K3TW | 29,160 |
| Southwestern | N7IR | 62,826 |
| West Gulf | W5ESE | 6,732 |
| Canada | VE3MGY | 43,384 |

Single Operator, Low Power

| | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Atlantic | N2ZN | 214,920 |
| Central | NE9U | 216,678 |
| Dakota | K0PK | 177,284 |
| Delta | W4DAN | 85,045 |
| Great Lakes | K8FH | 227,136 |
| Hudson | W2ID | 141,064 |
| Midwest | K0DI | 159,645 |
| New England | N1UR | 238,543 |
| Northwestern | K7TQ | 54,069 |
| Pacific | N6RK | 101,024 |
| Roanoke | N8II | 145,912 |
| Rocky Mountain | WF4U | 90,692 |
| Southeastern | AA4LR | 107,172 |
| Southwestern | AC7A | 59,520 |
| West Gulf | W0UO | 183,206 |
| Canada | VE1ZA | 58,596 |

Single Operator, High Power

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Atlantic | NO3M | 507,494 |
| Central | K9DX | 556,100 |
| Dakota | W0SD (W0DB, op) | 411,348 |
| Delta | N8OO | 346,905 |
| Great Lakes | K1LT | 477,056 |
| Hudson | N2GC | 174,303 |
| Midwest | N0TT | 264,264 |
| New England | K8PO | 647,873 |
| Northwestern | K7RL | 252,396 |
| Pacific | W7RN (KY7M, op) | 256,405 |
| Roanoke | N4XD | 321,196 |
| Rocky Mountain | WD5COV | 227,340 |
| Southeastern | W8JI | 573,520 |
| Southwestern | N6MA | 135,696 |
| West Gulf | K5NA | 501,540 |
| Canada | VY2ZM (K1ZM, op) | 864,753 |

Multioperator

| | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Atlantic | W2FU | 580,354 |
| Central | WB9Z | 457,800 |
| Dakota | K0KX | 239,890 |
| Delta | W04O | 175,398 |
| Great Lakes | W8MJ | 353,916 |
| Hudson | N2BA | 266,532 |
| Midwest | N0NI | 509,696 |
| New England | K1LZ | 655,914 |
| Northwestern | NK7U | 237,699 |
| Pacific | N6ML | 258,570 |
| Roanoke | N1LN | 488,630 |
| Rocky Mountain | K0RF | 404,860 |
| Southeastern | N4WVW | 235,724 |
| Southwestern | N6SS | 282,596 |
| West Gulf | W5TM | 402,083 |
| Canada | VE2OJ | 381,250 |

Single-Operator, Low Power

Low Power is the most popular and competitive category in this contest with 40% of all logs submitted. At the top of the Low Power list is Ed, N1UR in Vermont whose higher multiplier total made the difference.

The Ohio section was well represented with Fred, K8FH taking 2nd; Rick, WB8JUI reaching 5th; and Bob, K8BL in 7th. Other top finishers from the middle of the US were Scott, NE9U (WI) in 3rd; John, K4FT (KY) in 7th; and Paul, K0PK (MN) in 10th. In 9th place and the farthest west operator to make the Top Ten was Jim, W0UO in NTX. Completing the list are Ken, N2ZN (WNY) in 4th and Ed, K1EP (EMA) in 6th.

Single-Operator, High Power

The High Power category is always competitive with highly experienced operators at well-designed, well-equipped stations filling the Top Ten. The winner is VY2ZM manned by Jeff, K1ZM, who also broke his own High Power record. Second and 4th place finishes were achieved from Maine by Paul, K8PO, and Doug, K1DG. Sandwiched between them was John, VE3EJ, from his eastern Ontario QTH. Fifth place was captured from central Georgia where Tom, W8JI, piloted his superb station.

In 6th place was John, K9DX, operating from northern Illinois. This event was the last ARRL 160 Meter contest for his famous 9-circle array and other antennas, which are being dismantled following the 2010-2011 low band season.

DX Notes

Two DX stations managed to make one QSO each with QRP: 9A1CRJ (operated by 9A3QB) and ER3AU. Caribbean contester Ted, HI3TEJ was the top Low Power DX entry but nine Europeans completed the Top Ten.

In High Power, C6AGU (George, AA7JV, op) made an excellent score from the Bahamas where "high power" is just 250 W! P40TA (Ken, K6TA, op) turned in the top score from South America. Jiri, CT1JLZ (who is also OK1RF) had an excellent contest, finishing as the top High Power entry from Europe.

Another Bahamas operation, C6AKQ, topped the DX Multioperator list, operated by Mike, K4RUM and Bob, N4BP. Off the coast of South America, the active club station PJ2T took 2nd in DX with K8LEE and W0CG doing the operating.

Club Competition

The runaway winner for this year's gavel was the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, which made a concerted effort to encourage members to get on the air and make some QSOs. A close finish for the next two spots saw the Potomac Valley Radio Club edge out the Society of Midwest Contesters. Not far behind was the Minnesota Wireless Association. These four clubs represent 271 entries, or nearly 21% of all contest logs. Contest clubs are important; they certainly encourage plenty of activity!

At the top of the Medium category is the Tennessee Contest Group with more than 2 million points from its 27 entries, followed by the Mad River Radio Club, the Northern California Contest Club and the South East Contest Club. The Local Category saw the 7 entries from the Central Virginia Contest Club combine for nearly 1 million points.

Affiliated Club Competition

| | Score | Entries |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Unlimited Category | | |
| Yankee Clipper Contest Club | 9,858,091 | 92 |
| Potomac Valley Radio Club | 4,795,237 | 61 |
| Society of Midwest Contesters | 4,694,910 | 58 |
| Minnesota Wireless Assn | 3,967,194 | 59 |
| Medium Category | | |
| Tennessee Contest Group | 2,019,244 | 27 |
| Mad River Radio Club | 1,805,105 | 14 |
| Northern California Contest Club | 1,387,730 | 36 |
| South East Contest Club | 1,368,851 | 12 |
| Central Texas DX and Contest | 1,032,806 | 8 |
| Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado | 1,189,928 | 12 |
| Contest Club Ontario | 1,181,298 | 25 |
| Rochester (NY) DX Assn | 1,100,406 | 8 |
| Alabama Contest Group | 1,046,623 | 19 |
| North Texas Contest Club | 1,032,160 | 9 |
| Florida Contest Group | 974,147 | 16 |
| Kentucky Contest Group | 806,344 | 6 |
| Frankford Radio Club | 694,266 | 3 |
| Arizona Outlaws Contest Club | 669,847 | 21 |
| Contest Group Du Quebec | 639,672 | 8 |
| Southern California Contest | 625,454 | 14 |
| Western New York DX Assn | 601,215 | 8 |
| CTRI Contest Group | 555,135 | 6 |
| Western Washington DX Club | 449,205 | 11 |
| Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers | 437,349 | 14 |
| Maritime Contest Club | 360,005 | 10 |
| Willamette Valley DX Club | 346,713 | 8 |
| Utah DX Assn | 290,881 | 4 |
| Order of Boiled Owls of New York | 254,244 | 4 |
| Louisiana Contest Club | 215,258 | 3 |
| North Coast Contesters | 202,916 | 3 |
| Carolina DX Association | 184,542 | 4 |
| Saskatchewan Contest Club | 161,814 | 4 |
| Local Category | | |
| Central Virginia Contest Club | 983,201 | 7 |
| Iowa DX and Contest Club | 599,954 | 3 |
| Spokane DX Association | 402,286 | 5 |
| Mother Lode DX/Contest Club | 343,368 | 6 |
| Kansas City DX Club | 289,166 | 3 |
| Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn | 268,664 | 4 |
| New Mexico Big River | 251,823 | 4 |
| West Park Radiops | 187,624 | 8 |
| DELRAC Contest Team | 185,138 | 4 |
| Sterling Park ARC | 180,869 | 3 |
| Blue Ridge ARC | 137,006 | 4 |
| Bristol (TN) ARC | 36,408 | 3 |
| Midland ARC | 35,906 | 3 |
| Bergen ARA | 23,190 | 3 |

Final Thoughts

Whether you plan to be highly competitive, chase DX, or just want see what the 160 meter band is like, take advantage of summer weather to get your antennas ready for the first weekend in December (Dec 2-4), when the next ARRL 160 Meter Contest will fill the band with the QRM and general mayhem of a major contest...and lots of fun among good friends!

"Find An Opening Online"

The extended version of this article is available online at www.arrl.org/contests and includes more analysis, complete line scores and a searchable database. You can also find personal stories and photos in the ARRL Soapbox at www.arrl.org/soapbox.